

DECISION DOCUMENT

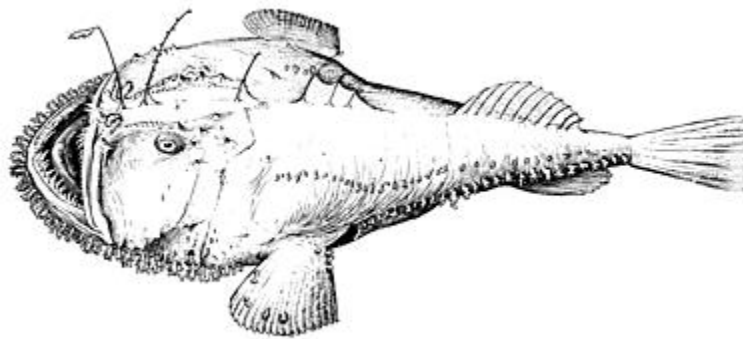
for

Specifications for FYs 2020-2022

to the

Monkfish

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



**NEFMC Council Meeting
September 24, 2019**

The following decision table in this document summarizes the discussion on monkfish specifications for FYs 2020-2022.

Section 1.1 – Specifications

Monkfish Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommended modifying alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 only and select as preferred
- The Committee recommended alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications) for FY 2020 only for the NFMA as preferred
- The Committee agreed by consensus to endorse the PDT recommendation to maintain status quo effort controls in both management areas.

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Three Alternatives
Alternative 1	No Action
Alternative 2	Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA)
Alternative 3	Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA)
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should specifications be set for 3 years (original priority) or 1 year (AP/CTE recommendation)? • What additional data related to discards could be expected in 2020? • Will the southern monkfish fishery be constrained by the lower TAL in Alternative 3? 	
Monkfish Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended setting 1 year (FY2020) of specifications for both NFMA and SFMA. An initial motion to set specifications in the NFMA for 3 fishing years was reconsidered in order to be consistent with the 1 year specifications recommended in the SFMA. • The Committee recommended a subsequent specifications action be added to the 2020 priority list which would also discuss the monkfish discard calculation methodology. 	
Monkfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP recommended that the Committee to select as preferred alternative 1 (No Action specifications) for FYs2020-2022 for the SFMA only. • The AP requested the Committee add to the list of 2020 priorities an additional management action (to set specifications and associated measures) that would revisit the discard estimates (effort and discard mortality research) for the NFMA and SFMA. • The AP recommended that the Committee select as preferred alternative 2 (revised specifications) for FYs2020-2022 for the NFMA 	
Other Important Considerations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next monkfish assessment is not expected until 2022, based on the current assessment schedule. 	