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## New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116  
 John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 20, 2009  
**TO:** Scientific and Statistical Committee  
**FROM:** Paul J. Howard, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Monkfish Amendment 5 Terms of Reference**

#### **Terms of Reference for the April 30/May 1 Meeting on Monkfish Amendment 5**

- 1. Review and provide guidance on the PDT's updated calculation of MSY and OFL reference points (using exploitable biomass rather than total biomass), and ABC. Set ABC in accordance with the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act.**
- 2. Review and provide guidance on the PDT's calculation of various catch targets (ACTs) using the SCALE model for fishing years 2011-2013.**

Due to scheduling difficulties, the PDT will not be able to meet to finalize its work in support of the above items until April 28<sup>th</sup>, two days prior to the SSC meeting. While lead time for SSC review will be very short, the staff will work to provide the information as soon as possible following the PDT's meeting.

At its March 2009 meeting on Monkfish Amendment 5, the SSC reviewed PDT calculations of MSY and OFL which were based on total biomass, rather than exploitable biomass. Following the meeting, the SSC chair identified this error, and the PDT will recalculate those values for your review at the meeting.

The SSC also recommended that an interim ABC be calculated based on the product of the average exploitation rate during the recent period of stable or increasing trend in biomass in both management units and the most recent estimate or index of exploitable biomass. This approach was recommended because the information currently available for monkfish, including the SCALE assessment model, does not support a conventional approach to determining ABC as provided in National Standard 1 guidelines. The PDT will present the results of those calculations.

The PDT will also use the SCALE model to estimate the impact of various catch levels during 2011-2013 on biomass. The basis for the analysis will be the 2007 assessment results (terminal year 2006), with updated, observed catch for 2007 and 2008, estimated catch for 2009 and 2010. These analyses will be used to assist the Council in setting ACT under the "bottom-up" approach, or evaluating various ACT alternatives for ACTs set using the "top-down" approach.

Attachment: SSC Report, (3/30/09), Methods for Determining Annual Catch Limits