

In April 2002, one conservation organization submitted comments on proposed Framework 1 expressing its concerns and issues with the Monkfish FMP. In responding to comments on the Emergency Interim rule, NMFS noted that those issues would be addressed in Amendment 2 which at that time was under development. In April 2003, as the Councils were finalizing the range of alternatives that would be considered in this DSEIS, the organization re-submitted those comments and asked that they be addressed in Amendment 2. Those comments focused on three areas: improving data collection and research, especially in regards to bycatch; minimizing bycatch in the directed and incidental catch fisheries; and minimizing impacts of the monkfish fishery on designated EFH. The Councils note that these issues have been identified in the amendment goals and objectives and form the basis for many of the management alternatives under consideration in this document.

### **3.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 FMP Goals**

The Councils adopted four management goals in the original FMP. These are:

1. To end and prevent overfishing; rebuilding and maintaining a healthy spawning stock.
2. To optimize yield and maximize economic benefits to the various fishing sectors.
3. To prevent increased fishing on immature fish.
4. To allow the traditional incidental catch of monkfish to occur.

These four goals were intended to ensure adequate spawning and the highest possible yields without radically altering the fisheries for other species, or causing extensive regulatory discards. In addition, they addressed the problem of the intensified fishing effort directed on small monkfish that occurred during the 1990's.

#### **3.2 Goals for this Amendment**

In addition to complying with the goals of the Magnuson Act, generally, and the Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) amendments, specifically, the goals of this amendment are:

- I.** Prevent overfishing or rebuild overfished stocks as necessary.
- II.** Address problems created by the implementation of the FMP.  
**Objectives:**
  - 1) Reconsider the limited entry program for the monkfish fishery south of 38° N
  - 2) Address problems for deepwater fisheries resulting from the disapproval of the running clock in the original FMP
  - 3) Address the problem of multispecies or sea scallop permit holders having to use a multispecies or sea scallop day at sea (DAS) when using a monkfish DAS
  - 4) Establish appropriate exemptions for vessels fishing for monkfish outside of the EEZ (in the NAFO Regulated Area)
- III.** Promote improved data collection and research on monkfish
- IV.** Comply with CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality) Guidelines to update Environmental Documents
- V.** Address deficiencies in meeting Magnuson Act requirements  
**Objectives:**
  - 1) Meet Magnuson Act requirements for Essential Fish Habitat

2) Address known bycatch issues, specifically due to trip limits and minimum fish size

**VI.** Address protected resources/fishery interactions

**Objective:** specifically address the turtle/gillnet interaction

**VII.** Reduce FMP complexity where possible.

The following table identifies the alternatives associated with each of the goals and objectives outlined above, and includes reference to the decision document contained in Appendix I.

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	DECISION (Appendix I)
I. Prevent overfishing or rebuild overfished stocks as necessary	N/A	All decisions
II. Address problems created by the implementation of the FMP.	1) Reconsider the limited entry program for the monkfish fishery south of 38°N	Decision 9
	2) Address problems for deepwater fisheries resulting from the disapproval of the running clock in the original FMP	Decisions 1 and 8
	3) Address the problem of multispecies or sea scallop permit holders having to use a MS or scallop DAS when using a MF DAS	Decision 1, 8 and 14
	4) Establish the appropriate exemptions for vessels fishing for monkfish outside of the EEZ	Decision 10
III. Promote improved data collection and research on monkfish.	N/A	Decisions 1, 3, 6, 8, 12, and 14
IV. Comply with CEQ Guidelines to update environmental documents.	N/A	Decisions 1, 3, 4, and 6
V. Address deficiencies in meeting MAGNUSON-STEVENSON Act requirements.	1) Meet MAGNUSON-STEVENSON Act requirements for EFH	Decisions 11, 12 and 14
	2) Address bycatch issues, specifically due to trip limits and minimum fish size	Decisions 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 14 and 17
VI. Address protected resources/fishery interactions.	Specifically address the turtle/gillnet interaction	Decisions 12 and 17
VII. Reduce FMP complexity where possible.	N/A	Decisions 6 and 13

**Table 3 Summary of alternatives associated with each goal and objective, including reference to decision document in Appendix I.**