



Northeast Region Bulletin

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Limited Access Monkfish Permit Category C and D Vessels

Landing Limit Suspension in the Northern Fishery Management Area

Effective Date: October 28, 2013

Effective October 28, 2013, we are suspending the monkfish landing limits for vessels issued a limited access monkfish Category C or D permit fishing under a Northeast Multispecies (groundfish) or monkfish day-at-sea (DAS) in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA); Category C or D monkfish vessels may land an unlimited amount of monkfish when fishing on a groundfish or monkfish DAS in the NFMA. These landing limits will be suspended through April 30, 2014, or until further notice.

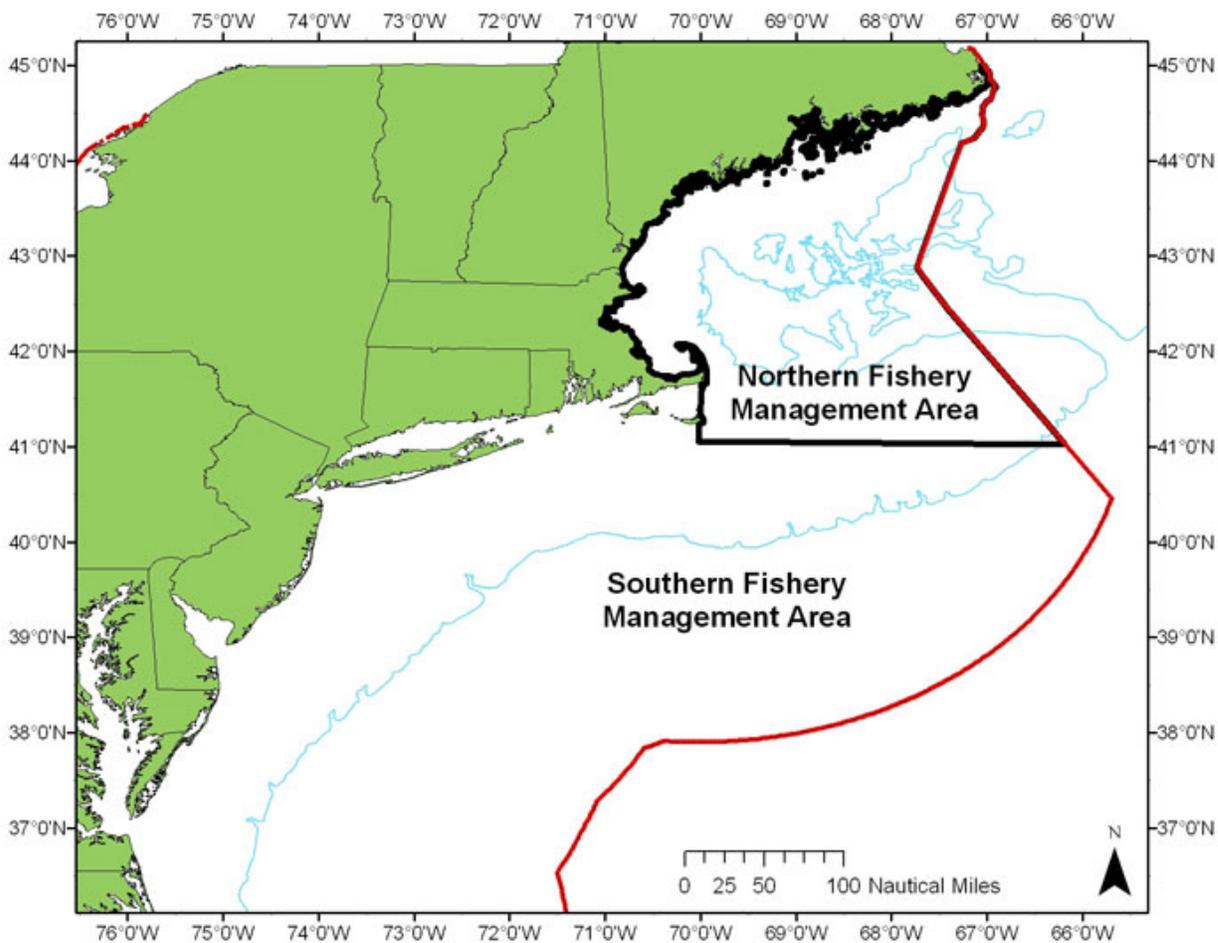
For more information on monkfish and the monkfish fishery, check out our newly redesigned Fish Species Page at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/monkfish/>

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this action being taken?	The New England Fishery Management Council asked us to eliminate monkfish landing limits in the NFMA through emergency action to help provide additional fishing opportunities and revenue to groundfish vessels affected by substantial reductions in groundfish annual catch limits during 2013.
Were these possession limits changed?	Yes. In May, we suspended monkfish landing limits for vessels issued a Category C or D monkfish permit fishing on a <u>monkfish</u> DAS in the NFMA. However, those measures did not increase monkfish landings as much as we expected. Therefore, we are now also suspending monkfish landing limits for Category C or D monkfish vessels on a <u>groundfish</u> DAS to allow such vessels to land more monkfish from the NFMA in fishing year 2013.
Will these changes harm monkfish stocks?	No. So far this year, monkfish landing rates in both the NFMA and the Southern Fishery Management Area are slower than last year, and the fishery is likely to once again harvest less than the available quotas. We do not expect changing these measures will lead to excessive catch in either area, or overfishing either monkfish stock.
Is there a chance that the trip limits will go back down?	Yes. If we project that monkfish landings from the NFMA will exceed the 2013 total allowable landings amount before the end of the fishing year, we will reinstate previous monkfish landing limits (1,250 lb or 600 lb tail weight/DAS for Category C and D vessels on monkfish DAS, respectively, or up to 25% of total weight of fish onboard, not to exceed 300 lb/DAS, for vessels on groundfish DAS) for the remainder of fishing year 2013.
Do the incidental possession limits still apply?	Yes. If a Category C or D vessel is <u>not</u> fishing on a monkfish or groundfish DAS in the NFMA, the current incidental landing limits still apply. See table on the reverse.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Monkfish NFMA



NFMA monkfish landing limits effective October 28, 2013

Monkfish Permit Category	DAS Type	Monkfish Landing Limit (in tail weight)
A	Monk DAS	1,250 lb per DAS
B		600 lb per DAS
C or D	Groundfish A DAS	Unlimited
	Groundfish A & Monk DAS	
E	Groundfish A DAS	Up to 25% of total weight of fish onboard,* not to exceed 300 lb/DAS
Any	Non-DAS	Up to 5% of total weight of fish onboard* or 50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip based on gear used

*When all monkfish are converted to tail weight.