



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Date Issued: 4/21/2014

Vessels Issued a Federal Monkfish Permit

Summary of Monkfish Measures for the Start of Fishing Year 2014
2013 Emergency Monkfish Measures Expire
Effective Date: May 1, 2014

Starting May 1, 2014, the measures in place during fishing year (FY) 2012 will be temporarily reinstated (see summary tables below) until any measures approved under Framework Adjustment 8 can be implemented. Emergency measures that suspended monkfish landing limits in the Northern Fishery Management Area during fishing year 2013 will expire on April 30, 2014.

Although the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils have adopted increased monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) allocations and landing limits as part of Framework 8, the review of that action is delayed. Any approved Framework 8 measures will not become effective until after May 1, 2014. Another letter summarizing any approved measures and when they would become effective will be sent to you shortly.

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/>

Monkfish DAS and Landing Limits Effective May 1, 2014

| Management Measure | Northern Fishery Management Area | Southern Fishery Management Area |
|---|--|--|
| Monkfish DAS Allocation | 40 (28 DAS can be used in the Southern Fishery Management Area) | |
| Landing Limits while on a Monkfish DAS (tail weight/DAS) | 1,250 lb for Category A/C permits 600 lb for Category B/D permits | 550 lb for Category A/C permits 450 lb for Category B/D permit |
| | 1,600 lb for Category F permits | |
| Landing Limits while on a Scallop DAS (tail weight/DAS) | 300 lb | |
| Incidental Landing Limits while on a Northeast Multispecies DAS (tail weight/DAS) | Up to 25% of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 300 lb for Category C, D, E, or F permits | 50 lb for Category E or H permits, and Category C, D, or F permits fishing with non-trawl gear |
| | | 300 lb for Category C, D, or F permits fishing with trawl gear |
| Incidental Landing Limits when Not Fishing on a DAS | Summarized on the current monkfish information sheet: http://www.nero.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/monkfish_fishery_info-final.pdf | |

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 Catch Limits Effective May 1, 2014

| Catch Limit | Northern Fishery Management Area | Southern Fishery Management Area |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Acceptable Biological Catch and Annual Catch Limit | 7,592 mt | 12,316 mt |
| Annual Catch Target (landings plus discards) | 6,567 mt | 11,513 mt |
| Total Allowable Landings (directed fishery) | 5,854 mt | 8,925 mt |

| <i>Frequently Asked Questions</i> | |
|---|--|
| Why did emergency measures expire? | The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act allows emergency measures to be implemented for 180 days, and for us to extend them for up to 1 year. The emergency measures implemented on May 1, 2013, were revised and extended through April 30, 2014, but expire May 1, 2014. |
| What regulations are effective this year? | Measures in effect during FY 2012 were temporarily replaced by the emergency measures during FY 2013. Therefore, the 2012 measures will be reinstated for at least the beginning of FY 2014, until replaced by any measures approved under Framework 8. |
| Why was Framework 8 delayed? | The Councils only adopted final measures for Framework 8 at their meetings in late January and February. Necessary analysis of these measures was not completed until April. We are currently reviewing the Framework 8 analysis, and preparing a proposed rule to seek public comment on the proposed Framework 8 measures. |
| When will Framework 8 become effective? | Any approved measures will become effective sometime this summer. Based on existing timelines, we expect to publish a proposed rule in May, with any approved measures becoming effective on or about July 1, 2014. |
| How will monkfish DAS and landings be counted? | Consistent with existing regulations, any monkfish DAS used by a vessel on or after May 1, 2014, will be counted against any monkfish DAS allocation the vessel ultimately receives during FY 2014. Similarly, any monkfish landings will count against any catch limits implemented during FY 2014. |