



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

January 12, 2006

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Dear Tilefish Permit Holder and
Federally Permitted Tilefish Dealer:

This letter is to inform you that the tilefish quota for the Full-time Tier 1 permit category (Category A) for the 2006 fishing year (November 1, 2005 - October 31, 2006) will be adjusted to account for landings in excess of the quota for the 2005 fishing year. The quota allocation for the other permit categories will not be affected.

The tilefish regulations at 50 CFR 648.290(c) state that any overages of the quota for any limited access category that occur in a given fishing year will be subtracted from the quota for that category in the following fishing year. Based upon vessel reports and other information available as of December 1, 2005, FY 2005 tilefish landings for Category A were 1,251,058 lb. Therefore, an overage of 193 lb is being deducted from the FY 2006 Category A, which results in an adjusted quota, rounded to the nearest whole pound, of 1,250,672 lb for FY 2006. A notification of this adjustment was published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2006.

Please remember that tilefish landings are required to be reported through the interactive voice response (IVR) call-in system within 24 hours of returning to port and off-loading. Tilefish reported through the IVR call-in system are assumed to be in landed (dressed) weight and are converted to live (whole) weight automatically by the database.

The other tilefish permit categories did not exceed their respective quotas in FY 2005. Therefore, the quotas and trip limits associated with these permit categories do not need to be adjusted. The quotas for the Full-time Tier 2 and Part-time permit categories remain 284,288 lb and 360,098 lb, respectively, and the Incidental catch trip limit is 300 lb for FY 2006.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "NOAA Fisheries News Releases" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

