



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

November 10, 2005

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 2006 fishing year (November 1, 2005 - October 31, 2006) will be the same as the overall annual tilefish quota for the 2005 fishing year. Accordingly, the overall total allowable landings (TAL) for the 2006 fishing year will remain at 1.995 million lb, with none of the quota being set aside to fund research. The trip limit for the Incidental permit category for the 2006 fishing year has been re-set to the default 300 lb per trip limit since preliminary data indicates that the incidental catch allocation of 5-percent of TAL (99,750 lb) for the 2005 fishing year was not exceeded.

The tilefish regulations at 50 CFR 648.290 specify that, in the absence of a new stock assessment, or recommendation from the Tilefish Monitoring Committee, the previous year's specifications will remain effective for the following year. The regulations also state that any overages of the quota for any limited access permit category that occur in a given fishing year will be subtracted from the allocation for that category the following fishing year. Additionally, if the tilefish harvest attributed to the open access Incidental catch permit category exceeds 5-percent of TAL for a given fishing year, the trip limit for the Incidental category may be reduced the following year. If final landings data for 2005 indicate that an adjustment of the 2006 quota for any of the permit categories is necessary, a notification of the adjustment will be published in the Federal Register.

The following quota and trip limits are effective for the 2006 fishing year:

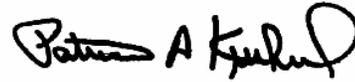
Permit Category	2006 Total Allowable Landings— 1.995 million lb
	Remaining quota after TAL is reduced by 5% for incidental catch allocation— 1,895,250 lb
Full-time Tier 1 (Category A)—66%	1,250,865
Full-time Tier 2 (Category B)—15%	284,288
Part-time (Category C)—19%	360,098
Incidental (Category D)	300 lb trip limit

Therefore, effective 0001 hrs local time, **November 1, 2005**, vessels may fish for and land tilefish from within the tilefish management unit* through the end of the 2006 fishing year on **October 31, 2006**, or until such time that the allocation for a specific tilefish limited access permit category is projected to be caught, if applicable, whichever is earlier.



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Kurkul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

*The tilefish management unit is defined as an area of the Atlantic Ocean from the latitude of the VA and NC border (36°33.36' N. lat.), extending eastward from the shore to the outer boundary of the exclusive economic zone, and northward to the United States-Canada border.

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