

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.
- B. Amendment 5 to the Monkfish FMP: Amendment 5 proposes Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs), multi-year specifications of Annual Catch Targets (ACTS) and associated days-at-sea (DAS) and trip limits, as well as several administrative provisions. The Council approved Amendment 5 for submission to NMFS at the June meeting, and staff submitted the final document for formal review on Sept. 20. The target effectiveness date is the start of the 2011 fishing year on May 1.
- C. Framework Adjustment 7: In September, based on the results of the stock assessment this past summer, and the subsequent recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Council initiated Framework 7 to revise the 2011-2013 Annual Catch Target (ACT) and associated specification of DAS and trip limits for the Northern Management Area (NMA) originally proposed in Amendment 5. The SSC recommended Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) values that are lower than those considered in Amendment 5, and, for the NMA, also lower than the ACT, requiring a reconsideration of the ACT and management measures. The assessment review committee and the SSC also recommend a revision to the biomass reference points in the FMP so they are consistent with managing for maximum sustainable yield (MSY). These changes will not affect the stock status. This is the final NEFMC meeting on this action.
- D. Amendment 6 (Catch Shares): A Notice of Intent initiating the scoping process for Amendment 6 was published Nov. 20, 2010 (*75 Federal Register 74005*), with a comment period running through February 15, 2011. In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery. Scoping hearings have been taking place, with the final hearing to be held at the MAFMC meeting in New Bern, NC, on February 9th.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Final action on Framework 7** – The Council will consider and take final action to adopt revised biomass reference points, as well as an ACT and associated specifications of DAS and trip limits for the Northern Management Area for the 2011-2013 fishing years. The MAFMC will take final action at its February meeting.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Draft Environmental Assessment for Framework 7 to the Monkfish FMP.
- 2. Correspondence.