



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
Date Issued: 7/17/2014

Vessels Issued a Federal Monkfish Permit
Monkfish Measures Under Framework Adjustment 8
Small Entity Compliance Guide
Effective Date: July 18, 2014

This bulletin announces the approval of measures adopted by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils under Monkfish Framework Adjustment 8. The approved measures summarized below replace those implemented on May 1, 2014, that were described in a previous bulletin dated April 21, 2014. Unless otherwise mentioned, all other measures remain unchanged. Monkfish catch limits were not changed under this action, and remain the same as those in effect since 2011 (see table below).

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/>

Contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 if you have any questions.

Summary of Monkfish DAS and Landing Limits As of July 18, 2014

Management Measure	Northern Fishery Management Area	Southern Fishery Management Area
Monkfish DAS Allocation	45.2 (32 DAS can be used in the Southern Fishery Management Area)	
	13.7 DAS maximum for Category A or C permits fishing under the Offshore Management Program (assuming 4 carry-over DAS)	
	12.4 DAS maximum for Category B, D, or H permits fishing under the Offshore Management Program (assuming 4 carry-over DAS)	
Landing Limits while on a Monkfish DAS (tail weight/DAS)	1,250 lb for Category A/C permits	610 lb for Category A/C permits
	600 lb for Category B/D permits	500 lb for Category B/D permit
	1,600 lb for Category F permits	
Incidental Landing Limits while on a Northeast Multispecies DAS (tail weight/DAS)	600 lb for Category C permits	50 lb for Category E or H permits, and Category C, D, or F permits fishing with non-trawl gear
	500 lb for Category D permits	
	Up to 25% of the total weight of fish on board, not to exceed 300 lb for Category E or F permits	300 lb for Category C, D, or F permits fishing with trawl gear
Landing Limits while on a Scallop DAS (tail weight/DAS)	300 lb	
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.

1. Monkfish Day-at-Sea (DAS) Allocation

- Each limited access monkfish permit is now allocated 45.2 monkfish DAS. This reflects a 0.8 DAS deduction to provide 500 DAS for the Monkfish Research Set Aside Program.
- You can use up to 32 monkfish DAS in the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA).
- For permits participating in the Offshore Fishery Program:

If your original monkfish limited access permit category is...	Your maximum monkfish DAS allocation under the Offshore Fishery Program will be...
A or C	13.7 DAS
B, D, or H	12.4 DAS

- We will deduct all monkfish DAS used since May 1, 2014, against your updated monkfish DAS allocation under Framework Adjustment 8.

2. Monkfish Landing Limits

- Incidental monkfish landing limits for vessels fishing under a Northeast multispecies DAS in the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) are increased to 600 lb/DAS tail weight for Category C permits and 500 lb/DAS tail weight for Category D permits.
- Directed monkfish landing limits for vessels fishing under a monkfish DAS in the SFMA are increased to 610 lb/DAS tail weight for Category A/C permits and 500 lb/DAS tail weight for Category B/D/H permits.
- All other directed and incidental landing limits remain unchanged.

3. Monkfish-only DAS Usage Restrictions

- Category C and D permits may now use monkfish-only DAS at any time; you do not have to use all available Northeast multispecies (groundfish) DAS before you can use your allocated monkfish-only DAS.
- Your monkfish DAS will be charged based on the DAS type declared for each trip.
- Monkfish-only DAS are defined as the difference between your monkfish DAS allocation and your groundfish Category A DAS allocation at the start of the fishing year.
- Your monkfish-only DAS balance may change during the fishing year if you lease Northeast multispecies Category A DAS to or from another vessel.

4. Boundary Line for Category H Permits

- Category H permits can now fish throughout the SFMA.
- You are not restricted to fishing south of 38°40' N lat.

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