



Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
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Michael P. Luisi, Chairman | G. Warren Elliott, Vice Chairman
Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 26, 2019
To: Council
From: Fiona Hogan (NEFMC staff) & Jason Didden (MAFMC staff)
Subject: Monkfish 2020-2022 Fishing Years (FYs) Specifications

The NEFMC met on September 24, 2019 to discuss monkfish specifications for FYs 2020-2022. After receiving an update on the 2019 operational assessment, PDT analyses, and outcomes of the Advisory Panel (AP) and Committee meetings, the NEFMC passed the following two motions:

1. that the Council approve Alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 - FY2022 only and select as preferred.
2. that the Council support the recommendation of Alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications) for FY 2020-FY2022 only for the NFMA as preferred.

At the October 2019 Meeting the MAFMC needs to also set monkfish specifications. Management adjustments made to the Monkfish FMP generally need majority approval of each Council.

The NEFMC discussed the concerns raised by the AP and Committee related to the discard estimation methodology. For the initial list of 2020 priorities for monkfish, the NEFMC added an analysis of alternative methods for estimating discards and discard mortality of monkfish.

Attached Materials:

NEFMC Press Release on Monkfish Specifications
Draft FY2020-2022 specification alternatives, dated September 18, 2019
Decision document for FY 2020-2022 specifications, dated September 19, 2019
SSC memo on ABCs
Monkfish Plan Development Team (PDT) ABC Memo to SSC
Draft AP motions, dated September 18, 2019
Draft Committee motions, dated September 18, 2019
Excerpt from the Monkfish Assessment Update ([Online Supplement](#))



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2019

PRESS CONTACT: Janice Plante
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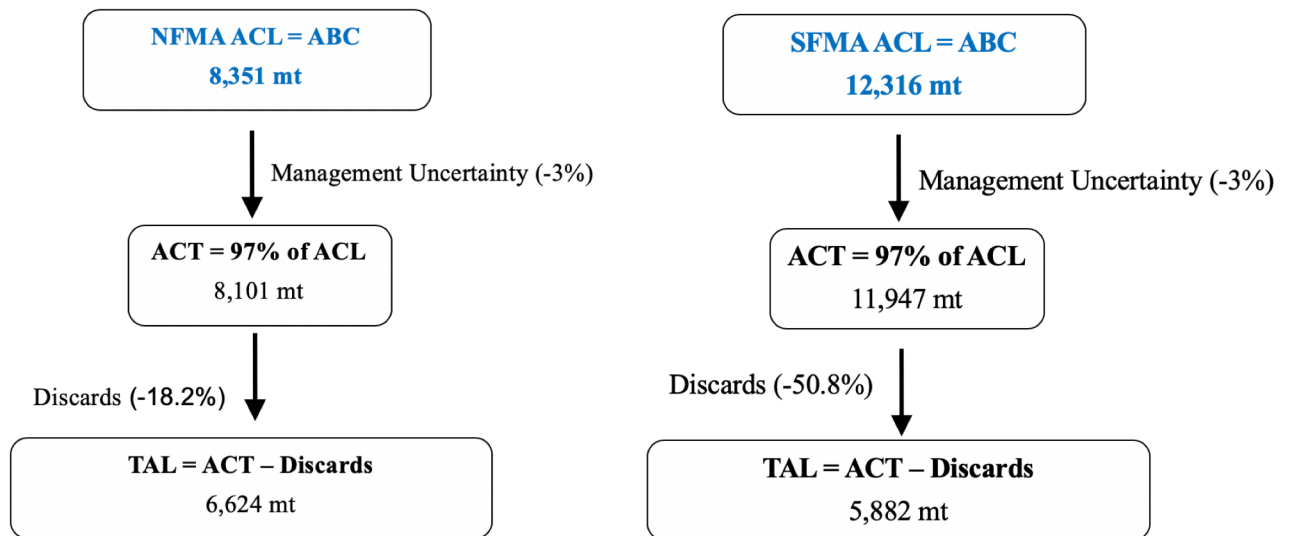
Monkfish: Council Approves 2020-2022 Fishery Specifications

The New England Fishery Management Council has approved new specifications for the 2020-2022 monkfish fishing years. The fishery operates within two areas – the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) and the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) – with a boundary line that roughly bisects Georges Bank. Landing limits and management measures vary by area, as do fishing practices.

The Council supported a 10% increase in the acceptable biological catch (ABC) for the northern area and status quo for the ABC in the southern area based on recommendations from its Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), which worked with guidance from the Monkfish Plan Development Team (PDT). Under the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan, deductions are made from the ABC to account for management uncertainty and discards in order to determine the level of total allowable landings (TAL) for each area (see flowchart below).

A new [operational assessment](#) was conducted for monkfish this summer. While the final peer-reviewed report is not complete yet, the SSC and PDT were able to use preliminary findings to develop the 2020-2022 specifications. Updated assessment data were used to determine discard levels, which are calculated

Revised 2020-2022 Specifications for Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas in metric tons (mt)



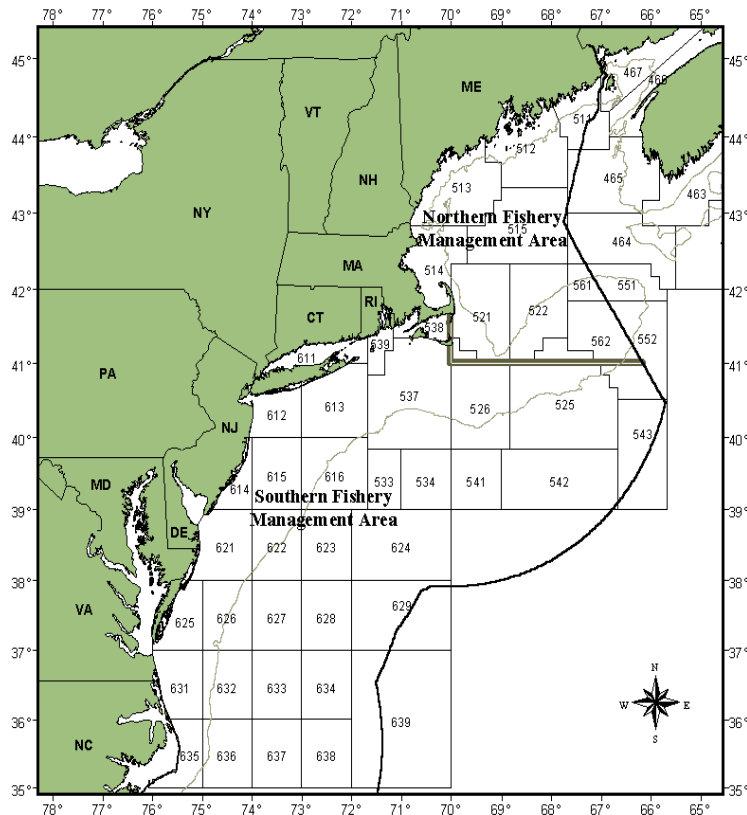
ABC = Acceptable Biological Catch
ACL = Annual Catch Limit

ACT = Annual Catch Target
TAL = Total Allowable Landings



New England Fishery Management Council

through a ratio of discards to total catch over the most recent three-year moving average. In 2016, discards in the northern area were estimated to be 13.9%. As a result of the 2019 operational assessment, discards in the north increased slightly to 18.2%. In the southern area, discards increased from 24.6% in 2016 to 50.8% in 2019. According to the PDT, one contributing factor was the large 2015 year class of monkfish, which was the largest recruitment event in almost 20 years.



The Council concurred with the PDT/SSC recommendation that “no changes” are needed to effort controls, possession limits, and day-at-sea (DAS) allocations in either region at this time.

Current measures are outlined in the:

[2017-2019 Monkfish Final Rule](#)



– NOAA Fisheries graphic

- All documents used during this meeting are available at [September 2019 Monkfish Discussion](#).
- Questions? Contact monkfish plan coordinator Dr. Fiona Hogan at (978) 465-0492, ext. 121, fhogan@nefmc.org.

The following information also is included in this management action:

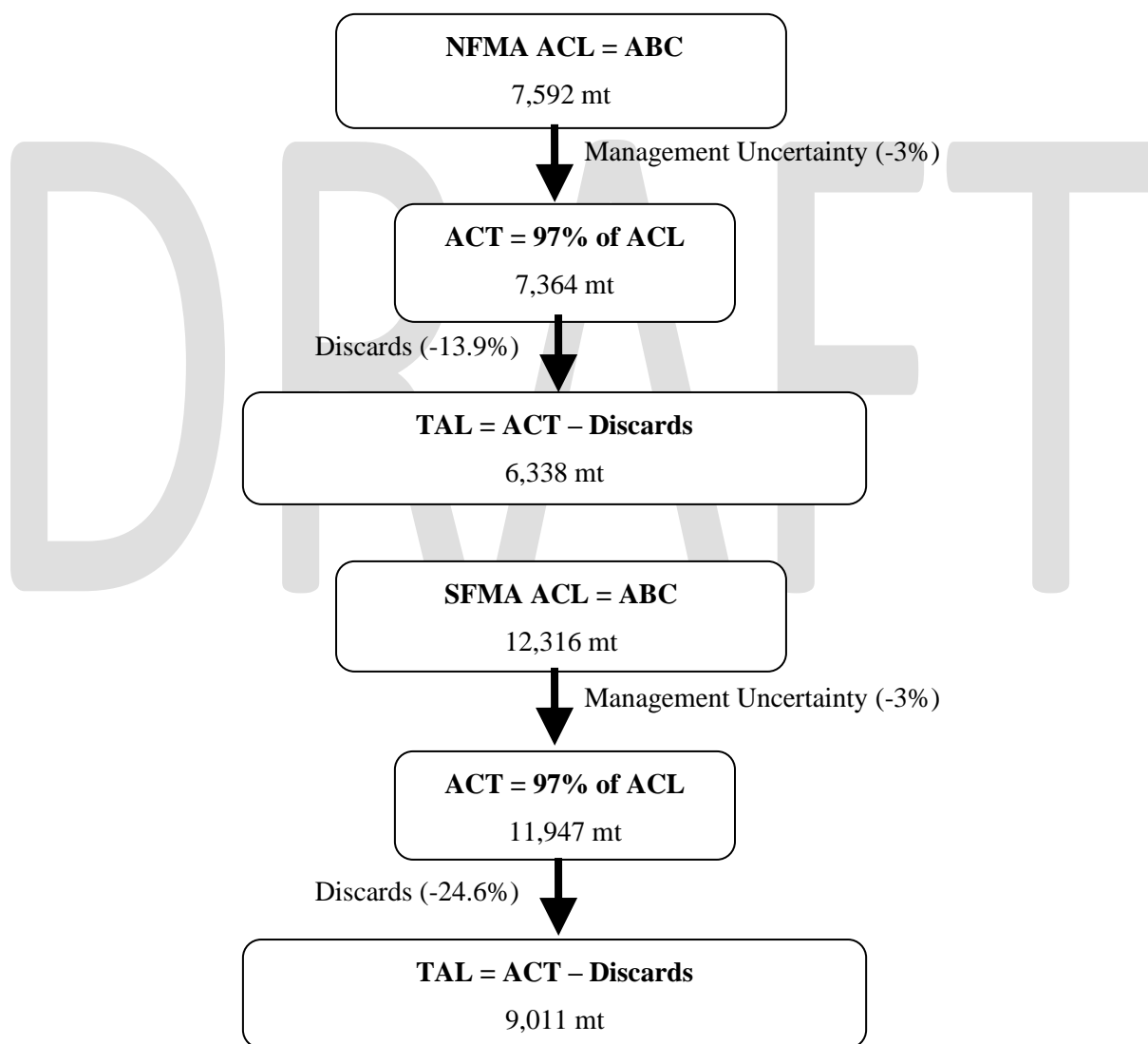
- Commercial fishery statistics for monkfish were updated for 2015-2018 in the assessment. In the north, landings and catch have fluctuated around a steady level since 2009 but increased after 2015. In the south, landings and catch had been declining since around 2000, but catch increased after 2015 due to discarding of a strong 2015 year class.
- Strong recruitment in 2015 fueled an increase in stock biomass in 2016-2018, though abundance has since declined as recruitment returned to average levels. Biomass increases were greater in the northern area than in the southern area, and biomass has declined somewhat in the south.
- **Northern Area:** Landings in the north in 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively totaled 5,447 mt, 6,807 mt, and 6,168 mt, achieving 93%, 107%, and 97% of the TAL respectively.
- **Southern Area:** Landings in the south in 2016, 2017, and 2018 respectively totaled 4,345 mt, 3,802 mt, and 4,600 mt, achieving 49%, 42%, and 51% of the TAL respectively.

1.0 ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION

1.1 ACTION 1 - SPECIFICATIONS

1.1.1 Alternative 1 - No Action

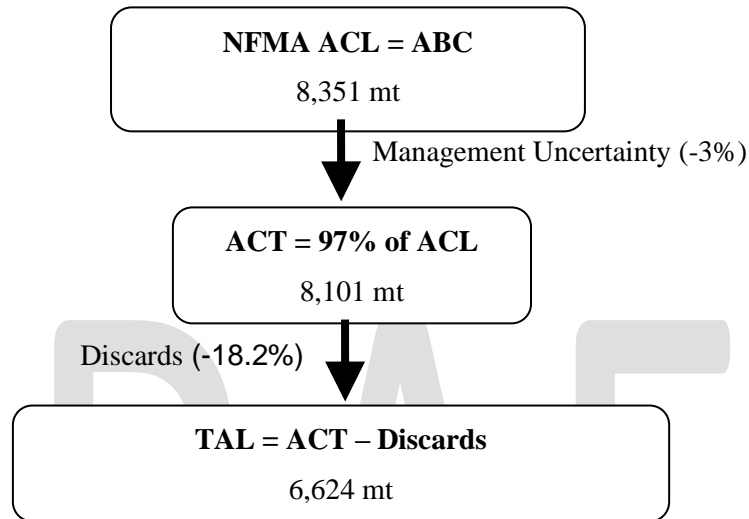
Under Alternative 1 (No Action), this option would maintain the specifications (ABC, ACT, and TAL) for both the NFMA and SFMA as set in Framework 10 (NEFMC, 2017). This option would not take into account the updated discard rate information from the 2019 operational assessment. The OFL would be maintained as 17,805 mt and 23,204 mt for the NFMA and SFMA, respectively, and the ABC, ACT and TAL calculated as in FW12:



Rationale: The 2019 operational assessment provided a plan for setting catch advice. The status quo TAL would continue to use the 2007 Data Poor Working Group Assessment discard estimates that do not include updates in data and estimation methodology. The discard rate is calculated as the ratio of discards to catch, and under status quo, the years used to calculate the discard rate would be 2004-2006.

1.1.2 Alternative 2 - Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Northern Fishery Management Area

Under Alternative 2, this option would incorporate the results of the 2019 operational assessment. This would increase the ABC by 10% and incorporate the updated discard rate based on the 2019 operational assessment.

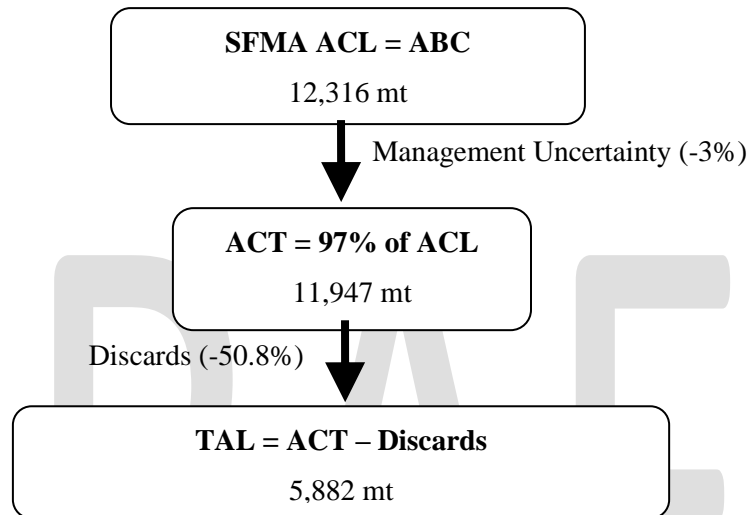


Rationale: The discard rate is calculated from the ratio between the same 3 years of discards and catch. Under Alternative 2, the years used to calculate the discard rate were 2016-2018.

(See next page for Southern Fishery Management Area.)

1.1.3 Alternative 3 - Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Southern Fishery Management Area

Under Alternative 3, this option would maintain the specifications (ACL and ACT) for the SFMA as set in Framework 8 (NEFMC, 2014) but would update the discard rate based on the 2019 operational assessment.



Rationale: The discard rate is calculated from the ratio between the same 3 years of discards and catch. Under Alternative 2, the years used to calculate the discard rate were 2016-2018.

DRAFT

DECISION DOCUMENT

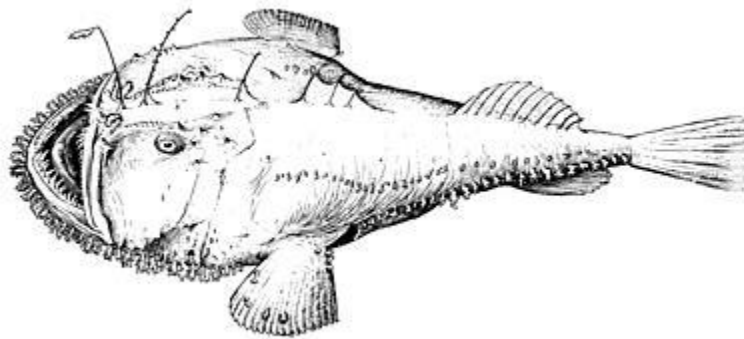
for

Specifications for FYs 2020-2022

to the

Monkfish

Fishery Management Plan (FMP)



NEFMC Council Meeting

September 24, 2019

The following decision table summarizes the discussion on monkfish specifications for FYs 2020-2022.

Section 1.1 – Specifications

Monkfish Committee Motions:

- The Committee recommended modifying alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 only and select as preferred
- The Committee recommended alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications) for FY 2020 only for the NFMA as preferred
- The Committee agreed by consensus to endorse the PDT recommendation to maintain status quo effort controls in both management areas.

Alternatives/Options Under Consideration	Description Three Alternatives
Alternative 1	No Action
Alternative 2	Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA)
Alternative 3	Revised Specifications and Updated Discard Rate for the Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA)
Decisions/Questions to Consider	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should specifications be set for 3 years (original priority) or 1 year (AP/CTE recommendation)? • What additional data related to discards could be expected in 2020? • Will the southern monkfish fishery be constrained by the lower TAL in Alternative 3? 	
Monkfish Committee Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended setting 1 year (FY2020) of specifications for both NFMA and SFMA. An initial motion to set specifications in the NFMA for 3 fishing years was reconsidered in order to be consistent with the 1 year specifications recommended in the SFMA. • The Committee recommended a subsequent specifications action be added to the 2020 priority list which would also discuss the monkfish discard calculation methodology. 	
Monkfish AP Comments/Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AP recommended that the Committee to select as preferred alternative 1 (No Action specifications) for FYs2020-2022 for the SFMA only. • The AP requested the Committee add to the list of 2020 priorities an additional management action (to set specifications and associated measures) that would revisit the discard estimates (effort and discard mortality research) for the NFMA and SFMA. • The AP recommended that the Committee select as preferred alternative 2 (revised specifications) for FYs2020-2022 for the NFMA 	
Other Important Considerations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next monkfish assessment is not expected until 2022, based on the current assessment schedule. 	



#5

New England Fishery Management Council

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Dr. John F. Quinn, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

To: Tom Nies, Executive Director

From: Scientific and Statistical Committee

Date: September 18, 2019

Subject: Terms of Reference – Specify overfishing levels (OFLs) and develop allowable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for monkfish for fishing years for 2020-2022.

The SSC met on August 21, 2019 in Providence, Rhode Island, to address the following terms of reference (TORs):

- 1) Review information from the June 2019 operational assessment for monkfish and provided by the Monkfish Plan Development Team (PDT).
- 2) Specify OFLs and develop Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) recommendations for both the Northern and Southern Management Areas for fishing years 2020-2022. ABC recommendations should be provided under the current control rule and/or under any new control rule that the SSC might recommend.

To address these TORs, the SSC considered the following information:

B.0 - Terms of Reference – Specify overfishing levels (OFLs) and develop allowable biological catch (ABC) recommendations for monkfish for fishing years for 2020-2022

B.1 - August 16, 2019 memo from Monkfish Plan Development Team to SSC – Monkfish ABCs for FY 2020 - 2022

B.2 - An Excerpt from the “Operational Assessment of the Black Sea Bass, Scup, Bluefish, and Monkfish Stocks, Updated Through 2018”

B.3 - Risk Policy Matrix for Monkfish

TOR

The SSC reviewed the PDT memo as well as the monkfish section in the 2019 operational assessment document, thereby addressing TOR 1. The SSC continues to support the use of the index-based assessment as the source of catch advice for monkfish in both the Southern and Northern Management Areas. The index-based approach precludes formal estimation of reference points and stock status for monkfish in both Management Areas.

The SSC considered the alternatives provided by the PDT for fishing years (FY) 2020-2022 and **recommends the following ABCs: 8,351 metric tons (MT) for the Northern Management Area and 12,316 MT for the Southern Management Area.** Given the absence of analytical assessments for monkfish, the SSC concluded that **OFLs cannot be determined for either the Northern or Southern Fishery Management Areas. Therefore, the current ABC control rule could not be**

used as a basis for ABC recommendations and a different approach was used (see below). This represents the best scientific advice from the SSC and addresses the second TOR.

RATIONALE INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT SOURCES OF UNCERTAINTY

As indicated above, the SSC was unable derive OFLs for the monkfish populations in either Management Area. The PDT recommended an increase of 10% in the ABC for the Northern Management Area ABC. The SSC concurred with this recommendation and agreed that a more conservative ABC is appropriate than the 20% increase emanating from the Plan B assessment. The 10% ABC increase was deemed appropriate given the uncertainty associated with the contribution of the 2015 year class to stock biomass over the next 3 fishing years. Also, the 2019 NEFSC spring and autumn trawl survey relative abundance indices for monkfish in the Northern Management area show a decline.

For monkfish in the Southern Management Area, the SSC concurred with the PDT recommendation of a status quo ABC given the flat trend in recent NEFSC survey abundance indices. As noted by the PDT, the status quo ABC specifications for the Southern Management Area have not resulted in catch limits being exceeded since their implementation. Given no evidence of any negative impacts on monkfish in the southern area from the recent management specifications, the SSC recommends that the current ABC in the Southern Management Area continue during the next three fishing years.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The SSC discussed future needs and technical recommendations for the monkfish populations in the two management areas. The SSC recommends gaining improved age and growth information for conducting analytical assessments in the future. If such assessments are able to be performed with the new data, formal estimation of stock status criteria and reference points will be possible.

The SSC also recommends investigating the 2015 recruitment event and its effect on discards and biomass trends. If the high discard rates in the current fishery are primarily due to the 2015 cohort, it is important to understand if discarding will decline as this year class becomes fully recruited to the fishery.

The SSC encourages investigating various alternative approaches for assessing monkfish as recommended by the peer review panel including surplus production models that incorporate process error and other data limited approaches (such as those available in the DLM toolkit and ICES assessment tools).

The SSC discussed examining NEFSC survey abundances for monkfish during the 2020-2022 period to evaluate whether adjustments to the specifications might be needed to account for unanticipated changes in the abundance of monkfish in either of the two Management Areas. The SSC recommended that a “rumble strip” approach be developed (such as the approach used for scup) to ensure that the monkfish ABCs during the specification period are concordant with current stock abundance. The rumble-strip approach could examine various data such as survey abundance, size compositions, and fishery catch and length-frequencies to evaluate whether any unforeseen adverse changes had occurred in the monkfish populations in either of the two Management Areas. If so, a management action might be needed to be address this situation.

Summary of recommendations

- 1. The SSC could not determine OFLs for monkfish in the Northern and Southern Management Areas as analytical assessments are not available from which to estimate stock status criteria and biological reference points.**
- 2. For FY 2020-2022, the SSC recommends an ABC of 8,351 MT for monkfish in the Northern Management Area, and an ABC of 12,316 MT for monkfish in the Southern Management Area.**
- 3. The SSC recommends a research track assessment be pursued for monkfish to develop analytical assessments once the current age and growth research initiatives are completed. In the interim, various data-limited assessment approaches should be investigated.**



New England Fishery Management Council

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 E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2019
TO: Scientific and Statistical Committee
FROM: Monkfish Plan Development Team
SUBJECT: **Monkfish specifications for FY 2020 - 2022**

This memorandum forwards the Monkfish PDT recommendation for ABCs for the Monkfish Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA) and Southern Fishery Management Area (SFMA) for FY 2020 - FY 2022 (Table 1). The operational assessment did not update the SCALE model that had been used since 2007 to assess the monkfish stocks after its use was invalidated by age validation research in 2016. Instead, the stock was assessed using the Plan B methodology that was used in the 2016 operational assessment.

The Plan B assessment methodology calculates the proportional rate of change in smoothed survey indices (average of fall and spring NEFSC surveys) over the most recent 3 years and applies the rate of change to derive guidance on future catch limits.

Operational Assessment

Landings in the Northern area peaked in the early 2000s (Figure 3). Recent management actions that removed the possession limit in the NFMA when fishing on both a Multispecies and Monkfish DAS may have contributed to a recent increase in landings. Landings in the SFMA have remained relative stable in recent years. Large increases in discards were observed in both management areas, especially in the SFMA (Figure 4). This is likely attributable in part to the large 2015 year class. The length frequencies of discards by gear type in both areas highlight the differences in how the fisheries are operated; the Southern fishery is dominated by gillnet gear, while the Northern fishery primarily harvests monkfish using trawls (Figure 5 and Figure 6). The survey trend methodology for adjusting catch advice calculates the proportional rate of change in smoothed survey indices (average of fall and spring NEFSC surveys) over the most recent 3 years and uses the rate of change to revise catch limits. The adjustment factors based on the average of the two surveys were approximately 120% in the Northern area and 100% in the Southern area.

Specifications

The PDT recommends an increase of 10% in the NFMA ABC. This is more conservative than the adjustment factor coming from the Plan B assessment (120%) because of uncertainty about how long the 2015 year class will continue to influence biomass in the next 3 fishing years, the overall trend in the survey indices, and the recent performance of the fishery, which has only been achieving the TAL since FY2016 (Table 3). The PDT recommends a status quo ABC in the SFMA because the adjustment factor

coming from the assessment (100%) supported no change in the ABC. Landings in the SFMA have been below the TAL in recent years. Status quo specifications in the SFMA have not resulted in the catch limits being exceeded since their implementation, suggesting low, if any, negative impacts on the stock (Table 4). Specifications were last set in 2016 for monkfish, considering the level of uncertainty the SSC recommended not updating the NFMA and SFMA ABCs at that time and the 2013 ABCs were maintained.

Overfishing Limit

The overfishing limit (OFL) is defined as the product of the fishing mortality threshold (F_{\max}) and the current estimate of exploitable biomass. Since the age-based analyses were not updated in the 2019 operational assessment, the fishing mortality threshold was not recalculated. After the 2013 operational assessment, the OFL was revised in Framework 8, however, the ABCs were not revised at that time. The OFLs for the Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas were 17,805 mt and 23,204 mt, respectively.

Acceptable Biological Catch

The method used to derive Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) for monkfish reflects the high degree of uncertainty in the assessment results using the SCALE model. The method applied in the past is described in Amendment 5:

The SSC observed in its June 23, [2010, following SARC 50] report to the Council that “considerable uncertainties in the assessment model preclude its use to determine probability of exceeding the projected Overfishing Level of catch.” Therefore, the SSC recommended the method of determining ABC should be considered an interim proxy until Overfishing Level of catch and its uncertainty can be projected.

The SSC recommended [in March 2009, during the development of Amendment 5, and subsequently adopted by the Councils] that the interim ABC should be derived (ABC control rule) as:

the product of the average exploitation rate during the recent period of stable or increasing trend in biomass for each management unit and the most recent estimate of exploitable biomass.

Revised specifications in the NFMA and status quo ABC in the SFMA would result in ABCs of 8,351 mt and 12,316 mt for the Northern and Southern Fishery Management Areas, respectively (Figure 1 and Figure 2). These were derived from applying the proportional rate of change based on the Plan B assessment to the status quo ABCs from FW10 (7,592 mt in the NFMA, 12,316 mt in the SFMA).

Discards are calculated from the assessment data using the most recent three year moving average of the ratio of discards to total catch for both management areas; in 2016 this was 13.9% in the NFMA and 14.6% in the SFMA. The 2019 operational assessment estimates discards as 18.2% in the NFMA and 50.8% in the SFMA. The large increase in the SFMA discards is likely because of the large 2015 year class and the data show there has been an increase in discards from dredge gear (Figure 4). The current methodology results in calculated discards in the SFMA that are higher than the 2017 discards of 5,250 mt (the highest in the time series; Table 9 in assessment report). The PDT exchanged ideas about

alternative discard approaches via email after the call but no alternative approaches appear more appropriate than the current one at this time. As the 2015 year class matures it's possible we'll see lower discards in the near future, and the PDT may investigate alternative discard prediction approaches in future specifications actions. Given recent landings and market conditions, it appears unlikely that the new lower SFMA TAL will be exceeded under current management measures.

Figure 1 - Revised specifications for the Northern Fishery Management Area

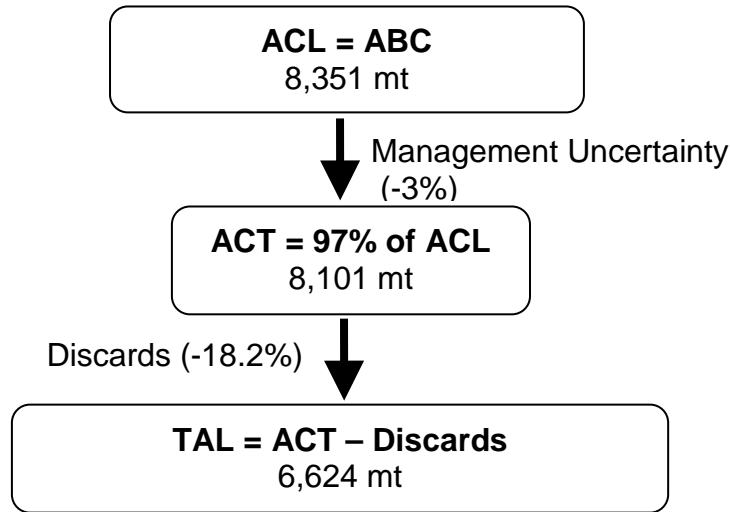


Figure 2 - Revised specifications for the Southern Fishery Management Area

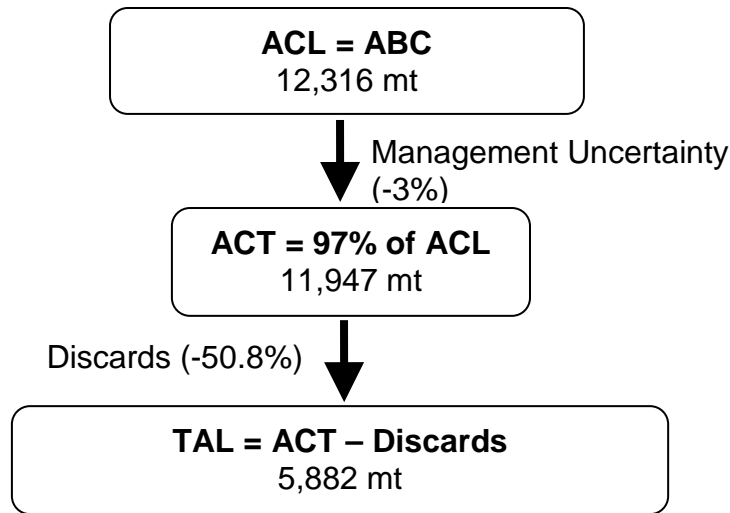


Table 1- Comparison of status quo and alternative specifications for the Northern Fishery Management Area

	ABC	ACT	TAL	Estimated Discards	% Difference in TAL from status quo
Status quo	7,592	7,364	6,338	1,026	0%
Plan B adjustment factor (20%)	9,110	8,837	7,226	1,610	13%
PDT recommended adjustment factor (10%)	8,351	8,101	6,624	1,477	4.4%

Table 2 - Comparison of status quo and alternative specifications for the Southern Fishery Management Area

	ABC	ACT	TAL	Estimated Discards	% Difference in TAL from status quo
Status quo	12,316	11,947	9,011	2,936	0%
PDT recommendation (pending discard discussion)	12,316	11,947	5,882	6,064	-42%

Table 3 – Recent landings in the NFMA compared to target TAL (data from [GARFO quota monitoring site](#))

NMFA			
Fishing Year	Landings (mt)	TAL (mt)	Percent of TAL achieved
2014	3,403	5,854	58
2015	4,080	5,854	70
2016	5,447	5,854	93
2017	6,807	6,338	107
2018	6,168	6,338	97

Table 4 – Recent landings in the SFMA compared to target TAL (data from [GARFO quota monitoring site](#))

SMFA			
Fishing Year	Landings (mt)	TAL (mt)	Percent of TAL achieved
2014	5,415	8,925	61
2015	4,733	8,825	53
2016	4,345	8,925	49
2017	3,802	9,011	42
2018	4,600	9,011	51

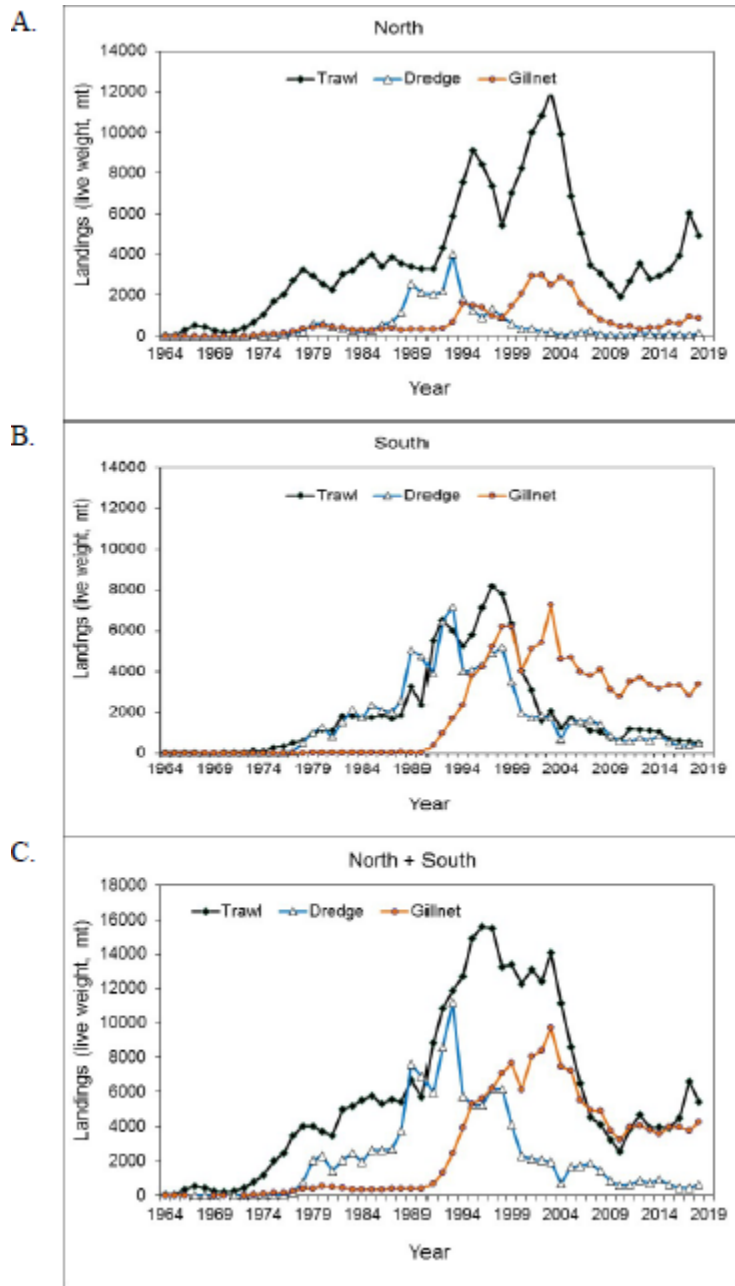


Figure 3 - Commercial landings of monkfish by gear type and management area, 1964-2018. A. Northern management area, B. Southern management area, C. Management areas combined. Figure taken from draft 2019 assessment report.

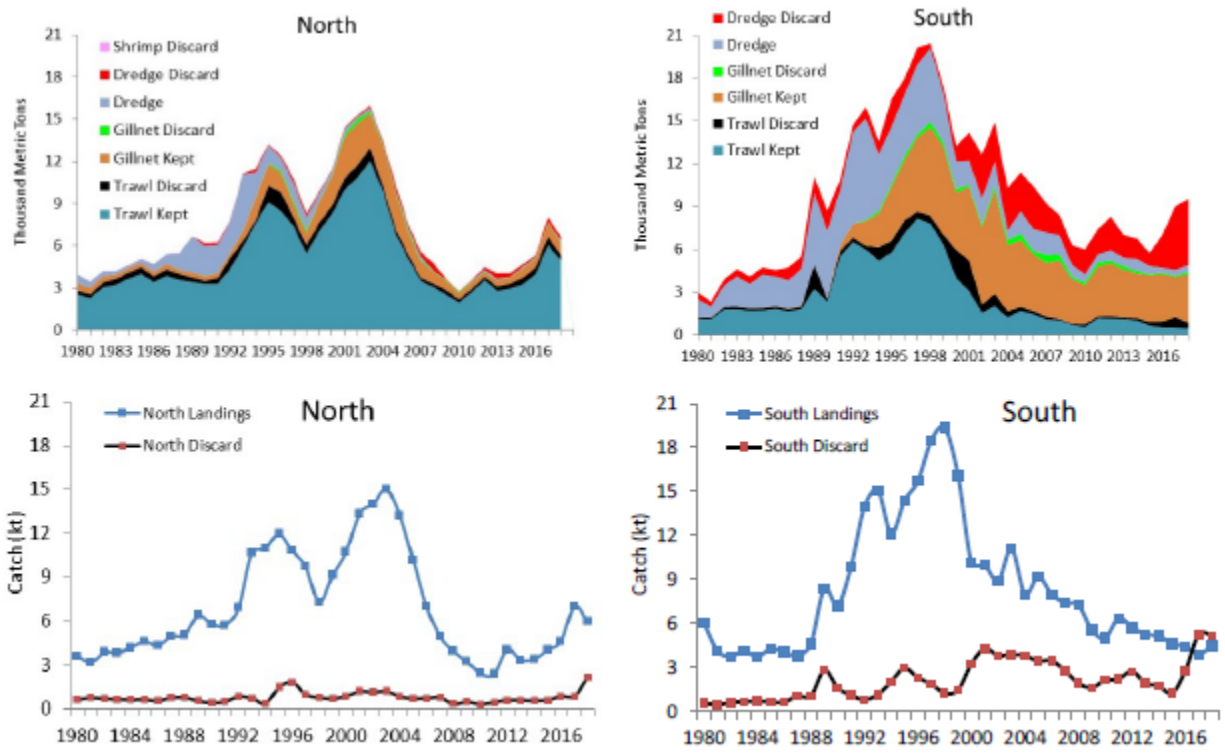


Figure 4 - Monkfish landings and discard by gear type (top panels) and total (bottom panels) for Northern (left) and Southern (right) Fishery Management Areas. Figure taken from draft 2019 assessment report.

Market Length Frequency

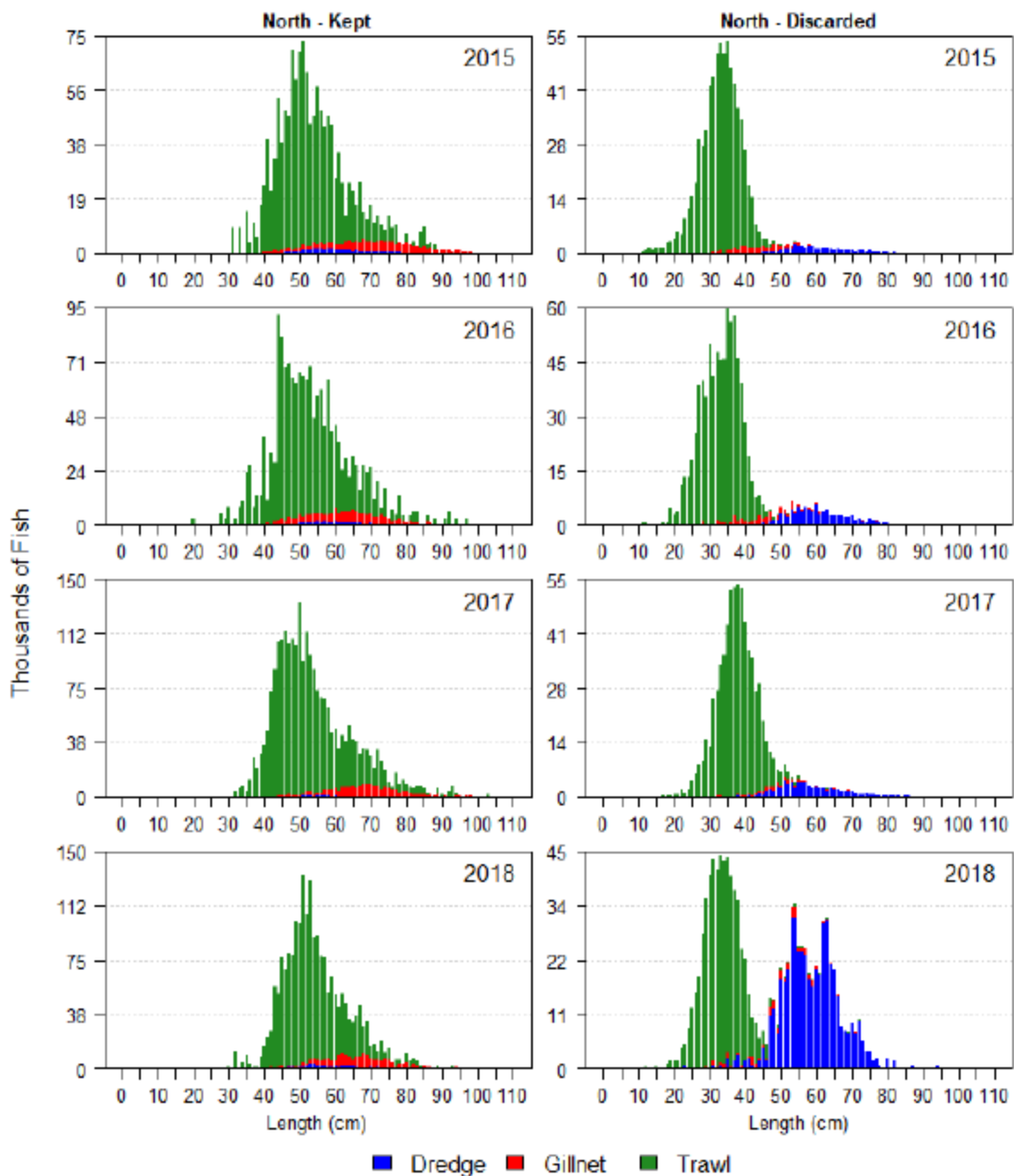


Figure 5 - Estimated length composition of kept and discarded monkfish by gear type in the Northern Fishery Management Area. Figure taken from draft 2019 assessment report.

Market Length Frequency

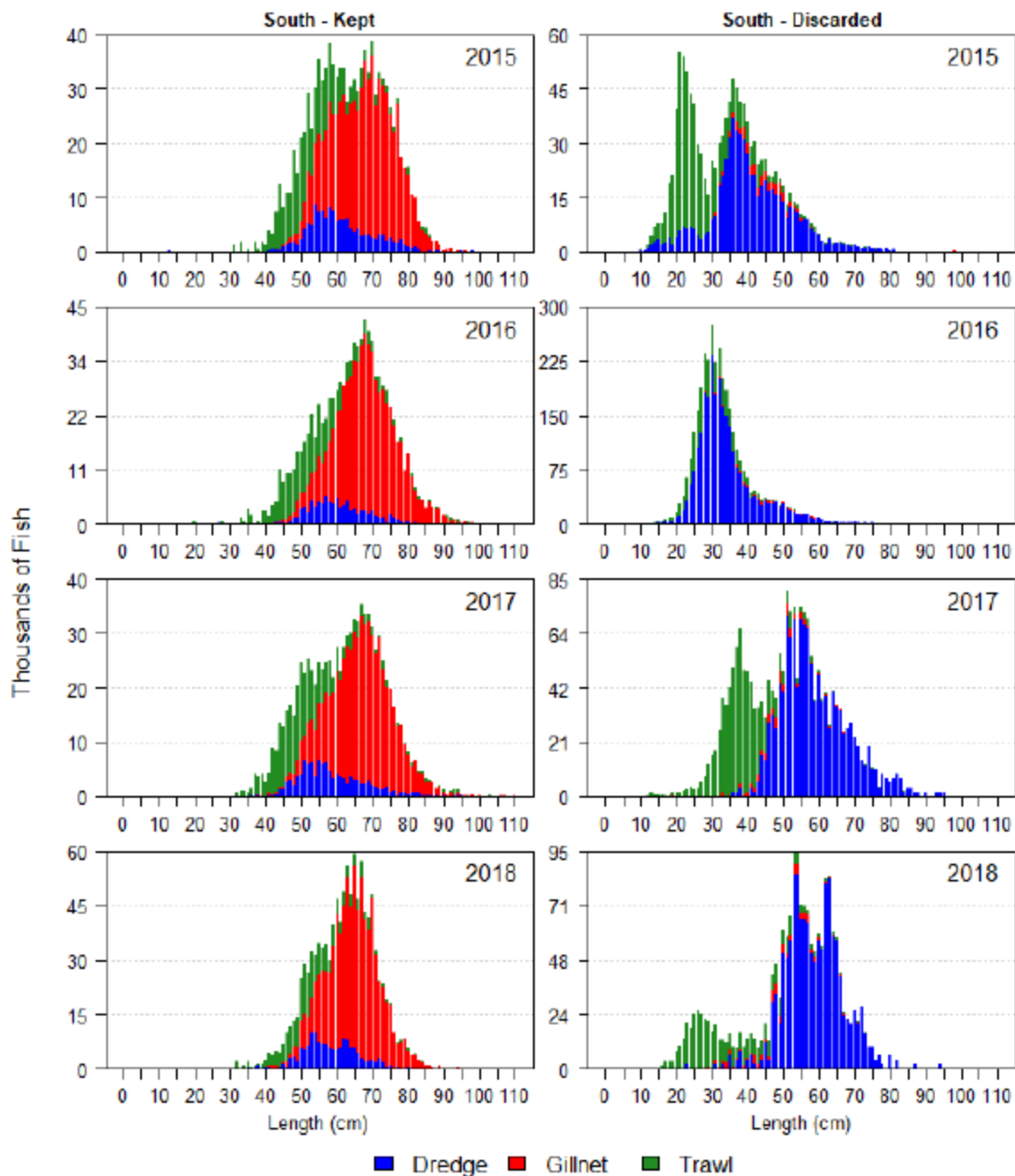


Figure 6 - Estimated length composition of kept and discarded monkfish by gear type in the Southern Fishery Management Area. Figure taken from draft 2019 assessment report.

North
Biomass

W.F. D. MONK (11/25/2019)

Abundance

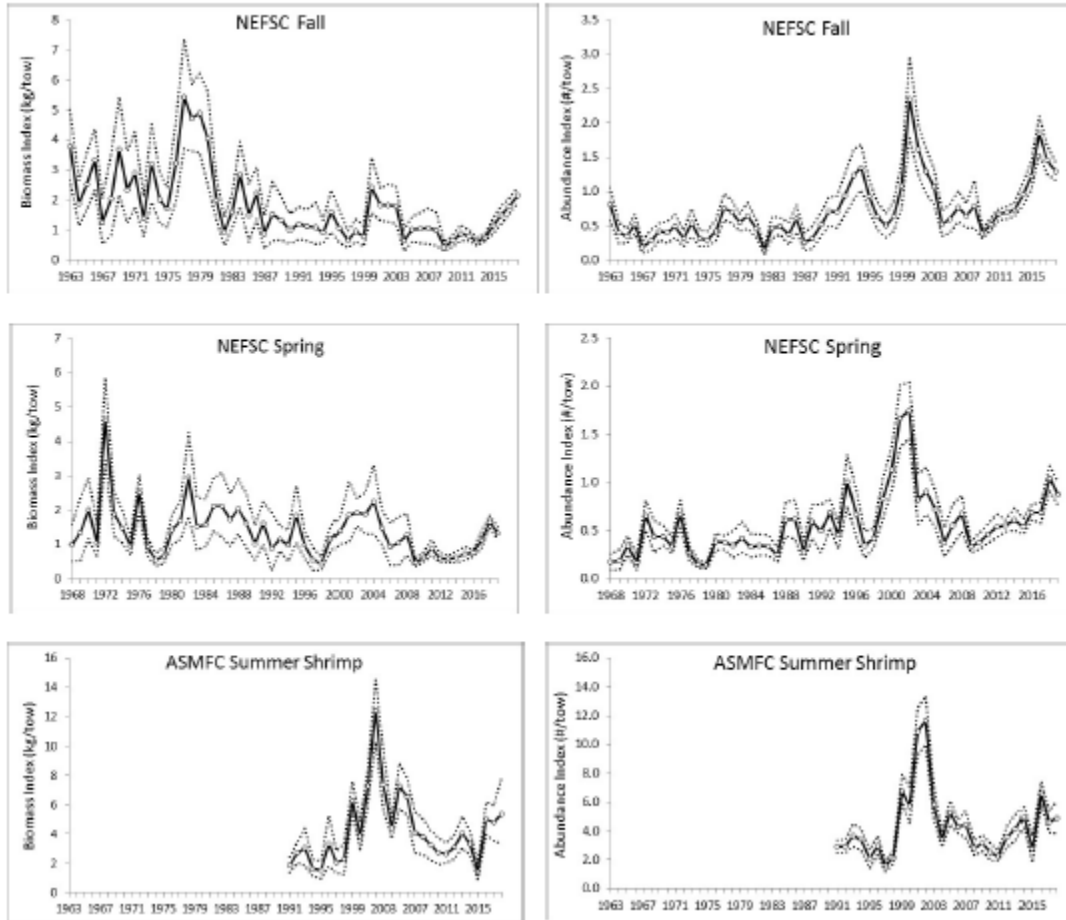


Figure 7 – Survey indices for monkfish in the Northern fishery management area. Points after 2008 in spring and fall surveys are from surveys conducted on the FSV Bigelow, converted to Albatross units. Figure taken from draft 2019 assessment report.

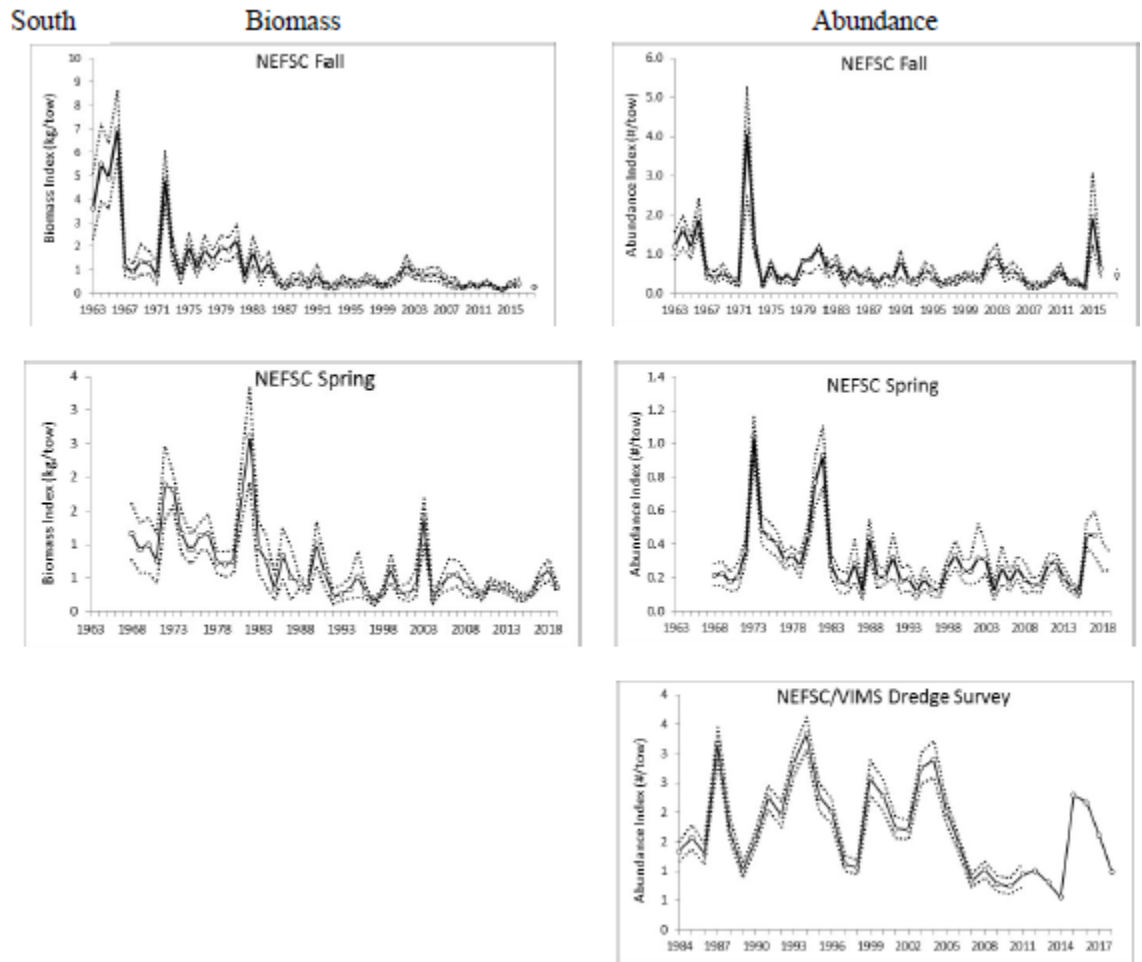


Figure 8 - Survey indices for monkfish in the Southern management area. Points after 2008 for NEFSC trawl surveys were conducted on the FSV Bigelow, converted to Albatross units. Scallop dredge survey indices after 2011 were calculated from combined data from surveys conducted by NEFSC and Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Figure taken from draft 2019 assessment report.

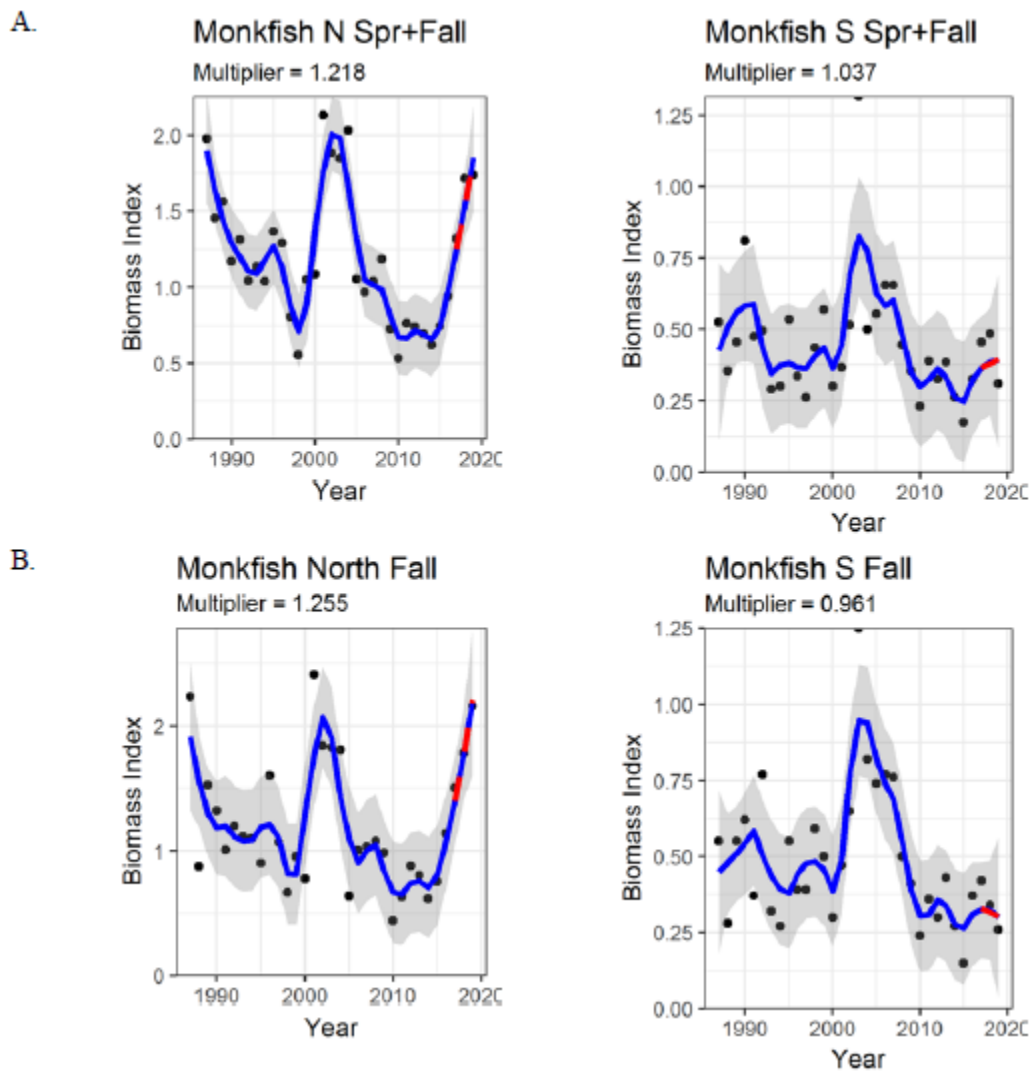


Figure 9 – Results of “Plan B” analysis. Points are observed biomass indices, lines are loess-smoothed indices, “multiplier” is slope of log-linear regression through terminal three smoothed points. A. Results using both spring and fall indices, B. Results using fall survey indices only. Figure taken from 2019 draft assessment report.

New England Fishery Management Council

Monkfish Advisory Panel motions

Revere, MA

September 18, 2019

Meeting Motions

Specifications for FYs 2020-2022

Motion 1: Rainone/Muto

recommend to the Committee to select as preferred alternative 1 (No Action specifications) for FYs2020-2022 for the SFMA only

Motion 1 *carried* 7/0/0

Motion 2: Muto/McCann

recommend to the Committee to select as preferred alternative 2 (revised specifications) for FYs2020-2022 for the NFMA

Motion 2 *carried* 7/0/0

Consensus statement – The AP agreed to status quo effort controls in both the NFMA and SFMA for FYs 2020-2022.

Priorities

Motion 3: Hansen/Rainone

to request the Committee add to the list of 2020 priorities an additional management action (to set specifications and associated measures) that would revisit the discard estimates (effort and discard mortality research) for the NFMA and SFMA

Motion 3 *carried* 7/0/0

The AP also recommended adding management actions to address latent effort in the fishery and the re-declaration from a monkfish DAS to a monkfish RSA DAS while at sea to the 2020 priority list.

New England Fishery Management Council

Monkfish Committee motions

Revere, MA

September 18, 2019

Meeting Motions

Specifications for FYs 2020-2022

Motion 1: Pappalardo/Heins

To support recommendation of alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications) for FYs 2020-2022 for the NFMA as preferred

Motion 1 *carried* 10/0/0

Motion 2: O'Keefe/Pappalardo

To support alternative 3 for the revised SFMA monkfish specifications for FYs 2020-2022

Motion to amend 2a: Reid/Heins

modify alternative 3 to revise SFMA monkfish specifications for FY2020 only and select as preferred

Motion to amend 2a *carried* 5/4/1

Main motion as amended *carried* 9/0/1

Motion 3: Reid/Heins

Motion to revisit Motion 1.

Motion to amend 3a: Reid Heins

Support recommendation of alternative 2 (revised monkfish specifications) for FY 2020 only for the NFMA as preferred

Main motion as amended *carried* 9/0/1

Consensus statement – The Committee endorsed the PDT recommendations that no changes in effort controls are needed in either management area.

Priorities

Motion 4: Pappalardo/Reid

Recommend to the Council for Monkfish priorities for 2020:

- Initiate a monkfish specifications action for FYs2021-2022 including discussion of monkfish discard calculation methodology
- Revisit and consider previous discussions of using the RSA DAS and the ability to flip to a directed day to a RSA DAS while at sea
- Consider latency in the fishery

Motion 4 *carried* 9/0/1