



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

February 27, 2006

Dear Monkfish Permit Holder:

This letter is a reminder of the monkfish incidental catch limits when not fishing under a day-at-sea (DAS) program. The table below indicates the incidental catch of monkfish for trawl vessels fishing on the East-side or West-side of the Northeast (NE) Multispecies Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area boundary (see map on reverse).

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 Mid-Atlantic Exemption Area boundary, but is defined by the NE multispecies regulations when fishing in the Southern New England (SNE) Regulated Mesh Area east of this boundary.

<b>Side of Exemption Area boundary</b>	<b>Smallest Mesh Fished During the Trip</b>	<b>Monkfish Possession limit – tail weight<sup>†</sup></b>
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 7" diamond / 6.5" square in the cod end, or larger	5% of total weight of fish aboard
East	Smaller than 6" diamond / 6.5" square in the body and extensions and 7" diamond / 6.5" square in the cod end	50 lb per day, up to 150 lb per trip

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

This letter is only a summary of part of the monkfish regulations found at 50 CFR 648.91 *et seq.* To read these regulations in their entirety, you are encouraged to obtain a complete copy of the NE fishery regulations by calling (978) 281-9315, or by accessing the NE Regional Office's website at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.

Sincerely,

George H. Darcy  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Sustainable Fisheries



