

Group Theme	Factor	Supporting Information	
Stock Status and Uncertainty	Biomass Stock Status	Overfished? Rebuilding?	Unknown for both stocks
		Overfishing?	Unknown for both stocks
		SSB Relative to SSB-Target?	Unknown for both stocks
	Recruitment	Recent trends and how recruitment is accounted for in assessment	Recruitment trends not accounted for in the assessment (no analytical assessment available due to a lack of reliable aging methodology) and not part of 2025 data update; 2022 Management Track Assessment states that indices of recruitment suggest increasing and above recruitment in the North in recent years but continued low or decreasing recruitment in the South (see Figures 8-15 of 2022 Assessment Report)
	Assessment Type and Uncertainty	Assessment model, type, terminal year	Index-based, Ismooth (proportional change in the trawl survey indices), 2022 terminal year; 2025 Data update in lieu of assessment
		Availability of biological data/missing years of data?	No biological reference points available; survey length frequencies and indices of recruitment available (2022 Monkfish Assessment report; indices of length available through 2025 as part of 2025 data update); indices of biomass from NMFS spring & fall trawl surveys and catch & discards data (all updated via 2025 data update); indices of biomass from an ASMFC summer survey & a scallop survey but not used directly in Ismooth assessment (based on 2022 Management Track Assessment); biomass trawl survey incomplete in Fall 2020, Spring 2020, and Spring 2023 (2025 Data Update)
		Retrospective pattern?	n/a, index-based assessment
		Major sources of assessment uncertainty	Lack of analytical assessment; Based on 2022 Monkfish assessment: questions remain on stock structure given recent genetics research suggests different stock structure than current but this hasn't been incorporated into any monkfish assessment yet; uncertainty conveyed in the LOESS smooth confidence intervals only include uncertainty introduced by the smoothing function and now the uncertainties in the underlying indices (uncertainties from tow-by-tow catch variability, survey design, changes in gear/vessels over time including switch to RV Bigelow, which is known to catch significantly more monkfish than Albatross); concern when considering recent trends and what the Ismooth approach would have advised at several time periods; recent catches are a function of many factors (biomass, world fish markets, fishing costs, effort controls, and dynamics of other fisheries that incidentally catch monkfish)
	Climate and Ecosystem	Climate impacts and incorporation into assessment	Hare et al (2016) indicated that monkfish have high climate exposure, and low biological sensitivity, with moderate certainty. Hare et al also report that monkfish could be expected to have a neutral directional effect in response to climate change, and have a high potential for a change in species distribution, with moderate certainty.
		Climate Vulnerability	Need further analysis of predator/prey relationships; monkfish accounts for up to 6% of total consumption by all finfish in the ecosystem (from 2022 risk policy matrix, no literature cited); based on Food Habits shinyapp ( <a href="https://fishmaps.shinyapps.io/prey/">https://fishmaps.shinyapps.io/prey/</a> ), goosefish prey by weight include unidentified fish, shrimp, and Great northern tilefish (each accounting for at least 19% proportion by weight of each prey species in the diet of goosefish; this is across all seasons and regions from 2000-2022 for all size categories of goosefish)
		Fish Condition	Over 2022-2024 - GOM: poor condition (range of poor condition to below avg), GB: below avg (range of below avg to neutral), Mid-Atl: below avg (range of below avg to neutral); New England & Mid-Atlantic SOE 2025 reports
		Commercial fishery trends (e.g. landings, revenue, LPUE, DAS usage, price)	Landings (based on 2025 Data Update): in the North, monkfish landings were 4,998 mt in 2024, 5,687 mt in 2023, 4,900 mt in 2022; in the South, monkfish landings were 961 mt in 2024, 1,364 mt in 2023, 1,818 mt in 2022. Total Monkfish DAS used were 1,682 in FY 2023, 2,060 in FY 2022, and 1,145 in FY 2021. TAL use in the north was 100.9% in FY 2024, 99.9% in FY 2023, and 78.3% in FY 2022; TAL use in the south was 23% in FY 2024, 29% in FY 2023, 30% in FY 2022. Monkfish revenue per trip (for trips landing > 1 lb monkfish or skate) was 13% in FY 2023, 15% in FY 2022, and 12% in FY 2021 (Monkfish PDT March 2025 document). Average monkfish price was ~\$2/lb in 2023 and 2021 and ~\$2.30/lb in 2022 (Other Fishery Background Data PDT document Feb. 2025).

Economic and Community Importance	Commercial Fishery Characterization	Management uncertainty in comm fishery	Management uncertainty is set at 3% of ACL; some uncertainty whether current discard method or other methods would accurately predict realized discards in any given year; latent fishing effort remains an issue; unclear how to define targeted monkfish fishing because groundfish catches monkfish as part of a portfolio of species and scallops primarily discards monkfish in dredge gear
		Vessels, permits, dealers, processors	From Monkfish/Skate PDT Coordinated Analysis March 2025 & August 2025 memos: Monkfish limited access permits (A, B, C, D permits) totaled 525 in FY 2023, 520 in FY 2022, & 542 in FY 2021. For limited access vessels that landed > 1 lb monkfish: 226 limited access permits in FY 2023, 232 permits in FY 2022, and 258 permits in FY 2021. For limited access vessels that landed > 10,000 lb monkfish, 106 permits in FY 2023, 108 permits in FY 2022, and 127 permits in FY 2021. There are currently 211 permits in CPH (cannot be broken down by individual fishing year)
		Commercial fishing communities	6 primary ports in monkfish fishery: Gloucester, Boston, New Bedford, Point Judith, Montauk, Barnegat Light
	Recreational Fishery Characterization	Does the fishery rely on quota of another species?	No for monkfish only fishing (there are monkfish trip limits and Monkfish DAS) BUT most fishermen catch skates as well (in SNE; open access fishery) and as part of groundfish fishery (GOM)
		Recreational fishery trends (e.g. catch, angler trips)	From year-end catch reporting (from FY2024 report and 2024 Monkfish Fishery Performance Report): Recreational catch: in the North: ~3,000 lb in FY2024 (0% ACL), 33,500 lb in FY2023 (0.2% ACL), 495 lb in FY2022 (0% ACL); in the South: 21,558 lb in FY 2024 (0.2% ACL), ~72,000 lb in FY2023 (1.4% ACL), and ~1,100 lb in FY2022 (0% ACL)
		Management uncertainty in rec fishery	Recreational catch derived from MRIP database with discard mortality assumed to be 100%
		Recreational fishing communities	No primary ports identified
	Other Economic/Social Considerations		From 2024 Monkfish Fishery Performance Report: Many external factors contribute to catch levels unrelated to management (interaction with skate and groundfish fisheries, bycatch in scallop dredge fishery, low price, low demand, higher transportation costs, fish availability in the fall)
Additional Information	Status Determination Criteria	OFLs	AMs
	Biological reference points no longer relevant due to invalidation of growth model (estimation of absolute biomass cannot be calculated)	unknown for both north and south	Specification of annual catch target (ACT) set below the ACL to account for management uncertainty and to prevent the ACL from being exceeded. If an ACL is exceeded, there is an overage deduction on a pound-for-pound basis from the applicable ACT in the second year following the year in which the overage occurred; FY2024 shows a 1.1% overage of ACL in the North (no overage in South) so an AM will be triggered in FY26 to account for this overage
	Harvest Control Rule <i>Note: not currently being applied because there is no analytical assessment for monkfish; OFLs and ABCs were last set for FY2014-2016 following this approach but OFLs are now undetermined and ABCs are now based on Ismooth because aging methods were invalidated in 2016 --&gt; index-based assessment has been used since to provide catch advice on interim basis.</i>	ABCs (=ACLs)	Significant source of catch outside the directed federal fishery?
	BCURRENT x Avg expl. rate	North ABC for FY2023-2025: 6,224 mt South ABC for FY2023-2025: 5,861 mt	Directed federal monkfish gillnet fishery includes harvesting monkfish primarily using a MNK DAS (targeting monkfish and skates) and monkfish are also caught as part of the groundfish trawl fishery as part of portfolio of species. There are also vessels that primarily discard monkfish when scallop dredge fishing - in the North: ~815,000 lb in FY2023 in scallop dredge, ~584,000 lb in FY 2022, ~713,000 lb in FY 2021. In the South: ~2.364 M lb in FY 2023, 2.8 M lb in FY 2022, and 4.2 M lb in FY 2021. Estimated dead discards was 15.2% of ACL in FY 2024 in the North, 13.1% of ACL in FY 2023, & 11.2% of ACL in FY 2022; 26.5% of ACL in FY 2024 in the South, 21.2% in FY 2023, 13.4% in FY 2022. Minor amounts in other gear types. (from 2024 Monkfish Fishery Performance Report). Discards from all gear types (2025 Data Update) - North: 886 mt in 2024, 914 mt in 2023, 947 mt in 2022; South: 2,134 mt in 2024, 1,634 mt in 2023, and 1,758 mt in 2022.