

#2A

New England Fishery Management Council

SUMMARY

Monkfish Advisory Panel Meeting
Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA
June 2, 2009

The Monkfish Advisory Panel (AP) met in Mansfield, MA to provide input on Amendment 5.

Present: Tim Caldwell, Tim Froelich, Chris Hickman, Allyson Jordan, Louis Juillard, Jan Margeson, Ted Platz, , Maggie Raymond, Chris Walker

Phil Haring, Council staff, briefed the AP on the control rules drafted with input from the Plan Development Team and the Scientific and Statistical Committee(SSC)

The AP questioned the large buffer between OFL and ABC (especially in the SFMA) and a concern that the buffer is too large.

Consensus: AP supports SSC/ Oversight Committee (OS) recommendation for ABC/ACL.

Advisors questioned and expressed concern about the large buffer between ACL and ACT.

Consensus: Majority of advisors (with one dissent) recommend removal of ACT option 1 for both management areas. Advisors do support ACT options 2 and 3 being brought out to public hearing.

Consensus: AP supports OS recommendations for reactive accountability measures.

Consensus: AP supports 3-year specification period with auto extension especially if this will align management decision with the stock assessment.

The AP moved on to discussion of the issues identified on pages 3 and 4 of the decision document and developed the following consensus recommendations:

Consensus:

Prior notice issue – AP does not support allowance of 2 days overage, but support 3 time accounting options as described being brought out to public hearing.

RSA issues – advisors support the options.

C&D vessel use of GF & MF DAS. AP support bringing this issue out to public hearing.

Mandatory VMS – The AP requests clarification of the rationale for this requirement, prior to developing the AP recommendation. If the purpose is to more accurately assign catch to management area, then this requirement is not necessary for category H (so long as they continue to be restricted to specific geographic area). If VMS becomes mandatory, the AP requests that a reasonable power down option be developed.

Increase fish size, mesh size, or reduce gillnets – AP agrees with OS recommendations to abandon these ideas.

DAS usage in sectors – AP recommends consideration of this provision for both management areas.

NMA incidental catch – agree to consider increase to 500 lbs/day

Discussion of an increase in the incidental catch limit prompted the following AP recommendation: Scallop possession limit –the AP requests the OS consider increasing the possession limit to decrease discards without encouraging increased catch

Monkfish catch in groundfish sectors – the AP recommends allocation of monkfish

Catch share proposal:

The AP supports inclusion of a catch share proposal in Amendment 5 and offers the following recommendations for modifications to the strawman catch share proposal:

Add an option for qualifying period of 2003-2008 for the SFMA only

Remove from strawman the limit on transfers between vessel sizes.

Remove universal exemption from current cap on numbers of gillnets

Catch share program should contain a provision for adequate (but not excessive) monitoring

Remove the strawman qualification proposal for category H.

Add the following qualification option for category H permits – number that results from calculating average landings per vessel during 2005-2008 would be added to either the 1999-2004 or 2003-2004 time frame (the years when the vessel would otherwise have zero landings).

Under catch share program it is not reasonable to continue the existing area restriction on category H permits.

Recommend that category C & D multispecies permit holders be allowed to join an existing groundfish sector for the purpose of utilizing monkfish annual catch entitlement in the 2011 fishing year and beyond.

Recommend that monkfish amendment 5 be a joint monkfish/groundfish action for the purpose of allowing all monkfish permit holders (category A, B, C, D & H) to join an existing groundfish sector for the purposes of utilizing annual catch entitlement in the 2011 fishing year and beyond.

Open access catch share accountability - If allocation is exceeded, it should be reduced on a pound per pound basis in subsequent year.

Ownership cap on ITQ:

Councils must consider an ownership cap as required by law – rationale for ownership cap should be partially based on analysis of what might result in market control – but ownership cap should not apply retroactively to any individual currently above the cap.

Other business

Question why in the SFMA the trip limit is different between trawl and non-trawl; request consideration of allowing trip category gillnetters to have the same trip limit as trawl vessels in SFMA.

Question why it is now illegal to bring in monkfish heads.