



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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LONGFIN SQUID AND BUTTERFISH PERMIT CHANGES

Amendment 20

New/revised permits effective March 1, 2019

We approved Amendment 20 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan. This action revises the current longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit and longfin squid possession limits to preserve fishing opportunities for more recently active participants in the fishery and avoid overharvesting the Trimester II longfin squid quota.

This bulletin provides a summary of approved measures. More detailed information can be found in the Amendment 20 final rule and on our Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish page (<https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/msb/index.html>).

Changes to Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium Permits and Possession Limits

Amendment 20 separates the current longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit (SMB1) into two separate permits and creates a tiered permit system for longfin squid moratorium permits based on recent landings history (see table below). All vessels that are currently issued a SMB1 permit will automatically be issued a new, separate butterfish moratorium permit and either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 longfin squid moratorium permit. New longfin squid and butterfish moratorium permits and possession limits become effective on March 1, 2019. **Changes to longfin squid/butterfish permits and possession limits are in bold in the table below.**

Permit Category	Description	Possession Limit When Directed Fishery Is Open	Possession Limit When Directed Fishery is Closed
SMB1A	Tier 1 Longfin Squid Moratorium	Unlimited	2,500 lb longfin squid per trip in Trimesters I and III 250 lb longfin squid per trip in Trimester II
SMB1B	Tier 2 Longfin Squid Moratorium	5,000 lb longfin squid per trip	
SMB1C	Tier 3 Longfin Squid Incidental Moratorium	2,500 lb longfin squid per trip	
SMB3	Squid/Butterfish Incidental	250 lb longfin squid per trip 600 lb butterfish per trip	
SMB6	Butterfish Moratorium	Unlimited when fishing with at least 3-inch mesh	600 lb butterfish per trip
		5,000 lb butterfish per trip when fishing less than 3-inch mesh	

Call Sustainable Fisheries at (978) 281-9315 if you have questions about this action.

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.