



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery
Closure of the Directed Federal *Illex* Squid Fishery
Illex squid landings limited to 10,000 lb per day
Effective Date: August 15, 2018, through December 31, 2018

Based on recent landings data, effective at 12:00 hours on August 15, 2018, the directed federal *Illex* squid fishery is closed for the remainder of the fishing year through December 31, 2018. Permit holders are prohibited from fishing for, catching, possessing, transferring, or landing more than 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid per trip. No more than 10,000 lb may be landed per calendar day. This prohibition is required by regulation because NMFS projects that 95 percent of the 2018 annual catch limit (quota) will have been caught by the effective date. This fishery will reopen at the beginning of the 2019 fishing year, at 00:01 hours, January 1, 2019.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	To avoid quota overages we are required to close the <i>Illex</i> directed squid fishery when 95 percent of the quota is caught.
How much of the quota has been caught?	As of August 15, 2018, 95 percent of the quota for <i>Illex</i> squid has been caught. Quota monitoring reports are updated on the internet at: www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/monitoring/illexsquid.html
What if I was fishing for <i>Illex</i> squid on the closure date?	Vessels that have entered port before 12:00 hr on August 15, 2018, may offload and sell more than 10,000 lb of <i>Illex</i> squid from that trip.
I am a dealer, how does this closure affect me?	Federally permitted dealers may not purchase <i>Illex</i> squid from federally permitted <i>Illex</i> squid vessels that harvest more than 10,000 lb of <i>Illex</i> squid through 24:00 hr local time, December 31, 2018, unless it is from a trip on which the vessel entered port before 12:00 hr on August 15, 2018.

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.