

**April 21, 2003**

**SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE**

Dear Tilefish Incidental Catch Permit Holder:

This letter is to remind you that the current trip limit for the open access Tilefish Incidental Catch permit is 300 lb, as specified at 50 CFR 648.292. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is currently reviewing preliminary landing information for the 2002 fishing year (November 1, 2001—October 31, 2002) to determine the amount of tilefish landed by vessels holding a Tilefish Incidental Catch permit. In accordance with the regulations at 50 CFR 648.290(c), if the incidental harvest exceeded 5 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL) for a given fishing year (1.995 million lb for the 2002 fishing year), the trip limit of 300 lb for the Incidental Catch permit category may be reduced the following year. NOAA Fisheries will inform the public should there be any changes made to the trip limit for the Incidental Catch permit category during the 2003 fishing year.

You may 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