

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 648**

[Docket No. 981223319-8319-01; I.D. 112598B]

RIN 0648-AJ44

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies and Monkfish Fisheries; Monkfish Fishery Management Plan; Correction

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document corrects errors contained in Table 2 of the preamble to the proposed rule to implement measures contained in the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) published Tuesday, February 16, 1999.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before March 26, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: E. Martin Jaffe, Fishery Policy Analyst, 978-281-9272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The proposed rule to implement measures contained in the Monkfish FMP was published on Tuesday, February 16, 1999 (64 FR 7601). Table 2 of the preamble to the proposed rule contains information related to monkfish permit categories, qualification criteria for permit categories, and days at sea (DAS) allocations for vessels on a monkfish DAS. Subject to certain restrictions, a vessel would qualify for a limited access monkfish permit if the vessel landed equal to or greater than 50,000 lb (22,680 kg) tail-weight or 166,000 lb (75,298 kg) whole-weight during the qualification period. However, Table 2 of the February 16 document indicated that only a vessel landing greater than

the amount indicated would qualify. Also, a vessel not qualifying for Category A or C permit that is less than 51 gross registered tons and a vessel of any size that has a multispecies DAS permit would qualify for a limited access monkfish permit if the vessel landed equal to or greater than 7,500 lb (3,402 kg) tail-weight or 24,900 lb (11,295 kg) whole weight during the qualification period. Table 2 of the February 16 document indicated that a vessel would qualify only if it landed more than the amount indicated. In addition, the formatting of the second column of Table 2 makes the second column difficult to read.

Correction

Accordingly, the publication on February 16, 1999, of the proposed rule to implement the Monkfish FMP (I.D. 112598B), which was the subject of document FR Doc. 99-3506, is corrected as follows:

On page 7604, Table 2, is republished to read as follows:

TABLE 2.—MONKFISH PERMIT CATEGORIES, QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PERMIT CATEGORIES, AND DAS ALLOCATIONS FOR VESSELS ON A MONKFISH DAS

Permit category	Qualification criteria ¹ for permit categories (landed weight expressed in pounds)	DAS allocation ²
A	Category A: Vessels which do not possess a multispecies or scallop limited access permit must have landed equal to or greater than 50,000 lb tail-weight or 166,000 lb whole weight of monkfish during the qualifying period.	Category A: 40 DAS
B	Category B: Vessels less than 51 GRT which do not possess a multispecies or scallop limited access permit and do not qualify for a Category A Permit must have landed monkfish equal to or greater than 7,500 lb tail-weight or 24,900 lb whole weight of monkfish during the qualifying period.	Category B: 40 DAS
C	Category C: Vessels which possess a multispecies or scallop limited access permit must meet landing criteria as required for Permit Category A.	Category C: Up to 40 DAS & vessel must also be on a multispecies or scallop DAS
D	Category D: Vessels which possess a multispecies limited access permit and vessels less than 51 GRT which possess a scallop limited access permit that do not qualify for a Category C Permit must meet landing criteria as required for Permit Category B.	Category D: Up to 40 DAS & vessel must also be on a multispecies or scallop DAS

¹ Vessel must have landed monkfish during qualifying period, i.e., February 28, 1991, through February 27, 1995, in the amounts indicated.

² DAS allocations indicated are for fishing years 1999, 2000, and 2001. For fishing years 2002 and thereafter, monkfish DAS would be set to zero (0), unless other action is taken by the NEFMC and MAFMC and implemented by NMFS.

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

Dated: March 12, 1999.

Roland A. Schmitten,
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

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