

2009 Cooperative Monkfish Survey

Standard Operating Procedures

I. Towing

Tow duration: 30 minutes (from time winches locked to time winches engaged for haul back)

Tow speed: 2.5 knots

Tow direction: tow along depth contour, towards next station if possible, okay to curve tow track to avoid fixed gear

Scope: 2:1 plus 25 fathoms of wire

II. Station locations

Station location marks start point of tow.

If location is not towable for any reason, relocate station as close as possible at similar depth.

III. Sampling Priorities

1. Weight of the catch of each species
2. Length and sex for all monkfish up to ~ 50 per tow. If more than 50 monkfish per tow, take lengths for remaining monks.
- 3) Lengths for all other species (subsample freely).
- 4) Biological sampling for goosefish: see detailed instructions
- 5) Special monkfish samples: see detailed instructions
- 6) Special requests for other species: see detailed instructions

IV. Communications

Daily Communication with Rob Johnston should be done around 10:00 am (Mary K) and 11:00 (Endurance) via satellite phone. Please summarize your progress and any other necessary details (supplies running low etc.). Rob's number at the lab is 508-495-2061. He can be reached at home (508-428-7632) and by cell (774-521-9148) anytime if anything out of the ordinary arises.

Emails summarizing progress should be sent frequently (daily if possible) for posting to the monkfish survey website (send to Betty.Holmes@noaa.gov). The website has been closely followed by industry members on past surveys.

V. Miscellaneous

If pots come up in a haul, retain them if they have ID, but cannot be returned to the water.