PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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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