



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

October 16, 2009

Dear **Tilefish** Vessel Permit Holder:

On November 1, 2009, new tilefish permit requirements will go into effect that require your vessel to be issued an open access commercial tilefish and/or open access charter/party permit in order to fish for, possess, or land tilefish in or from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Be advised, to possess tilefish in excess of the incidental trip limit, beginning November 1, 2009, a vessel must fish under both an IFQ Allocation permit and an open access tilefish commercial permit.

Changes to Commercial Tilefish Permits

Tilefish permit categories A, B, C, and D will not be valid after October 31, 2009 and have been replaced with a new open access category 1 tilefish permit. **If your vessel was issued a category A, B, C, or D tilefish permit for the 2009 fishing year, we have automatically issued you the enclosed open access category 1 tilefish permit under the following designation "TILEFISH – COMMERCIAL / INCIDENTAL – 2009"**.

New Party/Charter Tilefish Permit

A new open access category 2 tilefish charter/party permit has also been established and is effective November 1, 2009. To be issued the charter/party permit for tilefish, you must submit a complete application to the Northeast Region Permit Office at the address above. If you have already applied for the new open access charter/party permit, enclosed is your revised fishing vessel permit for the 2009 permit year which includes all of the permits currently issued to your vessel and the new open access tilefish permit(s). The charter/party permit for tilefish will show up on your permit under the following designation "TILEFISH – CHARTER/PARTY – 2009".

Applications for the charter/party permit for tilefish can be obtained by calling our office or by going online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/hotnews/tileamend1/>. Please call the Permit Office at (978) 282-8438 if you have any permit related questions. Please call the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315 if you have any other questions about Amendment 1 to the Golden Tilefish FMP.

Sincerely,

Ted Hawes
Operations Manager
Northeast Permit Office

cc: permit file
Enclosure

