

FSO

"Gateway to Decisions"

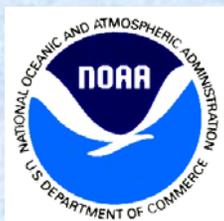
Making decisions that affect thousands of individuals, families and businesses is serious business. Collecting data that support those decisions is FSO's business. With thousands of vessels and dealers from Maine to North Carolina, the responsibility is far reaching and highly challenging. Assembling and analyzing these data is the cornerstone of fisheries management.

That's FSO.

In the Field and *In the Office* helping **NOAA** and industry steer a steady course.

To learn more about FSO and NOAA, visit our website:

www.nero.noaa.gov/fso



Fisheries Statistics Office

FIELD OFFICES	CONTACTS
Portland, ME	Scott McNamara 207-780-3322
Gloucester, MA	Don Mason 978-281-9363
New Bedford, MA	John Mahoney 508-984-0063
Chatham, MA	Lorraine Spenle 508-945-5961
Point Judith, RI	Walter Anoushian 401-783-7797
East Hampton, NY	Erik Braun 631-324-3569
Patchogue, NY	David McKernan 631-475-6988
Riverhead, NY	Kristen Knobloch 631-727-7850 Ext. 315
Toms River, NJ	Joanne Pellegrino 732-349-3533
Cape May, NJ	Walter Makowski 609-884-2113
Delaware	Ingo Fleming 609-884-2113
Ocean City, MD	George Mattingly 757-723-3369
Hampton, VA	David Ulmer 757-723-3369

Fisheries Statistics Office

One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

(978) 281-9300



Monkfish



Sampling Program



"Gateway to Decisions"

BIOLOGICAL SAMPLING PROGRAM

"Gateway to Decisions"

The **Fisheries Statistics Office** is a key component of **NOAA Fisheries** in the Northeast. One of the office's primary functions is to collect fishery data and biological samples. These data are essential to the fishery management process.

Both in the field and in the office, FSO works to provide NOAA and the fishing industry with accurate, reliable and timely data. **FSO** operates 11 field offices covering states from Maine to North Carolina. Each office is staffed with knowledgeable personnel who serve as the agency's front line to the fishing industry.

Under the direction of John Witzig, Ph.D., FSO's central office is located in NOAA Fisheries' Regional Office in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

For more information visit our website:

www.nero.noaa.gov/fsol



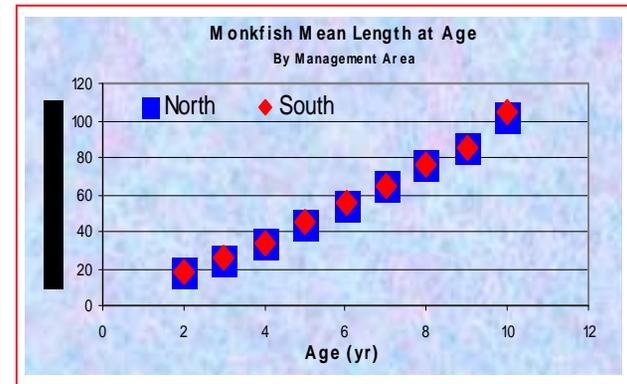
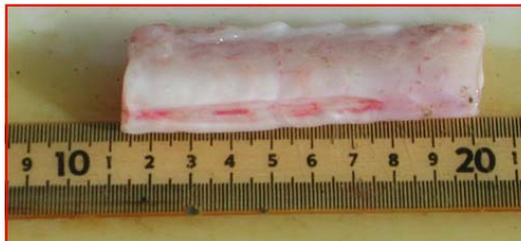
Monkfish



Sampling Coordinator Stephen Link, holding a monk fish, demonstrates state-of-the-art computerized measuring equipment to NOAA field staff.

What We Do and How: The mission of the sampling program is to obtain raw data essential to understanding the ages and the size distributions of individual stocks of marine fish. Field work provides the biological foundation for many fisheries assessments. Biological data, which is collected in the field, are used in models designed to guide management decisions and future research.

The age of monkfish is determined by counting marks that can be seen on the vertebrae, much like rings are counted on fish scales or on tree stumps. Vertebra number 8 is dissected from the vertebral column and baked in a slow oven for several hours. The baking helps define the rings by darkening protein bands within the vertebra. The annual marks can then be counted with the aid of a dissecting microscope.



Age and Growth: The graph above and the table below illustrate growth rates of **Monkfish** by geographic region. Although southern fish grow faster and bigger, the growth rates for both regions are uniquely uniform and static throughout their life cycle adding approximately 10 cm annually.

Monkfish

Length at Age by Area

Age	Southern Area (cm)	Northern Area (cm)
2	18.5	17.9
3	25.9	24.3
4	34.1	34.2
5	45.2	44.2
6	54.9	54.3
7	64.9	65.0
8	75.9	76.6
9	85.8	85.0
10	104.4	102.5

