

NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Skate Committee

I. STATUS

- A. Meetings: Since the January Council meeting, the Monkfish and Skate Plan Development Teams (PDT) met jointly on February 2, and the Monkfish and Skate Advisory Panels (AP) and Committees met jointly on March 19.
- B. Monkfish and Skate 2025 Joint Management Summary Report: In 2025, the Council coordinated Committee, AP, and PDT activities of monkfish and skate work. Prior Monkfish and Skate AP and Committee meetings emphasized overlap and interdependencies between monkfish and skate wing fisheries. In 2025, the coordinated work supported monkfish and skate specifications actions and served as a stepping-stone to consider whether joint management should continue and to inform cross-jurisdictional governance discussions. Staff held individual and small group interviews in December 2025 – January 2026 and developed a summary report for how the 2025 joint process went, the effectiveness of joint meetings, and any approaches for improvement.
- C. IFQ Scoping Document for Monkfish and/or Skate Wing Fisheries: In December, the Council prioritized: “Scope an IFQ program for monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries; consider EO 14276 response related to monkfish management modifications.” An IFQ scoping document has been drafted for NEFMC and MAFMC review and approval and scoping meeting dates and locations have been scheduled. On March 19, the Joint Committee moved that the Councils disapprove the IFQ scoping document and discontinue the scoping process. The MAFMC will discuss this motion on April 8, and outcomes from the MAFMC meeting will be brought to the NEFMC meeting for their consideration.

II. COUNCIL ACTION

1. Accept the Monkfish and Skate 2025 Joint Management Summary Report.
2. Review and approve IFQ scoping document for monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries.

III. INFORMATION

1. Council staff presentation
2. Monkfish and Skate 2025 Joint Management Summary Report
3. IFQ Scoping document – draft
4. Meeting summaries
 - a. Joint Monkfish-Skate PDT meeting, [February 2, 2026](#)
 - b. Joint Monkfish-Skate AP and Committee meeting, [March 19, 2026](#)
 - a. MAFMC draft meeting motions, April 8, 2026
5. Correspondence

*Documents are duplicative with the Monkfish status sheet. The Monkfish and Skate Committees will have a combined report at the Council meeting.