



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

JUL 09 2014 F/SER25: KG

Certified Mail/Return Receipt

Final Decision Golden Tilefish Longline Endorsement Appeal

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

On May 1, 2013, the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office sent you a letter indicating your permit [REDACTED] did not meet the landing requirements to receive a golden tilefish longline endorsement. In that letter, we informed you of your opportunity to appeal this determination.

On August 18, 2013, we received your letter to appeal the determination. On October, 24, 2013, we notified you that we had received your appeal and requested that you submit any additional information in support of your appeal. We did not receive any additional material and your appeal was submitted to the National Appeals Office (NAO) for review.

On November 8, 2013 and November 20, 2013, NAO sent you a Notice Scheduling Hearing. On December 19, 2013, you testified at your scheduled hearing and you were given until January 18, 2014 to attempt to acquire logbooks from the vessel's previous owner. On January 7, 2014, the NOA received a letter from you indicating you were unable to obtain the logbooks from the previous owner.

On June 16, 2014, the NAO issued a decision on your appeal. Based on a review of record, the NAO agreed with my initial determination that your permit is not eligible for a golden tilefish endorsement because it does not meet the landings requirements to qualify for an endorsement. Accordingly, you will not be issued a golden tilefish longline endorsement.

This decision is a final agency action.

If you have any questions regarding the golden tilefish endorsement program please contact Karla Gore of the Sustainable Fisheries Division at (727) 824-5305, or at Karla.Gore@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

for

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

