Framework 9 Update

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Monkfish PDT Chair

Monkfish Committee
meeting
April 7, 2015

Outline of Agenda

▸ Review Framework 9 alternatives

▸ Review PDT memo regarding Framework 9

▸ Review PDT analyses

▸ Other business

Framework 9 – Purpose and Need

▸ Primary objective: to revise existing management measures to achieve catch limits

▸ Draft alternatives

  ▸ Modify current DAS/trip limit system

  ▸ Modify monkfish possession limits

1.1.1 Allow vessels to declare a NE multispecies DAS at sea

‣ **4 alternatives to No Action**

  ‣ Option 2: All C, D, or H vessels, sector and common pool, in both areas

  ‣ Option 3: Only C, D, or H sector vessels in both areas

  ‣ Option 4: Only C, D, or H vessels, sector and common pool, in NFMA

  ‣ Option 5: Only C, D, or H sector vessels in NFMA

1.1.1 Analysis

▸ PDT estimated number of trips landing various amount of monkfish (in lb of tail weight)

▸ Majority are showing low amounts

▸ Difficult to determine appropriate possession limit, e.g. 5% of total catch
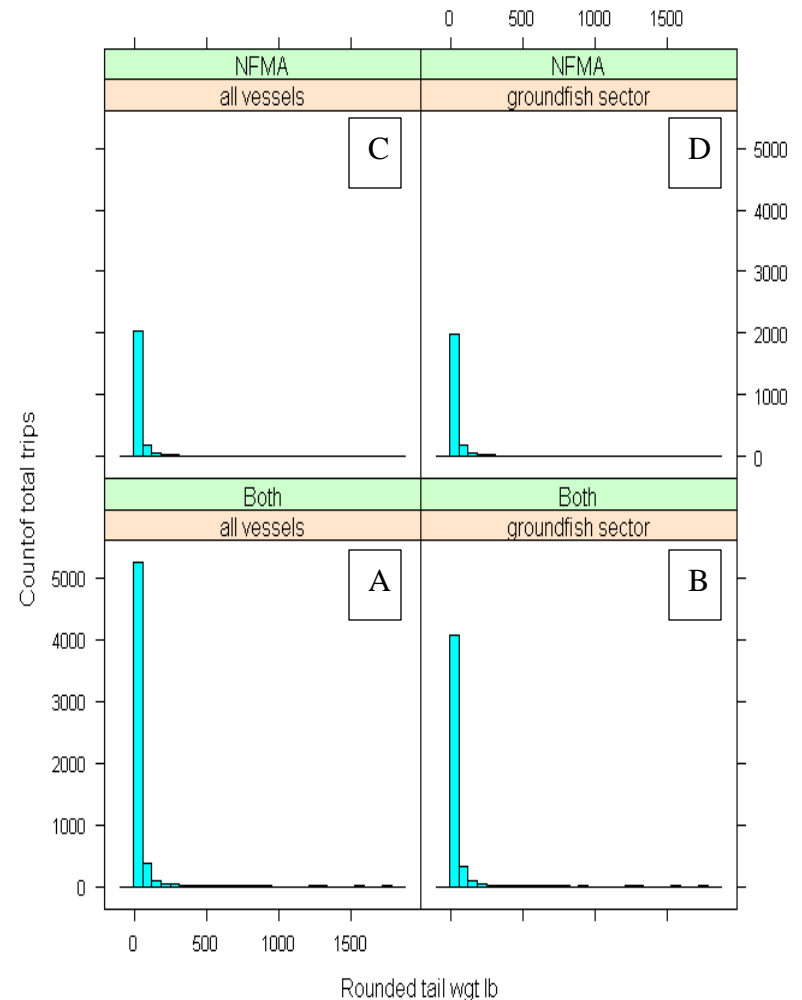
1.1.1 What trips qualify?

- Should this only apply to trips already on a monkfish DAS?

- Should a vessel go from no DAS limit to the monkfish DAS limit while at sea?

- Should this be restricted to trips already on a monkfish DAS?

No DAS incidental limit E.g. 5% of total catch

↓

NE multispecies DAS incidental limit (50 to 600 lb/DAS)

↓

Monkfish DAS limit (500 to 1,600 lb/DAS)

1.1.2 SFMA at-sea monkfish DAS declaration

▸ Vessels on a NE multispecies DAS in the SFMA to declare a monkfish DAS while at sea

Northern Fishery Management Area		
Permit Category	A & C	B & D
Landing Limit[1] (tail weight per DAS[2])	1,250 lb (3,638 lb whole weight)	600 lb (1,746 lb whole weight)

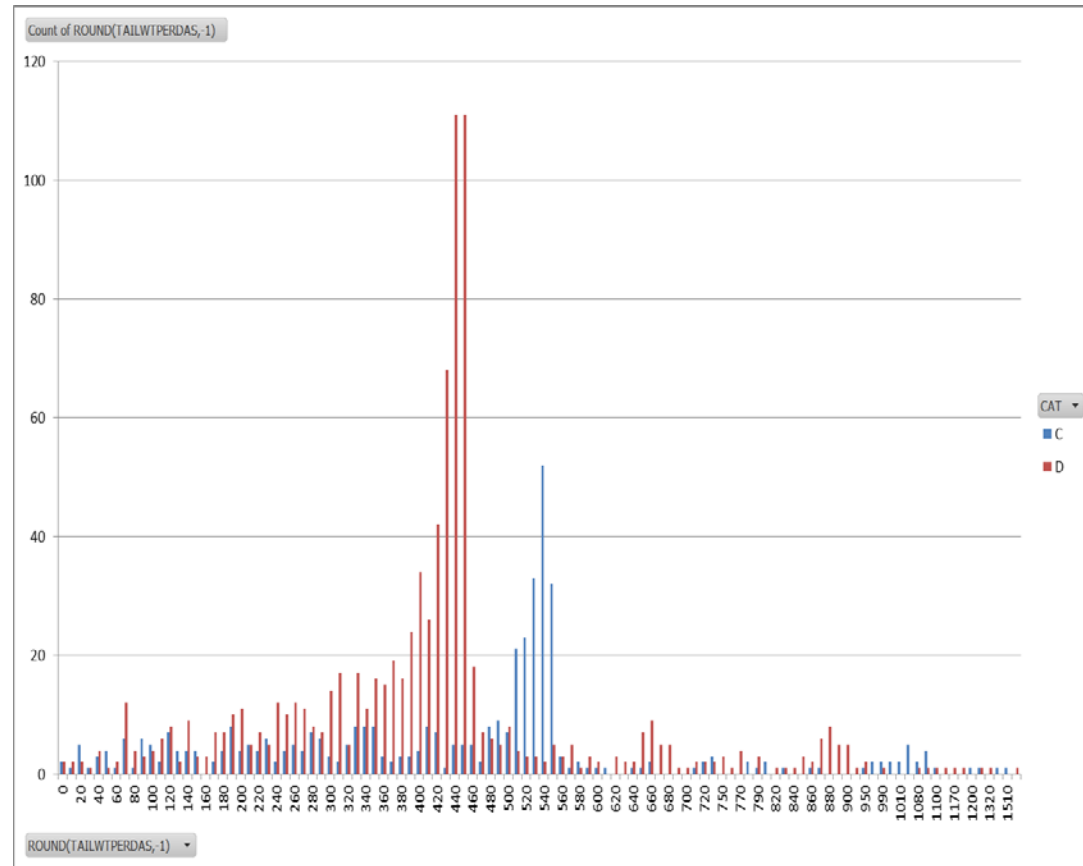| Southern Fishery Management Area			
Permit Category	A, C, or G	B, D, or H	F
Landing Limit[1] (tail weight per DAS[2])	610 lb (1,776 lb whole weight)	500 lb (1,455 lb whole weight)	1,600 lb (4,656 lb whole weight)

1.1.2 Analysis

▸ **The PDT estimated incidental landings in SFMA in FY2013**

▸ **Majority of trips below incidental limits**
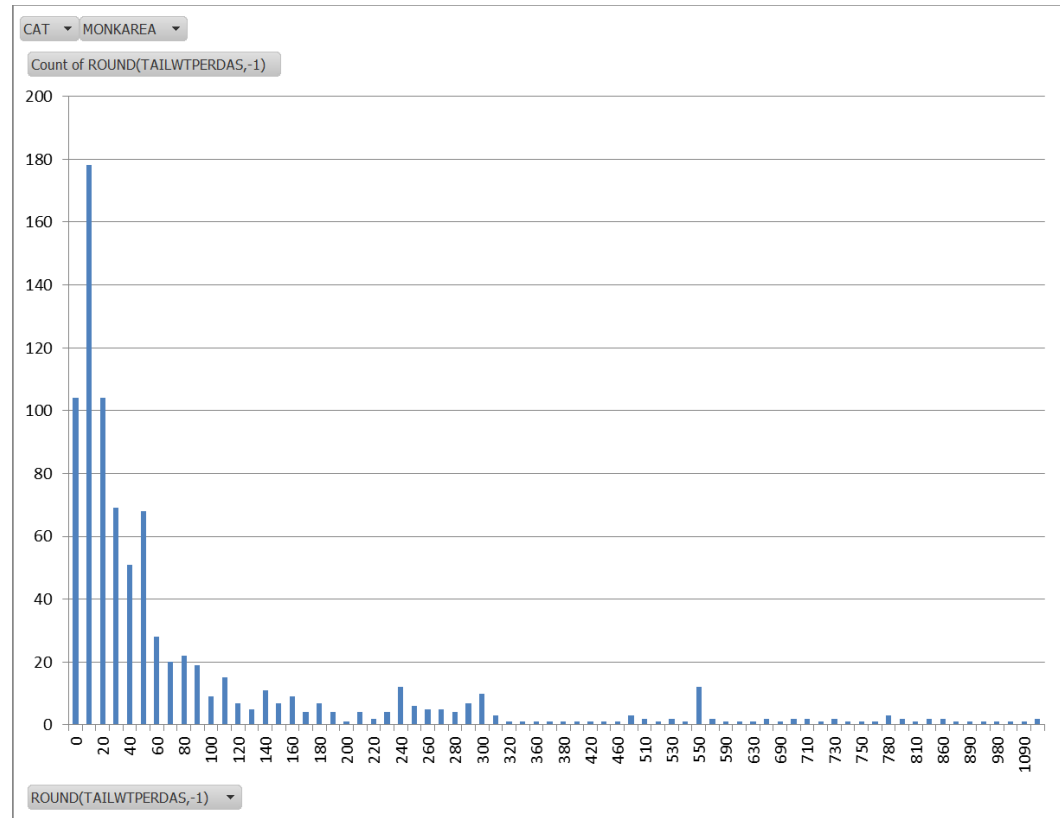
1.1.2 Analysis

‣ Directed trips had expected pattern

1.1.3 Increase monkfish-only DAS based on higher groundfish common pool DAS counting

▸ Would increase allocation of monkfish DAS to offset the impact of NE multispecies DAS differential counting for common pool vessels

▸ Low number of permits affected by this

▸ Analysis did not suggest this was affecting operations

Permit category	Sum of NE multispecies DAS	Sum of monkfish DAS	Max Difference	Min Difference	Average Difference
C	85	67.41	0.96	-0.0007	0.25
D	104	87.79	0.9	-0.0007	0.17

# 1.1.4 Modify DAS/trip limit allocation for Category F vessels

▶ Would increase Category F trip limit.

▶ Would monkfish DAS allocations or DAS accrual be revised based on increased trip limits?

▶ Is the objective of the offshore trip limit/DAS allocation measures to achieve a desired catch?

  ▶ Proposed = 7,934 lb (2,200 lb/DAS x 3.6 DAS)
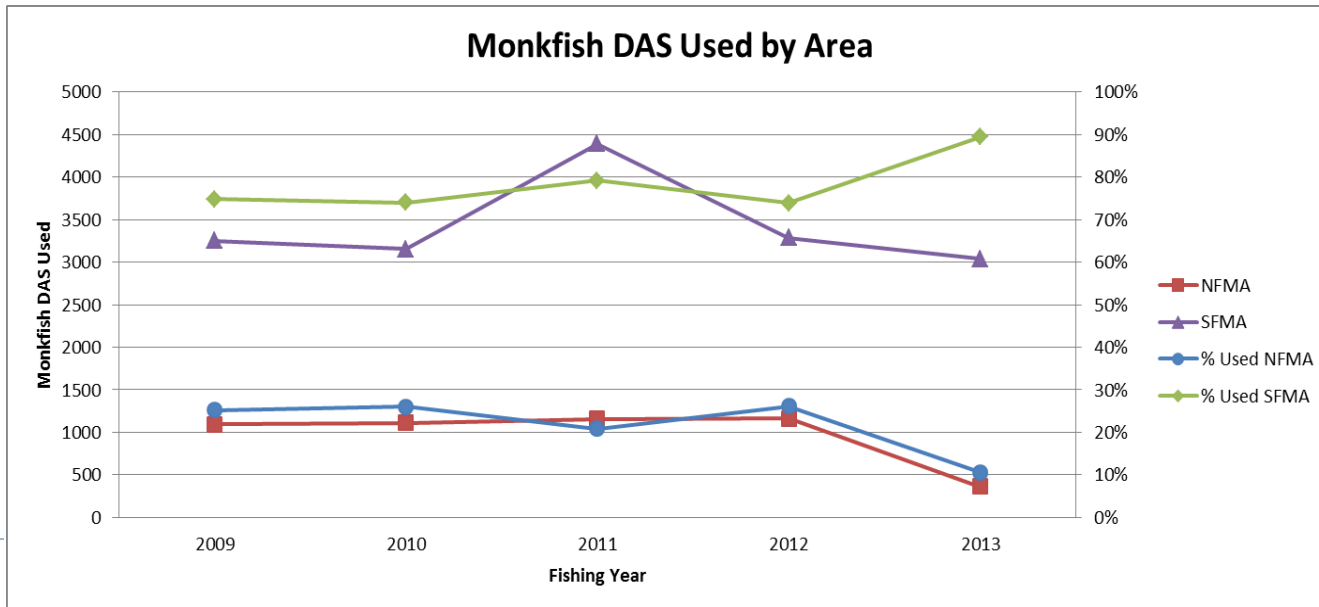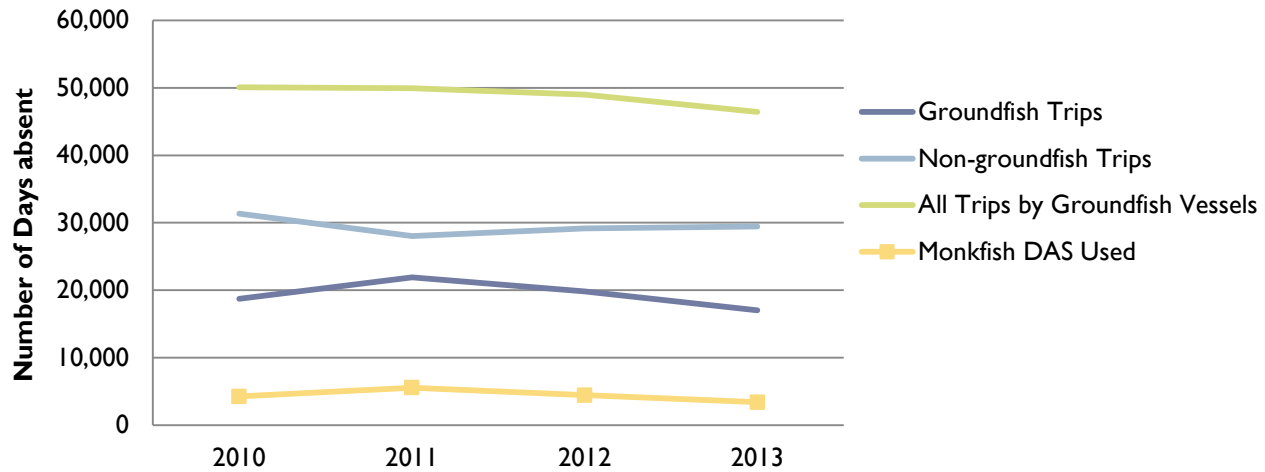 ▶ Current = 21,960 lb (1,600 lb/DAS x 13.725 DAS)

▶

1.2 Modifications to Monkfish Possession Limits

▸ Would eliminate NFMA trip limit while on a NE multispecies DAS, effectively removing the need for a monkfish DAS in the NFMA

▸ PDT analyzed landings per NE multispecies DAS for C, D, and E permits in NFMA
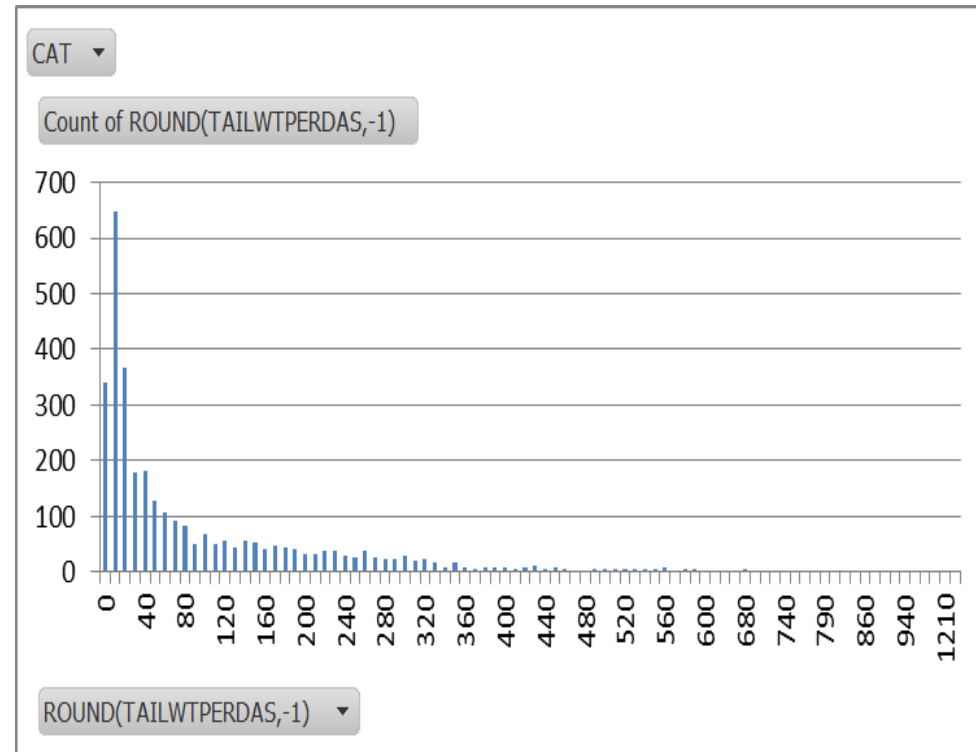
1.2 Analysis

PDT tasking

▸ Allowing the use of less than 10 inch mesh in a stand-up gillnet while on a monkfish DAS

▸ Allowing a vessel to re-declare from a monkfish DAS to a monkfish RSA DAS while at sea

RSA DAS declaration while at sea

▸ Is the intent of this to charge monkfish RSA DAS for the entire trip or only part of the trip?

Less than 10 inch mesh

▸ Rationale: increase profitability of trips by allowing targeting of dogfish on the same trip

▸ Currently, use of less than 10 inch mesh on monkfish DAS is prohibited

▸ This has been occurring in the past – need from industry

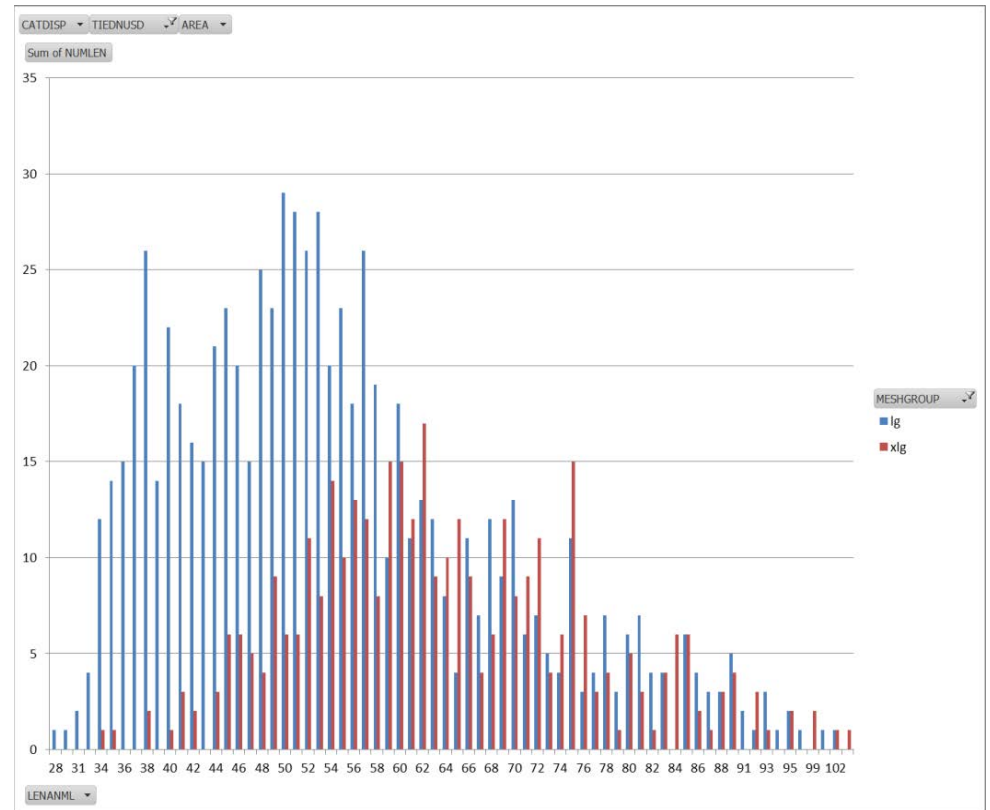▸ Original FMP goal #3 – prevent increased fishing on immature monkfish

▸

The analysis

▸ ## Observer data

▸ ## Large mesh (lg) = less than 8 inches

▸ ## Extra large mesh (xlg) = greater than 8 inches

▸ ## Tie downs

Dogfish VTR Landings by GNS Mesh
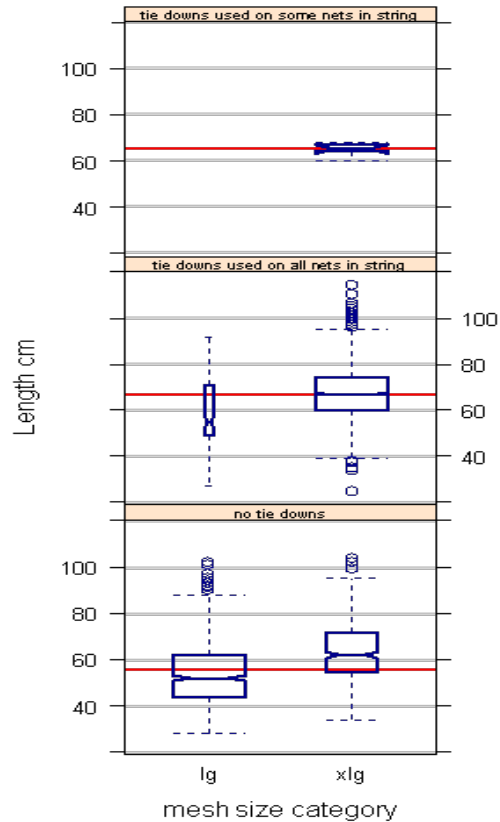

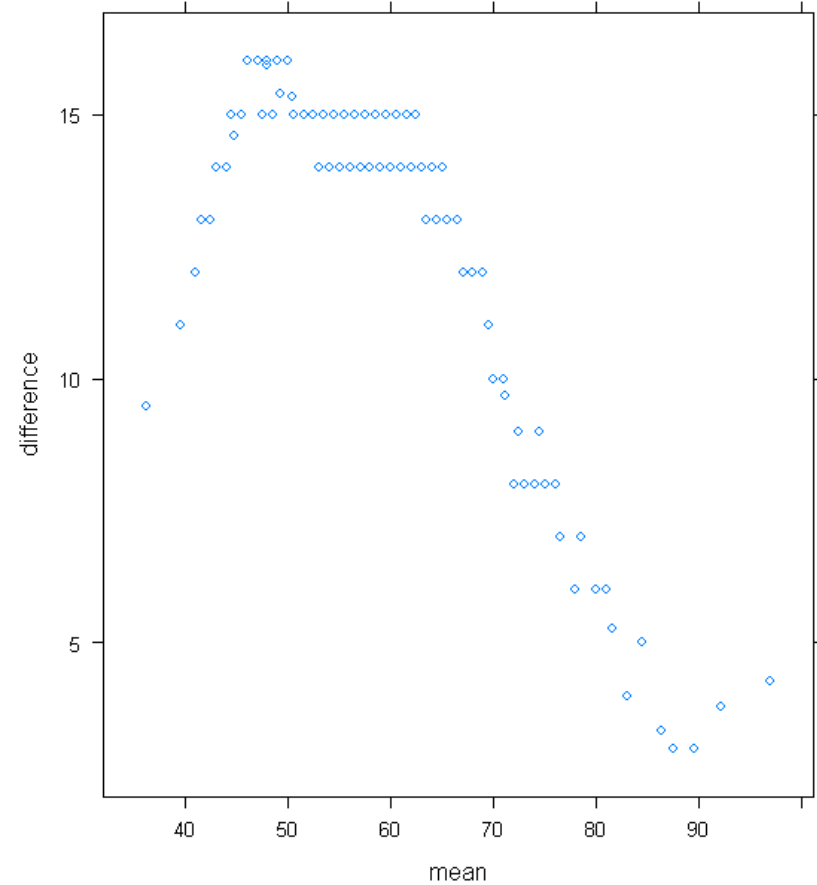Monkfish VTR Landings by GNS Mesh
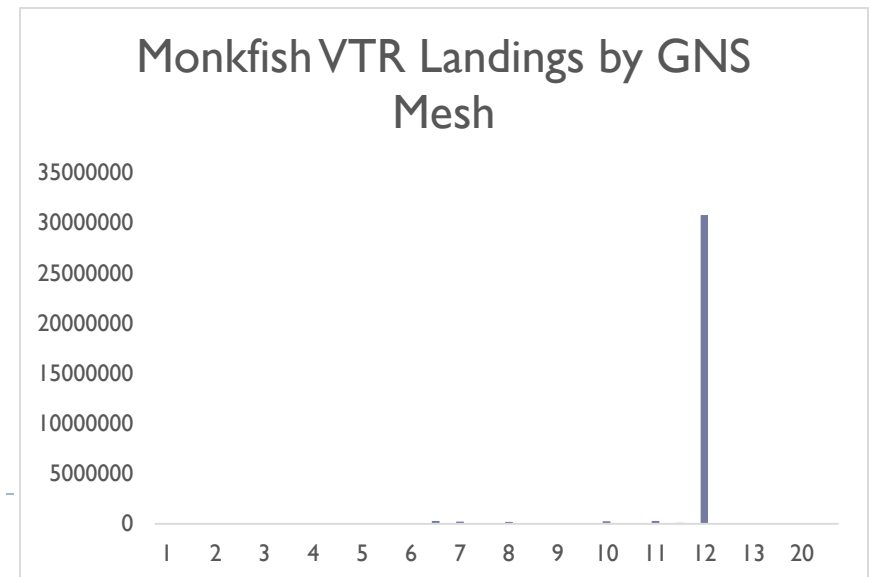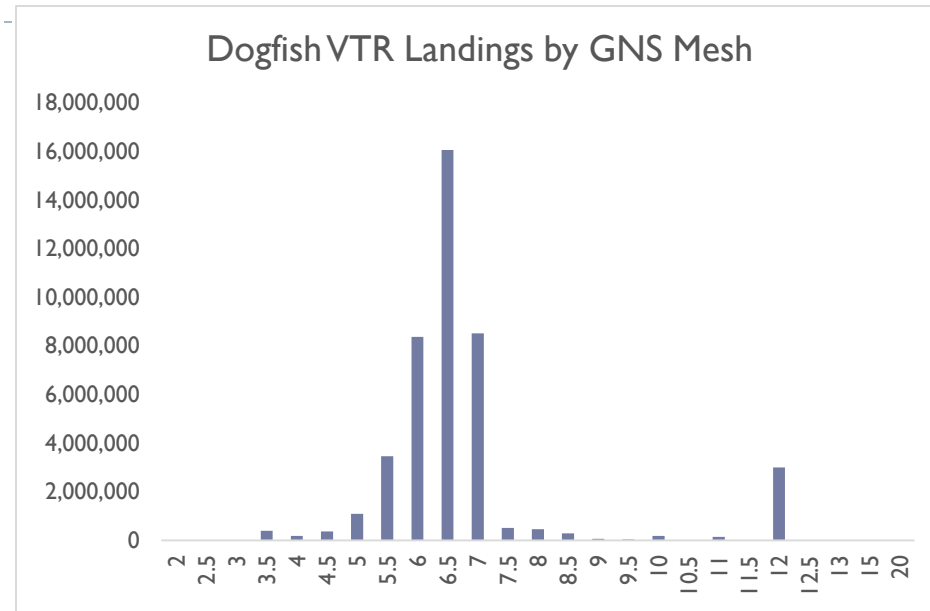
Observer data

- ▶ There is a difference in monkfish lengths caught between the 2 different sizes
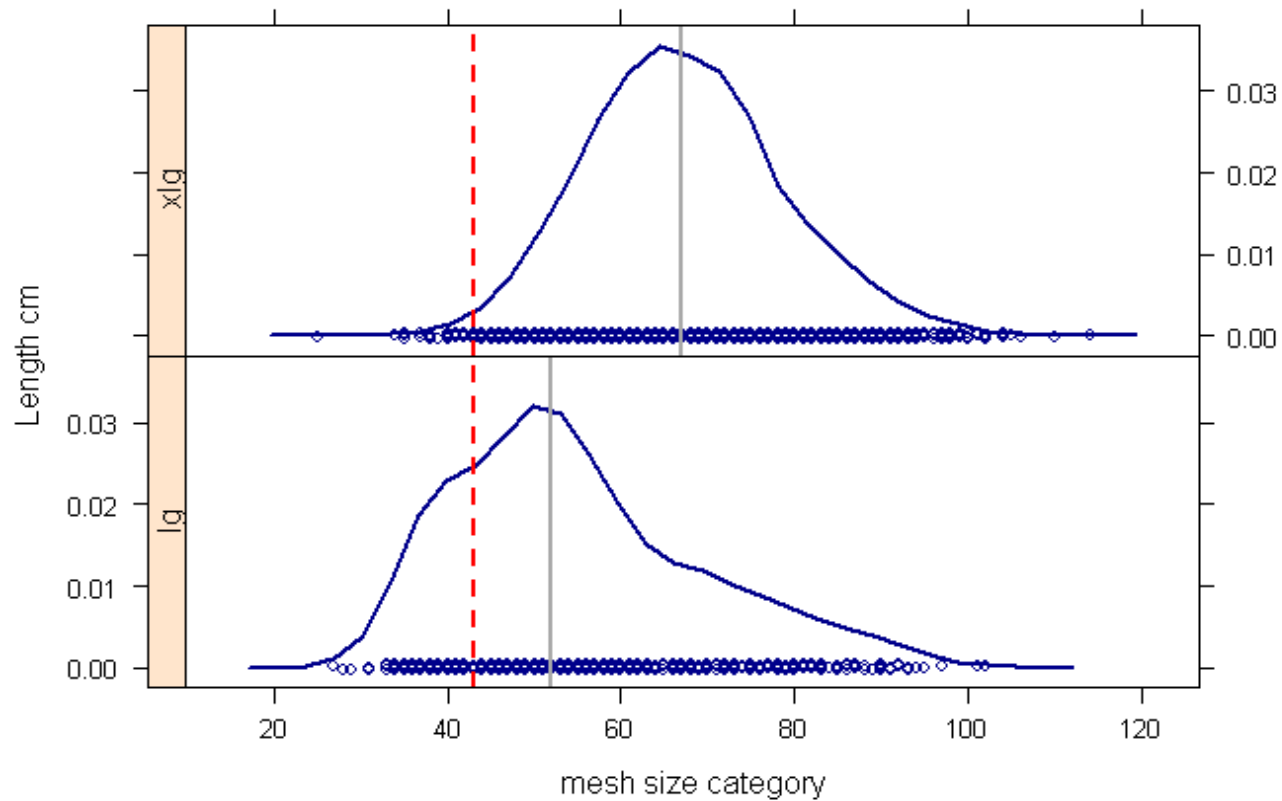
Statistical analysis

Tukey mean-difference plot of lengths for
for extra large and large mesh

Length and density plot

VTR data

▸ Between 2000 and 2013 less than 1% of monkfish caught in SFMA was caught in less than 10 inch sink gillnets

▸ Tie downs

▸ Potential measure could:

  ▸ restrict the allowable large mesh range to 5"-7" (relevant for dogfish) and

  ▸ not allow the use of tie downs

▸ Impacts on other species

▸

Conclusions

- Less than 10 inch mesh catching minimal amount of undersized monkfish

- Should be periodically evaluated, if implemented