



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 NORTHEAST REGION
 55 Great Republic Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Monkfish Commercial Fishery OCT 24 2011
 Changes to Regulations
 Framework Adjustment 7
Effective Date 10/26/11

The monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) allocation for the Northern Fishery Management Area (Northern Area) has been raised to 39.3 DAS. This does not affect the Southern Fishery Management Area (Southern Area) DAS, which will remain at 28 DAS.

Also, the monkfish possession limit for Category B and D vessels on a monkfish DAS in the Northern Area is raised to 600 lb tail weight (1,746 lb whole gutted weight) per DAS. This does not affect trip limits for vessels not on a monkfish DAS or vessels that catch monkfish that are on just a scallop or Northeast multispecies DAS.

<i>Frequently Asked Questions:</i>	
What if I have already used all my monkfish DAS for this fishing year?	You now have an additional 9 monkfish DAS for use in the Northern Area.
What if I have a monkfish Category D vessel and I'm in a groundfish sector? Does my trip limit change?	Only when you are on a monkfish DAS and you are fishing in the Northern Area. If so, your trip limit has been raised from 470 lb tail weight (1,368 whole gutted weight) per DAS to 600 lb tail weight (1,746 lb whole gutted weight) per DAS.
I usually only fish in the Southern Area. Can I use any of these additional DAS in the Southern Area?	No, the DAS allowed to be used in the Southern Area remain at 28. So you would have to fish in the Northern Area to use the additional 9 DAS.

Additional Note About Category F (Offshore Fishery) Permits

Vessels that wish to switch to the offshore fishery Category F permit must do so no later than 45 days after the permit effective date. Vessels may not switch categories if a monkfish DAS has already been used.

Please visit <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sfd/sfdmonk.html> for more information on this fishery. If you have any questions, please contact Sustainable Fisheries at 978-281-9315.

This small entity compliance guide 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.

