



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 28, 2017
To: Chris Moore, Executive Director
From: José Montañez, Staff
Subject: Golden Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota program 5-Year Review

The 2007 reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act included new requirements related to the monitoring and review of limited access privilege programs, which includes fisheries managed under Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) programs. A Fishery Management Action Team that included staff from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office was formed to conduct this review.

The report was developed to provide the first comprehensive review of the progress of the Golden Tilefish IFQ Program towards achieving the stated goals of reducing overcapacity and eliminating the problems associated with derby fishing. In general terms, it was found that overcapacity has been reduced since the program was implemented, and it appears that derby-style fishing has subsided and that ex-vessel prices have improved under the IFQ system.

The review also addresses recent administrative changes to the program, and summarizes future research needs and recommended changes to the program. The complete program review document is available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/s/5-yr-Review-Sept-27-2017-Final.pdf>.

Golden Tilefish
Individual Fishing Quota Program
5-Year Review



September 2017

**Prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
in cooperation with
the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

| <u>Council Address</u> | <u>NMFS Address</u> | |
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Executive Summary

This report was developed to provide the first comprehensive review of the progress of the Golden Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota Program towards achieving the stated goals of reducing overcapacity and eliminating the problems associated with derby fishing. In addition, the review proposes modifications to the program in order to better achieve the overall goals and objectives of the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. The Magnuson-Stevens Act stipulates that a formal and detailed review is required 5 years after the implementation of the program and, thereafter, no less than once every 7 years. A Fishery Management Action Team that included staff from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, and the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office was formed to conduct this review. The program review was organized into six main outcomes or impacts: socioeconomic outcomes, biological outcomes, social impacts, community impacts, safety at sea, and program enforcement. The review also addresses recent administrative changes to the program, and summarizes future research needs and recommended changes to the program. In general terms, it was found that overcapacity has been reduced since the program was implemented, and it appears that derby-style fishing has subsided and that ex-vessel prices have improved under the Individual Fishing Quota system.