



Northeast Region Bulletin

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Limited Access Monkfish Permit Category C and D Vessels

Trip Limit Suspension in the Northern Fishery Management Area

Effective Date: May 1, 2013

Effective on May 1, 2013, we are suspending the monkfish possession limits for vessels issued a limited access monkfish Category C or D permit fishing under a monkfish day-at-sea (DAS) in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA); Category C or D monkfish vessels may land an unlimited amount of monkfish when fishing on a monkfish DAS in the NFMA. These possession limits will be suspended through October 27, 2013, or until further notice.

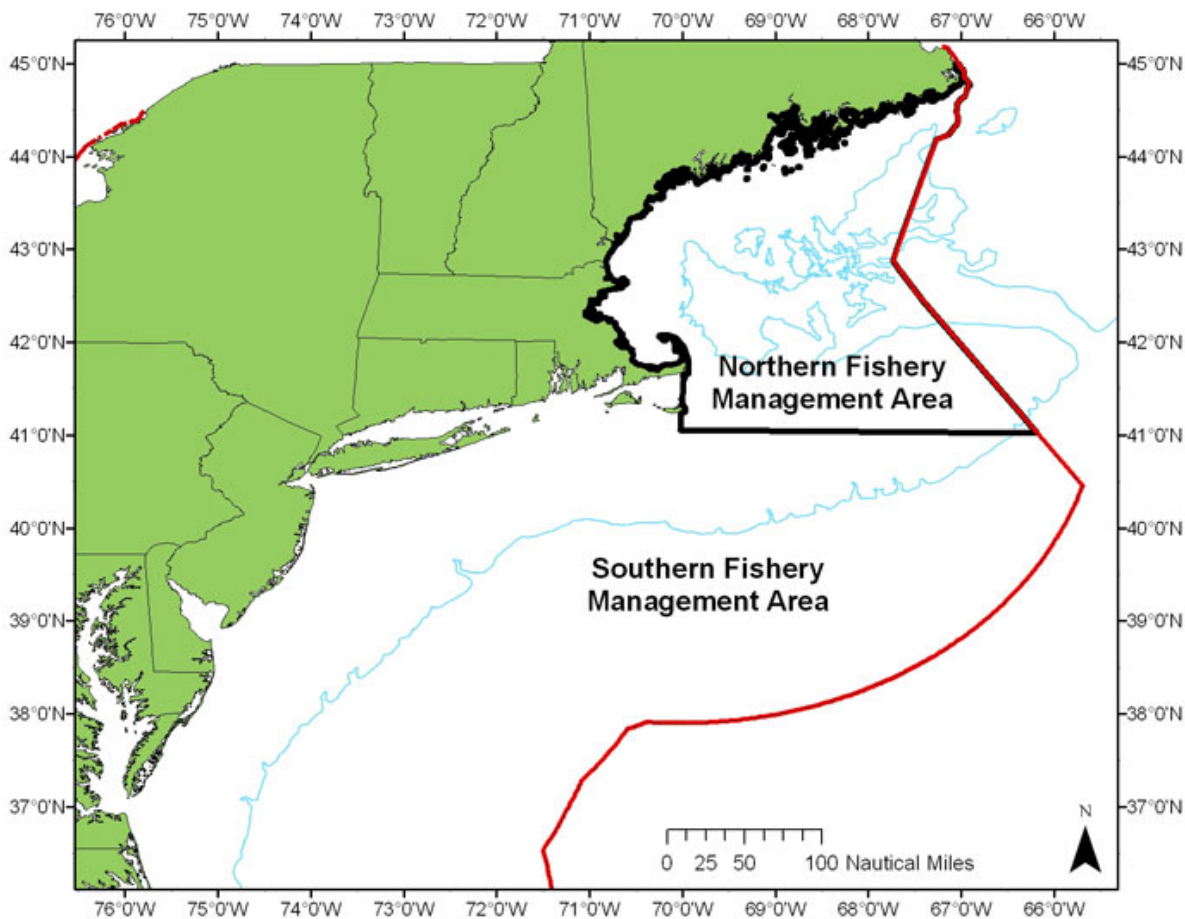
For more information on monkfish and the monkfish fishery, check out our newly redesigned Fish Species Page at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/monkfish/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	The annual catch limits for several groundfish stocks will be substantially reduced during 2013, resulting in economic and social impacts to groundfish vessels and associated communities. The New England Fishery Management Council asked us to eliminate monkfish possession limits in the NFMA through emergency action to help provide additional fishing opportunities and revenue to groundfish vessels during 2013.
Are possession limits different between sector and common pool vessels?	No. All vessels issued a Category C or D monkfish permit, including sector and common pool vessels, are exempt from the NFMA monkfish possession limits when fishing under a monkfish DAS.
How long will monkfish trip limits be suspended?	NFMA monkfish possession limits for Category C or D monkfish vessels fishing under a monkfish DAS will be suspended through October 27, 2013. This suspension may be continued through April 2014 if the emergency action is renewed and monkfish landings would not exceed the 2013 monkfish NFMA total allowable landing amount before then.
Is there a chance that the trip limits will go back down?	Yes. If we project that monkfish landings from the NFMA will exceed the 2013 total allowable landings amount before the end of the fishing year, we will reinstate the existing monkfish possession limits (1,250 lb tail weight per DAS for Category C vessels and 600 lb tail weight per DAS for Category D vessels) for the remainder of fishing year 2013.
Do the incidental possession limits still apply?	Yes. If a Category C or D vessel is <u>not</u> fishing on a monkfish DAS in the NFMA, the current incidental possession limits still apply. See table on the reverse.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Monkfish NFMA



NFMA monkfish possession limits effective May 1, 2013

Monkfish Permit Category	DAS Type	Monkfish Possession Limit (in tail weight)
A	Monk DAS	1,250 lb per DAS
B		600 lb per DAS
Any	Non-DAS	Up to 5% of total weight of fish onboard*
Any	Groundfish A DAS	Up to 25% of total weight of fish onboard,* not to exceed 300 lb
C	Groundfish A & Monk DAS	Unlimited
D		Unlimited
E	Non-DAS	Up to 5% of total weight of fish onboard*

*When all monkfish are converted to tail weight.