

participation in the meetings at which recommendations and requests are formulated.

(2) Requests and recommendations to the Co-management Council may involve seasons and bag limits, methods and means, law enforcement policies, population and harvest monitoring, education programs, research and use of traditional knowledge, habitat protection, and other concerns related to migratory bird subsistence programs.

(3) Regional management bodies may be established specifically for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities identified in this part, or they may be existing entities that can add these responsibilities to their existing duties.

**§ 92.12 Relationship to the process for developing national hunting regulations for migratory game birds.**

(a) *Flyway councils.* (1) Proposed annual regulations recommended by the Co-management Council will be submitted to all flyway councils for review and comment. The Council's recommendations must be submitted prior to the SRC's last regular meeting of the calendar year in order to be approved for spring/summer harvest beginning March 11 of the following calendar year.

(2) Alaska Native representatives may be appointed by the Co-management Council to attend meetings of one or more of the four flyway councils to discuss recommended regulations or other proposed management actions.

(b) *Service regulations committee.* Proposed annual regulations recommended by the Co-management Council will be submitted to the Service Regulations Committee for their review and recommendation to the Service Director. Following the Service Director's review and recommendation, the proposals will be forwarded to the Department of Interior for approval. Proposed annual regulations will then be published in the **Federal Register** for public review and comment, similar to the annual migratory game bird hunting regulations (found in part 20 of this chapter). Final spring/summer regulations for Alaska will be published in the **Federal Register** in the preceding Fall.

**§§ 92.13—92.19 [Reserved]**

**Subpart C—General Regulations Governing Subsistence Harvest**

**§§ 92.20—92.29 [Reserved]**

**Subpart D—Annual Regulations Governing Subsistence Harvest**

**§ 92.30 General overview of regulations.**

(a) The taking, possession, transportation, and other uses of migratory birds are generally prohibited unless specifically authorized by regulation developed in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Therefore, harvesting migratory birds is prohibited unless regulations are established ensuring the protection of the various populations of migratory birds. Migratory bird population levels, production, and habitat conditions vary annually. These conditions differ within Alaska and throughout North America. Therefore, the regulations governing migratory bird hunting may include annual adjustments to keep harvests within acceptable levels.

(b) The development of the regulations in this part, like the development of the annual migratory game bird hunting regulations in part 20 of this chapter, involves annual data gathering programs to determine migratory bird population status and trends, evaluate habitat conditions, determine harvests, and consider other factors having an impact on the anticipated size of annual populations.

(c) The Service proposes annual migratory game bird hunting regulations in the **Federal Register** in the spring for seasons beginning September 1 of that year. Following consideration of additional biological information and public comment, the Service publishes supplemental proposals throughout the summer. These are also open to public comment.

(d) Sections 92.31 through 92.39 provide for the annual harvest of migratory birds and their eggs during spring and summer for subsistence users in Alaska.

**§§ 92.31—92.39 [Reserved]**

Dated: August 8, 2002.

**David P. Smith,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 011005244-2011-02; I.D. 081202C]

**Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of Fishery for *Loligo* Squid**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Closure.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces that the directed fishery for *Loligo* squid in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) will be closed effective 0001 hrs local time, August 16, 2002. Vessels issued a Federal permit to harvest *Loligo* squid may not retain or land more than 2,500 lb (1.13 mt) of *Loligo* squid per trip for the remainder of the quarter. This action is necessary to prevent the fishery from exceeding its Quarter III quota and allow for effective management of this stock.

**DATES:** Effective 0001 hours, August 16, 2002, through 0001 hours, October 1, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Paul H. Jones, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9273, fax 978-281-9135, e-mail paul.h.jones@noaa.gov.0

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Regulations governing the *Loligo* squid fishery are found at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations require specifications for maximum sustainable yield, initial optimum yield, allowable biological catch, domestic annual harvest (DAH), domestic annual processing, joint venture processing and total allowable levels of foreign fishing for the species managed under the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan. The procedures for setting the annual initial specifications are described in § 648.21.

The 2002 specification of DAH for *Loligo* squid was set at 16,898 mt (67 FR 3623, January 25, 2002). This amount is allocated by quarter, as shown below.

TABLE. 1 *Loligo* QUARTERLY ALLOCATIONS.

Quarter	Percent	Metric Tons
I (Jan-Mar)	33.23	5,615
II (Apr-Jun)	17.61	2,976

TABLE. 1 *Loligo* QUARTERLY ALLOCATIONS.—Continued

Quarter	Percent	Metric Tons
III (Jul–Sep)	17.30	2,923
IV (Oct–Dec)	31.86	5,384
Total	100.00	16,898

Section 648.22 requires NMFS to close the directed *Loligo* squid fishery in the EEZ when 80 percent of the quarterly allocation is harvested in Quarters I, II and III, and when 95 percent of the total annual DAH has been harvested. NMFS is further required to notify, in advance of the closure, the Executive Directors of the Mid-Atlantic, New England, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils; mail notification of the closure to all holders of *Loligo* squid permits at least 72 hours before the effective date of the closure; provide adequate notice of the closure to recreational participants in

the fishery; and publish notification of the closure in the **Federal Register**. The Administrator, Northeast Region, NMFS, based on dealer reports and other available information, has determined that 80 percent of the DAH for *Loligo* squid in Quarter III, will be harvested. Therefore, effective 0001 hours, August 16, 2002, the directed fishery for *Loligo* squid is closed and vessels issued Federal permits for *Loligo* squid may not retain or land more than 2,500 lb (1.13 mt) of *Loligo*. Such vessels may not land more than 2,500 lb (1.13 mt) of *Loligo* during a calendar day. The directed fishery will reopen effective

0001 hours, October 1, 2002, when the Quarter IV quota becomes available.

#### Classification

This action is required by 50 CFR part 648 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 12, 2002.

**Virginia M. Fay,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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