

Proposal for the current monkfish action

Tier 1

1. Discussion regarding allowing the use of a less than 10" mesh stand-up net on a monkfish only DAS.
2. Review of the basis for the 300 lb. tail weight incidental limit for trawlers in the SFMA.
3. Consideration of an option to flip from a monkfish DAS to a RSA DAS
4. Comprehensive review of the RSA funded research programs, including discussion of how NMFS has used the research results to date, with a focus on improving the RSA program.
5. Discussion of the potential benefits of moving winter and barndoor skate into the monkfish FMP.
6. Review current policy allowing vessels to fish in both monkfish management areas during the same fishing year. Design rules that would limit or constrain the ability of vessels to fish in both areas during a single year as a means of controlling effort shifts.
7. Discussion of Turtle bycatch in the southern New England waters due to targeting of skate and monkfish in July and August. Consideration of establishing a seasonally limited closed area for large mesh tie down nets in southern New England waters.

Tier 2:

1. Given that 66% of the vessels with the monkfish limited access permits do not use monkfish DAS; design a program/proposal to deal with the latent permit issue before it results in major increases in effort in the monkfish fishery.
2. Consideration of leasing options which will not increase latent effort.
3. Consideration of ITQ's as a substitute for current DAS program, and as a means of dealing with latent effort, by-catch, and effort shifts.