



FY25 Monkfish Research Set Aside Days At Sea Available for Lease

Contact Mel at 508-945-2432 ext 100 or melissa@capecodfishermen.org

- Exempt from monkfish trip limits – catch unlimited monkfish on your RSA trip
- Can be used in northern or southern management areas
- Does not burn a MULTS DAS
- Can be used after the TAL is reached to extend your season
- You can pre-pay to lock in DAS or pay as you go (we'll bill you based on usage)
- Lease for just \$0.098/lb (whole)
- 100% of lease fees fund monkfish research (described below)
- Can be fished through April 30, 2026
- Does require EFP (provided by us) and a small amount of extra reporting (RSA start and end hauls)
- Cannot be used by Category E monk permits – all others eligible

INCORPORATING FISHERMEN'S KNOWLEDGE INTO A STANDARDIZED CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT INDEX FOR THE COMMERCIAL MONKFISH GILLNET FISHERY

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, in collaboration with Dr. Steve Cadrin at SMAST and Southern New England Monkfish fishermen, are utilizing research set aside (RSA) Days-At-Sea (DAS) to develop standardized catch per unit effort (CPUE) indices for the commercial directed monkfish gillnet fishery and possibly the multispecies trawl fishery to be used for stock assessment purposes.

We are working cooperatively with the commercial monkfish fishing industry and regional scientists to accomplish four objectives:

1. obtain fishery data and develop CPUE Standardization for southern gillnets and northern trawl gear,
2. collaborate with monkfish fishermen throughout the region to elicit expertise on monkfish CPUE,
3. contribute CPUE series for upcoming Monkfish Stock Assessments, and
4. manage Monkfish RSA Days at Sea (DAS).

PROJECT TEAM

Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance

Melissa Sanderson
Aubrey Church

UMass Dartmouth- SMAST

Dr. Steve Cadrin
Sierra Richardson

Monkfish Fishermen Working Group

Greg Connors
Patrick Duckworth
Greg Mataronas
Ted Platz

UPDATED SCHEDULE

- July – Aug 2023: Working Group meets to kick off the project; data request to NOAA
- Sept – Oct 2023: Steering Committee meeting to discuss factors influencing CPUE and datasets
- Sept 2023 – April 2025: data analyses by SMAST
- Sept – Nov 2024: Industry Workshops to review data and collect feedback
- May – Oct 2025: Industry Workshops to share results and confirm indices before finalizing
- Oct 2025 - Mar 2026: Share final results with PDT, SSC, Council, NEFSC, etc. Peer Review by SSC.

This project is supported by a 2023 NOAA Monkfish Research Set Aside Award, Grant# NA23NMFS4540355