

**NEW ENGLAND FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**  
**Monkfish Committee**

**I. STATUS**

- A. Meetings: The Monkfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel met jointly on April 3 in Warwick, RI, primarily to discuss the recent listing of Atlantic Sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act. The Committee considered but did not develop a recommendation to the Councils pending the release of the Biological Opinions and the Mid-Atlantic and New England Councils' discussions on the overall strategy for addressing the listing under the variety of affected fishery management plans.
- B. Amendment 6: In Amendment 6, the Councils are considering adopting catch shares management for the monkfish fishery. The Council approved Amendment 6 Goals and Objectives at its November, 2011 meeting. At their respective February meetings, the two Councils recommended publication of a control date to limit speculative activity in anticipation of Amendment 6, including, but not restricted to limits on accumulation of excessive control or ownership of fishing privileges. NMFS is finalizing the control date Federal Register Notice. The Committee has also tasked the Plan Development Team with developing a range of alternatives for consideration in Amendment 6, including modifications to the current system, a days-at-sea leasing option, sector management and individually transferrable quotas. The PDT is in the process of developing those alternatives.

**II. COUNCIL ACTION**

- A. None

**III. INFORMATION**

- 1. Summary of the April 3, 2012 Monkfish Oversight Committee and Advisory Panel Joint Meeting
- 2. Control Date Federal Register Notice (*pending publication prior to this meeting*)