



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



For more information on the
Golden Tilefish IFQ Program:

[http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/
sfdtilefish.html](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdtilefish.html)

[http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/sos/spsyn/
og/tile/](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/sos/spsyn/og/tile/)

Catch Share Spotlight No. 13

Mid-Atlantic Golden Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program

Vital Stats

Implemented: November 1, 2009 (Beginning of the 2010 Fishing Year)

Type of Catch Share Program: IFQ

Management units: The Tilefish Management Unit (TMU) is defined as all golden tilefish under U.S. jurisdiction in the Atlantic Ocean north of the Virginia/North Carolina border.

Vessels / Gear types: The directed fishery is prosecuted with longline gear. Tilefish are also caught as incidental catch in other fisheries that use trawl gear. Amendment 1 prohibits the use of bottom-tending mobile gear (such as the bottom otter trawl), within and adjacent to Norfolk, Veatch, Lydonia, and Oceanographer Canyons.

Available Trend Data

Ex-vessel value:

Before Program (2005): ~ \$3.3 million (commercial value, Maine through Virginia).

Stock status:

Before Program: Overfishing: NO; Overfished: NO, rebuilding

Nature of Harvest Privilege

Eligibility: In order to qualify for a Tilefish IFQ Allocation permit, a person or entity must own a vessel with fishing history that includes a valid tilefish limited access permit during the 2005 permit year and that reported average landings of tilefish from 2001 through 2005 that constituted at least 0.5% of the average landings in the tilefish Category for which it was permitted during that timeframe; or must hold a valid confirmation of permit history (CPH) for the above criteria.

Duration: Open ended. Council can end program through the normal Council process.

Accumulation: No person or entity may own, or hold an interest in, more than 49% of the tilefish IFQ total allowable landings (TAL) at any time.

Initial Allocation: For the first year of the IFQ program, the tilefish TAL will be allocated to persons or entities holding IFQ Allocation permits in the following manner: 3% will be reserved for research set-aside projects, if any; 5% will be deducted to allow for incidental catch; and 15% will be reserved to resolve any potential appeals. The remaining portion of the TAL will be allocated to IFQ Allocation permit holders. IFQ allocation is determined by calculating the percentage of the vessel's average landings of its permit category's average landings during the qualification time period. For Full-time tier 1 or 2 (Category A or B) permitted vessels, this percentage is multiplied by the vessel's permit category's percentage of the IFQ TAL to determine the vessel's percentage of the IFQ TAL. For Part-time (Category C) permitted vessels, each person or entity receives an equally divided share based on the number of qualifying vessels.

Transferability: IFQ allocations are fully transferable (temporarily or permanently) among persons or entities that are permanent U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens, or corporations eligible to own a U.S. Coast Guard documented vessel, as long as they meet the requirements under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. However, no sub-leasing within a given fishing year is allowed.



For additional Catch Share Spotlights in this series go to:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/catchshares>

Questions, comments or need more information? Contact us via email at:

catchshares@noaa.gov

Management

Identified Costs: N/A

Cost recovery: During the first year of the IFQ program, recoverable costs are set at 3% of the total ex-vessel value of the fishery. After the first year, NMFS will determine the recoverable costs in the fishery annually, to be divided by the ex-vessel value of the fishery to derive the percentage that is recoverable.

Summary

Golden tilefish inhabit the outer continental shelf from Nova Scotia to South America, and are relatively abundant in the southern New England to Mid-Atlantic region. The Mid-Atlantic tilefish fishery was traditionally managed by annual overall quotas and trip limits. Under these conditions, fishermen tended to expend more effort than necessary, leading to early annual closures and derby-style fishing – a race to harvest fish before the fishery closed. In an effort to reduce overcapacity in the fishery and improve profitability and working conditions for commercial tilefish fishermen, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council began to evaluate alternatives for a limited access privilege program (LAPP) for the fishery in 2004. The IFQ program measures were intended to reduce overcapacity in the commercial fishery, and to eliminate, to the extent possible, problems associated with a derby-style fishery.

Amendment 1 to the Golden Tilefish Fishery Management Plan created an IFQ program that took effect on November 1, 2009. In addition to the IFQ program, the Council also recommended that four offshore canyons containing exposed clay outcroppings be closed to bottom-tending mobile gear to protect vulnerable tilefish habitat. New recreational fishing requirements were also adopted, including a recreational bag limit and a new charter/party vessel permit that will allow NOAA's Fisheries Service to collect recreational catch information that can improve efforts to assess the health of the tilefish stock.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires a formal and detailed review by the Council within 5 years of the implementation of the IFQ program, and at least once every 7 years thereafter. At that time, the performance measures for review of the tilefish IFQ program may include, but are not limited to: capacity reduction; safety at sea issues; transferability rules; ownership concentration caps; permit and reporting requirements; and fee and cost-recovery issues.

This is the second catch-share program to be implemented in the Mid-Atlantic region. The first was in 1990 for Atlantic surfclams and ocean quahogs.