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New England Fishery Management Council

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C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

January 29, 2013

John Bullard, Regional Administrator
NMFS Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Re: Monkfish Amendment 6 Data Needs

Dear John:

On the recommendation of the Monkfish Oversight Committee, the New England Council requests that you inform the Council of NMFS NERO's ability to provide in a timely manner the data necessary for the purpose of developing a sector management or ITQ program for monkfish. The Committee seeks individual vessel landings data separated by directed and non-directed trips by year and area for each vessel in anonymous format for the years 2000 to the most recent available. The Committee will use these data to evaluate various landings history allocation options under consideration in Amendment 6. Individual vessel owners may request their own landings history to determine where they may fall within the various options, and, thereby, provide more informed comment during the development process, rather than having to wait until final alternatives are identified.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr.
Chairman