

An underwater photograph of a monkfish resting on a sandy seabed. The fish is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. Its body is a mottled brown and grey color, blending with the sand. The background is a dark, grainy blue-green, suggesting deep water. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow-green color.

# Monkfish Framework 8

Monkfish Fishery Specifications for FY 2014-2016

January 2014 New England Council Meeting

Portsmouth, NH



# Framework 8 Purpose and Need

- Modify DAS allocations and possession limits for the monkfish fishery
  - Consider revisions to DAS allocations and trip limits to achieve, but not exceed, catch limits based on updated assessment for FY 2014-2016
- Increase operational flexibility to permit Category H vessels and those allocated monkfish-only DAS

# Background

- 2013 Monkfish Operational Assessment (update from SARC 50, 2010) concluded that both stock components remain not overfished with no overfishing occurring.
- SSC recommended no changes to ABC/ACL, but recommended reducing OFL by 9% in the NMA and 36% in the SMA (September 2013)
- Amendment 5 and Framework 7 adopted ACLs, ACTs, and 2011-2013 DAS/trip limit specifications
  - Automatically extended, unless modified

## ABC/ACL, ACT, TAL

- SSC recommendation to update OFL, but maintain status quo ABC/ACL (September 3, 2013)
- Committee considered a 14% management uncertainty buffer for FW8 (May 2013), but decided to maintain the existing buffers (13.5% NMA; 6.5% SMA)
- Current buffers have not posed risk of exceeding ACLs
- Committee recommendation to continue analysis of management uncertainty buffers in future actions

# ABC/ACL, ACT, TAL

- September 2013 Council motion:
  - “to approve a range of alternatives for analysis and further consideration ... to implement revised specifications of DAS and trip limits for FY 2014-2016, and other modifications to the current plan, including changes to the boundary of permit Category H”
- Status quo limits (ABC/ACL, ACT, and TAL) for both NMA and SMA are the basis for DAS and trip limit alternatives
- Status quo limits with SSC recommended OFL:

FY 2014-2016 (mt)	NFMA	SFMA
OFL	17,805	23,204
ABC/ACL	7,592	12,316
ACT	6,567	11,513
Management Uncertainty Buffer	13.5%	6.5%
TAL	5,854	8,925

## Decisions 1 and 2: DAS/Trip Limit Allocations

- Alternatives designed to increase efficient utilization of the monkfish resource to fully harvest, but not exceed, catch limits
- Analysis to modify DAS and trip limits based on 2012 catch levels (Document #5; Hermsen, 2014)
- Assumptions in analysis:
  - Fishing patterns assumed to remain constant from 2012 levels
  - Landings will proportionately increase based on 2012 effort and landings trends
  - Only recently active vessels will fish in FY 2014-2016
- 2012 Baseline Caveats:
  - Hurricane Sandy influences on fishing effort
  - Reduced groundfish allocations influences on fishing effort

# Decisions 1 and 2: DAS/Trip Limit Allocations

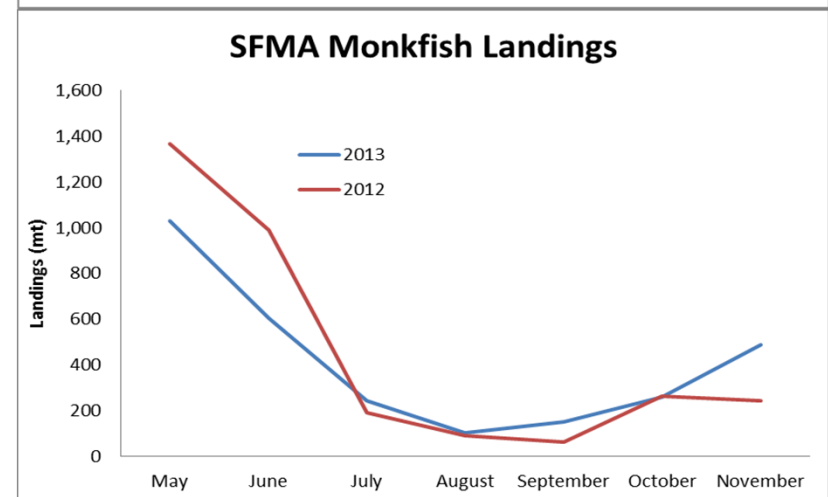
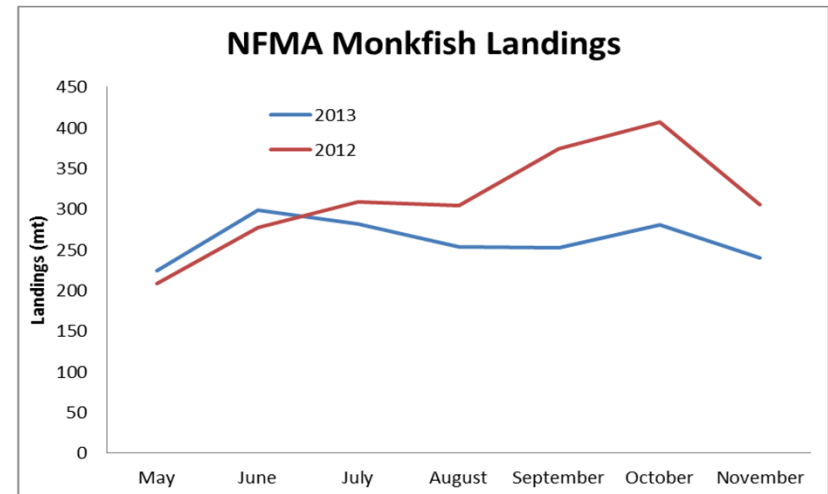
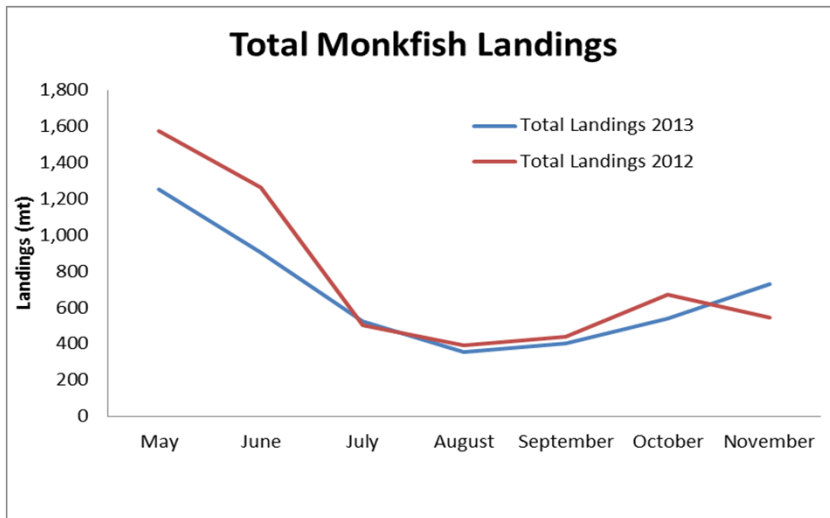
- Alternatives to increase DAS and/or trip limits to levels at which projected landings approximate the FY 2014-2016 directed fishery allocation of the TALs

Management Area	FY 2012 Target TAL (lbs)	FY 2012 Landings (lbs)	Percent of TAL
NMA	12,905,845	8,642,121	67%
SMA	19,676,234	11,428,764	58%

Management Area	Landings Type	2012 Total Live Pounds	% of Total Area Landings
NMA	Directed	2,051,614	24.7%
	Incidental	6,234,025	75.3%
SMA	Directed	7,004,873	75.6%
	Incidental	2,252,059	24.4%

# 2013 Catch to Date

- 2013 Catch to Date (with Emergency Action in place):
  - Approximately 15% behind 2012 levels (-19% NMA and -12% SMA) through November



	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Through Nov
<b>NFMA Landings</b>								
2013	224	299	282	253	252	280	240	1830
2012	208	277	309	304	374	407	305	2184
<b>% Diff from 2012</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-20%</b>	<b>-48%</b>	<b>-45%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-19%</b>
<b>SFMA Landings</b>								
2013	1,028	605	242	102	153	258	488	2,876
2012	1,366	988	193	90	65	265	242	3,209
<b>% Diff from 2012</b>	<b>-33%</b>	<b>-63%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Total Landings</b>								
2013	1,252	904	524	355	405	538	728	4,706
2012	1,574	1,265	502	394	439	672	547	5,393
<b>% Diff from 2012</b>	<b>-26%</b>	<b>-40%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>-15%</b>



# Decision 1: NMA DAS and Trip Limits

Management Area	Alternative	Incidental Landing Limit (lb)	A,C daily landing limit (lb)	B,D daily landing limit (lb)	DAS
NMA	1 - No Action	Status quo	1250	600	40
	2	Status quo	1250	600	64
	3	600 for C permit; 500 for D permit when fishing under a groundfish DAS; status quo for others	1250	600	53
	Committee Revised 3	600 for C permit and 500 for D permit when fishing under a groundfish DAS; status quo for others	1250	600	40
	NE Council Revised 3 (preferred)	600 for C permit and 500 for D permit when fishing under a groundfish DAS; status quo for others	1250	600	46

## Decision 1: AP, Committee, NE Council Input

- Committee revised alternative 3 to maintain status quo 40 DAS and increase incidental landings limits under groundfish DAS
- NE Council revised alternative 3 to increase DAS to 46 and increase incidental landings limits under groundfish DAS
- DAS allocation currently not fully utilized in NMA
- 75% of NMA landings come from incidental landings
- ***NE Council recommend revised Alt 3 (increased incidental trip limits, status quo directed trip limits, 46 DAS) as preferred***

# Decision 2: SMA DAS and Trip Limits

Management Area	Alternative	Incidental Landing Limit (lb)	A,C daily landing limit (lb)	B,D,H daily landing limit (lb)	DAS
SMA	1 -No Action	Status quo	550	450	28
	2	Status quo	610	500	46
	Committee Revised Alternative 2 (preferred)	Status quo	610	500	32
	3	Status quo	550	450	51
	4	Status quo	1000	860	28
	Committee Revised Alternative 4	Status quo	610	500	28

## Decision 2: AP and Committee Input

- Committee revised alternative 4 to maintain status quo 28 DAS and increase directed fishery trip limits; revised alternative 2 to include 32 DAS
- Increased trip limits are a correction for the tail-to-whole weight conversion
- ***AP, Committee and NE Council recommend revised Alt 2 (increased trip limits, 32 DAS) as preferred***

# Decisions 1 and 2: Biological Impacts

- Biological impacts
  - No change in status of the stocks
  - Alternatives designed to meet, but not exceed the ACT
  - Expect stock to increase if TAL not reached
- Protected Species - Sturgeon
  - BiOp issued 12/16/13
    - Continuation of monkfish fishery “may adversely affect, but is not likely to jeopardize, continued existence of any of the five Distinct Population Segments (DPS) of Atlantic sturgeon”
  - No additional measures affecting fishing operations are necessary



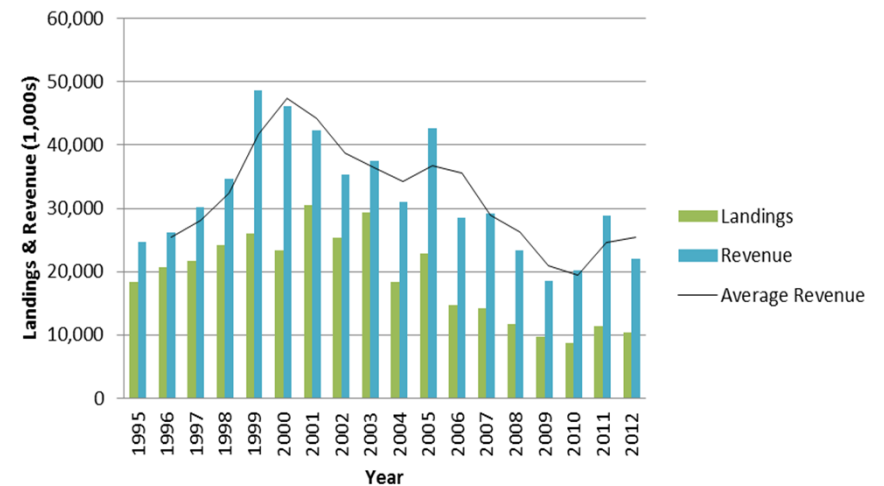
# Decisions 1 and 2: No Action

## 2012 Landings and Revenues by Homeport

Home Port	Total Pounds (1,000's)	Total Revenue
<b>PRIMARY PORTS</b>		
ALL PORTS	1989	\$19,494,482
NEW BEDFORD, MA	3255	\$2,656,505
BOSTON, MA	2443	\$2,325,415
GLOUCESTER, MA	1782	\$1,956,223
BARNEGAT LIGHT/LONG BEACH, NJ	1172	\$1,562,219
PORTLAND, ME	1533	\$1,326,544
POINT JUDITH, RI	898	\$652,737
<b>SECONDARY PORTS</b>		
MONTAUK, NY	915	\$1,290,433
CHATHAM, MA	536	\$693,032
NEWPORT, RI	393	\$555,531
CAPE MAY, NJ	326	\$207,663
WESTPORT, MA	151	\$185,981
SOUTH BRISTOL, ME	216	\$173,371
SCITUATE, MA	135	\$168,105
PORTSMOUTH, NH	121	\$139,705
POINT PLEASANT, NJ	89	\$95,825
PORT CLYDE, ME	120	\$94,117
NEWPORT NEWS, VA	24	\$15,606
HAMPTON, VA	14	\$11,759
PROVINCETOWN, MA	1	\$926

- 2012 revenues as baseline for comparisons
- 2012 is representative of No Action and serves as a lower bound for economic impact analysis

Landings and Revenue (1995-2012)



# Decisions 1 and 2: Economic Impacts

- Revenue analysis:
  - Assumes that full TAL is harvested
  - Price flexibility assumption
    - % change in price given a 1% change in landings for monkfish = -0.41 (Document #6; Kirkpatrick, 2014)
    - Projected increase in landings is much larger than increases used in analyses to estimate -0.41
    - Likely an overestimate – as landings increase the effect diminishes
  - Results represent the UPPER bounds of change between 2012 baseline and FY 2014-2016 projections
  - Area impacts:
    - Increasing landings results in lower ex-vessel price
    - Prices are correlated across ports: increased landings in one area will decrease price in all areas even if not adopting additional landings options
    - Paired comparisons of alternatives represent likely changes in revenue (Tables 8 – 13 in revenue analysis)
- Overall revenues may increase due to additional landings despite decreased price

# Decisions 1 and 2: Economic Impacts

- Combined NMA Committee Revised Alt 3 and SMA Committee Revised Alt 2 (preferred)
  - Moderate increase in revenues for all ports aggregated (9.23%), and revenue increases in all but one port (Document #6, Homeport Table 11)
  - Moderate increase in revenue for all vessel size classes (12 -15.4%; Vessel Length Table 11)
- Other alternatives with greater increases in overall revenue, but with disproportionate impacts across ports and vessel size classes (Tables 8-12)

Combined: NMA Committee Revised Alternative 3 and SMA Committee Revised Alternative 2 (Preferred)						
Home Port	Projected Price	Alt N3-S2: Projected Total MF Revenue	2012 MF Revenue	Alt N3-S2: % Change in MF Revenue	2012 Total Revenue	Alt N3-S2: % Change in Total Port Revenue
Primary Ports						
ALL PORTS (AGGREGATE)	\$0.98	\$21,294,766	\$19,494,482	9.23	\$1,195,064,783	0.1506
NEW BEDFORD, MA	\$0.76	\$2,858,489	\$2,656,505	7.6	\$403,852,675	0.05
BOSTON, MA	\$0.89	\$2,545,705	\$2,325,415	9.47	\$16,788,541	1.3121
GLOUCESTER, MA	\$1.03	\$2,184,533	\$1,956,223	11.67	\$53,308,775	0.4283
BARNEGAT LIGHT/LONG BEACH, NJ	\$1.25	\$1,740,872	\$1,562,219	11.44	\$28,976,790	0.6165
PORTLAND, ME	\$0.81	\$1,487,677	\$1,326,544	12.15	\$24,483,007	0.6581
POINT JUDITH, RI	\$0.68	\$684,547	\$652,736	4.87	\$39,481,758	0.0806

# Decisions 1 and 2: Motions

Motions for Decisions 1 and 2

# Decision 3: DAS Usage Requirements

Alternative	Monkfish DAS Usage Requirements	
1 - No Action	Vessels allocated both monkfish and groundfish DAS must use groundfish DAS in combination with monkfish DAS	Once a vessel's allocation of groundfish DAS is used up, a vessel may then use monkfish-only DAS
2 (preferred)	Vessels allocated both monkfish and groundfish DAS can use monkfish-only DAS at any time	Once a vessel's allocation of groundfish DAS equals the remaining monkfish DAS, the vessel must use both monkfish and groundfish DAS in combination

- Requirement to use both groundfish and monkfish DAS in combination prevented efficient utilization of allocations
- Allowing monkfish-only DAS use throughout the year could increase efficient targeting of monkfish earlier in FY



## Decision 3: AP and Committee Input

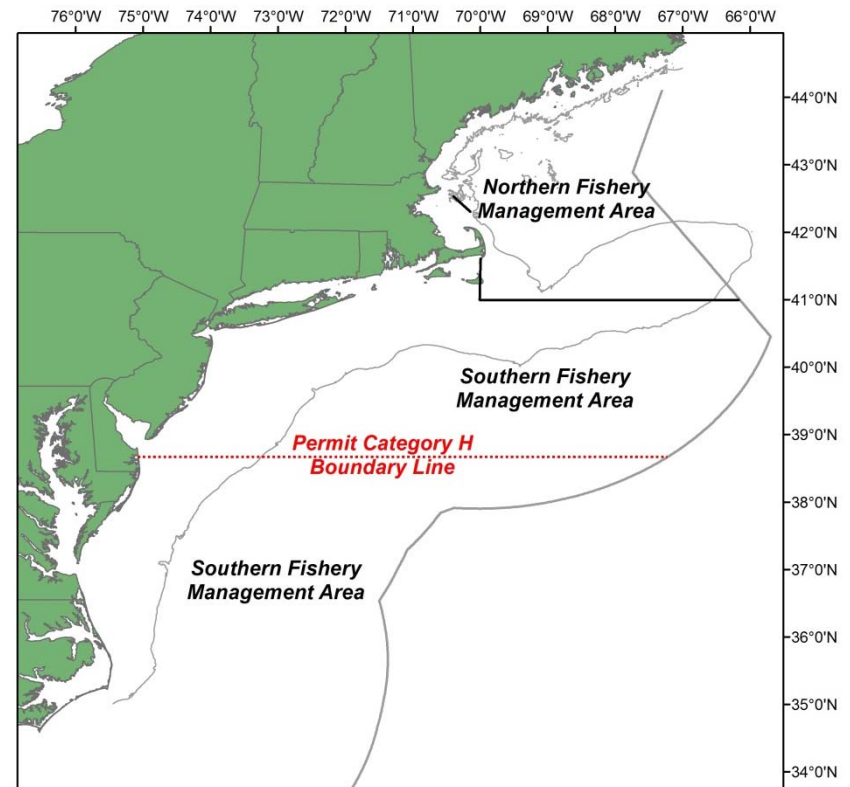
- Committee specified that modified DAS usage requirements would only apply to the SMA (no opportunity for use in the NMA)
- NE Council recommended that modified DAS usage would apply to both NMA and SMA
- Modification would be beneficial in Southern New England
- ***AP, Committee and NE Council recommend Alt 2 (modification to monkfish DAS usage requirements) as preferred***

Motion for Decision 3

# Decision 4: Permit Category H Boundary

Alternative	Permit Category H Fishery Boundary
1 - No Action	Vessels issued a monkfish Category H permit may only fish on a monkfish DAS south of 38°40' N Lat.
2 (preferred)	Vessels issued a monkfish Category H permit may fish on a monkfish DAS throughout the SFMA

- Limits on available fishing areas for permit Category H due to bycatch regulations
- Action would maximize opportunities to harvest available monkfish throughout the SFMA



## Decision 4: AP and Committee Input

- AP indicated that only 2-3 permit in Category H vessels would fish in northern area extension
- Discussion on elimination of Category H and fold vessels into Category B, but not allowed in FW
- ***AP, Committee and NE Council recommend Alt 2 (modification to permit Category H fishing boundary) as preferred***

Motion for Decision 4

# Timeline

MILESTONES	PLANNED	COMPLETED (✓) / PROJECTED
Operational assessment update completed	APR 2013	✓
PDT begins work on framework adjustment	APR 2013	✓
NEFMC initiates framework adjustment	JUN 2013	✓
SSC develops ABC recommendations	MAY 2013	✓ AUG 2013
NEFMC approves range of alternatives		✓ SEP 2013
MAFMC approves range of alternatives	OCT 2013	✓ OCT 2013
PDT analyzes alternatives	JUL – SEP 2013	OCT – JAN 2013/2014
NEFMC approves framework	SEP 2013	JAN 2014
MAFMC approves framework	OCT 2013	FEB 2014
Final submission of framework to NMFS	NOV 2013	TBD
Implementation	MAY 2014	TBD

- Framework delayed:
  - Catch data for SSC recommendations not available until August 2013
  - Federal government shut down in October 2013
- If FW8 alternatives are voted by NEFMC in Jan. and MAFMC in Feb., implementation possible by late May/early June 2014
- If additional Council meetings are required, FW will be further delayed into fall 2014