



New England Fishery Management Council

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Eric Reid, *Chair* | Cate O'Keefe, PhD, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 21, 2023
TO: Monkfish Research Set-Aside Working Group
FROM: Kelly Whitmore, Monkfish RSA Working Group Chair
SUBJECT: **Charge for August 21, 2023, meeting**

There will be a meeting of the Monkfish Research Set-Aside (RSA) Working Group on **Monday, August 21 starting at 1:00 PM. This meeting will be held only via webinar.**

PURPOSE. The purpose of this meeting is to: 1) review additional background material provided since the first work group meeting; 2) review the homework assignment which entailed ranking in priority order each potential solution identified; 3) identify final recommendations on any preferred improvements to the RSA program and provide any final input on the report; and 4) discuss any other business.

MEETING MATERIALS. To make the most of our meeting time, please familiarize yourself with the documents beforehand, and come ready to discuss the suggestions for improvement to the Monkfish RSA program. As documents become available, they will be posted on the Council webpage for this meeting: <https://www.nefmc.org/calendar/aug-21-2023-monkfish-research-set-aside-working-group-webinar>.

WEBINAR REGISTRATION. 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. A link to register for the webinar is posted on the above webpage.

QUESTIONS/TECHNICAL SUPPORT. If you have any questions about the meeting documents, agenda, or logistics, please contact Jenny Couture (jcouture@nefmc.org; 978-465-0492 x111).

Review of the Monkfish RSA Program

RECENT ACTIVITY. On July 24, the working group received an updated draft report of the Monkfish RSA Program Working Group and had an opportunity to discuss the input provided by the NEFMC and any additional challenges to the program not previously identified. The work group discussed their homework assignment whereby members were asked to provide a concern/challenge and any pros and cons for each potential solution identified.

ON AUGUST 21. The Monkfish RSA working group will receive an updated draft report of the Monkfish RSA Program Working Group and can develop input on further revising the document. The group will also have an opportunity to discuss their homework assignment whereby members were asked to prioritize in rank order each potential solution identified. The group will make final recommendations on any preferred improvements to the program.

FUTURE STEPS. The recommendations and the report will be provided to the Monkfish Plan Development Team (August 28th 1 – 4pm), Advisory Panel (August 31st 1-5pm), and Committee (September 13th 9am – 1pm) for their consideration when they make initial recommendations for 2024 NEFMC work priorities. These recommendations will be considered at the September 2023 NEFMC meeting.