

Greg Ardini
Seminar Abstract
February 23, 2012

An Analysis of Recent Developments in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Loligo Squid Fishery

In September 2010, Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) was passed. This Amendment called for the rebuilding of the Atlantic butterfish stock through a number of measures, most notably, a bycatch mortality cap placed on the loligo squid fishery. The introduction of the mortality cap was controversial due to the uncertainty surrounding the health of the butterfish population, as well as the minor commercial value of butterfish compared to loligo squid.

In response to the butterfish cap, a research team comprised of members from the Garden State Seafood Association, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Rutgers University, and the University of Delaware set out to create a butterfish habitat prediction model. This model was tested during an eight day loligo fishing trip along the outer continental shelf in December 2011. The results were generally successful, and offered encouraging news to squid fishermen looking to decrease bycatch of butterfish.

This presentation will detail these events, and provide an industry point of view from Greg DiDomenico of the Garden State Seafood Association. The performance review of the mortality cap by NMFS and the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council staff will also be discussed. Through analysis of the findings, questions and concerns that remain in the loligo squid fishery will be presented.