



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

May 17, 2002

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Monkfish Permit Holder:

This letter serves to inform you of the implementation of an emergency rule that temporarily amends the overfishing criteria in the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and suspends the Year 4 default management measures that took effect on May 1, 2002. In place of the Year 4 default measures, this emergency rule implements revised measures as follows:

- Specifies a target total allowable catch (TAC) of 19,595 metric tons (mt), with area-specific target TACs set at 11,674 mt and 7,921 mt for the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) and Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA), respectively;
- Allocates 40 monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) for monkfish limited access permit holders;
- Maintains the no monkfish trip limit in the NFMA for monkfish limited access vessels while fishing on a monkfish or Northeast multispecies DAS;
- Revises trip limits as specified below for monkfish limited access vessels fishing under a monkfish DAS in the SFMA; and
- Maintains all incidental catch limits at the same level as during the 2001 fishing year (May 1, 2001 - April 30, 2002).

A summary of trip limits implemented by this emergency rule are provided in the following table.

Monkfish Trip Limits Effective May 17, 2002

Permit Category	DAS Program	Area	Gear ¹	Trip Limit per DAS ²
A&B and C&D with LA ³ scallop permit	Monkfish	NFMA	All Gear	No trip limit
A or C	Monkfish	SFMA	All Gear	550 lb of tail-weight
B or D	Monkfish	SFMA	All Gear	450 lb of tail-weight
C or D	Multispecies	NFMA	All Gear	No trip limit
C or D	Multispecies	SFMA	Trawl	300 lb of tail-weight
C or D	Multispecies	SFMA	Non-trawl	50 lb of tail-weight
C or D	Scallop	NFMA & SFMA	Dredge or net exemption	300 lb of tail weight



E (incidental)	Multispecies	NFMA	All Gear	300 lb of tail weight, or 25% of total weight of fish on board, whichever is less
E (incidental)	Multispecies	SFMA	All Gear	50 lb tail-weight
E (incidental)	Scallop	NFMA & SFMA	Dredge	300 lb tail-weight
A, B, C, D, or E	No DAS	NFMA & SFMA	Large Mesh	Up to 5% (whole or tail weight) of total weight of fish on board per trip
A, B, C, D, or E	No DAS	NFMA & SFMA	Small Mesh or Handgear	50 lb per trip
A, B, C, D, or E vessels that are <30 feet with multi-species LA permit	No DAS	NFMA & SFMA	All Gear	50 lb per trip

¹Dredge gear is prohibited unless fishing under a Scallop DAS

²Or the whole-weight equivalent (tail weight x 3.32)

³LA = Limited access

⁴Minimum regulated multispecies mesh size

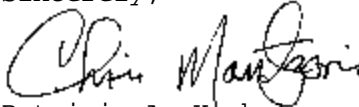
⁵Less than regulated multispecies mesh size

Note: These measures are effective for 180 days from date of publication in the Federal Register but may be extended for an additional 180 days. If the emergency measures are extended, NMFS will notify you by means of another permit holder letter. Public comments are requested on this emergency rule, and must be received no later than 5 p.m. EDT June 14, 2002.

This letter is only a summary of the emergency regulations that have been implemented. To read these regulations in their entirety, you are encouraged to obtain a complete copy by calling (978) 281-9278, or by accessing the Northeast Regional Office's web page at: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov>. The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is currently developing an amendment to the FMP. For information on this amendment, contact the Council at (978) 465-0492.

This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

Sincerely,

for 
Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator

