

(111) 42°55.70' N. lat., 124°52.79' W. long.;

(112) 42°54.12' N. lat., 124°47.36' W. long.;

(113) 42°43.99' N. lat., 124°42.38' W. long.;

(114) 42°38.23' N. lat., 124°41.25' W. long.;

(115) 42°33.02' N. lat., 124°42.38' W. long.;

(116) 42°31.89' N. lat., 124°42.04' W. long.;

(117) 42°30.08' N. lat., 124°42.67' W. long.;

(118) 42°28.27' N. lat., 124°47.08' W. long.;

(119) 42°25.22' N. lat., 124°43.51' W. long.;

(120) 42°19.22' N. lat., 124°37.92' W. long.;

(121) 42°16.28' N. lat., 124°36.11' W. long.;

(122) 42°05.65' N. lat., 124°34.92' W. long.;

(123) 42°00.00' N. lat., 124°35.27' W. long.;

(124) 42°00.00' N. lat., 124°35.26' W. long.;

(125) 41°47.04' N. lat., 124°27.64' W. long.;

(126) 41°32.92' N. lat., 124°28.79' W. long.;

(127) 41°24.17' N. lat., 124°28.46' W. long.;

(128) 41°10.12' N. lat., 124°20.50' W. long.;

(129) 40°51.41' N. lat., 124°24.38' W. long.;

(130) 40°43.71' N. lat., 124°29.89' W. long.;

(131) 40°40.14' N. lat., 124°30.90' W. long.;

(132) 40°37.35' N. lat., 124°29.05' W. long.;

(133) 40°34.76' N. lat., 124°29.82' W. long.;

(134) 40°36.78' N. lat., 124°37.06' W. long.;

(135) 40°32.44' N. lat., 124°39.58' W. long.;

(136) 40°24.82' N. lat., 124°35.12' W. long.;

(137) 40°23.30' N. lat., 124°31.60' W. long.;

(138) 40°23.52' N. lat., 124°28.78' W. long.;

(139) 40°22.43' N. lat., 124°25.00' W. long.;

(140) 40°21.72' N. lat., 124°24.94' W. long.;

(141) 40°21.87' N. lat., 124°27.96' W. long.;

(142) 40°21.40' N. lat., 124°28.74' W. long.;

(143) 40°19.68' N. lat., 124°28.49' W. long.;

(144) 40°17.73' N. lat., 124°25.43' W. long.;

(145) 40°18.37' N. lat., 124°23.35' W. long.;

(146) 40°15.75' N. lat., 124°26.05' W. long.;

(147) 40°16.75' N. lat., 124°33.71' W. long.;

(148) 40°16.29' N. lat., 124°34.36' W. long.; and

(149) 40°10.00' N. lat., 124°21.12' W. long.

\* \* \* \*

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 773–773k.

Dated: April 21, 2003.

**Rebecca Lent,**

*Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regulatory Programs, National Marine  
Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03–10281 Filed 4–25–03; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–S**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 648

**[Docket No. 030225045–3096–02; I.D.  
020603A]**

**RIN 0648–AQ29**

#### Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish Fishery; Framework Adjustment 2

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS implements measures contained in Framework Adjustment 2 to the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). This final rule modifies the monkfish overfishing definition reference points and optimum yield (OY) target control rule to be consistent with the best scientific information available and the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). This rule also implements an expedited process for setting annual target total allowable catch levels (TACs); establishes a method for adjusting monkfish trip limits and days-at-sea (DAS) allocations to achieve the annual target TACs; and establishes target TACs and corresponding trip limits for the 2003 fishing year (FY 2003). As a result, this rule eliminates the default measures adopted in the original FMP that would have resulted in the elimination of the directed monkfish fishery and reduced incidental catch limits. Finally, this final rule clarifies the regulations

pertaining to the monkfish area declaration requirements by specifying that vessels intending to fish under either a monkfish, Northeast (NE) multispecies, or scallop DAS, under the less restrictive measures of the Northern Fishery Management Area (NFMA), declare their intent to fish in the NFMA for a minimum of 30 days.

**DATES:** Effective May 1, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of Framework Adjustment 2 to the FMP, including the Environmental Assessment (EA), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) are available upon request from Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950. These documents are also available online at <http://www.nefmc.org>. A copy of the Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) is available from Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Region, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Allison Ferreira, Fishery Policy Analyst,  
(978) 281–9103, fax (978) 281–9135, e-mail [Allison.Ferreira@noaa.gov](mailto:Allison.Ferreira@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The monkfish fishery is jointly managed by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) (Councils), with the NEFMC having the administrative lead. The FMP currently contains default measures that would eliminate the directed monkfish fishery by allocating zero monkfish days-at-sea (DAS). These measures were scheduled to take effect during Year 4 (beginning May 1, 2002) of the FMP's 10-year rebuilding schedule, but were delayed until May 1, 2003, as a result of the implementation of an emergency interim rule (67 FR 35928; May 22, 2002) and its extension (67 FR 67568; November 6, 2002). Recent analyses have indicated that these default measures are no longer appropriate. Furthermore, recent stock assessments have invalidated the fishing mortality (F) reference points contained in the FMP, and have suggested alternative reference points to be incorporated into the FMP's overfishing definition and control rules. As a result of delays in the development of Amendment 2 to the FMP, the NEFMC initiated Framework Adjustment 2 at its June 24–26, 2002, meeting in order to prevent implementation of the restrictive default measures on May 1, 2003. The NEFMC approved the framework at its November 5–7, 2002, meeting, and the MAFMC approved the framework at its