



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHEAST REGION
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

December 14, 2001

REMINDER: Monkfish Minimum Size Limit

Dear Monkfish Dealer:

This letter is to remind you of the monkfish minimum size limits in effect for the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) and the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA).

- For vessels **declared into the NFMA**, the minimum fish size is 17 inches total length, or 11 inches tail length. Such vessels must have available for inspection a valid Letter of Authorization exempting the vessel from the minimum fish size of the SFMA. This size limit applies to vessels holding a limited access monkfish permit, and to vessels holding an incidental monkfish permit that wish to fish under the less restrictive size limit of the NFMA.
- For vessels **fishing in the SFMA or not declared into the NFMA**, the minimum fish size is 21 inches total length, or 14 inches tail length.

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 Northeast fishery regulations by calling (978) 281-9278, or by accessing the Northeast Regional Office's website at:
<http://www.nero.nmfs.gov>.

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

