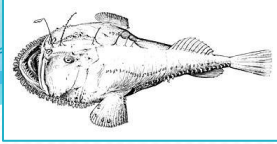


Monkfish Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) Meeting

July 28, 2025
webinar

Introductions



Monkfish Advisory Panel (AP)

Greg Mataronas	Tim Froelich
Aubrey Church	Linda Hunt
Terry Alexander	Sam Martin
Bonnie Brady	Randall Morgan
James Dopkin	Chris Rainone
Patrick Duckworth	Lucas Raymond

Monkfish Committee

Matt Gates	John Pappalardo
Togue Brown	Ted Platz
Eric Hansen	Pete Christopher
Kelly Whitmore	Pete Hughes
Jackie Odell	Paul Risi
Scott Olszewski	Robert Ruhle

Monkfish Plan Development Team (PDT)

Sharon Benjamin	Chris Legault
Jenny Couture	Danielle Palmer
Jason Didden	Eric Schneider
Tara Dolan	Renee St. Amand
Rachel Feeney	Sara Turner
Ben Lafreniere	Spencer Talmage

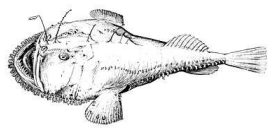
Invited Guests

Steve Cadrin (SMAST)	Sierra Richardson (SMAST)
Andy Jones (NFESC Cooperative Research Branch)	Mel Sanderson (Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance)

Reminders:

- Please mute yourself to avoid interference with the meeting.
- Only have ONE audio connection to the webinar to avoid echoes.

Agenda



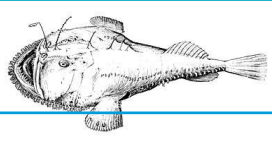
9:50 AM	Log on to webinar and test audio
10:00 – 10:15	Introductions, purpose, and overview of how Monkfish DAS were calculated most recently through Monkfish FW13 (Couture)
10:15 – 10:50	CPUE presentation #1: Andy Jones with clarifying questions
10:50 – 11:30	CPUE presentation #2: SMAST (Steve Cadrin, Sierra Richardson) with clarifying questions
11:30 – 11:50	Discussion on results from both CPUE projects
11:50 – 12:00 pm	Break
12:00 – 12:50	Potential ideas for how to modify Monkfish DAS calculation using the CPUE work to date (Platz, Couture)
12:50 – 1:00	Next steps (Couture)

- Summarize meeting outcomes, any next steps, and expectations for use*

* To use the Monkfish CPUE work as part of setting catch advice in the future, the work needs to be peer reviewed. Note: this research cannot be used until there is a monkfish assessment.

Any revisions?

Monkfish Specifications Timeline



Month	Meeting type	Purpose of Meeting
July 28 th	Monkfish CPUE	Presentations on CPUE work to date; discussion on Monkfish DAS calculations
By Aug. 1 st	NEFSC data updates	NEFSC to provide data updates for monkfish (survey trends, landings, discards)
Aug. 7 th	Monkfish PDT	Draft Monkfish PDT memo for ABC recommendations for SSC to consider; discuss revised risk policy matrix
Aug. 19 th	SSC (Boston)	SSC to recommend OFLs, ABCs for monkfish
Aug. 21 st	Joint monkfish/skate PDT	Discuss SSC outcomes and any potential changes in effort controls
Sept. 16 th	Joint monkfish/skate AP (webinar)	Review SSC outcomes for ABCs, select preferred alternatives for specifications and effort controls
Sept. 17 th	Joint monkfish/skate Committee (hybrid, RI)	
Sept. 23-25 th	NEFMC	Final action for Monkfish FW17
Oct. 7-9 th	MAFMC	Final action for Monkfish FW17

Purpose of today's meeting

1. Review and discuss how Monkfish days-at-sea (DAS) are calculated,
2. Review and discuss Monkfish CPUE projects to date, and
3. Begin discussing alternative methods for determining Monkfish DAS allocation
4. Other business focused on fishery performance (if time permits and there is interest from industry)

Expectations:

- *Monkfish CPUE work needs to be peer reviewed to be used in setting catch advice (e.g., subpanel of the Council's SSC)*
- *Research cannot be used until there is a monkfish assessment*

Origins for this meeting

- Heard concern related to how Monkfish DAS are calculated and whether the CPUE projects could be used to better reflect current fishing effort & behavior
 - CPUE is low, especially relative to the start of the Monkfish FMP (1999).
 - Desire to adjust DAS calculation to reflect recent CPUE vs older/historic CPUE.
 - DAS calculation no longer accurately represents catch and effort in the monkfish fishery in the southern area.
 - Overall goal – modify the DAS calculation to help the fishery come closer to achieving the TAL
- Implications for winter skate fishery (harvest, market capacity, price)

How Monkfish DAS are calculated: original Monkfish FMP & Appendices (1999)

- 80% of monkfish landings by monkfish limited access vessels occurred within 40 days absent or less; few qualifying vessels appear to fish more than 40 days absent (based on NMFS weightout data) but Council believes vessels without multispecies & scallop permits underreported landings of monkfish
- Council stated that fewer than 40 DAS wouldn't provide enough fishing time for an economically viable seasonal fishery
- Allocation of 88 DAS (= Multispecies fleet DAS allocation) would result in a 11% reduction in monkfish mortality from this sector
- Context: Stock overfished & Council wanted to halt overfishing in year 5 (2002) so PDT developed target mortality objectives and analyzed various trip limits and cumulative annual DAS limits to achieve mortality objective
 - Need trip limit < 6,000 lb tail weight to meet mortality objective
 - Qualification period (control date) & landings amount (7,500 lb monkfish) = received limited access monkfish permit in 1995/1996

How Monkfish DAS are adjusted: Monkfish FW13 (2022) & historically

- Expected loss in landings under each DAS option:
 1. Identify the vessels that used more DAS than the DAS limits under consideration
 2. For vessels that used over the DAS option, landings per DAS were calculated and multiplied by the DAS option = total landings from fully utilizing the new DAS; then subtracted from their total landings to identify potential reduction in landings
 3. For vessels that used up to the DAS limits, actual landings for each vessel were used
- Expected loss in revenue under each DAS option:
 - Total monkfish DAS was calculated for each vessel in FY 2021, and if the vessel fished more than the proposed DAS limits, the reduction in DAS was multiplied by the profit per day at sea to determine losses.

Note: similar approach to what was done in 2004, after Monkfish FMP was implemented: For all vessels constrained to a 40 DAS allocation option, landings from vessels that used > 40 DAS were prorated to 40 DAS → vessel that used 45 DAS, prorated by 40/45 so if landed 45,000 lb in 45 DAS, assume vessel land 40,000 lb in 40 DAS)

10:15 – 11:50 am
CPUE Presentations with
Clarifying Questions

Cornell Monkfish RSA Project

- Lack of demand for RSA DAS.
- Very limited RSA income has precluded work on the project.
- Pat Sullivan has recently met with Chris Legault and Andy Jones about statistical approaches.
- Preliminary findings indicate monkfish are moving north and east and possibly offshore – with a possible large impact on CPUE calculations.
- Need to manage expectations with very limited funding.
- What is the best way we can assist CPUE efforts?
- Need to develop a plan to move forward.

CPUE Presentation #1: Andy Jones

CPUE Presentation #2: SMAST

Group discussion on CPUE presentations, results:

11:50 am – 12 pm
Break

Two potential ideas for how to modify Monkfish DAS calculation

Purpose of these potential ideas → mainly to get the conversation started!

Idea #1

- Monkfish DAS allocation based on CPUE numbers from prior 3 or 6 years to allow smoothing effect and more gradual changes; will determine the effort required to catch requisite harvest to achieve optimum yield
- TAL for new specifications based on prior specification(s), average CPUE to allow the fishery to adjust to any changes in DAS allocation
- Focus on Monkfish DAS allocation for the SFMA (= directed monkfish CPUE); DAS for incidental catch = constant for now (focus on one change at a time)
- Account for all limited access monkfish permits
 - Compare DAS allocation based on only active permits and not part of CPH (which includes permit bank permits & permits held by others) → would likely produce a higher # of allocated DAS; provide a basis for an increase in # of DAS allocated
- For vessels consistently fishing in both north and south, do not make changes to DAS allocations for now → want to understand how fishery adjusts to DAS allocation changes in south first

Idea #2

- Directed CPUE is $X \text{ lb/Monkfish DAS} = \text{SFMA}$
 - ABC in SFMA is xx
 - Status quo Monkfish DAS/vessel is 37 \rightarrow multiply directed CPUE by 37 and add across all vessels (active and latent) = total landings, compare against ABC
- Incidental CPUE is $Y \text{ lb/Monkfish DAS} = \text{NFMA}$
 - ABC in NFMA is yy
 - Status quo Monkfish DAS/vessel is 35 \rightarrow multiply incidental CPUE by 35 and add across all vessels = total landings, compare against ABC
- Change # of DAS to see how landings change relative to new ABCs

Questions to consider: how to account for vessels fishing in both management areas and overall DAS cap? Should approach vary by directed vs incidental fishing? Apply above approach either from baseline status quo (for smaller adjustments in DAS allocation) or from scratch based on total # of active & latent permits applying CPUE directly (for overhaul of current DAS allocation)

Group discussion on how to potentially modify Monkfish DAS calculation using the monkfish CPUE work to date:

Next steps

- Main meeting outcomes
- Any follow-up?
- Expectations
 - Monkfish CPUE work needs to be peer reviewed to be used in setting catch advice (e.g., subpanel of the Council's SSC)
 - Research cannot be used until there is a monkfish assessment

Reminder: this work cannot be used this year for monkfish specifications

12:50 pm
Other Business

Reminder: upcoming meetings

- **Monkfish PDT meeting: August 7th 10am – 1pm (webinar)**
 - Review NEFSC data update and prepare PDT memo to the SSC
 - **SSC meeting: August 19th all day (Boston)**
 - Discuss, recommend ABCs for monkfish
 - **Joint Monkfish / Skate PDT meeting: August 21st 1-4pm (webinar)**
 - Discuss SSC outcomes (ABC recommendations for both monkfish and skates) and if the ABCs warrant any potential changes in effort controls (monkfish and skate possession limits and monkfish DAS).
 - **Joint Monkfish/Skate AP: Sept. 16th (webinar)**
 - **Joint Monkfish/Skate Committee: Sept. 17th (hybrid, RI)**
 - **NEFMC: Sept. 23-25th (Gloucester)**
 - **MAFMC: Oct. 7-9th (PA)**
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- The diagram consists of two teal text labels with blue arrows pointing to specific items in the list. The label 'Select preferred alternatives' has two arrows pointing to 'Joint Monkfish/Skate AP: Sept. 16th (webinar)' and 'Joint Monkfish/Skate Committee: Sept. 17th (hybrid, RI)'. The label 'Final action' has two arrows pointing to 'NEFMC: Sept. 23-25th (Gloucester)' and 'MAFMC: Oct. 7-9th (PA)'.

Questions / discussion:

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Discussion on fishery performance *(if time allows & industry is interested)*

Discussion questions for industry if time allows and there is interest:

- 1. General update on fishery performance, particularly the winter and spring fishing seasons**
- 2. Any changes in catch, general availability of monkfish and skates during the two most recent seasons?**
- 3. Has there been any change of price and/or marketing of monkfish and skates?**
 - Any consistency across the southern regions or within certain areas of the SFMA?**