

BLUELINE TILEFISH CAULOLATILUS MICROPS



MID-ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MAFMC) - ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) PROFILE

1. Management Unit

The management unit is Blue line tilefish (*Caulolatilus microps*) in the Atlantic exclusive economic zone (EEZ) north of the NC/VA border (36.550278 N Latitude) extending up to the boundary with Canada.

2. Stock Status

The stock status for the management unit North of the NC/VA border is unknown based on the most recent stock assessment (2017). For current stock status: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/status-stocks-reports>

3. Current Text Designations

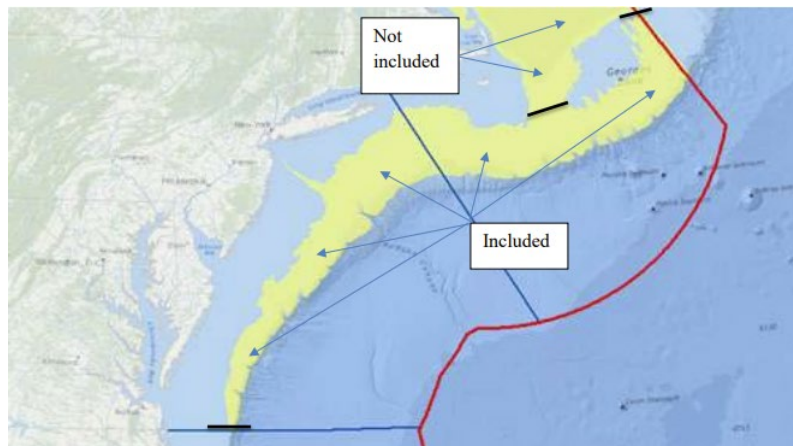
Source: MAFMC. 2017. Amendment 6 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan. Dover, DE. Available at: www.mafmc.org

Eggs and Larvae: Blue line tilefish egg and larval EFH in the Greater Atlantic region is the water column on the outer continental shelf from eastern Georges Bank to the Virginia / North Carolina boundary in depths of 46 to 256 meters (151 to 840 ft), as shown in the map below.

Juveniles and Adults: Blue line tilefish juvenile and adult EFH in the Greater Atlantic region is benthic habitats on the outer continental shelf from eastern Georges Bank to the Virginia / North Carolina boundary in depths of 46 to 256 meters (151 to 840 ft) at bottom water temperatures which range from 8 to 18°C (46 to 64° F), as shown in the map below. Blue line tilefish create horizontal or vertical burrows in sediments composed of silt, clay, and sand.

4. Current Map Designation

Blue line tilefish EFH, showing Council boundaries.



5. Designation and Mapping Methods

The Council has generally identified EFH using level 1 and/or level 2 data (see EFH regulations; section 7). The designations were comprised of a detailed text description and a map. Limited information was available for blue-line tilefish. Text designations and the map relied on information on bottom temperature ranges and substrates where juveniles and adults are commonly found; it was assumed that eggs and larvae would be found in a similar distribution to juveniles and adults. The EFH designations could be changed in the future as more information becomes available. Amendment 6 to the Tilefish FMP (2017) identified tilefish EFH by life stage.

6. EFH Source Documents

Information on blue-line tilefish habitat requirements can be found in:

Sedberry, G. R.; Pashuk, O.; Wyanski, D. M.; Stephen, J. A.; Weinbach, P., 2006: Spawning locations for Atlantic reef fishes off the southeastern U.S. Proc. Gulf Carib. Fish. Ins. 57, 463 – 514.

7. Other Information

EFH Legal Authorities

EFH from Magnuson Stevens Act:

<http://www.fisheriesforum.org/HigherLogic/System/DownloadDocumentFile.ashx?DocumentFileKey=014976d6-5bc1-f0c4-be6b-ade7c99fc932&forceDialog=0>

EFH Contents of Fishery Management Plans under CFR §600.815:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2013-title50-vol12/pdf/CFR-2013-title50-vol12-sec600-815.pdf>

Federal agency consultation with the Secretary under CFR §600.920:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title50-vol12/pdf/CFR-2014-title50-vol12-sec600-920.pdf>

NMFS 2006 EFH Guidance:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/documents/03/201/03-201-15.pdf>

Management and Stock Assessments

MAFMC: <http://www.mafmc.org>

ASMFC: <http://www.asmfc.org>

NEFSC Stock Assessments: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/saw/>