

through the end of the fishing year on December 31, 2025.

During the recreational closure, the bag and possession limits of gag in or from the Gulf EEZ are zero. The prohibition on possession of gag also applies in state waters of the Gulf for any vessel issued a valid Federal charter vessel/headboat permit for Gulf reef fish.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This action is required by 50 CFR 622.41(d)(2)(ii) and (iii), which were issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), there is good cause to waive prior notice and an opportunity for public comment on this action, as notice and comment are unnecessary and contrary to the public interest. Such procedures are unnecessary because the regulations associated with the closure of recreational harvest of gag at 50 CFR 622.41(d)(2)(ii) and the reduction of the gag recreational ACL and ACT at 50 CFR 622.41(d)(2)(iii) have already been subject to notice and public comment, and all that remains is to notify the public of the closure based on the adjusted ACT. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment are contrary to the public interest. Prior notice and opportunity for public comment would require time and those affected by the length of the recreational fishing seasons, particularly for-hire operations that book trips for clients in advance, need as much notice as NMFS is able to provide to adjust their business plans to account for changes to the recreational fishing season.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 9, 2025.

Kelly Denit,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 250623–0112; RTID 0648–XE999]

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Blueline Tilefish Fishery; In-Season Adjustment to the Blueline Tilefish Commercial Possession Limit

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule; in-season adjustment.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the commercial per-trip possession limit for the blueline tilefish fishery in the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Tilefish Management Unit (*i.e.*, north of the Virginia/North Carolina border) has been reduced for the remainder of the 2025 fishing year. This announcement informs the public of the reduced blueline tilefish possession limit. This action is intended to prevent over-harvest of blueline tilefish commercial quota for the fishing year.

DATES: Effective July 11, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Matthew Rigdon, Fishery Management Specialist, matthew.rigdon@noaa.gov, (978) 281–9336.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations for the blueline tilefish fishery are at 50 CFR part 648. The regulations at § 648.295(b)(2)(i) state that when NMFS projects that blueline tilefish commercial catch will reach 70 percent of the total allowable landings (TAL), the Regional Administrator may reduce the possession limit for the commercial blueline tilefish fishery for the remainder of the fishing year or until 100 percent of the TAL is landed. When this occurs, the blueline tilefish possession limit is reduced from 500 pounds (lb) (226.7 kilograms (kg)) to 300 lb (136.1 kg) per trip in the Tilefish Management Unit. Fish must have head and fins attached, but may be gutted. NMFS monitors the blueline tilefish fishery catch based on dealer reports, state data, and other available information.

The Regional Administrator has determined, based on dealer reports and

other available information, that the blueline tilefish commercial fishery has landed 70 percent of the TAL. Upon publication of this action in the **Federal Register**, vessels may not possess on board or land more than 300 lb (136.1 kg) per trip of blueline tilefish in or from the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Tilefish Management Unit through December 31, 2025.

Classification

NMFS issues this action pursuant to section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). This action implements provisions of 50 CFR 648.295, which were issued pursuant to section 304(b) of the MSA, and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

NMFS finds good cause pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) and (d)(3) to waive prior notice and the opportunity for public comment and the delayed effectiveness period because it would be contrary to the public interest and impracticable. Data and other information indicating the blueline tilefish commercial fishery will have landed 70 percent of the TAL have only recently become available. Landings data are updated by dealer reports on a weekly basis, and NMFS monitors data as catch increases toward the limit. This action is routine and formulaic. The regulations at § 648.295(b)(2)(i) provide for such action to slow down catch as the fishery approaches its TAL, reducing the likelihood that the fishery will need to be shut down before the end of the fishing year, and to help to ensure that blueline tilefish commercial vessels do not exceed the 2025 TAL. If implementation of this action is delayed, the TAL for the 2025 fishing year may be exceeded, thereby undermining the conservation objectives of the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. In addition, the public had prior notice and full opportunity to comment on this process when the provisions regarding in-season adjustments and the 2025 quota levels were put in place (90 FR 27257, June 26, 2025).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: July 9, 2025.

Kelly Denit,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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