



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

September 30, 2002

Dear Permit Holder and
Confirmation of Permit History (CPH) Owner:

This letter is to inform CPH holders and remind others that the deadline to apply for a Federal moratorium (limited access) tilefish permit or tilefish CPH is November 1, 2002.

Applications for an initial limited access tilefish permit or tilefish CPH must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2002. Eligibility for a Federal limited access tilefish permit terminates after this date. Vessels that do not obtain an initial tilefish limited access permit or tilefish CPH will not be issued a permit in subsequent years.

Limited Access Tilefish Permit Application:

To possess or land tilefish in amounts greater than allowed by the tilefish incidental catch permit (an open access permit), you must apply for and obtain a limited access tilefish permit. There are three Federal limited access tilefish permits (Categories A, B, and C), as follows:

Limited Access Permit Categories:

Category A (Full-time tier 1) - To qualify for this category, a vessel must have landed at least 250,000 lb of tilefish per year for each of 3 years between 1993 and 1998, with at least 1 lb landed prior to June 15, 1993.

Category B (Full-time tier 2) - To qualify for this category, a vessel must have landed at least 30,000 lb of tilefish per year for each of three years between 1993 and 1998, with at least 1 lb landed prior to June 15, 1993.

Category C (Part-Time) - To qualify for this category, a vessel must have landed at least 10,000 lb of tilefish in 1 year between 1988 and 1993, as well as at least 10,000 lb of tilefish in any 1 year between 1994 and 1998, OR at least 28,000 lb of tilefish in any 1 year between 1984 and 1993, with at least 1 lb landed prior to June 15, 1993.

Alternate ways to qualify for a limited access tilefish permit, provided one of the above criteria is met:

- < Your vessel is replacing a vessel that meets any of the above criteria.
- < Your vessel replaced a vessel that fished for and landed tilefish, and you are using the replaced vessel's history in lieu of, or in addition to, your vessel's fishing history, unless the owner of the



replaced vessel retained the vessel's permit or fishing history.

To prove that your vessel meets the eligibility criteria, you must submit fish dealer receipts showing that your vessel landed tilefish during the relevant time periods. The dealer receipts should identify the dealer, your vessel, and tilefish in the amounts specified above for the respective permit category requested, and the date of the landing.

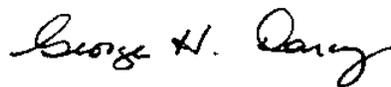
You may also contact the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) Statistics Office at (978) 281-9212 and request a copy of tilefish landings on file with NOAA Fisheries for your vessel. Please note, the release of vessel-specific landings data is restricted to the person who submitted the data or his/her authorized agent. Additionally, prior to 1994, data were collected on a voluntary basis. Therefore, your vessel may have landed tilefish that were not reported to NOAA Fisheries and recorded in NOAA Fisheries' database.

Limited Access Tilefish CPH Application:

If you sold a vessel that qualifies for a limited access tilefish permit and retained its permits and fishing history, or if your vessel sunk or was destroyed, you must apply for and obtain a limited access tilefish CPH to preserve your vessel's tilefish eligibility for future use. The CPH application submission must include the information described above and any supplemental information described in the application instructions.

If you have already received a limited access tilefish permit, or if you have submitted an application for such a permit with proof that your vessel meets the eligibility criteria by the November 1, 2002 deadline, you do not need to reapply. To obtain applications for the limited access tilefish permit or tilefish CPH, please contact the NOAA Fisheries Northeast Region Permit Office at (978) 281-9370 and request a pre-printed permit application or vessel CPH application, respectively.

Sincerely,



George H. Darcy
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Sustainable Fisheries