

Things to consider in preparation of Amend 6

1. No change in minimum mesh size requirements in SFMA.
2. Only one area can be fished on any directed monkfish trip. Declare into SFMA or NFMA before leaving the dock and operate under that areas regulations. This will enhance monitoring of the resource, leaving no question of where the fish were caught. This will also simplify things for Coast Guard/Law Enforcement. Currently there is a "loop hole" allowing vessels to fish both areas on the same trip. This needs to be addressed.
3. Allow for regulation flexibility in the NFMA for those vessels in sectors.
4. Establish a DAS leasing program for the SFMA with a qualifying period using a Tiered method in order to identify industry members and their level of past participation:

Tier 1 = those vessels who used 90 - 100% of their DAS allocation from 2007 - 2012.

Tier 2 = those vessels who used 75 - 89% of their DAS allocation from 2007 - 2012.

Tier 3 = those vessels who used 50 - 74% of their DAS allocation from 2007-2012.

If less than 50% of DAS were used from 2007 - 2012, those permits can not be leased. The goal of this alternative is to insure that latent permits will not be leased for the sake of creating more effort. Allowing latent permits to lease to active fisherman will only cause a reduction in DAS/trip limit in future years. The owners of those latent permits can still use their permits, they just can't lease them.

A vessel leasing from Tier 1, 2 or 3 will have access to the high end qualifying percentage number. Example: Vessel A leased a Tier 1 permit. He would gain 100% of that years DAS/trip limit allocation. Vessel B leased a Tier 2 permit. He would gain 89% of that years DAS/trip limit allocation. Vessel C leased a Tier 3 permit. He would gain 74% of that years DAS/trip limit allocation.