



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## **New monkfish rules are in place**

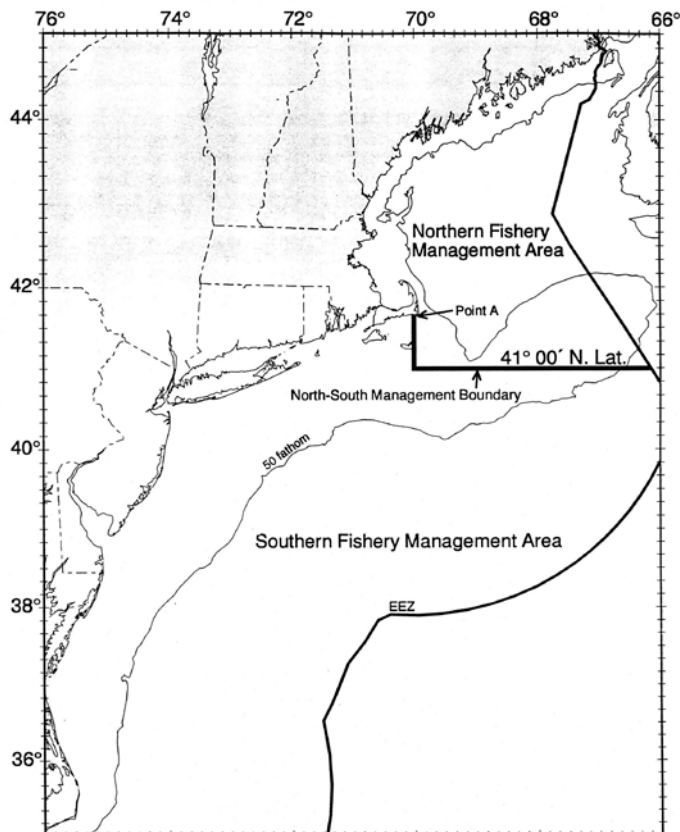
Monkfish Framework 9 approved and implemented

*Effective Date: September 26, 2016*

We have changed the rules for the monkfish fishery to improve fishing opportunities. An abbreviated summary of the monkfish regulations is below. New regulations for both the Northern Fishery Management Area and the Southern Fishery Management Area (see figure below), indicated in **BOLD**, are effective immediately. A more extensive, updated information sheet can be found online at:

[https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/monkfish\\_fishery\\_info-final.pdf](https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/monkfish_fishery_info-final.pdf) and [https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/large\\_mesh\\_exemption.pdf](https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/infodocs/large_mesh_exemption.pdf). Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 with any questions.

Figure 1. Monkfish Fishery Management Areas



*This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*

Northern Fishery Management Area Tail Weight Possession Limits

Days-at-sea (DAS) Type	Category C Possession Limit	Category D Possession Limit
NE Multispecies A DAS only	600 lb	500 lb
Monkfish DAS only	1,250 lb	600 lb
<b>NE Multispecies A and Monkfish DAS</b>	<b>Unlimited</b>	<b>Unlimited</b>

Note: Tail weight x 2.91 = whole weight

Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) Management Measures

	Northeast Multispecies DAS anywhere in the SFMA	Southern New England (SNE) Dogfish Gillnet Exemption Area	SNE Monkfish and Skate Gillnet Exemption Area	Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area
Minimum gillnet mesh	<b>6.5 inches for standup nets</b>	6 inches for standup nets	10 inches for all nets	<b>5 inches for standup nets</b>
DAS	<b>NE multispecies and monkfish</b>	Monkfish	Monkfish	<b>Monkfish</b>
Season	Year-round	May 1 – October 31	Year-round	<b>Year-round</b>
Gear Limits	<u>All Trip gillnet vessels:</u> Unlimited <u>Day gillnet vessel in the GB RMA:</u> 50 gillnets <u>Day gillnet vessel in the SNE RMA:</u> 75 gillnets <u>Day gillnet vessel in the MA RMA:</u> 75 gillnets	<u>Category A/B:</u> 160 gillnets <u>Category C/D:</u> 150 gillnets <u>Roundfish gillnet limit:</u> 50 gillnets	<u>Category A/B:</u> 160 gillnets <u>Category C/D:</u> 150 gillnets	<b><u>Category A/B:</u> 160 gillnets</b> <b><u>Category C/D:</u> 150 gillnets</b> <b><u>Roundfish gillnet limit:</u> 50 gillnets</b>
Dogfish and Monkfish Possession allowed?	No	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>