

Monkfish/anglerfish across the world: common problems and common solutions (K)

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With decreased abundance of traditional demersal species, substantial and lucrative monkfish/anglerfish (*Lophius* spp) have developed on both sides of the north Atlantic. Monkfish/anglerfish have a high market value and fisheries exploiting them are lucrative. Monkfish/anglerfish fisheries also exist in the south Atlantic off Namibia and Brazil. Fisheries for monkfish/anglerfish have a longer history in southern Europe.

Stock assessments have proven problematic due to the developing nature of the monkfish/anglerfish fisheries, making it difficult to use catch per unit of effort as an index of stock size, and the low catchability of monkfish to the fishing gear used on traditional bottom trawl surveys. Management areas have been defined as the fishery developed but those are unlikely to delimit distinct biological populations. Surveys specifically designed for monkfish/anglerfish have been developed jointly by scientists and fishers in several countries. In some fisheries, both males and females are collected while in others, the fisheries harvest mostly males. Males do not reach as large a size as females. In the northeastern Atlantic, the location of the bulk of mature females remains unknown.

Considering the recent increase in the collection of data, contributions are invited on:

- Stock structure;
- Life history characteristics;
- Population dynamics (recruitment);
- Stock size indices;
- Bycatches;
- Ecosystem interactions;
- Stock assessment methodology;
- Adaptive management.

Fishers and scientists are invited to contribute to this theme session, including joint presentations considering that much of the recent science has been done cooperatively.

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