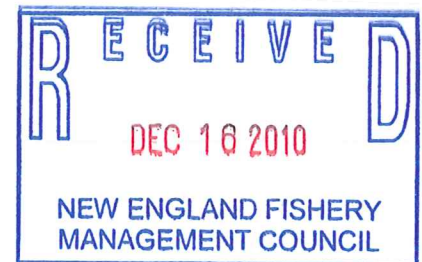


12/16/10

PHIL HARING

NEFMC



PHIL, I have learned that a segment of the fixed gillnet gear fishery for monkfish is using research DAS to supplement their season. This program is necessary for funding research, but I believe should be pursued in a manner that does not affect other fisherman fishing in close proximity to them. The current system allows research DAS and monk DAS to be used concurrently which basically eliminates the constraints of the trip limits. These trip limits keep the amount of gear fished to manageable levels, and give no incentive to exceeding the net limit. These trip limits keep large concentrations of gillnetters on an even playing field as well as give some civility to a competitive fishery.

Please consider changing the current system to allow research DAS to be used separately and under current trip limits

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