



## New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

### **Notice of Monkfish Public Meetings Monkfish Amendment 5**

The New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Monkfish Committee is holding public hearings for Amendment 5 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The primary purpose of this amendment is to address the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act that the Council adopt Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) and manage the fishery at long-term sustainable levels. According to the Act, these measures must be adopted by 2011. Amendment 5 will also include revised biological and management reference points to bring the FMP into compliance with revised National Standard 1 Guidelines. Further, Amendment 5 will specify total allowable catch targets and associated days-at-sea (DAS) and trip limits for the directed fishery to supplant the current specifications that it adopted for the 2007-2009 fishing years along with an extension provision which will apply for the 2010 fishing year. Amendment 5 contains proposals to make modifications to the FMP to improve the Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program, to minimize bycatch resulting from trip limit overages, to accommodate those vessels fishing in groundfish sectors who would no longer be required to use their allocated groundfish DAS, to require all limited access monkfish vessels to use a VMS when on a monkfish DAS, and to allow the landing of monkfish heads.

A public hearing document, as well as a draft Amendment 5 document incorporating an Environmental Assessment, is available on the Monkfish page of the Council's website ([www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org)) or from the Council office.

After the close of the public comment period, the Monkfish Oversight Committee and Industry Advisory Panel will review the comments and develop recommendations to the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils on the measures to be submitted as final action for Amendment 5. The Councils will make their decisions in April, 2010 for submission to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). If approved by NMFS, Amendment 5 will take effect at the start of the 2011 fishing year.

Interested parties may make oral comments on the alternatives under consideration at any of the hearings listed below, or may **submit written comments prior to 5 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2010** by email to: [monkamendment5@noaa.gov](mailto:monkamendment5@noaa.gov) or by mail or fax to: Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930; fax: 978/281-9135.

Please note on your correspondence: "Monkfish Amendment 5 Public Hearing Comments."

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Monday, February 8, 2010</b>	1:00 p.m.	Hampton Inn One Hampton Way, <b>Fairhaven, MA</b> 02719 Telephone: (508) 990-8500
<b>Tuesday, February 9, 2010</b>	1:00 p.m.	Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station 30 Emerson Avenue, <b>Gloucester, MA</b> 01930 Telephone: (978) 282-0308
<b>Thursday, February 11, 2010</b>	8:00 a.m.	Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Hotel 100 Heron Blvd at Route 50, <b>Cambridge, MD</b> 21613 Telephone: (410) 901-1234
<b>Wednesday, February 24, 2010</b>	1:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Express East End 1707 Old Country Rd., <b>Riverhead, NY</b> 11901 Telephone: (631) 548-1000
<b>Thursday, February 25, 2010</b>	9:00 a.m.	Hilton Garden Inn 1885 Route 70, <b>Lakewood, NJ</b> 08701 Telephone: (732) 262-5232
<b>Friday, March 5, 2010</b>	9:00 a.m.	Samoset Resort 220 Warrenton Street, <b>Rockport, ME</b> 04856 Telephone: (207) 594-2511

*These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities.*

cc: Monkfish Interested Parties, PDT & Advisors

Notice Date: January 8, 2010