



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 August 21, 2013, you requested a golden tilefish commercial longline endorsement. On September 11, 2013, we sent you a letter denying this request after determining that you did not hold a commercial snapper-grouper permit. In that letter, we informed you of your opportunity to appeal this determination.

On September 30, 2013, we received your letter to appeal the determination. On October 24, 2013, we notified you that we had received your letter and requested that you submit any additional information to support your appeal. In your appeal letter, you indicate a long history of fishing for golden tilefish while working on other people's boats. The documentation was submitted to the National Appeals Office (NAO) for review.

On November 8, 2013, the NAO sent you a Notice Scheduling Hearing. On December 9, 2013, the NAO received additional documentation in support of your appeal. On December 18, 2013, you testified during your scheduled hearing.

On June 16, 2014, the NAO issued a decision on your appeal. Based on a review of your records, the NAO determined that you are not eligible for a golden tilefish commercial longline endorsement because you do not hold a valid or renewable snapper grouper permit. 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]

RE

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

