

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee met on Jan. 10 in Warwick, RI to develop a recommendation on a control date for Amendment 6 and begin developing management alternatives to achieve Amendment 6 goals and objectives.
- B. Amendment 6: In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery. The Council approved Amendment 6 Goals and Objectives at its November, 2011 meeting. The Oversight Committee is recommending publication of a control date to limit speculative activity in anticipation of Amendment 6, including, but not limited to limits on accumulation of excessive control or ownership of fishing privileges. The Committee also tasked the Plan Development Team with developing a range of alternatives for consideration in Amendment 6, including modifications to the current system, a days-at-sea leasing option, sector management and individually transferrable quotas.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Motion**: Consider and approve the Committee recommendation that NMFS publish in the *Federal Register* as soon as possible, a control date pertaining to management of the monkfish fishery that is applicable to, but not limited to, limits on the accumulation of excessive control or ownership of fishing privileges, qualifying landings history, and referendum qualification. (Also requires MAFMC approval)

III. INFORMATION

- 1. Summary of the January 10, 2012 Monkfish Oversight Committee Meeting
- 2. Draft Control Date Federal Register Notice