



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

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

MAR 24 2010

Dear Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Allocation Permit Holder:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received questions regarding the amount of tilefish that may be landed pursuant to an IFQ Allocation permit. This letter is to clarify that the **amount of tilefish quota, as listed on your tilefish IFQ Allocation permit, is expressed in live (whole) weight.** Since the creation of the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan in 2001, NMFS has monitored the overall tilefish total allowable landings in live weight. Consequently, with the inception of the IFQ program in November 2009, each IFQ allocation is expressed in live weight. However, the overwhelming majority of tilefish are sold gutted to dealers, and not as whole tilefish. Therefore, NMFS must convert the dealer reported gutted weight to live weight to correctly attribute tilefish landings to an IFQ Allocation permit.

To determine live weight, NMFS has calculated that a whole tilefish weighs 9 percent more than a gutted tilefish (live weight = 1.09 x gutted weight). For example, if a dealer purchases from you and reports to NMFS 100 lb of gutted tilefish, NMFS will deduct 109 lb of tilefish from your IFQ Allocation balance for the current fishing year. NMFS will revise the IFQ Allocation permits to clarify that weight is expressed as live pounds.

If you need clarification or help in understanding this letter, please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (978) 281-9315.

Sincerely,

George H. Darcy
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries

cc: Andy Cohen, OLE

