



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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BUTTERFISH FISHERY

Butterfish allocation transferred to the directed fishery
from the butterfly mortality cap

Effective Date: 0001 hours, November 4, 2014

We have transferred 1,900 mt of butterflyfish to the butterflyfish directed fishery from the butterflyfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery. NMFS can transfer quota between the directed butterflyfish fishery and the butterflyfish mortality cap if quota is not being used under one of the allocations, but a closure is likely for the other allocation. As of October 30, 2014, only 12 percent of the butterflyfish mortality cap had been harvested, but 86 percent of the directed butterflyfish quota had been harvested. We decided to move quota from the butterflyfish mortality cap to the directed butterflyfish fishery to allow the directed fishery to continue to operate. Because very little of the butterflyfish mortality cap has been harvested this year, we do not believe that the transfer will prevent the longfin squid fishery from operating through December 31, 2014.

Effective immediately, the quota for the directed butterflyfish fishery is increased from 3,200 mt to 5,100 mt. When harvest reaches 4,182 mt (82 percent of the new 5,100 mt directed butterflyfish quota), the butterflyfish trip limit will be reduced to 5,000 lb (from unlimited) for longfin squid butterflyfish moratorium permit holders using a mesh size greater than 3 inches.

Also effective immediately, the butterflyfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery is reduced to 1,984 mt from 3,884 mt. The directed longfin squid fishery will be closed if butterflyfish discards reach 1,885 mt (95 percent of the 1,984 mt butterflyfish mortality cap).

Please check the GARFO quota monitoring website for more information on the status of the directed butterflyfish fishery and the butterflyfish mortality cap:

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/longfinsquid.html>

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.