

2016 Monkfish RSA Program Research Needs and Priorities (not in order of importance):

- Research on monkfish life history focusing on: (a) age and growth, (b) longevity, (c) Reproduction, and (d) natural mortality;
- Studies of stock structure/stock identification and implications for stock assessment and fisheries management;
- Migration patterns focusing on: (a) short- and long-term movements with respect to management areas and off-shelf movements, and, (b) habitat use;
- Research concerning trophic interactions of monkfish with other species;
- Cooperative research surveys to supplement current survey coverage;
- Research concerning bycatch and discard mortality focusing on: (a) Target species (e.g., monkfish or Northeast multispecies), and (b) non-target species (e.g., monkfish or skate); and
- Trawl and gillnet gear studies focusing on: (a) Size and/or species selectivity, and, (b) bycatch reduction, including reducing bycatch of and interactions with protected species.