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Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Council to Hold Public Hearings on Amendment 1 to the Tilefish FMP January 30 through February 6, 2008**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will hold hearings on Amendment 1 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan to receive public input on management actions under consideration in Amendment 1. The proposed management actions could: 1) implement an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program/allocation; 2) establish IFQ permanent transferability of ownership; 3) establish IFQ temporary transferability of ownership; 4) establish IFQ share accumulation guidelines or limitations; 5) implement commercial trip limits in the part-time category; 6) establish a fee system for cost recovery; 7) establish flexibility to revise/adjust the IFQ program; 8) establish IFQ reporting requirements; 9) modify the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) reporting requirements; 10) revise commercial vessel logbook reports; 11) address hook size restrictions in the commercial fishery; 12) implement recreational permits and reporting requirements; 13) implement recreational bag-size limits; 14) improve monitoring of tilefish commercial landings; 15) expand the list of management measures that can be adjusted via the framework adjustment process; 16) modify Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designation; 17) modify Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) designation; 18) implement measures to reduce gear impacts on EFH; and, 19) implement methods for collecting royalties under a Tilefish IFQ system.

All hearings begin at 7:00 p.m. Dates and locations of the hearings are as follows:

- Wednesday, January 30, 2008: Hampton Roads Convention Center, 1610 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA 23666. Telephone: 888-484-4722.
- Monday, February 4, 2008: Holiday Inn Express East End, 1707 Old Country Road, Riverhead, NY 11901. Telephone: 631-548-1000.
- Tuesday, February 5, 2008: Hilton Garden Inn, Providence Airport, One Thurber Street, Warwick, RI 02882. Telephone: 401-734-9600.
- Wednesday, February 6, 2008: Holiday Inn Toms River, 290 State Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753. Telephone: 732-244-4000.

The public hearing summary document will be available at all of the public hearings and is currently available via the Internet at <http://www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/publications/pubs-draft.htm>. It can also be obtained on request from the Council office.

Oral comments can be provided at any of the public hearings. Written comments should be directed to Mr. Daniel T. Furlong, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover, DE 19904. Written comments may also be sent via fax to 302-674-5399, or by e-mail to [info@mafmc.org](mailto:info@mafmc.org). Please note on your correspondence (or include in the subject line of your e-mail): "Tilefish 1 Comments." All forms of written comments must be received by close of business on February 11, 2008.