

Amendment 6

Monkfish FMP

**Fiona Hogan, NEFMC
Staff, Monkfish PDT Chair**

**Jt Monkfish AP &
CTE Meeting
August 25, 2014**



New England
Fishery Management Council

Section 1.1 Requirement for vessels with groundfish (GF) permits to also use a GF DAS when on a monkfish (MF) DAS

▶ Section 1.1.1. No Action

- ▶ Existing regs – C & D must use Groundfish DAS when declaring MF DAS

▶ Section 1.1.2 Eliminate the requirement

- ▶ 1.1.2.1 All Vessels - Any groundfish vessel can be on a MF DAS without being on a Groundfish DAS but must either fish on a sector trip or in groundfish exempted fishery areas when on a monkfish-only DAS.
 - ▶ 1.1.2.1.1 Both Management Areas
 - ▶ 1.1.2.1.2 Northern Management Area only
- ▶ 1.1.2.2 Sector Vessels Only - Sector vessels would not be required to declare a groundfish DAS to be able to declare a monkfish DAS when exceeding the monkfish incidental catch limit.



Section 1.1 Requirement for vessels with GF permits to also use a GF DAS when on a MF DAS

- ▶ **Section 1.1.3. Allow groundfish DAS to be declared at sea**
 - ▶ Option A: Allow all vessels to declare a groundfish DAS at sea when declaring a monkfish DAS.
 - ▶ Option B: Allow only groundfish sector vessels to declare a groundfish DAS when declaring a monkfish DAS at sea.
- ▶ **Section 1.1.4 Increase monkfish-only DAS based on higher groundfish common pool DAS counting**
 - ▶ Offsets the impact of groundfish DAS differential counting for common pool vessels. A vessel's monkfish allocation would be increased proportionate to the difference between groundfish DAS charged and monkfish DAS charged so that each vessel would be able to fully utilize its annual allocation of monkfish DAS to the extent possible.



Section 1.2 Modify DAS/trip limit allocation for Category F (offshore) vessels

▶ Section 1.2.1. No Action

- ▶ Cat F vessels may possess 1,600 lbs (tail weight) and DAS usage is prorated, depending on what standard MF permit vessel issued.

▶ Section 1.2.2 Increase the trip limit and adjust monkfish DAS allocations accordingly

- ▶ The trip limit applicable to Category F vessels would be increased [to a level to be determined].



Section 1.3 Modify the method for allocating DAS to active vessels to address latent effort

▶ Section 1.3.1. No Action

- ▶ All limited access MF vessels would continue to be allocated MF DAS.

▶ Section 1.3.2 Modify DAS allocations based on DAS usage

- ▶ 1.3.2.1 Fleet allocations by area based on minimum DAS usage threshold
 - ▶ *1.3.2.1.1 Calculation of minimum DAS threshold*
 - ▶ *1.3.2.1.2 Qualification period for DAS use*
- ▶ 1.3.2.2 Fleet DAS allocations based on recent landings while on a monkfish DAS
 - ▶ *1.3.2.2.1 Minimum landings threshold*
 - ▶ *1.3.2.2.2 Qualification period for DAS use*



Section 1.4 Modifications to Monkfish Possession Limits

- ▶ Section 1.4.1 Northern Area Monkfish Trip Limit on a Groundfish DAS
 - ▶ 1.4.1.1 No Action
 - ▶ Vessels on MF DAS are subject to trip limit, and when on a Groundfish, but not a MF DAS, they have an incidental limit of 600 lbs tail wt per DAS in the NMA .
 - ▶ 1.4.1.2 Eliminate the Trip Limit on a Groundfish DAS –
 - ▶ This alternative would eliminate the monkfish trip limit when a vessel is on a groundfish DAS in the NMA, effectively eliminating the need to use a monkfish DAS.



Section 1.4.2 Incidental Limit for sector vessels not on a groundfish or monkfish DAS

▶ Section 1.4.1.2 No Action

- ▶ Maintains current regs regarding MF possession limits for vessels fishing in the GOM and GB RMA with regulated min mesh size specified in Groundfish FMP.

▶ Section 1.4.2.2 Increase incidental limit for sector vessels not on a groundfish DAS

- ▶ The incidental limit for sector vessels not on a groundfish or monkfish DAS would be 600 lbs. tail weight per day.



Section 1.4.3 Incidental Limit for fixed gear vessels operating on a groundfish DAS in the SMA

▶ Section 1.4.3.1 No Action

- ▶ Vessels on Groundfish DAS in SMA with non-trawl gear limited to 50 lbs tail weight per DAS. Exclusive use of trawl gear raises the limit to 300 lbs tail weight per DAS.

▶ Section 1.4.3.2 Increase incidental limit for fixed gear vessels on a groundfish DAS in the SMA

- ▶ The incidental limit for vessels fishing with fixed gear on a groundfish DAS, but not a monkfish DAS would be increased to 300 lbs., tail weight per DAS.



Section 1.5 Southern Management Area at-sea Monkfish DAS declaration

▶ Section 1.5.1 No Action

- ▶ Provision allows a vessel on a Groundfish but not MF DAS to declare a MK DAS at sea prior to returning to port – only applies in NMA

▶ Section 1.5.2 Allow at-sea Monkfish DAS declaration in the SMA

- ▶ This alternative would allow vessels on a groundfish DAS in the SMA to declare a monkfish DAS at sea prior to returning to port in the event the vessel exceeds the monkfish incidental limit.



Section 1.6 Monkfish DAS Leasing

- ▶ **Section 1.6.1 No Action**
 - ▶ No leasing of MF DAS or stacking permits currently allowed
- ▶ **Section 1.6.2 DAS Leasing by management area**
 - ▶ 1.6.2.1 Allow DAS leasing in the NMA only
 - ▶ 1.6.2.2 Allow DAS leasing in the SMA only
 - ▶ 1.6.2.3 Allow DAS leasing in both the NMA



Section 1.6 Monkfish DAS Leasing

- ▶ **Section 1.6.3 Allow monkfish DAS to be temporarily leased**
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1 Eligibility to participate in monkfish DAS leasing
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1.1 All limited access monkfish permits may participate, including those in confirmation of permit history (CPH)
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1.2 Only limited access permits issued to a vessel may participate
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1.1 Only “active” limited access permits may participate
 - Active defined as those having used X MF DAS during a specified period.
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1.4 Only “active” monkfish DAS may be leased
 - Active defined as average number of DAS used during qualification period
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1.5 Only owners of one (or another low threshold) limited access monkfish permit can participate in monkfish DAS leasing
 - ▶ 1.6.3.1.6 Only owners of multiple limited access monkfish permits may participate in monkfish DA leasing



Section 1.6 Monkfish DAS Leasing

- ▶ 1.6.3.2 Permit restrictions
 - ▶ 1.6.3.2.1 Monkfish DAS may be leased between all monkfish permit categories
 - ▶ 1.6.3.2.2 Monkfish DAS may only be leased to permits within the same permit category (A&C and B&D) – A&C are equivalent and can only be leased to each other. Same applies to B&D.
- ▶ 1.6.3.3 Size/Horsepower Limitations
 - ▶ 1.6.3.3.1 No vessel size limitations on leasing DAS
 - ▶ 1.6.3.3.2 Within vessel size (length) classes
 - ▶ 1.6.3.3.3 Use replacement upgrade restrictions (e.g. 10% LOA or 20% HP)
- ▶ 1.6.3.4 Linkage with Multispecies DAS leasing program
 - ▶ 1.6.3.4.1 Multispecies and monkfish DAS leased can be leased together, as appropriate
 - ▶ 1.6.3.4.2 Only monkfish DAS can be leased; multispecies DAS would have to be leased separately, as needed



Section 1.6 Monkfish DAS Leasing

▶ 1.6.3.5 Accumulation limits

▶ 1.6.3.5.1 Absolute limit

- ▶ No single entity can acquire more than X MF DAS through leasing program

▶ 1.6.3.5.2 Relative limit

- ▶ No single entity can acquire more than X% of allocated MF DAS through the leasing program

▶ 1.6.3.5.3 No Accumulation limits

- ▶ Entities can accumulate unlimited MF DAS through leasing program.

▶ 1.6.3.6 Lease duration

▶ 1.6.3.6.1 1-year duration

▶ 1.6.3.6.2 Multi-year lease



Section 1.6 Monkfish DAS Leasing

▶ 1.6.3.7 Area limitations

▶ 1.6.3.7.1 No area limitations

- ▶ DAS can be leased without restriction on leases between areas

▶ 1.6.3.7.2 Area Restrictions apply to DAS leasing

- ▶ DAS allocation will have to be specific to a management area, or vessels will have to declare the intended area to use DAS; leasing would be area specific.



Section 1.6 Monkfish DAS Leasing

- ▶ **1.6.3.8 Criteria for approval**
 - ▶ 1.6.3.8.1 Vessel Trip Report (VTR) submission is current
 - ▶ 1.6.3.8.2 Allow leases to address DAS overages
 - ▶ 1.6.3.8.3 Other

- ▶ **1.6.3.9 Carry-over DAS**
 - ▶ 1.6.3.9.1 Can be leased
 - ▶ 1.6.3.9.2 Cannot be leased



Section 2.0 Research Set-Aside Program (RSA)

▶ Section 2.1. No Action

- ▶ All limited access vessels contribute a portion of their DAS allocation to a pool of 500 DAS set aside to support RSA projects.

▶ Section 2.2 RSA Quota

- ▶ A specific poundage would be set aside from the ACT and allocated to research projects on a competitive basis.
- ▶ Option A: RSA quota based on a percentage of the ACT, equivalent to the percentage of DAS set aside (0.7 DAS set aside/40 DAS allocated)
- ▶ Option B: A specific poundage would be set aside (TBD)





Sector Management and ITQs Document



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ 1.1 No Action

- ▶ 1.2 Integrate monkfish vessels into groundfish sectors
 - ▶ 1.2.1 Eligibility based on permit type
 - ▶ 1.2.1.1 Only Multispecies/Monkfish limited access vessels
 - ▶ 1.2.1.2 All Monkfish limited access vessels
 - ▶ 1.2.1.3 All multispecies permits with any monkfish permit, including Category E, open access permits

 - ▶ 1.2.2 Eligibility based on “Active” status
 - ▶ 1.2.2.1 Active vessels only
 - ▶ 1.2.2.2 All vessels, regardless of directed fishery participation history



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.3 Method for calculating PSC**
 - ▶ 1.2.3.1 Monkfish landings history during FY2000 – 2006
 - ▶ 1.2.3.2 Monkfish landings history during most recent 5 years.
 - ▶ 1.2.3.3 Monkfish landings history during most recent 10 years.
 - ▶ 1.2.3.4 Equal allocation based on initial permit qualification criteria
 - ▶ 1.2.3.5 Other PSC Criteria



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.4 Method for translating PSC into ACE**
 - ▶ To scale up the weight in landings to total ACE, the estimated discard rate by area from most recent stock assessment would be applied.
- ▶ **1.2.5 Calculation of common pool specifications**
 - ▶ Adjustment is necessary to account for annual changes in sector participation.
 - ▶ **1.2.5.1 Three-year sector commitment**
 - ▶ This would require intent to join Groundfish sectors for minimum of 3 years to be in line with current specifications process.
 - ▶ **1.2.5.2 Annual adjustment**
 - ▶ Annual adjustment to DAS and trip limits would be necessary.



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.6 Monkfish ACE transfers**
 - ▶ 1.2.6.1 Transfer of monkfish ACE would not be allowed
 - ▶ 1.2.6.2 ACE transfer would be allowed between sectors
 - ▶ 1.2.6.3 Transfer approval criteria
 - ▶ NMFS will consider the same criteria as it does when considering transfers of ACE in Groundfish sectors.
- ▶ **1.2.7 Accumulation Limits**
 - ▶ 1.2.7.1 No limits
 - ▶ 1.2.7.2 - 20% percent cap
 - ▶ No single Groundfish sector could equal or exceed 20% (or other appropriate limit) of monkfish ACT in either management area
 - Option A: Cap based only on cumulative ACE of member vessels
 - Option B: Cap based on cumulative ACE of member vessels plus any ACE acquired from other sectors



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.8 Catch monitoring**
 - ▶ **1.2.8.1 Catch estimation methodology**
 - ▶ 1.2.8.1.1 Existing catch estimation methodology specified in the NE multispecies FMP for Groundfish sectors would apply to monkfish permits participating in sectors
 - ▶ 1.2.8.1.2 Electronic monitoring
 - ▶ 1.2.8.1.3 Landing stations or windows
 - ▶ 1.2.8.1.4 Instant landing validation
 - ▶ **1.2.8.2 Cost coverage**
 - ▶ 1.2.8.2.1 Cost structure, as applied to groundfish sectors
 - Includes industry funding
 - ▶ 1.2.8.2.2 Monkfish ACE set-aside to help offset monitoring costs
 - ▶ 1.2.8.2.3 Industry-funded



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.9 Program administration**
 - ▶ 1.2.9.1 Existing sector administration measures specified in the NE multispecies FMP
 - ▶ Any future changes to sector administration measures would apply to monkfish permits participating in sectors.
 - ▶ 1.2.9.2 Alternative roster and contract deadlines
 - ▶ 1.2.9.3 Alternative joint/several liability measures

- ▶ **1.2.10 Sector Performance measurement**
 - ▶ 1.2.10.1 Use annual sector reports
 - ▶ 1.2.10.2 Use annual SAFE reports



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ 1.2.11 Integration with other FMPs
 - ▶ 1.2.11.1 Integration with the Skate FMP
 - ▶ 1.2.11.1.1 No Action
 - Permits must declare a monkfish DAS if they intend to land more than the incidental catch limit of skate wings.
 - ▶ 1.2.11.1.2 Revise Skate FMP
 - Monkfish and groundfish permits could land allowable possession limits of skate wings on sector trips instead of on GF or MF DAS.
 - ▶ 1.2.11.2 Integration with the Atlantic Scallop FMP



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ 1.2.12 Exemptions for sector vessels
 - ▶ 1.2.12.1 No Action

 - ▶ 1.2.12.2 Revised universal exemptions for sector vessels
 - ▶ 1.2.12.2.1 Monkfish DAS requirements
 - ▶ 1.2.12.2.2 Monkfish trip limits
 - ▶ 1.2.12.2.3 Monkfish mesh size requirements
 - ▶ 1.2.12.2.4 Other exemptions



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.12.3 Sector-specific exemptions**
 - ▶ Sectors could request exemptions from individual monkfish regulations
- ▶ **1.2.12.4 Prohibited exemptions**
 - ▶ Monkfish permitting restrictions
 - ▶ Reporting requirements
 - ▶ Monkfish closure areas
 - ▶ Monkfish minimum size?
 - ▶ Others?



Section 1.0 Sectors

- ▶ **1.2.13 Accountability measures for individual sectors**
 - ▶ **1.2.13.1 Area closure**
 - ▶ Exceeding monkfish ACE would trigger immediate closure of fishing by all sector member vessels in monkfish MA where ACE was exceeded.
 - ▶ **1.2.13.2 Overage penalty**
 - ▶ Existing individual sector overage penalties would be expanded to include monkfish.



Section 2.0 Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) Program

- ▶ **2.1 No Action**
 - ▶ No ITQ program would be developed
- ▶ **2.2 Eligibility to participate**
 - ▶ 2.2.1 All limited access monkfish permits, including those in CPH
 - ▶ 2.2.2 Only active limited access monkfish permits
- ▶ **2.3 ITQ qualification criteria**
 - ▶ 2.3.1 Monkfish landings history during FY 2000-06
 - ▶ 2.3.2 Monkfish landings history during most recent 5 years
 - ▶ 2.3.3 Monkfish landings history during most recent 10 years
 - ▶ 2.3.4 Initial permit qualification allocations



Section 2.0 Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) Program

- ▶ 2.4 Monitoring requirements

- ▶ 2.5 Monkfish ITQ leasing
 - ▶ 2.5.1 Duration of lease
 - ▶ 2.5.1.1 Temporary lease of quota
 - 2.5.1.1.1 1 year
 - 2.5.1.1.2 3 years
 - ▶ 2.5.1.2 Permanent sale of quota

 - ▶ 2.5.2 Approval criteria



Section 2.0 Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) Program

▶ 2.6 Accumulation limit

▶ 2.6.1 No Action

- ▶ No limits on ITQ share would be specified

▶ 2.6.2 - 20 percent cap

- ▶ No single entity could acquire more than 20% of allocated monkfish ITQ based on initial allocation or through acquisition.

▶ 2.6.3 Other limit?

▶ 2.7 Cost recovery

- ▶ MSFCMA requires that ITQ programs also include a program for industry to pay for the costs of management, data collection and enforcement – fee cannot exceed 3% of ex-vessel value of fish harvested.



Section 2.0 Individual Transferrable Quota (ITQ) Program

- ▶ 2.8 Referendum parameters
 - ▶ 2.8.1 Voting eligibility
 - ▶ 2.8.1.1 Permit holders
 - 2.8.1.1.1 All monkfish permit holders
 - 2.8.1.1.2 Limited access permit holders
 - ▶ 2.8.1.2 Crew
 - 2.8.1.2.1 Eligibility criteria
 - 2.8.1.2.2 Documentation of eligibility
 - ▶ 2.8.2 Vote counting methodology
 - ▶ 2.8.2.1 One vote per entity
 - ▶ 2.8.2.2 One vote per permit or person
 - ▶ 2.8.2.3 Vote weighting for permit owners

