

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Monkfish Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee met on Nov. 4 in Philadelphia, PA to review the Plan Development Team's (PDT) Problem Statement and to develop a recommendation to the Council on goals and objectives for Amendment 6. At the Committee's direction, the PDT met on Oct. 21 to finalize the problem statement.
- B. Framework Adjustment 7: Based on the results of the 2011 stock assessment and the subsequent recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Council initiated Framework 7 to revise the 2011-2013 Annual Catch Target (ACT) and associated specification of DAS and trip limits for the Northern Management Area originally proposed in Amendment 5. The Councils approved the final measures at their January (New England) and February (Mid-Atlantic) meetings, and the staff submitted a final document on May 3. NMFS published a proposed rule on August 5, (*76 Federal Register* 47533) and the final rule on October 26, 2011 (*76 Federal Register* 66192).
- C. Amendment 6 (Catch Shares): In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery. A Notice of Intent initiating the scoping process for Amendment 6 was published Nov. 20, 2010 (*75 Federal Register* 74005), and the staffs of both New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils held ten scoping hearings from North Carolina to Maine. The Advisory Panel and Oversight Committee reviewed scoping comments and developed a list of issues and problems in the fishery as the basis for developing goals and objectives for the amendment (to be considered at this meeting). The Committee also proposed at the September Council meeting requesting that NMFS provide permit holders with their individual contribution factor based on three historical qualification periods, but action on the motion was postponed to this meeting (see "Council Action B" below).

II. COUNCIL ACTION

- A. **(Pending Oversight Committee action on Nov. 4 2011)**: Consider and approve the Committee recommendation on goals and objectives for Amendment 6.
- B. **Motion (action postponed at the September Council meeting)**: Request the Council send a letter to NMFS requesting that they calculate individual contribution factor (PSC, ITQ or other) based on landings history for three time periods for each area: initial permit qualification period, 2000-2010 and 2005-2010, to be sent to permit holders, and to identify the proportion of the landings by management area (NMA/SMA) used in the calculations for each vessel, and that the agency also provide a summary report to the Council.

III. INFORMATION

1. Summary of the Nov. 4, 2011 Monkfish Oversight Committee Meeting (*to be distributed at the meeting*)
2. Amendment 6 Timeline memo from staff (Oct. 14, 2011)
3. Plan Development Team Problem Statement (Oct. 21, 2011)
4. Staff PowerPoint presentation on Amendment 6 Problem Statement and Committee Recommendations on Goals and Objectives