

2012 Monkfish RSA Awards

Coastwide Stock Structure of Monkfish Using Microsatellite DNA Analysis

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE) - 371 DAS

This project proposes to use a sensitive genetic approach, microsatellite DNA analysis, to empirically determine if monkfish constitute a single or multiple stocks over their coast wide distribution and most importantly within the northern and southern management areas. It will establish a collaborative and comprehensive sampling and analysis program that encompasses the entire range of monkfish by collecting biological samples representative of the range of monkfish. CCE will be responsible for the creation and coordination of the Monkfish Sample Collection Network.

Age Validation of Monkfish in the Gulf of Maine

University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth/School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) -129 DAS

The objective for this study is to use the protocols developed from the 2011 research and inject monkfish in the lab with a chemical marker, either OTC or calcein, that will be incorporated into the age structures. OTC and calcein are taken up in the calcified structures used for ageing (illicia, vertebrae, and otoliths), and will provide a fluorescent marker on the annuli of all three structures. Monkfish will be kept alive for at least a year and will need to grow to determine if the chemical marker is a valid means of marking the annuli and if seasonal growth is driving annulus formation.