

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel met jointly on December 6, 2012 in Providence. The AP met on January 9 in Warwick, RI and the Committee is scheduled to meet February 7th.
- 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).

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Consider approval of a letter to the Regional Administrator regarding 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.**

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Summary of the December 6, 2012 Joint Committee and AP meeting
- 2. Draft letter to NMFS NERO (see action item, above)