

## NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### Monkfish

#### I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Advisory Panel and Oversight Committee met on October 31 and November 1, respectively, in Danvers, MA to review the Framework 4 draft document and make final recommendations to the Councils on measures to be adopted. The two groups also reviewed observer data on monkfish incidental catch in the scallop closed area access programs in order to make a recommendation to the Councils regarding any possible adjustment to the incidental catch limit. The groups also discussed possible monkfish DAS leasing programs.
- B. Framework 3. Framework 3 is a combined groundfish/monkfish action (Multispecies Framework 42) since it considers restricting the targeting of monkfish in the Category B (regular) DAS Program. The final decision on this framework was made at the January Council meeting. Staff submitted the document to NMFS on March 29, 2006, and resubmitted after NMFS review, on April 21. NMFS published the final rule for Framework 42/3 on October 23 with an effectiveness date of November 22.
- C. Framework 4. This is the final meeting on Framework 4, which will focus on the stock rebuilding program and put in place measures intended to achieve the rebuilding goals by 2009, the final year of the 10-year rebuilding program. The Committee and Advisory Panel will make their recommendations on final measures at this meeting of the New England Council meeting and the December Mid-Atlantic Council meeting (this being a joint FMP). The staff will then complete the submission documents for NMFS review and implementation by the start of the 2007 fishing year on May 1.
- D. Monkfish Incidental Catch in the Sea Scallop Closed Area Access Programs. At the request of the Council, the Monkfish Committee reviewed observer data on the incidental catch of monkfish on scallop vessels in the closed area access program and will make a recommendation at this meeting for consideration and possible action by the Council.

#### II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. Approve final measures to be submitted to NMFS for Framework 4 to the Monkfish FMP.
- B. Review and approve Oversight Committee recommendations on possible adjustment to the monkfish incidental catch limit in Sea Scallop Closed Area Access programs.

#### III. INFORMATION

- A. Summaries of the Oct. 31 Advisory Panel and November 1 Oversight Committee meetings (to be distributed at the Council meeting)

- B. Draft Framework 4 document incorporating the Environmental Assessment
- C. Framework 4 Decision Memo incorporating recommendations of the Advisory Panel and Oversight Committee (to be distributed at the Council meeting)
- D. Correspondence