

DRAFT Squid Amendment Action Plan (as of 9/7/16)

Council: Mid-Atlantic

Additional Expertise Sought:

Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)		
Agency	Role	Person
MAFMC	FMAT Chair	Jason Didden
NMFS GARFO	Sustainable Fisheries – GARFO liaison	Carly Bari
NMFS GA RFO	Fisheries Statistics	Jay Hermsen
NMFS GARFO	Permitting	Don Paskowski
NMFS NEFSC	Stock Assessment/Technical	Lisa Hendrickson
NMFS NEFSC	Socioeconomics	John Walden
NMFS NEFSC	Anthropologist	Julia Olson

Title of Action: Squid Amendment – Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

Objectives:

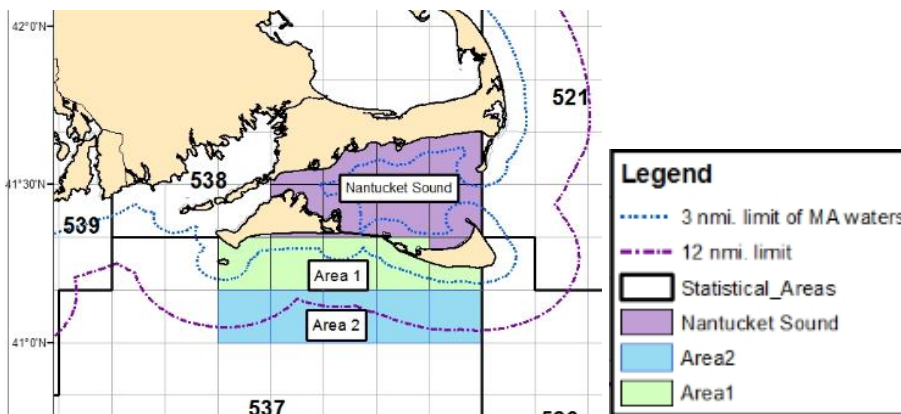
- A. Consider the appropriate number of vessels in the directed longfin squid / *Illex* fisheries. The Council is considering this action because there is considerable latent effort in both fisheries - a relatively small portion of vessels with limited access (“moratorium”) squid permits account for the majority of landings in most years, and the Council is concerned that activation of latent permits in the squid fisheries could lead to excessive fishing effort (shortening seasons), and increased catch of non-target species. Consider alternatives that allow recent patterns of participation to be maintained.
- B. Consider provisions for Maine/northern states. The Council is considering this action because of reports of increased longfin squid abundance off Maine, and the State of Maine requested consideration of provisions for additional access by fishermen in northern states.
- C. Re-evaluate the longfin squid trimester allocations. The Council is considering this action because some constituents have requested that more longfin squid be available during the summer trimester (Trimester 2), while other constituents have concerns that increased summer trimester effort may be negatively impacting spawning success. Reconsider quarters versus trimesters.

- D. Consider a longfin squid buffer zone (i.e. time-area closure) in the area south of Martha's Vineyard/Nantucket. The Council is considering this action because scoping comments indicated public concern that longfin squid fishing effort concentrated in this area may be negatively impacting other fishing in Nantucket Sound, due to localized depletion of prey and/or bycatch of recreationally-targeted species.

Fisheries that Apply: Longfin and *Illex* Squid, Butterfish indirectly (longfin/butterfish joint moratorium permit).

Types of Measures to be considered:

- *A – Squid permits* – Consider options based on vessel landings in relatively recent years and possible use of 2013 control date.
- *B – Northern states permits* – Providing new permits for vessels in only a few states may violate the Magnuson Act's provisions to not discriminate between residents of different States. However, it may be possible to create a lottery for temporary (3-year?) permits that could only be used to land squid in Maine and/or New Hampshire (anyone could apply and be included in the lottery). The FMAT is investigating this issue. Currently vessels can apply for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) if they want to explore new aspects of a fishery.
- *C – Squid Trimesters* – The FMAT is conducting an analysis to explore if there is a correlation between higher/lower catch/effort in the summer trimester and lower/higher catches in the following offshore fishery, and vice-versa. Depending on the results of that analysis, consider modifications to trimester allocations/rollover provisions. The FMAT will also conduct analysis of bycatch and protected resource impacts by trimester. Re-consider quarterly allocations.
- *D – Buffer Zone* – Consider prohibiting vessels from possessing more than **X pounds** longfin squid while in an area of Federal waters immediately south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket for all or some part of Trimester 2 (summer). The FMAT is analyzing effort trends in the three areas colored purple, green, and blue, as well as trends in several species' catch and abundance in/around Nantucket Sound. Possible Federal waters closure areas could align with the FMAT analyses – 3 and 12 nautical mile lines are provided for reference.



Type of NEPA Analysis Expected: Document expected to be EA.

Acronym	NEPA Analysis	Requirements
EA	Environmental Assessment	NEPA applies, no scoping required, public hearings required under MSA

Applicable Laws/Issues:

Magnuson-Stevens Act	Yes
Administrative Procedures Act	Yes
Regulatory Flexibility Act	Yes
Paperwork Reduction Act	Possibly; depends on data collection needs
Coastal Zone Management Act	Possibly; depends upon effects of the action on the resources of coastal states in the management unit
Endangered Species Act	Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken
Marine Mammal Protection Act	Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken
E.O. 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review)	Yes
E.O. 12630 (Takings)	Possibly; legal review will confirm
E.O. 13132 (Federalism)	Possibly; legal review will confirm
Essential Fish Habitat	Possibly; level of consultation, if necessary, depends upon the actions taken
Information Quality Act	Yes

Other Issues: At this time, no additional Amendment development issues have been identified.

Timing Issues: No unusual timing issues expected.

Timeline for Development/Review/Implementation:

2015-2017 Development Track	
Action	Timeline, based on current Council meeting schedule
Scoping	April 2015
First FMAT meetings, consideration of relevant data sources	Early 2016
Council reviews action plan	June 2016
FMAT continues analyses	June-August 2016
AP and then Committee meet to provide input on options for all alternatives	Late August 2016
Additional development of alternatives & analysis	fall 2016
MAFMC Meeting to adopt public hearing document and identify any preliminary preferred alternatives	December 2016
Public hearings	January/February 2017
MAFMC Meeting to: review comments; select final preferred measures; approve/adopt amendment)	April 2017
Final Rule Effective	January 1, 2018