



## Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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P. Weston Townsend, Chairman | Michael P. Luisi, Vice Chairman  
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 23, 2024

Mr. Michael Pentony  
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), GARFO  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mike:

At the April 2024 meeting, the Council reviewed public comment and considered potential actions identified by the Oversight Team regarding the Golden Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program Twelve-Year Review.<sup>1</sup>

The Council discussed the current system used to request temporary or permanent transfers of golden tilefish IFQ quota between two persons or entities. Currently, paper forms are used to process requests and there is only one dedicated NOAA Fisheries employee to process quota applications, allocation tracking, and allocation transfers, which can sometimes make communicating on allocation issues challenging. Some industry members have suggested that expanding the use of GARFO's Fish Online web portal to allow participants to track and transfer golden tilefish allocations may be beneficial and indicated that an electronic system could increase the efficiency and timeliness of IFQ program resource distributions and transactions (i.e., such as transfers).

As such, the Council passed the following motion:

“Move to write a letter to NOAA Fisheries encouraging them to evaluate the possibility of expanding the use of the Fish Online web portal to track golden tilefish IFQ allocation transfers and track current allocation to assist with quota and program management.”

Please call me or José Montañez of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

cc: J. Montañez, S. Feller, W. Townsend, D. Potts

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<sup>1</sup> [See Council Memo dated March 25, 2024.](#)