



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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[www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov)  
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## Mid-Atlantic Blueline Tilefish Fishery

### **Interim Management Measures**

*Effective date: June 17, 2016*

We have implemented interim measures for the Greater Atlantic Region's blueline tilefish fishery to prevent a return to an unregulated fishery. These temporary measures are needed to constrain the Greater Atlantic blueline tilefish fishery while we work with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to implement its new amendment to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The interim measures apply to vessels fishing for blueline tilefish in Federal waters north of the latitude of the Virginia/North Carolina border (36° 33' 01.0" N. lat.). The measures are the same as the 2015 Blueline Tilefish Emergency Rule.

#### Recreational Fishery

- The recreational possession limit for private recreational anglers and charter/party vessels is **seven blueline tilefish per person, per trip**.
- For-hire vessels must hold a valid Greater Atlantic Region open access tilefish charter/party vessel permit to possess or land blueline tilefish, and must follow all recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

#### Commercial Fishery

- The commercial blueline tilefish possession limit is **300 lb whole weight (275 lb gutted) per trip**.
- Commercial vessels must hold a valid Greater Atlantic Region open access commercial tilefish vessel permit to possess or land blueline tilefish, and must follow all recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

#### Additional Information

- None of these measures modify existing regulations for golden tilefish or any other fisheries.
- These measures will be effective for six months, depending on when the new amendment to the Tilefish FMP can be implemented. If you wish to comment on these temporary measures, please refer to: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).
- Vessels fishing for or possessing blueline tilefish south of the Virginia/North Carolina border must follow NMFS Southeast Region regulations:  
[sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/sg/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/sg/index.html)
- To obtain the necessary permits, please contact the Permits Office of the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office at (978) 281-9370, or refer to:  
[www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/fishing/index.html](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/fishing/index.html)
- For more information on this action, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315, or refer to: [www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov)
- You will be notified if additional changes to the management of the blueline tilefish fishery are made.