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Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **NMFS Adjusts 2010 Trimester 2 and 3 *Loligo* Squid Quotas**

Due to an under harvest in Trimester 1, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has adjusted the 2010 fishing year Trimester 2 and Trimester 3 *Loligo* squid quotas. For the 2010 fishing year, the initial *Loligo* Trimester 1 (January through April) quota was 8,027 metric tons (mt), or 43 percent of the domestic annual harvest (DAH) of 18,667.

The best available landings information indicates that 1,421 mt of *Loligo* were landed during Trimester 1, and 6,606 mt remained unharvested. Consistent with the 2010 Specifications, since the quota underage for Trimester 1 was greater than 25 percent of that trimester's quota, half of the underage (3,303 mt) will be added to Trimester 2 and half of the underage (3,303 mt) will be added to Trimester 3.

This increases the Trimester 2 (May through August) quota from 3,173 mt to 6,476 mt. Closure of Trimester 3 (September through December) is based on the entire DAH (automatically incorporating any underages or overages from Trimesters 1 and 2), and it appears that there should be at least 10,700 mt remaining for Trimester 3 because of the Trimester 1 underage (Trimester 3 was initially 7,467 mt).

## **Reminder of Upcoming Mesh Changes for *Loligo* Fishery**

Per the 2010 specifications, effective August 3, 2010, the minimum mesh requirement for net strengtheners will increase from 4.5 inches to 5 inches. Per Amendment 10, effective September 13, 2010, the minimum codend mesh size for the *Loligo* fishery will increase to 2-1/8 inches during Trimester I (January through April) and Trimester III (September through December). The current minimum mesh size of 1-7/8 inches will remain in effect for Trimester II (May through August) of 2011.

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