



New England Fishery Management Council

50 WATER STREET | NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS 01950 | PHONE 978 465 0492 | FAX 978 465 3116

Eric Reid, *Chair* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 16, 2022
TO: Monkfish Advisory Panel and Committee
FROM: Elizabeth “Libby” Etrie, Monkfish Committee Chair
SUBJECT: **Charge for meetings on November 28 and 29, 2022**

The purpose of this memo is to help prepare the Monkfish Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee for the following meetings:

- **Advisory Panel: Monday, November 28 at 10:00 AM via webinar.**
- **Committee: Tuesday, November 29 at 10:00 AM in Warwick RI and via webinar.**

The Committee meeting will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel, 2081 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island, but a webinar option will be available for those unable to travel to the meeting. **For Committee members, in-person attendance on November 29 if possible is strongly encouraged; please let staff know ahead of time if you must join remotely.** If you are joining via webinar, please join the webinar ten minutes prior to test audio and to help the meetings start on time.

PURPOSE. The purpose of both meetings is to: 1) make recommendations for final preferred alternatives for Framework Adjustment 13 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) which will include Fishing Year 2023-2025 specifications and other management measures; and 2) make final recommendations for 2023 Council management priorities regarding monkfish.

MEETING MATERIALS. To make the most of our meeting time, please read and familiarize yourself with the documents beforehand and come ready to make recommendations. As documents become available, they will be posted on the Council webpages for each meeting:¹

Advisory Panel: <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-28-2022-monkfish-advisory-panel-meeting>

Committee: <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/nov-29-2022-monkfish-committee-meeting>

WEBINAR REGISTRATION. For those joining remotely, to be able to view the webinar, listen and talk during it, you must: 1) register for the webinar in advance and 2) join the webinar on the day of the meeting (you can then select phone or computer for your audio connection). If you just call using the phone number provided on the meeting notice, you will be in listen-only mode and will not be able to speak during the meeting. Links to register for the webinars are posted on the above webpages.

QUESTIONS/TECHNICAL SUPPORT. If you have any questions about the meeting documents, agenda, or how to participate, please contact Rachel Feeney (rfeeney@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x110). A [Public Participation Guide](#) is available with tips on joining Council webinars. Staff would be happy to set up a

¹ Documents from all prior monkfish Committee, Advisory Panel, and Plan Development Team meetings are posted on the monkfish page of the Council’s website: <https://www.nefmc.org/management-plans/monkfish>.

practice webinar for you ahead of the meeting if that would be helpful. For technical support during the meeting, please email helpdesk@nefmc.org.

Framework Adjustment 13

RECENT ACTIVITY. There have been many meetings this fall! As noted ahead of and during the August 30 meetings of the AP and Committee, monkfish trawl survey indices that form the basis of catch advice have declined for both northern and southern monkfish management areas. The peer review of the 2022 monkfish management track assessment occurred the week of September 19, 2022 (Documents #2a and 2b). The Plan Development Team (PDT) met on September 27 to receive the assessment results and preliminary results of the peer review, prepare potential overfishing limits (OFLs), acceptable biological catches (ABCs), and discard deduction approaches for consideration by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), and develop effort control alternatives and analyses per tasking of the Committee (Document #5c). Staff updated the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils at their late September and early October meetings. The PDT then met on October 18 to finish work ahead of the October 26 SSC meeting, at which the SSC made recommendations for the OFLs, ABCs, and discard deduction (Documents #3a, 5c). Lastly, the PDT met on November 2 to finalize the range of alternatives and work on impact analyses (Documents #3a, 5c).

ON NOVEMBER 28/29. Staff will provide an update on the development of this action, summarizing the outcomes of the assessment, the SSC recommendations, the range of alternatives, and the impact analysis. After discussion, the AP and Committee can make recommendations on the final preferred alternatives for this action (Documents #1c, 3a, 3b).

FUTURE STEPS. The NEFMC will take final action on [December 6, 2022](#). The MAFMC will take final action on [December 12-15, 2022](#).

2023 Council Management Priorities

RECENT ACTIVITY. At the September NEFMC meeting, the Council reviewed the draft 2023 Council management priorities for monkfish from the Committee (Document #5b) which incorporated prior input of the PDT and AP. The PDT reviewed these and made final recommendations during its November 2 meeting (Document #5c).

ON NOVEMBER 28/29. The AP and Committee can make final recommendations on what the Council should work on in 2023 regarding monkfish, including any ranking of priorities.

FUTURE STEPS. The NEFMC will take final action on 2023 priorities on [December 8, 2022](#).