

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel met jointly on August 8 in East Boston.
- B. Amendment 6: In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery, as well as modifications to the current management system. The Council approved Amendment 6 Goals and Objectives at its November, 2011 meeting. The Committee tasked the Plan Development Team (PDT) with developing a range of alternatives for consideration in Amendment 6, including modifications to the current management system, a days-at-sea leasing option, sector management and individually transferrable quotas (ITQs).

At the August 8th meeting, Committee and Advisory Panel members reviewed the PDT report which focused on measures modifying the current DAS system, including DAS leasing, and sector management. The Committee clarified that its instructions to the PDT regarding sector management in the monkfish fishery was for integration into groundfish sectors, not a stand-alone sector management system. The Committee completed review of the PDT's work on modifications to the DAS program and DAS leasing, but did not complete its review of the sector alternatives due to time limitations. Discussion of sector alternatives will be resumed at the next committee/advisory panel meeting, along with the ITQ alternatives.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. None

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Summary of the August 8, 2012 joint Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel meeting