



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

OCT 22 2009

Small Entity Compliance Guide Amendment 1 to the Golden Tilefish Fishery Management Plan

Dear Permit Holder:

Amendment 1 to the Golden Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (Amendment 1) was approved by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on July 31, 2009. The final rule for Amendment 1 published on August 24, 2009. Although Amendment 1 was primarily developed to implement an individual fishing quota program for the tilefish fishery, it also contains measures to reduce gear impacts on tilefish essential fish habitat within the Exclusive Economic Zone. This letter is to advise all vessels that use bottom-tending mobile gear that, effective November 1, 2009, portions of Norfolk, Veatch, Lydonia, and Oceanographer Canyons are closed to bottom-tending mobile gear (see Attachment 1, and Figure 1).

Please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any questions about this letter or other information on Amendment 1.

The information provided with this letter is not a substitute for the complete regulations. All Federal permit holders and federally permitted dealers should get a copy of the complete, official regulations, which include area coordinates, by calling NMFS at 978-281-9315, or by going to our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>. A copy of the Final Rule and Amendment 1, including the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review, and Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, is also included on that website, or printed copies can be obtained from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (telephone 302-674-2331, website: <http://www.mafmc.org>).

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.



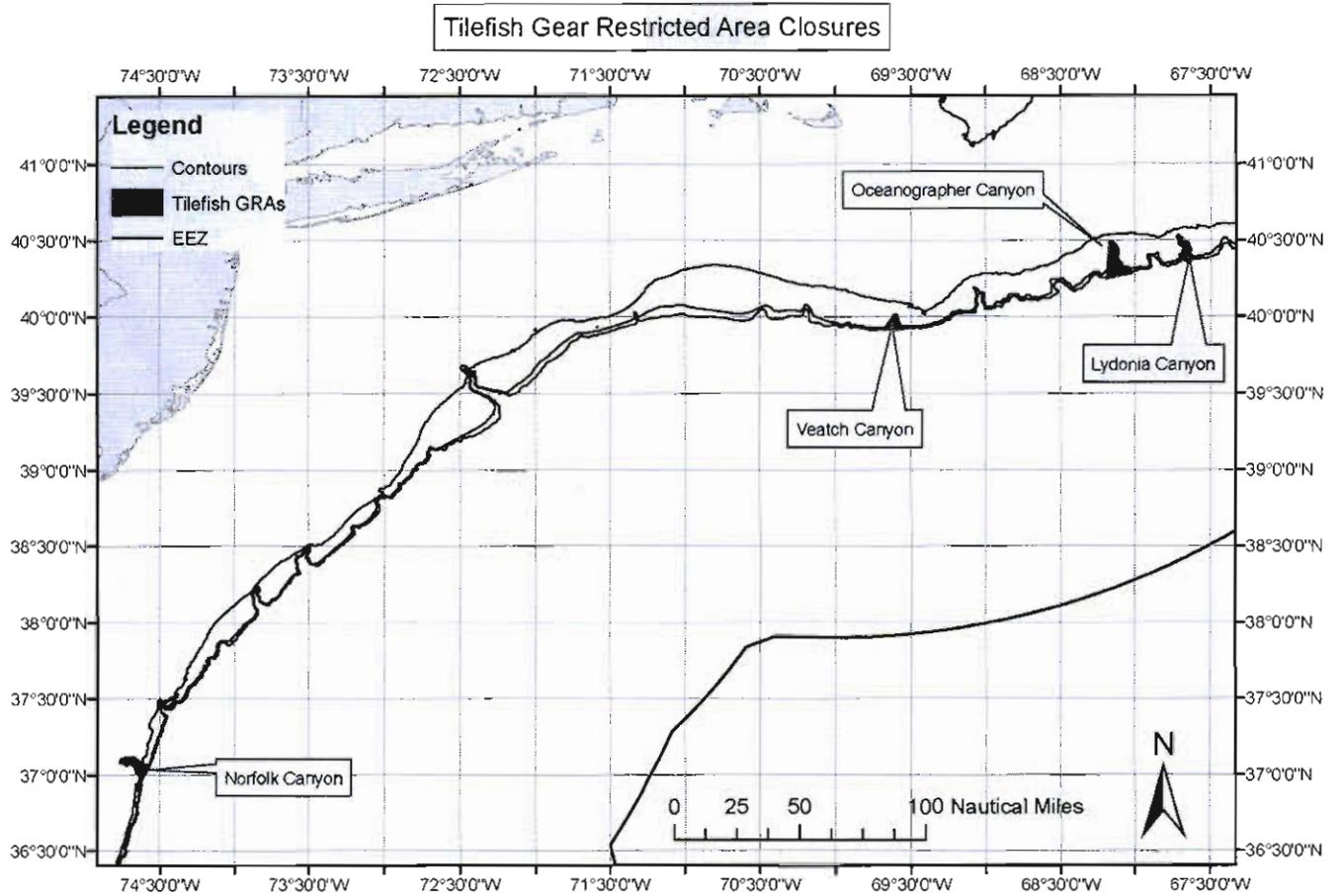
Attachment 1

Gear Restricted Areas (GRAs)

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. The GRA closures are bounded by the coordinates listed below.

Canyon	N. Lat.			W. Long.		
	Degrees	Min	Seconds	Degrees	Min	Seconds
Oceanographer	40.0	29.0	50.0	68.0	10.0	30.0
	40.0	29.0	30.0	68.0	8.0	34.8
	40.0	25.0	51.6	68.0	6.0	36.0
	40.0	22.0	22.8	68.0	6.0	50.4
	40.0	19.0	40.8	68.0	4.0	48.0
	40.0	19.0	5.0	68.0	2.0	19.0
	40.0	16.0	41.0	68.0	1.0	16.0
	40.0	14.0	28.0	68.0	11.0	28.0
Lydonia	40.0	31.0	55.2	67.0	43.0	1.2
	40.0	28.0	52.0	67.0	38.0	43.0
	40.0	21.0	39.6	67.0	37.0	4.8
	40.0	21.0	4.0	67.0	43.0	1.0
	40.0	26.0	32.0	67.0	40.0	57.0
	40.0	28.0	31.0	67.0	43.0	0.0
Veatch	40.0	0.0	40.0	69.0	37.0	8.0
	40.0	0.0	41.0	69.0	35.0	25.0
	39.0	54.0	43.0	69.0	33.0	54.0
	39.0	54.0	43.0	69.0	40.0	52.0
Norfolk	37.0	5.0	50.0	74.0	45.0	34.0
	37.0	6.0	58.0	74.0	40.0	48.0
	37.0	4.0	31.0	74.0	37.0	46.0
	37.0	4.0	1.0	74.0	33.0	50.0
	36.0	58.0	37.0	74.0	36.0	58.0
	37.0	4.0	26.0	74.0	41.0	2.0

Figure 1 - Tilefish GRAs



This chart is not a substitute for the complete regulations. All Federal permit holders and federally permitted dealers should see 50 CFR 648.296 for the area coordinates of these gear restricted areas.