

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.
- B. Amendment 6: In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery. The Council approved Amendment 6 Goals and Objectives at its November, 2011 meeting. The Committee has tasked the Plan Development Team (PDT) with developing a range of alternatives for consideration in Amendment 6, including modifications to the current system, a days-at-sea leasing option, sector management and individually transferrable quotas (ITQs). PDT members have drafted an outline of a range of alternatives, and are in the process of completing the package for Committee consideration. Some members are also conducting analytic tasks to better understand the range of issues being addressed, including detailed discard analysis, ownership concentration, processor issues, and measures of efficiency, all of which are issues that form the basis for the goals and objectives.

At the last Council meeting, a motion was made and deferred to this meeting that would remove the ITQ alternative from Amendment 6. The maker of the motion stated that the purpose of eliminating that alternative is to reduce the time and staff resources required to complete Amendment 6. That motion is scheduled for consideration at this meeting.

On the recommendation of the two Councils, NMFS published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking establishing a control date of May 9, 2012 in the monkfish fishery to limit speculative activity in anticipation of Amendment 6, including, but not limited to limits on accumulation of excessive control or ownership of fishing privileges (77 *Federal Register* 27175, May 9, 2012)

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Consider a motion deferred from the last Council meeting that would remove ITQs from consideration in Amendment 6.

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Control Date Federal Register Notice (May 9, 2012)