



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116
C.M. "Rip" Cunningham, Jr., *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 5, 2013
TO: NEFMC members
FROM: Tom Dempsey, Monkfish Oversight Committee Chair
SUBJECT: Recommendations on Research Set-Aside (RSA) priorities

On May 30, 2013, the Monkfish Committee voted to unanimously to forward the following RSA priorities or you approval. The Committee agreed that these should be considered in order of importance when evaluating RSA project proposals. Some of these are directly based on the research recommendations made by Review Panel members in the recent stock assessment update.

RSA Priorities recommended by the Monkfish Oversight Committee:

1. Research on monkfish life history focusing on: (a) age and growth, (b) longevity, (c) reproduction, and (d) natural mortality;
2. Migration patterns focusing on: (a) Short- and long-term movements with respect to management areas and off-shelf movements, and, (b) habitat use;
3. Research concerning trophic interactions of monkfish with other species and monkfish cannibalism;
4. Cooperative research surveys to fill in gaps in current survey coverage;
5. Research concerning bycatch and discard mortality focusing on: (a) Target species (i.e., monkfish or Northeast multispecies), and (b) non-target species (e.g., monkfish or skate);
6. Trawl and gillnet gear studies focusing on: (a) Size and/or species selectivity, and, (b) bycatch reduction, including reducing bycatch of and interactions with protected species.

For reference, these are the **current RSA priorities:**

1. Research on monkfish life history focusing on: (a) Age and growth, (b) longevity, (c) reproduction, and (d) natural mortality;
2. Stock definition, stock movements, mixing, and migration through tagging studies, DNA markers, morphological characteristics and other means, focusing on: (a) Short- and long-term movements, and, (b) habitat use in relation to broad scale movements
3. Research concerning trophic interactions of monkfish with other species and monkfish cannibalism;
4. Research concerning bycatch and discard mortality focusing on: (a) Target species (i.e., monkfish or Northeast multispecies), and (b) non-target species (e.g., monkfish or skate);
5. Trawl and gillnet gear studies focusing on: (a) Size and/or species selectivity, and (b) bycatch reduction, including reducing bycatch of and interactions with protected species