

Summary of Social Impacts of DAS and Trip Limit Alternatives in Monkfish Framework 8

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More detailed analyses and tables will follow in the final SIA. However, all community level economic impacts must be examined in the context of the overall fishing dependence, gentrification and social vulnerability of each community. Indices of commercial fishing dependence allow assessment of individual communities in relation to other coastal communities in the area and region (Jepson and Colburn 2013). Community boundaries can be identified based on US Census boundaries for Census Designated Places (CDPs) and county sub-divisions (MCDs).

NMFS data on total landings value and weight, and numbers of dealers and permits, were used to develop an index of commercial fishing engagement. By adjusting this index for the population size of a community, an index of commercial fishing reliance was derived (i.e., reliance is a per capita measure). Social vulnerability in the NMFS social indicators includes components such as poverty, racial composition, unemployment, crime, home values, education, English fluency, and single female-headed households. Gentrification, which can affect available waterfront property for commercial fishing use, is measured using variables related to the number of retirees and urban sprawl (such as population density and cost of living) and natural amenities (such as percent water cover, housing rental vacancies, and number of boat launches).

High levels of any of these three measures (or social indicators), or high to moderate in two or three, mean a community is especially vulnerable to impacts from regulations and other issues/events.

Additionally, apart from the pre-existing vulnerabilities indicated by these measures, many communities in New Jersey and New York, especially, are still recovering from the impacts of Hurricane Sandy (that made landfall on October 29, 2012). Meanwhile communities with larger populations of fishermen who target both Gulf of Maine (GOM) groundfish and monkfish have been impacted by recent large reductions in GOM groundfish ACLs.

Similarly, when examining economic impacts by vessel size, several factors need to be considered. First, smaller vessels often count for a larger percentage of total vessels in smaller and more rural communities, while larger vessels tend to concentrate in larger and more urban ports. Therefore impacts that more predominately affect small vessels vs. large vessels also have community-level impacts.

The presence of a monkfish processor or dealers based primarily in the community also makes a difference in community impacts. Higher landings are good for dealers and processors as well as fishermen, allowing increased sales. Similarly, more DAS mean more benefits to all businesses that depend in part on trip or maintenance-related sales to the fishing industry (including ice suppliers, boat and gear repair companies, and even grocery stores).