



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

May 3, 2005

Dear Tilefish Permit Holder and
Federally Permitted Tilefish Dealer:

This letter is to inform you that the tilefish quota monitoring reports, as posted on the NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Region weekly quota landings reports webpage (http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/fso/reports/reports_frame.htm), will be updated on May 6, 2005, 2005. Prior to this date, landings data were posted using gutted (landed) weight, (e.g., the hail weight called in via the interactive voice response (IVR) telephone system). This information will be changed to reflect live weight, consistent with the requirements of the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The total allowable landings (TAL) specified for the tilefish fishery is whole (live) weight. The factor used for converting gutted weight for tilefish harvested in the Golden Tilefish Management Unit* is 1.09. Thus, on May 6, 2005, tilefish landings data on the quota monitoring webpage will be multiplied by 1.09 to reflect the weight as correctly monitored against the TAL for each permit category. This conversion is necessary to ensure that the 10-year rebuilding schedule for tilefish is maintained as required under the FMP.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail by clicking on "NOAA Fisheries News Releases" on our website at <http://www.nero.nmfs.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,

Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

* The Golden 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.

