



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **First Steps Towards ASDA Stocking Monkfish**

NAFC Marine Centre were pleased that staff members Leslie Tait and Chevonne Laurenson were part of a Scottish delegation that met with ASDA on Friday to discuss the recent ban that it introduced on the sale of monkfish in its stores.

Dr Laurenson has studied monkfish biology and its fishery for almost 10 years and is at the forefront of research on knowledge of the species. Dr Laurenson provided ASDA's sustainable and ethical sourcing manager, Chris Brown with an overview of the latest information on the status of the stock in Scottish waters and its importance.

Recent and ongoing progress in terms of management was discussed and research including the Industry-Science Partnership monkfish project and the monkfish tallybook scheme, both of which are led by FRS Aberdeen with NAFC Marine Centre participation, was highlighted.

Leslie Tait, the newly appointed Chairman of the Shetland Fishermen's Association said *"Monkfish is very important to the local whitefish sector and sending out the wrong message based on outdated information can cause significant problems."*

The delegation received a good hearing and it was agreed that the meeting was a first step towards seeing Scottish monkfish stocked on the shelves of ASDA. An assurance was given that ban would be reversed if a marine conservation grouping gave the green light. Dialogue has already been opened with the appropriate conservation group.

**NOTE:** For further editorial information please contact Christena Irvine, Tel: 01595 772207. E-mail: [christena.irvine@nafc.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:christena.irvine@nafc.uhi.ac.uk)

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

*In view of the increasing range and scope of the work being undertaken by NAFC, the decision was taken in September 2005 to change the institute's name from the North Atlantic Fisheries College to the NAFC Marine Centre.*

*Please note our correct title is now 'NAFC Marine Centre'. The 'NAFC' in our title identifies us with, and provides continuity from, our previous name – North Atlantic Fisheries College. In conversation 'NAFC' should be spelt out as 'N-A-F-C'. Similarly, we are no longer just a 'college', but a marine centre - providing education, research and commercial services to the marine sector.*