

## NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### Monkfish Committee

#### I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.
- B. Amendment 5 to the Monkfish FMP: The Council initiated Amendment 5, primarily to consider alternatives for Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and Accountability Measures (AMs) pursuant to the 2007 re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and to adopt multi-year specifications of target catch levels (TTACs) and associated days-at-sea (DAS) and trip limits. The current TTACs were adopted in Framework 4 for fishing years 2007 – 2009, although a provision exists for the TTACs to continue in effect until replaced through regulatory action. Amendment 5 would implement new specifications for 2011-2013, or beyond. In addition, the Council is considering in Amendment 5 modifications to administrative and other components of the current management program, specifically: an automatic adjustment to DAS accounting for trip limit overages; permit Category C and D multispecies DAS usage requirements; research set-aside program modifications; mandatory VMS; and to allow the landing of monkfish heads.

The Council held six public hearings on Amendment 5 between February 8 and March 9. The Advisory Panel and Oversight Committee reviewed the comments and have made recommendations to the Councils for consideration at their April meetings (MAFMC met April 13-15). At the April meeting, the Council directed the staff to analyze a new option for the Northern Management Area catch target, and to present those results at this meeting. The Council is scheduled to consider that analysis and take final action at this meeting. The Council approved all other provisions of Amendment 5 at the April meeting. The staff will complete the final document as soon as practicable, and submit it to NMFS for review so the amendment can be implemented at the start of the 2011 fishing year.

- C. Monkfish Stock Assessment (SARC 50): The Northeast Fisheries Science Center conducted a stock assessment June 1-4, and the final report is scheduled for release in July.

#### II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **Final action on Amendment 5** – Consider and take action on the Plan Development Team's analysis of a new option for the Northern Management Area Annual Catch Target, and approve Amendment 5 for submission to NMFS.

#### III. INFORMATION

1. Plan Development Team analysis of proposed Annual Catch Target for the Northern Management Area at a level equivalent to 80% of the Annual Catch Limit
2. Summary table of Amendment 5 alternatives approved for submission to NMFS