

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Committee met on May 27 in Warwick, RI, and on June 3 in Mansfield, MA. The Advisory Panel met on June 2. The purpose of the meetings was to develop and finalize recommendations to the Councils on reference points and specifications, as well as other matters pertaining to Amendment 5.
- B. Amendment 5 to the Monkfish FMP: The Council initiated work on Amendment 5, primarily to consider alternatives for Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) pursuant to the 2007 re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and to adopt multi-year specifications of target total allowable catch levels (TTACs). The current TTACs were adopted in Framework 4 for fishing years 2007 – 2009, although a provision exists for the TTACs to continue in effect until replaced through regulatory action. Amendment 5 would implement new specifications for 2011-2013, or beyond. The Council has also directed the Monkfish Committee to develop alternatives for sector management programs and Individually Transferrable Quotas (ITQs) for the monkfish fishery. At this meeting The Council will review the recommendations of the Monkfish Committee, the Advisory Panel, as well as the Mid-Atlantic Council, which meets on June 10th, and specify what measures are to be further developed and analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Council will review and approve the DEIS at its November meeting prior to holding public hearings. The target date for approval of final measures for Amendment 5 is June, 2010 so the amendment can be implemented at the start of the 2011 fishing year. The Scientific and Statistical Committee will report its recommendation on Allowable Biological Catch, and other reference points also at this meeting under the SSC agenda item.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Committee Motion** -Approve the range of alternatives as recommended by the Oversight Committee for further development and analysis in the DEIS for Amendment 5 to the Monkfish FMP.

III. INFORMATION

1. Amendment 5 decision document and attachments (PDT Report and Strawman Catch Shares proposal, including options under consideration)
2. Summaries of the May 27th and June 2nd Advisory panel meeting and June 3rd Committee meeting
3. Powerpoint presentation handouts
4. Amendment 5 timeline