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# Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Tilefish Amendment 1 Notice of Availability

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has announced that the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) has submitted Amendment 1 to its Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This submission incorporates both the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) for review by the Secretary of Commerce. The proposed measures in Amendment 1 address issues and problems that have been identified since the FMP was first implemented. These measures are designed to achieve the management objectives of the FMP, and include a means to implement an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program.

Amendment 1 management measures would: (1) Implement an IFQ program; (2) establish IFQ transferability of ownership; (3) establish a cap on the acquisition of IFQ allocation (temporary and permanent); (4) address fees and cost recovery; (5) establish flexibility to revise/adjust the IFQ program; (6) establish IFQ reporting requirements; (7) modify the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) reporting requirements; (8) implement recreational permits, reporting requirements, and possession limits; (9) improve monitoring of tilefish commercial landings; (10) expand the list of management measures that can be modified via the framework adjustment process; (11) modify Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designation; (12) modify habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) designation; and, (13) implement measures to reduce gear impacts on EFH within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Public comments are being solicited on Amendment 1 and incorporated documents should be submitted no later than June 6, 2009. See the complete Notice of Availability (NOA) in the May 4, 2009 Federal Register (74 FR 20448) for additional details and guidance. A proposed rule that would implement Amendment 1 will also be published in the Federal Register for public comment in the near future.

An FEIS was prepared for Amendment 1 that describes the proposed action and its alternatives and provides a thorough analysis of the impacts of proposed measures and their alternatives. Copies of Amendment 1, including the FEIS and the IRFA, are available from Daniel Furlong, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, Federal Building, 300 South New Street, Dover, DE 19904-6790. You may submit comments by any one of the following methods: • Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>. • Fax: (978) 281-9135, Attn: Timothy Cardiasmenos. • Mail: Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, "Comments on Tilefish Amendment 1." All comments should include the following identifier: "0648-AS25".

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