

# ATTENTION TILEFISH ANGLERS!

## Blueline and Golden Tilefish Permitting and Reporting Requirements

### Our Tilefish Fishery

- Both blueline (or gray) and golden tilefish are popular targets for offshore anglers in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.
- Recreational fishermen are thought to account for a sizable amount of harvest for both species.



Blueline (or gray) tilefish (left) and golden tilefish (right).

### Management Challenges

- Due to their deep-water habitat and unique life-history, both tilefish species are considered “data-poor,” making effective management challenging.
- It is particularly difficult to estimate how many tilefish are harvested by private anglers.
- **Fishery scientists and managers urgently need to understand how many anglers target tilefish, how much time they spend fishing, and how many fish they catch to better assess these species’ overall health and ensure a strong fishery into the future.**



**If you own or operate a private recreational vessel and target tilefish from Virginia northward, you are required to possess a free recreational tilefish permit and submit a trip report within 24 hours of returning to port from a tilefish trip. Here’s how to stay legal.**



### Step 1: Get a Permit

- The **free** annual permit helps managers understand the potential “universe” of tilefish anglers. It is required for both private vessels and for-hire vessels fishing privately.
- This is a vessel permit; you do not need to obtain it if fishing on someone else’s vessel.
- To obtain the permit, visit the NOAA Fisheries’ **Fish Online** website, create an account, and apply for a Private Recreational Tilefish Permit.
- Fishing for/keeping tilefish without a permit can result in a civil violation of \$500.

[NOAA Fish Online:](#)



**Plan Ahead:** The permit can take up to 30 days to be issued, so be sure to apply well before your first trip targeting tilefish this season.

### Step 2: Submit Trip Reports

- Vessel owners/operators must submit electronic trip reports for all trips on which tilefish are targeted, **even if you didn’t catch or keep any fish.**
- A mobile app called **eFin Logbook** has been developed for tilefish reporting.
  - Download the app to your smartphone or tablet and log in using your Fish Online credentials.
  - After each trip, submit key information such as: number of anglers, time spent fishing, and number of tilefish kept/discarded.
- Learn more at [bit.ly/efinlogbook](http://bit.ly/efinlogbook)

[eFin for iPhone:](#)



[eFin for Android:](#)



**Remember:** Trip reports must be submitted within 24 hours of returning to port from any trip on which you fished for tilefish, even if also you targeted other species.

### The Data That YOU Report Will Help Ensure Healthy Fisheries for Years to Come

Accurate reporting of catch and fishing effort will help improve our understanding of the blueline and golden tilefish fisheries and ensure that these fisheries are being monitored and managed appropriately. **Your efforts now are an investment in long-term fishery health.**

**Learn More:** Visit [bit.ly/mafmc](http://bit.ly/mafmc) for additional information, resources, and contacts.

