

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Committee and Advisory Panel met jointly on January 10, 2014 and recommended alternatives for Framework 8 to establish new specifications for the monkfish fishery for fishing years 2014-2016 (Information item #3). The NEFMC will consider final approval of the framework at this meeting and the MAFMC at its February 11-13, 2014 meeting (see relevant information items for details).
- B. Amendment 6: In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery, as well as modifications to the current management system, including a days-at-sea leasing program. The Council approved Amendment 6 Goals and Objectives at its November, 2011 meeting. The Committee and Advisory Panel are in the process of developing a range of alternatives for public hearings, including modifications to the current management system, a days-at-sea leasing option, sector management and individually transferrable quotas (ITQs). Based on discussions at the April NEFMC meeting, the Committee considered, but took no action pending input from the Advisory Panel, on whether to remove ITQs from further consideration in the amendment. At this time Amendment 6 is still considering options and further discussion is needed.
- C. 2013 Emergency Action (EA):
This emergency action suspended monkfish possession limits for vessels issued a limited access monkfish Category C or D permit fishing under a monkfish day-at-sea (DAS) in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NMA); Category C or D monkfish vessels may land an unlimited amount of monkfish when fishing on a monkfish DAS in the NMA. This has been extended by NMFS on October 22, 2013 the emergency action would be in effect through the end of the fishing year, April 30, 2014.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

Final approval of Monkfish Framework 8 - Specifications for Fishing Years 2014-2016

II. INFORMATION

1. Presentation on Framework 8
2. Draft Monkfish Framework 8 Decision Table
3. Summary of January 10, 2014 Monkfish Committee/Advisory Panel Meeting, Providence RI
4. Draft Monkfish Framework 8 - Specifications for Fishing Years 2014-2016
5. Monkfish Landings and DAS Allocation Analysis
6. Revenues by Homeport and Vessel Length for FW 8 Alternatives