

**Monkfish Catch Shares Planning Conference Call Summary**

September 13, 2010

1:00 p.m.

**Participants:**

**NEFMC:** Messrs. Pappalardo, Howard, Stockwell, Kellogg and Haring

**MAFMC:** Messrs. Robins, Moore, King, Himchak and Armstrong

The purpose of the call is to bring NEFMC and MAFMC principals together to plan outreach sessions along the coast to inform stakeholders about the Councils' intent to explore catch share management in the monkfish fishery.

**Agenda items covered:**

- 1. Why are the Councils exploring catch shares for monkfish; purpose of the meetings.** Participants agreed that the purpose of the meetings is to follow up to NOAA's national catch shares policy, and the NEFMC decision to explore catch shares in the monkfish fishery, especially given the close integration of the fishery with the Northeast Multispecies fishery where catch shares (sectors) have already been adopted. These meetings will be announced as scoping meetings for Amendment 6 along with a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS.
- 2. How many sessions in each area do you want and in what locations?** Initially, participants agreed that the MAFMC meeting Oct. 12-14 in Cape May, NJ would be an opportunity for one meeting, but following discussion (below) of informational materials, it is unclear whether the timing of that meeting would work. Nevertheless, agreement was reached that there be 4-5 in the MAFMC (Mid-NJ, Riverhead, LI, Hampton Roads, VA, North Carolina, and, if practicable, Cape May, NJ at the Council meeting), and a similar number in New England.
- 3. Who will attend/chair meetings from each Council?** Participants agreed that the committee chair and vice chair attend all meetings. Minimally, either Haring or Armstrong will attend as staff, but Haring should attempt to attend as many as practicable.
- 4. What information do you think we should provide attendees?** The staff will contact NMFS and GMRI to elicit their input on an information package. The package will not exceed 5-6 pages, and outline the following: why the Councils are exploring catch shares (see item 1 above); what are the types of catch share programs, and how do they differ from each other; what are the potential benefits and drawbacks of catch shares; what are the generic allocation approaches; what are the monitoring requirements; what is the distribution of monkfish permits among fishery groups, and how are landings distributed among them (directed, incidental, mixed fishery, etc.)
- 5. What is the timing of these meetings?** While initially, participants considered mid-October for all meetings, followed by an committee meeting before the November NEFMC meeting. It became apparent that that is probably too ambitious, given that it is not likely that the information package will be completed in time for subsequent logistical steps, such as booking meeting rooms, publication of an NOI, and advance announcement of the meetings. A more likely scenario is that the meetings will be completed before the end of the year.