

THEFT RATES OF MODEL YEAR 1995 PASSENGER MOTOR VEHICLES STOLEN IN CALENDAR YEAR 1995—
Continued

	Manufacturer	Make/model (line)	Thefts 1995	Production (MFGR'S) 1995	1995 (per 1,000 vehicles produced) theft rate
203	ROLLS-ROYCE	CORNICHE/CONTINENTAL	0	105	0.0000
204	ROLLS-ROYCE	SIL SPIRIT/SPUR/MULS	0	132	0.0000
205	ROLLS-ROYCE	TURBO R	0	19	0.0000
206	VOLKSWAGEN	EUROVAN	0	1,814	0.0000
207	VOLVO	LIMOUSINE	0	6	0.0000

Issued on: February 18, 1997.

L. Robert Shelton,
Associate Administrator for Safety
Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[I.D. 021097C]

New England Fishery Management Council; Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; Public hearings

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce

ACTION: Public hearings; request for
comments.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery
Management Council and the Mid-
Atlantic Fishery Management Council
(Councils) will hold public hearings to
receive comments on Amendment 9 to
the Northeast Multispecies Fishery
Management Plan (FMP). The Councils
have determined a need for better
management of the monkfish resource to
stem the long-term decline in stock
biomass, average size, and the
proportion of mature fish. Management
measures to reduce the catch of small
monkfish will help resolve the problem,
but additional reductions in landings
and mortality are needed to stop
overfishing. The Councils propose to
reduce fishing effort in no more than 7
years through reductions in total
allowable landings (TAL). The TAL
reductions would be achieved through a
combination of days-at-sea (DAS) limits,
quotas, trip limits, limited access, size
limits, and minimum mesh limits.

DATES: Written comments on
Amendment 9 will be accepted through
March 14, 1997. Testimony may be

presented at the public hearings, which
are scheduled to be held from February
24 to March 10, 1997. See
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for specific
dates and times.

ADDRESSES: Direct written comments or
requests for copies of the public hearing
document, draft Amendment 9
document, or the draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement to Paul
J. Howard, Executive Director, New
England Fishery Management Council, 5
Broadway, Saugus, MA 01906;
telephone 617/231-0422, or David
Keifer, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic
Fishery Management, 300 South New
Street, Suite 2115, Dover, DE 19901;
telephone 302/674-2331.

The hearings will be held in Maine,
New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode
Island, New York, New Jersey,
Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.
See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for
locations of the hearings and special
accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul
J. Howard, 617-231-0422.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recent U.S. landings of monkfish
have increased dramatically in response
to an increase in the market value of the
species in combination with the decline
in abundance of traditional groundfish
species. Most monkfish are taken as
bycatch in the Northwest Atlantic
groundfish and scallop fisheries,
although directed effort is increasing.
Directed effort is occurring in both
deepwater (100-150 fathoms) by otter
trawls and in shoal waters by gillnets
and scallop dredges. Interest in fishing
for monkfish has been fueled by the
valuable liver market and increasing
market acceptance of small monkfish
tails. This trend is expected to continue,
especially as fishermen seek alternatives
to the traditional scallop and groundfish
fisheries, which are now strictly
regulated.

Management Measures by Area

Amendment 9 to the FMP would
bring monkfish under Federal
management authority throughout the
Northeast region (Virginia to Maine).
The Councils are proposing two
management areas for monkfish, a
northern fishery management area
(NFMA) and a southern fishery
management area (SFMA). The reason
for the separation is partly based on the
biological characteristics of the resource
and partly based on the differences in
fisheries in the Gulf of Maine versus
areas to the south.

TAL targets have been established for
the two fishery management areas and
are consistent with the monkfish
overfishing definition and the
rebuilding strategy adopted by the
Councils. Different management
measures would apply to vessels fishing
in these two management areas.

Limited Access Program

A limited access program for vessels
that target and land large volumes of
monkfish would be based on historic
participation from February 28, 1991, to
February 27, 1995 (the monkfish control
date). Vessels must comply with the
control date guidelines to be eligible for
qualification. These limited access
vessels could target monkfish under a
seasonal quota or under a limited
number of DAS, depending on the
management measures in the final
amendment.

Monkfish Selectivity

Limited access vessels would be
required to use at least 10-inch (25.4-
cm) square or 12-inch (30.5-cm)
diamond mesh to target monkfish. This
requirement is necessary to reduce the
groundfish bycatch below the 5 percent
threshold for a certified fishery as
specified by Amendment 7 to the
Multispecies FMP.

Amendment 9, which takes into
account the effect of large mesh on
bycatch, may open the monkfish limited
access fishery in some areas. Other areas

may remain closed due to the prevalence of groundfish. This action would also supersede the previous framework adjustments for certain monkfish fisheries (the adjustment allowing vessels to use 8-inch (20.3-cm) mesh to target monkfish south of 40°10' N. latitude). The Councils, therefore, anticipate that the limited access monkfish fishery could operate with 10-inch (25.4-cm) square and 12-inch (30.5-cm) diamond mesh in many areas, but other monkfish fisheries would require certification by the Regional Administrator according to the regulations established by Amendment 7.

Monkfish mesh selectivity with these large mesh nets is unknown. The body shape of monkfish, however, prevents even large changes in minimum mesh size from substantially improving monkfish selectivity. The proposed management alternatives, therefore, rely more on ceilings for total landings, trip limits and size limits to reduce fishing mortality.

Summary of Management Measures

The Councils prefer alternative 3 because it would not allow multispecies vessels to target monkfish, except under the multispecies DAS program. It also relies less on trip limits to control monkfish bycatch. Alternatives 1 and 4 are non-preferred. Both would meet the biological objectives but they would require lower trip limits to allocate more monkfish for the limited access fishery. This approach could cause increased discarding of monkfish, which would be unavoidable when vessels are fishing for other species.

The Councils considered but rejected Alternative 2 and a no action alternative. Alternative 2 would meet the management objectives for monkfish and allow some targeting of monkfish by vessels in the groundfish and scallop fisheries. It would not, however, prevent intensified fishing effort on monkfish. The no-action alternative would not prevent overfishing, would not meet the management objectives for monkfish, nor would it prevent increased fishing effort.

Management Measures Common to All Alternatives

1. TAL for the NFMA of 3,000 mt beginning on July 1, 1997. Future TALs reflect reductions in expected bycatch, while the limited access TAL allocations would remain constant.

2. TAL for the SFMA of 6,000 mt beginning on July 1, 1997. Future TALs reflect reductions in expected bycatch, while the limited access TAL allocations would remain constant.

3. A limited access program to control the number of vessels targeting monkfish with seasonal monkfish quotas or limits on the number of DAS for each qualifying vessel.

4. Minimum size limits—14 inches (35.6 cm) tail length, or 21 inches (53.3 cm) total length.

5. Landings of monkfish livers—25 percent of the total weight of tails, or 10 percent of the total weight of whole fish.

6. Dealer and vessel permitting requirements.

7. Mandatory reporting of landings and effort for each fishing trip.

8. A framework adjustment procedure to modify area closures, minimum size limits, minimum mesh sizes, liver ratios, bycatch trip limits, and other measures that regulate the limited access fisheries.

Management Alternatives

The three alternatives differ in how bycatch is defined and how directed fishing effort is regulated. The draft Amendment 9 document describes these alternatives in more detail.

Alternative 1 - Non-preferred

a. Trip limits and effort reductions, now in place, to manage the bycatch fisheries. The trip limits are specified by gear type, area, and permit category.

b. Seasonal quotas for limited access vessels.

Alternative 3 - Preferred

a. Unlike the other alternatives, monkfish would become a regulated multispecies and could be targeted by vessels with fleet or individual DAS. Monkfish would be a regulated species of concern, classified like cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder.

b. Vessels without multispecies permits may qualify for fleet or individual monkfish-only DAS allocations, based on their history targeting and landing monkfish.

c. TALs are targets to be achieved through future adjustments to the management measures via the framework adjustment procedure.

d. Scallopers could land 5,000 lb (2.27 mt) (tail weight) per trip, or 400 lb (0.18 mt) (tail weight) per DAS, whichever is less.

Alternative 4 - Non-preferred

a. Qualifying vessels would be allocated fleet DAS to target monkfish. Multispecies vessels would be unable to target monkfish, unless they qualify based on their history of landing monkfish.

b. Annual DAS amounts would be determined from the monkfish allocation for the limited access fishery.

c. Trip limits for groundfish and scallop fisheries of 175 to 200 lb (0.08 to 0.09 mt) tail weight per DAS would be allowed.

Public Hearings

The dates, time, and locations of the hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Monday, February 24, 1997, 7 p.m.—Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth, NH, telephone: 603/431-6774.

2. Wednesday, February 26, 1997, 7 p.m.—Sheraton Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, telephone: 410/638-2100.

3. Thursday, February 27, 1997, 7 p.m.—Double Tree Club Hotel, 880 Military Highway, Norfolk, VA, telephone: 757/461-9192.

4. Friday, February 28, 1997, 7 p.m.—Holiday Inn, 1001 Virginia Dare Trail, Nags Head, NC, telephone: 919/441-6333.

5. Saturday, March 1, 1997, 10:30 a.m.—Samoset Resort, 220 Warrenton Street, Rockport, ME, telephone: 207/594-2511.

6. Monday, March 3, 1997, 7 p.m.—Howard Johnson Hotel, 955 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ, telephone: 908/244-1000.

7. Tuesday, March 4, 1997, 7:30 p.m.—Holiday Inn, 3845 Veterans Memorial Highway, Ronkonkoma, NY, telephone: 516/585-9500.

8. Wednesday, March 5, 1997, 7 p.m.—Holiday Inn at the Crossings, 800 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI, telephone: 401/732-6000.

9. Thursday, March 6, 1997, 7 p.m.—Tara Hyannis, West End Circle, Hyannis, MA, telephone: 508/775-7775.

10. Friday, March 7, 1997, 1 p.m.—Sadler Function Hall, Sadler Street Extension, Gloucester, MA, telephone: 508/281-8665.

11. Monday, March 10, 1997, 7 p.m.—Radisson Eastland Hotel, 157 High Street, Portland, ME, telephone: 207/775-5418.

12. Monday, March 17, 1997, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.—Seaport Inn, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA, telephone: 508/997-1281.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard (see ADDRESSES) at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 13, 1997.

Bruce Morehead,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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