

Framework 9 Update

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Monkfish PDT Chair**

**NEFMC meeting
April 21, 2015**



New England
Fishery Management Council

1.1.1 Allow vessels to declare a NE multispecies DAS at sea

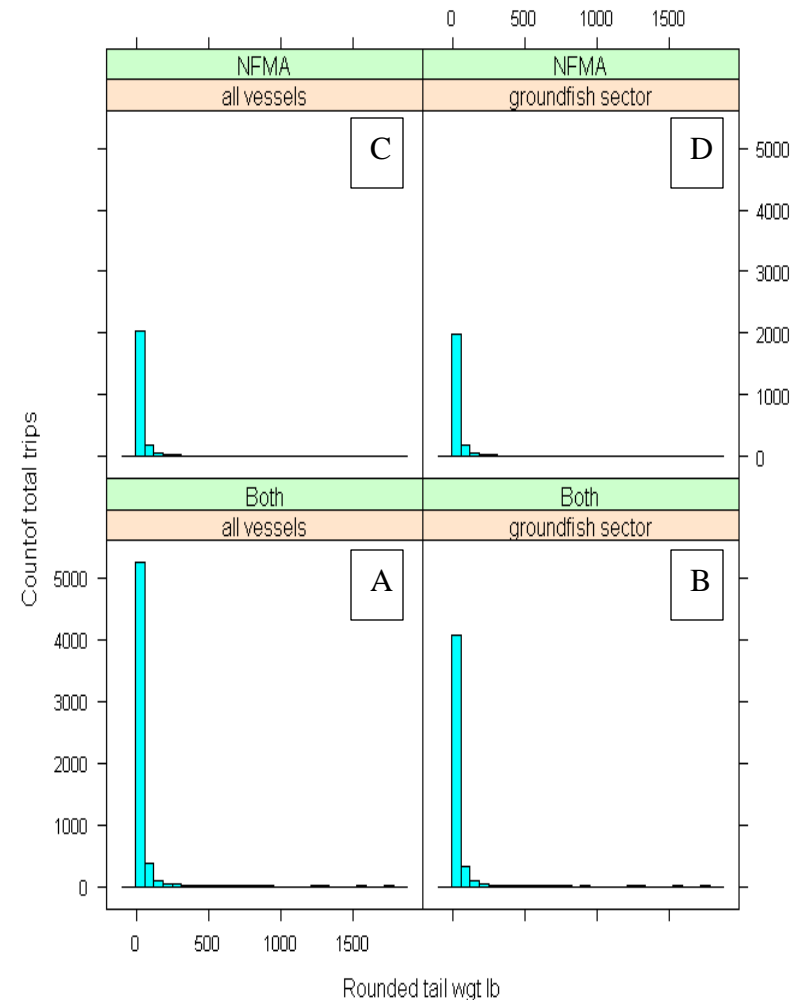
▶ 4 alternatives to No Action

- ▶ *Option 2: All C and D vessels, sector and common pool, in both areas*
- ▶ *Option 3: Only C and D sector vessels in both areas*
- ▶ Option 4: Only C and D vessels, sector and common pool, in NFMA
- ▶ Option 5: Only C and D 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



1.1.2 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) |



1.1.3 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 |



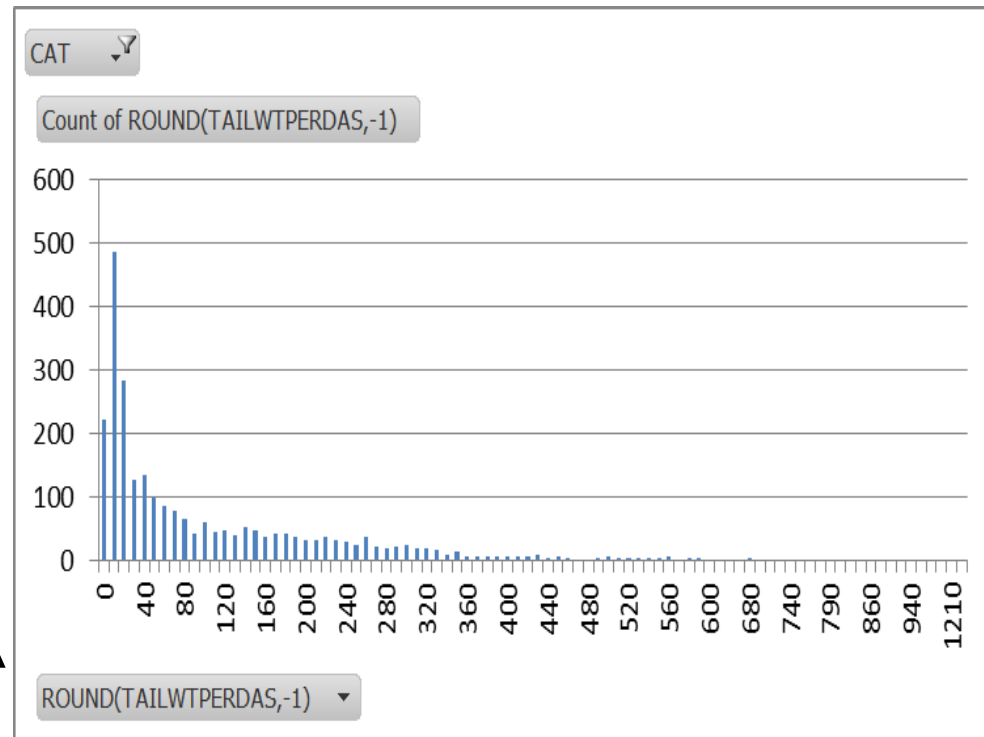
1.1.4 Modify DAS/trip limit allocation for Category F vessels

- ▶ Could increase Category F trip limit
- ▶ Could also modify the formula used
 - ▶ Proposed = 7,934 lb ($2,200 \text{ lb/DAS} \times 3.6 \text{ DAS}$)
 - ▶ Current = 21,960 lb ($1,600 \text{ lb/DAS} \times 13.725 \text{ DAS}$)



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 and D permits in NFMA



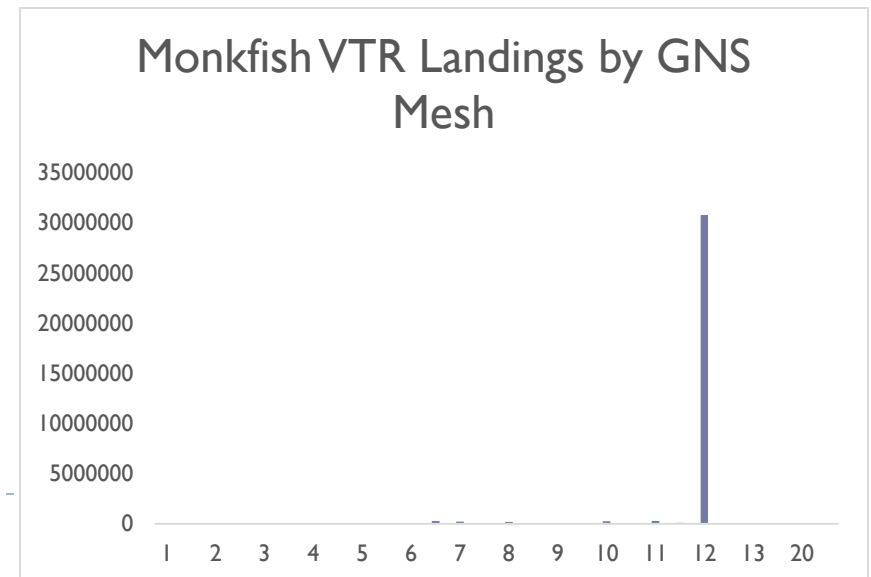
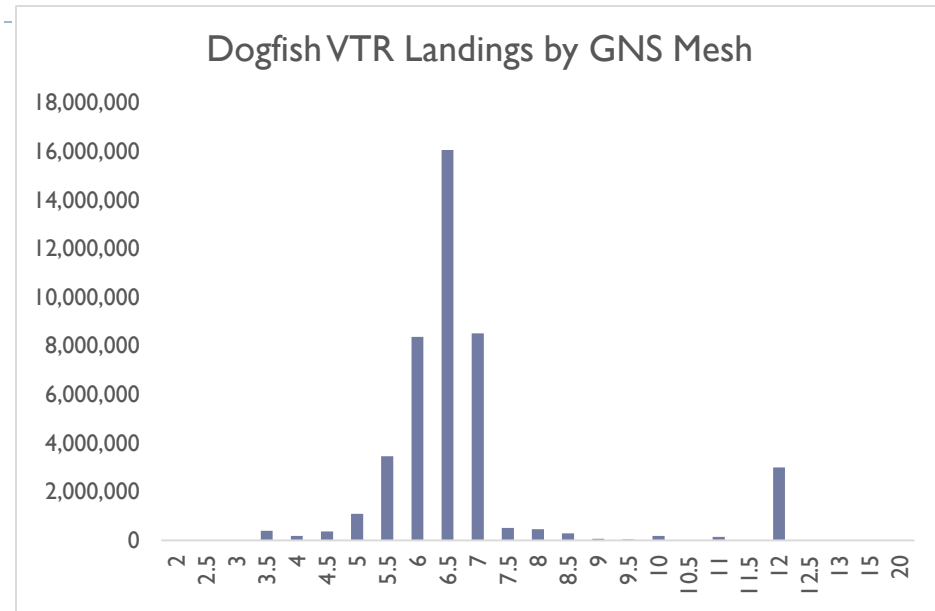
Less than 10 inch mesh

- ▶ 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



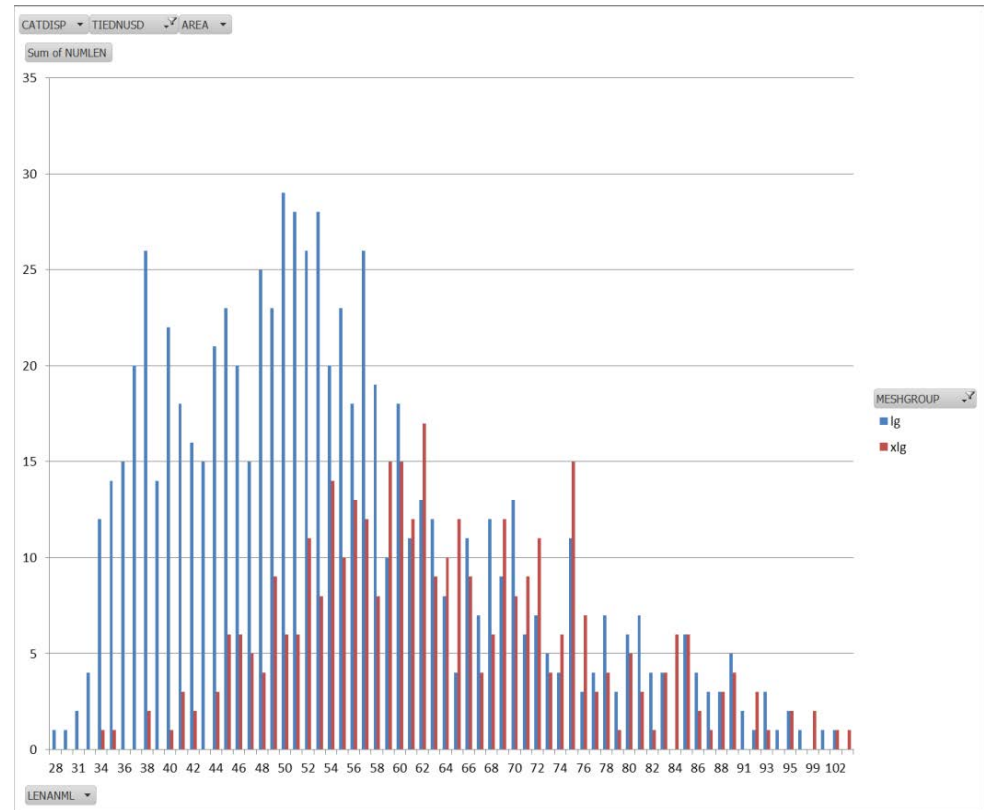
The analysis

- ▶ Observer data
- ▶ Large mesh (lg) = less than 8 inches
- ▶ Extra large mesh (xlg) = greater than 8 inches
- ▶ Tie downs



Observer data

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



VTR data

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



RSA Priorities

- ▶ 1. Research on monkfish life history focusing on: (a) age and growth, (b) longevity, (c) reproduction and (d) natural mortality;
- ▶ 2. Studies of stock structure/stock identification and implications for stock assessment and fisheries management.
- ▶ 3. Migration patterns focusing on: (a) short- and long-term movements with respect to management areas and off-shelf movements, and, (b) habitat use;
- ▶ 4. Research concerning trophic interactions of monkfish with other species;
- ▶ 5. Cooperative research surveys to supplement current survey coverage;
- ▶ 6. Research concerning bycatch and discard mortality focusing on: (a) Target species (i.e., monkfish or Northeast multispecies), and (b) non-target species (e.g., monkfish or skate);
- ▶ 7. 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.



Questions?

