

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel met jointly on December 6, 2012 in Providence. The Advisory Panel also met on January 9 in Warwick, RI and the Committee met on February 7th.
- B. Amendment 6: In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery, as well as modifications to the current management system, including a days-at-sea leasing program. The Council approved Amendment 6 Goals and Objectives at its November, 2011 meeting. The Committee and Advisory Panel are in the process of developing a range of alternatives for public hearings, including modifications to the current management system, a days-at-sea leasing option, sector management and individually transferrable quotas (ITQs).
- C. Updated Assessment and Specifications for the 2014-2016 fishing years (Framework 8): The Northeast Fisheries Science Center conducted an updated assessment on April 8-9 in Woods Hole, and will report the results at this meeting. The SSC will meet to develop an ABC recommendation prior to the next Committee and Council meetings. The PDT will meet prior to the SSC to discuss the results and develop recommendations, as appropriate. Framework 8 may also include modifications to the current management system in addition to DAS and trip limit specifications, for example, the Permit Category H fishery boundary line approved by the Councils.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Consider, and take action, as appropriate, the Regional Administrator's response letter regarding ability of the Regional Office to provide the data necessary for the purpose of developing a sector management or ITQ program for monkfish.

III. INFORMATION

1. Summary of the February 7th Oversight Committee meeting
2. NMFS Regional Administrator's response letter, (3/21/2013) to the Council's letter (2/4/2013) regarding data support needs for Amendment 6 development
3. 2014-2016 Specifications-setting process timeline
4. April 8-9 stock assessment update presentation (*to be distributed at the meeting*)