



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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Joseph Cimino, Chair | Skip Feller, Vice Chair
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

April 10, 2026

Dr. Cate O’Keefe
Executive Director
New England Fishery Management Council
50 Water Street, Mill 2
Newburyport, MA 01950

Dear Cate:

At our April Council meeting, Ms. Jenny Couture of your staff presented an update on recent monkfish management developments. This presentation included an overview of a draft scoping document for a potential IFQ program for the monkfish and/or skate wing fisheries, as well as input from the Monkfish and Skate Advisory Panels (AP) and Committees. The Council passed the following motion by consent:

“On behalf of the Committee, I move that the Council not approve the IFQ scoping document and discontinue the scoping process.”

NEFMC staff have proposed pivoting the previously scheduled scoping meetings to a series of structured listening sessions to gather input on potential improvements in the monkfish and skate fisheries. The Council agreed to defer to NEFMC on how to best proceed; however, there was general support for obtaining additional input from industry on ways to improve monkfish and/or skate management. Council staff note that it may be beneficial to hold a workshop with fishery participants from across regions before initiating any additional management actions.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Moore".

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Cc: Joe Cimino, Skip Feller, Robert Ruhle