Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2007

Tilefish Public Meeting to be Held April 26, 2007

The meeting will be held April 26, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2 Harmon Plaza, Secaucus, NJ telephone (201)-348-6900 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to review progress regarding Amendment 1 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). It is expected that preferred management measures will be discussed and identified when possible. Amendment 1 to the Tilefish FMP addresses: 1) Possible implementation of an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) management system for tilefish [issues to be addressed include: initial IFQ allocation, IFQ transferability of ownership, IFQ share accumulation guidelines on limitations, fees and cost recovery, flexibility to revise/adjust IFQ program, IFQ reporting requirements]; 2) Possible implementation of recreational bag-size limit; 3) Possible implementation of recreational permits and reporting requirements; 4) Potential improvements for monitoring tilefish commercial landings; 5) Potential revisions to current tilefish reporting requirements (Interactive Voice Response); 6) Possible expansion of and revision to the list of management measures that can be adjusted via the framework adjustment process; 7) Potential revisions to essential fish habitat (EFH) designation; 8) Potential revisions to habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) designation; 9) Consideration of possible measures to reduce gear impacts on EFH; and, 10) other issues to be considered in Amendment 1.