

Monkfish FMP Framework 7

Proposed Measures for Consideration

Revised Biomass Reference Points,
NMA ACT and Specifications

January, 2011

Background

- Amendment 5 decisions based on best available science at the time, SARC 40, data through 2006
- Amendment 5 adopted ACLs, ACTs, and 2011-2013 DAS/trip limit specifications; did not change biomass reference point control rules
- SARC 50, June, 2010, recommended revised biomass reference points and re-estimated stock size
- SSC revised value associated with ABC control rule proposed in Amendment 5
- As a result, revised ABC(=ACL) is lower than NMA ACT proposed in Amendment 5

Framework 7 Purpose and Need

- Adopt revised biomass reference points control rules for NMA and SMA based on recommendations of SARC 50 and SSC
- Adjust NMA ACT and specifications to a level below SSC's revised ACL

Biomass Reference Points

- No action alternative not consistent with NS1 and NS2 guidelines, not based on MSY proxy
- Stock status – not overfished – does not change under preferred alternative

No Action	B_{target} (mt)	$B_{\text{threshold}}$ (mt)	B_{current} (mt)
NMA	61,991	41,238	66,062
SMA	121,313	99,181	131,213
B_{target} = average of total biomass 1980 - 2009			
$B_{\text{threshold}}$ = lowest value total biomass 1980 - 2009			

Pref. Alt.	B_{target} (mt)	$B_{\text{threshold}}$ (mt)	B_{current} (mt)
NMA	52,930	26,465	66,062
SMA	74,490	37,245	131,213
B_{target} = long-term projected biomass at F_{max}			
$B_{\text{threshold}}$ = $0.5 \cdot B_{\text{target}}$			

NMA ACT Alternatives

- Alternative 1, No action – would retain current landings target of 5,000 mt., but not an ACT – not compliant with Guidelines
- Alternative 2 – Amendment 5 proposed ACT, 10,750 mt, exceeds SSC’s revised ABC calculation of 7,592 mt – also not compliant
- Alternative 3 – 3 Options for revised ACT:

	Metric Tons	Percent of ABC
ACT Option 1	5,550	73%
ACT Option 2	6,074	80%
<i>ACT Option 3 (preferred)</i>	<i>6,567</i>	<i>86.5%</i>

DAS/Trip Limit Specifications Options

- Specs. alternatives based on 3 ACT alternatives above.
- **Alternative 1 – No action.** 31 DAS, Trip limits: 1,250 lbs (A&C) and 470 lbs. (B&D)
- **Alternative 2 – Amendment 5 proposed specs.:** 40 DAS, Trip limits: 1,250 lbs (A&C) and 800 lbs. (B&D)
- **Alternative 3 – preferred alternative,** 3 specifications options for each of 3 ACT options

NMA Specifications Options under Alternative 3

ACT	Specification Option	AC daily landing limit	BD daily landing limit	DAS
Option 1 (5,550 mt)	1A	1250	586	31
	1B	1250	470	39
	1C	1250	465	40
Option 2 (6,074 mt)	2A	1250	636	31
	2B	1250	470	42
	2C	1250	510	40
Option 3 (6,567 mt)	3A	1250	686	31
	3B	1250	470	45
	3C	1250	600	40

Framework 7 Timeline

- NEFMC Final action January, 2011
- MAFMC Final action February, 2011
- Complete/submit final EA: February-March
- Effectiveness: early summer 2011