



# Monkfish Fishery Regulations for Northeast Multispecies Sectors: FY 2010 Information Sheet



*This summary is not a substitute for the regulations; rather it provides a broad overview of restrictions and requirements. You are strongly encouraged to read the regulations in conjunction with this information sheet to fully understand how these fisheries are managed.\* This information sheet will be updated when regulations are revised.*

## **Introduction:**

On January 21, 2010, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) partially approved Amendment 16 to the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery Management Plan. A final rule is currently under review and is intended to become effective at the beginning of fishing year (FY) 2010 (May 1, 2010).\* Amendment 16, in part, proposes to authorize 17 new sectors and revise regulations governing all 19 sectors in the NE multispecies fishery beginning in FY 2010. Vessels participating in sectors would fish an annual catch entitlement (ACE) of allocated NE multispecies stocks each fishing year and would be exempt from certain NE multispecies regulations, including trip limits on allocated stocks and the requirement to use a NE multispecies day-at-sea (DAS) to land groundfish.

This document describes the regulations that would pertain to vessels fishing for monkfish while participating in NE multispecies sectors in FY 2010. This information sheet is advisory only, and is intended to provide information that may be applicable for permit holders deciding whether to participate in sectors or the common pool in FY 2010. For a complete summary of the monkfish regulations, please refer to the Monkfish Fishery Information Sheet.\*\*

## **DAS Allocations and Use**

The current regulations require Monkfish Category C, D, F, or H permit holders that also possess a NE multispecies or scallop limited access permit to use either a NE multispecies DAS or scallop DAS whenever a monkfish DAS is used, regardless of where the vessel is fishing. There are several exceptions to this requirement, as follows:

- Each Monkfish Category C, D, F, or H permitted vessel that has a NE multispecies Category A DAS allocation that is less than its monkfish DAS allocation is given monkfish-only DAS in the amount equivalent to that vessel's annual monkfish DAS allocation minus its annual NE multispecies Category A DAS allocation. These monkfish-only DAS can only be used once the vessel's allocation of NE multispecies Category A DAS has been fully exhausted. Additionally, when fishing under a monkfish DAS under this scenario, the vessel is subject to the same restrictions applicable to limited access monkfish Category A and B vessels when under a monkfish-only DAS.
- Each Category C, D, F, or H permitted vessel that has "monkfish-only" DAS as described above, and whose owner leases in NE multispecies DAS from another vessel, must fish all its "monkfish-only" DAS in conjunction with its leased NE multispecies DAS, to the extent that it has NE multispecies available.
- Each Category C, D, F, or H permitted vessel must forfeit a monkfish DAS for each NE multispecies DAS equal in number to the difference between the number of remaining NE multispecies DAS and the number of unused monkfish DAS at the time of the lease. For example, a vessel that is originally allocated 31 monkfish DAS and 40 NE multispecies Category A DAS would have no "monkfish-only" DAS as described above. If this vessel leases 10 of its NE multispecies DAS to another vessel, it would have a balance of 30 NE multispecies DAS and 31 monkfish DAS. Since the vessel must use a NE multispecies DAS with each monkfish DAS, the vessel must forfeit 1 of its monkfish DAS, leaving 30 NE multispecies DAS and 30 monkfish DAS.

**Note:** Monkfish-only DAS must be fished in an exempted fishery. Please refer to the Large Mesh Fishery Exemptions Information Sheet for further details.\*\*

#### FY 2010 Changes for Vessels Participating in a NE Multispecies Sector

Beginning in FY 2010, sector vessels will be exempt from the requirement to use a NE multispecies DAS to land allocated groundfish stocks, unless otherwise required by the regulations. For example, sector vessels holding limited access monkfish permits must still comply with the requirements of the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), including the requirement to use a NE multispecies DAS concurrent with a monkfish DAS, as described above. Accordingly, sector vessels will still be allocated NE multispecies DAS in FY 2010. Sector vessels will be charged 1 DAS for every 1 DAS fished.

Any catch (landings and discards) of allocated NE multispecies stocks by a sector vessel with a Category C or D monkfish permit while on a DAS will count against the sector's ACEs. This means that the vessel's sector must have ACE available for all stocks in the area the sector vessel fishes a monkfish DAS. If the vessel is fishing in an exempted fishery (i.e., on a monkfish-only DAS), any catch of groundfish does not count against the sector's ACE.

Beginning in FY 2010, sectors will be required to have a Dockside Monitoring Program to monitor landings by their sector vessels. A sector vessel with a Category C or D monkfish permit fishing on a monkfish DAS (i.e., but not in an exempted fishery) will be required to participate in their sector's Dockside Monitoring Program, because all catch of allocated groundfish stocks on that trip will count against their sector's ACE.

In FY 2010, NMFS will be implementing an at-sea monitoring program for the NE multispecies fishery. A sector vessel with a Category C or D monkfish permit fishing a monkfish DAS will be required to participate in the NMFS at-sea monitoring program, because all catch of allocated groundfish stocks on that trip (including discards) will count against their sector's ACE.

A NE multispecies sector vessel with a limited access monkfish permit that is fishing exclusively in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) will retain the ability to change its declaration from a NE multispecies Category A DAS, or sector trip declaration that does not charge a DAS, to the corresponding monkfish DAS declaration during the course of the trip.

#### **Possession Limits (§ 648.94)**

A sector vessel will be able to retain various monkfish possession limits depending on whether it is fishing on a NE multispecies or monkfish DAS, or a sector trip not on a DAS. These limits are summarized in the following tables.

\*When available, the regulations can be read at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/> on "Fishery Regulations" page.

\*\*Fishery Information Sheets are available online at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/fishermen/regs.html> or by calling 978-281-9315.

**Table 1: Monkfish Trip Limits for Sector Vessels fishing on a Monkfish DAS**

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area	Monkfish Landing Limit (tail weight per DAS <sup>1</sup> )
A or C	Monkfish	NFMA	1,250 lb (4,150 lb whole weight)
B or D	Monkfish	NFMA	470 lb (1,560 lb whole weight)
A, C, or G	Monkfish	SFMA	550 lb (1,826 lb whole weight)
B, D, or H	Monkfish	SFMA	450 lb (1,494 lb whole weight)
F	Monkfish	Offshore Fishery Program Area	1,600 lb (5,312 lb whole weight) <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Or any prorated combination of tail weight and whole weight based on the conversion factor for tail weight to whole weight of 3.32 (tail weight x 3.32 = whole weight; or whole weight/ 3.32 = tail weight). NOTE: A vessel may possess or land monkfish livers up to 25% of the tail-weight of monkfish, or up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish, per trip. If a vessel possesses or lands both monkfish tails and whole monkfish, the vessel may land up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish per trip using the following weight ratio:  $(0.10) \times [(tail\ weight \times 3.32) + (whole\ fish \times 1)]$ .

<sup>2</sup> For category F vessels, DAS allocations will be prorated according to the method outlined on page 4.

**Table 2: Incidental Monkfish Trip Limits for Sector Vessels fishing on a NE Multispecies but not a Monkfish DAS**

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area	Gear	Monkfish Landing Limit (tail weight per DAS <sup>1</sup> )
C, D, E, F, or H	Multispecies	NFMA	All gear	Up to 25% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 300 lb (996 lb whole weight) per DAS.
C, D, or F	Multispecies	SFMA	Trawl	300 lb (996 lb whole weight)
C, D, or F	Multispecies	SFMA	Non-trawl	50 lb (166 lb whole weight)
E or H	Multispecies	SFMA	All gear	50 lb (166 lb whole weight)

<sup>1</sup> Or any prorated combination of tail weight and whole weight based on the conversion factor for tail weight to whole weight of 3.32 (tail weight x 3.32 = whole weight; or whole weight/ 3.32 = tail weight). NOTE: A vessel may possess or land monkfish livers up to 25% of the tail-weight of monkfish, or up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish, per trip. If a vessel possesses or lands both monkfish tails and whole monkfish, the vessel may land up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish per trip using the following weight ratio:  $(0.10) \times [(tail\ weight \times 3.32) + (whole\ fish \times 1)]$ .

**Table 3: Incidental Monkfish Trip Limits for Sector Vessels Not Fishing Under a DAS**

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area(s) and Gear	Monkfish Landing Limit (per trip unless stated otherwise)
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> The Gulf of Maine (GOM) or Georges Bank (GB) Regulated Mesh Areas (RMAs) <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger—See clarification in on next page.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight <sup>1</sup> ) of the total weight of fish on board.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> SNE RMA east of the MA Exemption Area Boundary at 72° 30' W longitude <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger—See clarification in on next page.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight <sup>1</sup> ) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 50 lb ( 166 lb whole weight) per day, up to 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS and fishing under a skate bait Letter of Authorization	<u>Area:</u> SNE RMA east of the MA Exemption Area Boundary starting at 74° 00' W longitude <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger—See clarification in on next page.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight <sup>1</sup> ) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 50 lb ( 166 lb whole weight) per day, up to 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> SNE RMA west of the MA Exemption Area boundary or MA RMA. <u>Gear:</u> Minimum mesh size or larger—See clarification in on next page.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight <sup>1</sup> ) of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 450 lb (1,494 lb whole weight).
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Areas:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Mesh smaller than minimum—See clarification in on next page.	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>3</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H and NE Multispecies Small Vessel permit <sup>5</sup>	No DAS <sup>4</sup>	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> All gear	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>3</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> NMFA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Rod and reel or handlines only	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>3</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H and a surf clam or ocean quahog permit	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Hydraulic clam dredge or mahogany quahog dredge	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>3</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H and a sea scallop permit	No DAS	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> Scallop dredge only (except scallop dredge exemption areas) <sup>5</sup>	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>3</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.

<sup>1</sup> Prorated combination of tail weight and whole weight is based on the conversion factor for tail weight to whole weight of 3.32 (tail weight x 3.32 = whole weight; or whole weight/ 3.32 = tail weight). NOTE: A vessel may possess or land monkfish livers up to 25% of the tail weight of monkfish, or up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish, per trip. If a vessel possesses or lands both monkfish tails and whole monkfish, the vessel may land up to 10% of the whole weight of monkfish per trip using the following weight ratio: (0.10) x [(tail weight x 3.32) + (whole fish x 1)].

<sup>2</sup> For vessels with limited access sea scallop permits fishing in an established Sea Scallop Access Area, the monkfish possession limit is per day fished inside the access area (as determined by VMS), not including steaming time.

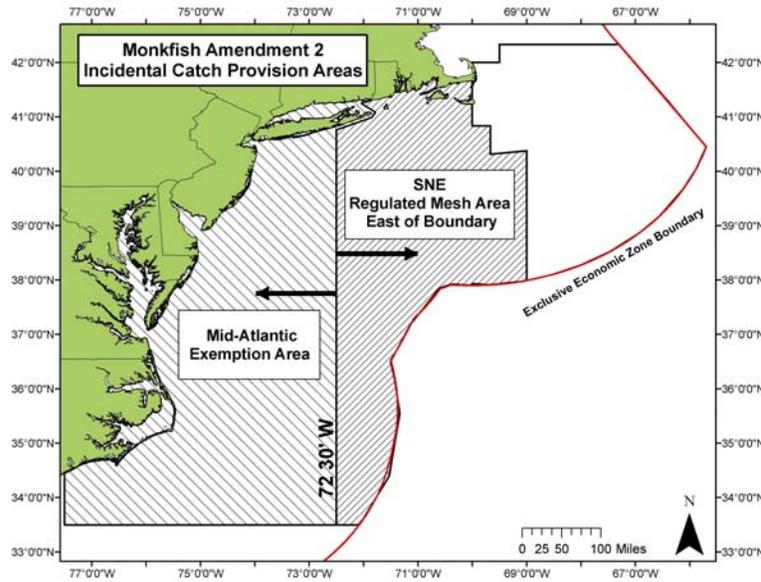
<sup>3</sup> A day is the 24-hour period that begins when the vessel leaves port or, if the vessel has an operational VMS, when the vessel crosses the VMS demarcation line when leaving port and ends when the vessel returns to port or, if the vessel has an operational VMS, crosses the VMS demarcation line on its return to port.

<sup>4</sup> These vessels are exempt from a NE multispecies DAS provided they meet the vessel size requirements applicable to the limited access NE multispecies small vessel permit category (vessels < 30 ft in length).

<sup>5</sup> In order to possess monkfish in the scallop dredge exemption areas, small dredges must be used (combined width not to exceed 10.5 ft).

Clarification of Possession Limits by Mesh Size in the Southern New England (SNE) & Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Areas

Table 4 indicates the incidental catch of monkfish for trawl vessels fishing on the eastside or west-side of the NE Multispecies MA Exemption Area boundary (see map below). The monkfish incidental catch limit is based upon the mesh size of the smallest mesh fished during a trip. For example, if a vessel is fishing for squid using a 1-7/8" diamond mesh and for summer flounder using a 5.5" diamond mesh, on the same trip west of the boundary line, the vessel is subject to the more restrictive possession limit of 50 lb tail weight per day, up to 150 lb tail weight per trip. Minimum mesh size is defined by the summer flounder regulations when fishing west of the MA Exemption Area boundary, but is defined by the NE multispecies regulations when fishing east of this boundary, in the SNE Regulated Mesh Area.



**Table 4: Incidental Monkfish Trip Limits for Trawl Vessels in SNE and MA Exemption Areas**

Side of Exemption Area boundary	Smallest Mesh Fished During the Trip	Monkfish Landing Limit (per trip unless stated otherwise <sup>1</sup> )
West	5.5" diamond / 6" square, or larger, in body, extensions, and cod end	5% of total weight of fish aboard, up to 450 lb
West	Smaller than 5.5" diamond / 6" square in body, extensions, and cod end	50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip
East	6" diamond / 6.5" square in the body and extensions and 6.5" square or diamond in the cod end, or larger	In SNE RMA: 5% of total weight of fish aboard, not to exceed 50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip In GOM/GB RMAs: 5% of total weight of fish aboard
East	Smaller than 6" diamond / 6.5" square in the body and extensions and 6.5" square or diamond in the cod end	50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip

<sup>1</sup> Tail weight is converted to whole weight by multiplying by 3.32