



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
NORTHEAST REGION  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

November 26, 2007

## **Correction to September 21, 2007, Monkfish Framework Adjustment 4 Small Entity Compliance Guide**

Dear Monkfish Permit Holder:

This letter announces a correction to the monkfish possession limit table included in the permit holder letter announcing final measures implementing Framework Adjustment 4 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) that was sent to all monkfish permit holders on September 21, 2007. The possession limit table did not specify that vessels issued a monkfish permit (limited access or incidental), but fishing in the Atlantic sea scallop small dredge exemption program, are not allowed to retain monkfish. Vessels fishing for scallops under this program with the required Federal permit must retain only scallops, and, therefore, may not retain any monkfish. This letter includes a corrected monkfish possession limit table that reflects this information.

This letter provides only a summary of pertinent fishery regulations. It is the responsibility of each vessel owner and operator to understand the relevant regulations associated with the fisheries in which that vessel operates. Further information on fishery regulations can be found through a link to the Office of the Federal Register at NMFS's Northeast Regional Office website: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov>. Violations of these regulations could result in the imposition of civil penalties, permit sanctions, or catch forfeitures.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator

Attachment: FY 2007 Trip Limits (revised)



**FY 2007 Monkfish Trip Limits while on a Monkfish DAS**

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

**FY 2007 Monkfish Trip Limits while on a NE Multispecies DAS but Not a Monkfish DAS**

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area	Gear	Trip 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)

**FY 2007 Monkfish Trip Limits while on a Scallop DAS or in the Sea Scallop Access Area Program**

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area	Gear	Trip Limit (tail weight per DAS) <sup>1</sup>
C, D, E, F, or H	Sea Scallop Access Area	NFMA & SFMA	Dredge only	300 lb (996 lb whole weight) <sup>3</sup>
C, D, E, F, or H	Scallop	NFMA & SFMA	All gear	300 lb (996 lb whole weight)

## FY 2007 Monkfish Trip Limits for Vessels Not under a DAS Program

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area(s) and Gear	Trip 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), or the Southern New England (SNE) RMA east of the Mid-Atlantic (MA) Exemption Area boundary. <u>Gear:</u> Mesh no smaller than required in the above referenced Regulated Mesh Areas.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight) of the total weight of fish on board
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> Mesh no smaller than that specified for the summer flounder fishery.	Up to 5% (where all monkfish is converted to tail weight) 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 specified for the areas described above.	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>4</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.
A, B, C, D, E, F, or H with NE Multispecies Small Vessel permit <sup>5</sup>	No DAS <sup>5</sup>	<u>Area:</u> NFMA or SFMA <u>Gear:</u> All gear (except scallop dredge exemption areas) <sup>6</sup>	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>4</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>4</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>4</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>6</sup>	50 lb (166 lb whole weight) per day <sup>4</sup> , or partial day, not to exceed 150 lb (498 lb whole weight) per trip.

<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).

<sup>2</sup> For category F vessels, FY 2006 DAS allocations will be prorated according to the method outlined on the first page of this letter.

<sup>3</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>4</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>5</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>6</sup> Scallop dredge vessels fishing in the scallop dredge exemption areas, and not fishing under a scallop DAS, are not allowed to retain any monkfish; such vessels may retain only sea scallops.