

Butterfish Mortality Cap for the Directed Longfin Squid Fishery

Report run on: May 3, 2012
 For data reported through: May 2, 2012
Quota period: Trimester I
Quota period dates: 01/01/12 to 04/30/12

Week ending date	Estimated butterfish catch (lb)*	Cumulative estimated butterfish catch (lb)	Cumulative percent of quota (2,057,795 lb)
1/7/2012	45,907	45,907	2.2
1/14/2012	75,997	121,904	5.9
1/21/2012	38,913	160,817	7.8
1/28/2012	39,218	200,035	9.7
2/4/2012	225,294	425,330	20.7
2/11/2012	77,867	503,197	24.5
2/18/2012	38,917	542,114	26.3
2/25/2012	94,870	636,984	31.0
3/3/2012	43,687	680,671	33.1
3/10/2012	45,857	726,528	35.3
3/17/2012	72,414	798,942	38.8
3/24/2012	122,592	921,534	44.8
3/31/2012	87,327	1,008,861	49.0
4/7/2012	180,417	1,189,278	57.8
4/14/2012	131,827	1,321,105	64.2
4/21/2012	74,069	1,395,174	67.8
4/28/2012	23,403	1,418,577	68.9

*For information on the methodology used to estimate butterfish catch click [here](#)

Notice

Previous estimates indicated that more than 80% of the butterfish mortality cap for the directed longfin squid fishery would be harvested by April 17, 2012. As a result of additional data from trips prior to the closure, the estimated butterfish mortality cap harvest has decreased. The longfin fishery remains closed. Vessels issued Federal longfin squid permits may not possess or land more than 2500 lb of longfin squid until the start of Trimester II on May 1, 2012. Vessels using jigging gear to obtain longfin squid are exempt from the reduced possession limit and may possess or land more than 2500 lb of longfin as long as all other gear is stowed and not available for immediate use.

During Trimester I, the directed longfin squid fishery will be closed if:

Longfin squid landings are projected to reach 18,959,755 lb (90% of the Trimester I quota) -OR-

Estimated butterfish catch reaches 1,646,236 lb (80% of the Trimester I quota)

For information on the current status of the longfin squid quota click [here](#)

Changes to the Butterfish Specifications

The 2012 butterfish specifications have been revised from the proposed rule in an interim final rule. The comment period for the interim final rule ended on April 20, 2012, and a final rule for the 2012 butterfish specifications will publish soon.

For information on the directed butterfish fishery click [here](#)



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These data are the best available to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) when this report was compiled. Data for this report are supplied to NMFS from dealers via Dealer Electronic Reporting, and the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program. Data may be preliminary. Discrepancies with previous reports are due to corrections made to the database.

