

## **DRAFT**

### **Monkfish RSA Priorities**

1. Research on monkfish life history focusing on: (a) age and growth, (b) longevity, (c) reproduction and (d) natural mortality;
2. Studies of stock structure/stock identification and implications for stock assessment and fisheries management.
3. Development of a standardized CPUE time series to estimate relative abundance.
4. Cooperative research surveys to supplement current survey coverage;

### **Additional Priorities**

5. Research concerning bycatch and discard mortality focusing on: (a) Target species (i.e., monkfish or Northeast multispecies), and (b) non-target species (e.g., monkfish or skate);
6. Trawl and gillnet gear studies focusing on (a) bycatch reduction, including reducing interactions, and injury/mortality associated with these interactions, with sea turtles, Atlantic sturgeon, right and humpback whales, and other protected species and (b) size and/or species selectivity.
7. Ecological studies on protected species and monkfish as a new monkfish RSA priority, including consideration of monkfish and protected species' responses to environmental/climate change, and how these responses have the potential to change interaction risks to protected species.
8. Research concerning trophic interactions of monkfish with other species;