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FISHERIES
NEFSC, FSB

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program

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(FSB)

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<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/>

Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team Meeting, Providence RI
11/28/2012



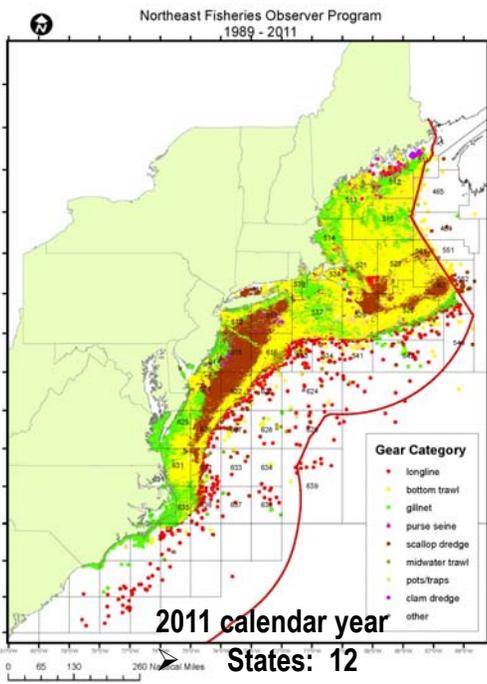


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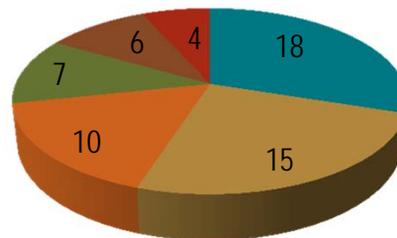
Fishery Dependent Data Collection on Commercial Fishing Vessels

Programs & Number of Observers

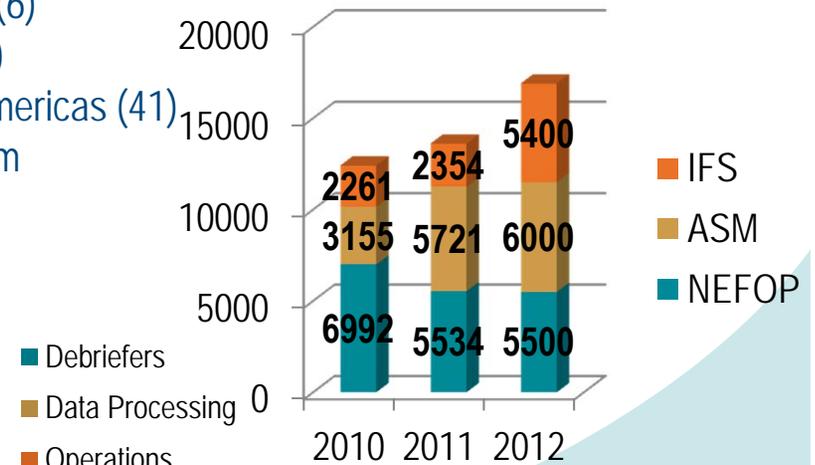
- Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP)
MRAG Americas (47)
- Industry Funded Scallop Observer Program (IFS)
AIS (24), EWTS (21), Fathoms (6)
- At-Sea Monitoring Program (ASM)
AIS (31), EWTS (25), MRAG Americas (41)
- Electronic Monitoring Pilot Program
Archipelago Marine Research



FSB Staff Members (60)



Seadays Per Fiscal Year





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Data Quality Programs

Production Balance – Variability, Quantity, Quality, and Time



Intensive and comprehensive training and certification process
Mentoring, feedback, validation, risk assessment

- Debriefings & Refresher Trainings
- Conflict Resolution Training
- End Users Panel and Fishermen Involvement
- Training Trips on Commercial Vessels
- Port Orientations
- Probation & Decertification Process
- Species Verification Program
- Shadow Trip Program
- Captain Comment Card
- Fishermen Interviews
- Exit Interviews

Data Availability

Preliminary: 72 hours

Fully audited: 45-90 days

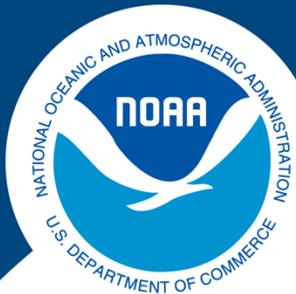
Data Release Policy

Copies of Data for Fishermen (>1000/yr)

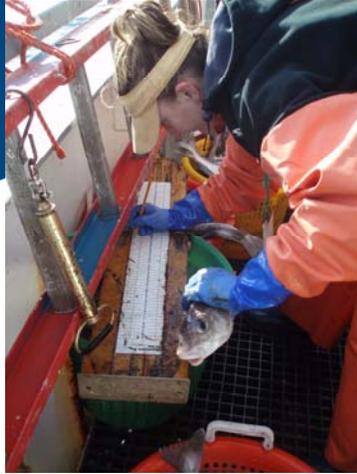
Fish-On-Line

Permit holder and sector managers

Data Requests (>125/yr)



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Uses of Observer Data

Scientific, Biological Science, and Monitoring

Stock Assessments, Fishery Management Decisions, and More...

- Life history, stock structure, contaminant, and disease studies
 - Butterfish catch cap in the squid fishery
 - Haddock bycatch cap in the herring fishery
- Discard rate for groundfish sectors and common pool
- Catch rates with Haddock Separator, Ruhle Trawl, and Flounder Net – justification to fish in USC
 - Exemption requests for fisheries with low bycatch: redfish, skate, dogfish, and monkfish
 - Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification justifications
 - Winter flounder interactions in squid fishery when testing drop chain net
- Documentation of levels of sea turtle incidental takes w/implementation of turtle chain mats
 - Swordfish interaction to issue bycatch permit for the Illex fishery
 - Emergency action to reduce haddock legal length from 19" to 18"

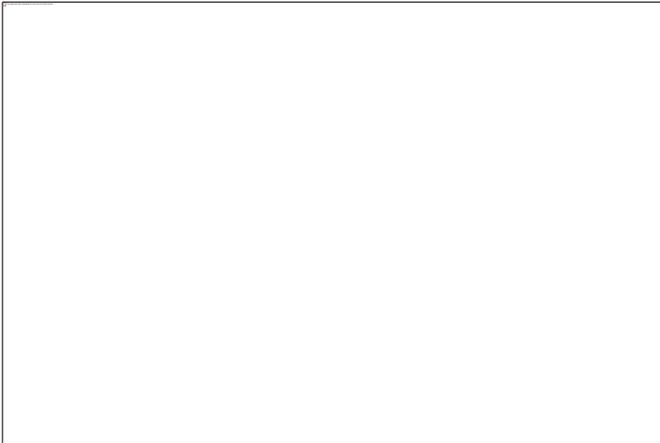


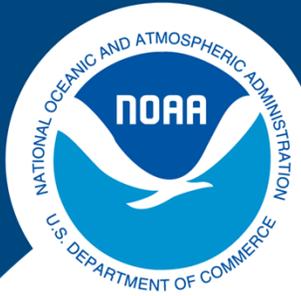


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Type of Information that Observers Collect

- Vessel and Trip Statistics (date/time sailed/landed, steam time, port, sector, vendor, VTR #)
- Economic trip costs (gear replacement, ice, fuel, water, oil)
- Gear characteristics (mesh size, net length, escape outlets, bycatch deterrent devices)
- Haul (location, soak time, target species)
- Environmental conditions (weather, wave height, wind, water temp)
- Catch (species composition, weight, disposition reason)
- Biological samples (otoliths, scales, DNA, whole)
- Protected species incidental takes (animal condition, tags, length, sex)
- Sighting information (marine mammals and turtles in vicinity)
- Discard specifics for High Volume trips
- Fishermen Comment Log details





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At-Sea Monitoring Program (ASM)

Simplification of data collection, faster data processing time, reduce cost, equivalent data quality



Developed for catch monitoring in the catch-share groundfish fishery

Started in May 2010 with the onset of 19 sectors

ASM Coverage levels: Fishing Year (FY) 2010 30%, FY11 30%, FY12 17%

In addition to the standard ~8% NEFOP coverage

Federally funded so far; slated to be industry-funded in FY13

Purpose: To accurately monitor discards, and provide additional data on vessel behavior

Focus on fish weights and catch interactions

Less detail on gear characteristics

No biological sampling (less complex logistics, fewer gear items)

Shorter training (11 days versus 15 days)

Multi-provider (versus single-provider)



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Annual Training Summary

(FY-12: October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012)

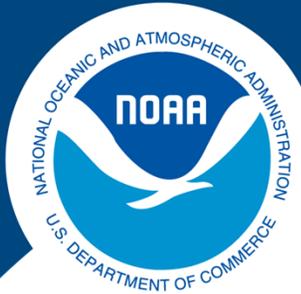
26 Trainings; 281 individuals; 137 days

- NEFOP Training: 3 Classes, 42 Trained
 - *Scallop Dredge*: 1 Class, 15 Trained
 - *Scallop Trawl*: 2 Classes, 11 Trained
- *High Volume Fisheries*: 3 Classes, 24 Trained
 - *Longline*: 1 Class, 12 Trained

- At-Sea Monitoring: 3 Classes, 45 Trained
- *At-Sea Monitoring Annual Recertification*: 8 Classes, 78 Trained

- Industry Funded Scallop: 3 Classes, 31 Trained
- Safety II Training: 2 Classes, 23 Trained





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“Complete” (C) Fish Sampling

- Hauls are dedicated to keeping track of fish discards
- Haul Observed = Yes
- Fish Discards = Yes
- Marine Mammal Haul Watch = No
- ASM-equivalent
- Incidental Take Data = Yes

Gillnet Trip Types

Complete versus Limited

Limited (L) Fish Sampling

- Hauls are dedicated to keeping track of marine mammal fall-outs
- Haul Observed = No
- Fish Discards = No
- Marine Mammal Haul Watch = Yes
- Not done on ASM trips
- Incidental Take Data = Yes



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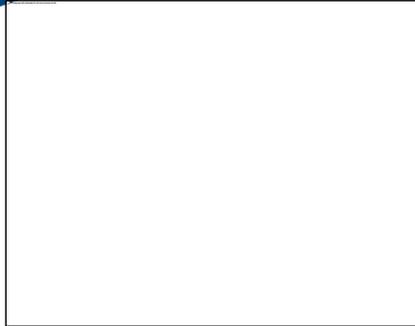
Number of Gillnet Trips and Seadays

Calendar Year		NEFOP Complete	ASM (Complete)	NEFOP Limited
2009	Trips	272	NA	476
	Seadays	550	NA	525
2010	Trips	427	1443	396
	Seadays	596	1740	460
2011	Trips	508	1553	332
	Seadays	715	1992	366
2012 (P)	Trips	441	1131	285
	Seadays	558	1444	301

P=partial year, as of 11/26/2012; Seadays are calculated as whole days from date sailed to date landed



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Pinger Tester

Contract Value of \$95,500

To test the functionality (i.e. 10 kHz +/- 2 kHz broadcast at 132 dB (+/- 4 dB)
of pingers onboard

Light and audible "beep" when a ping is detected when pointed directly at a
particular pinger (in air)

Evo Design LLC of Watertown, CT

Late 2009 and completed in 2010

Designed, built, and tested 2 prototypes

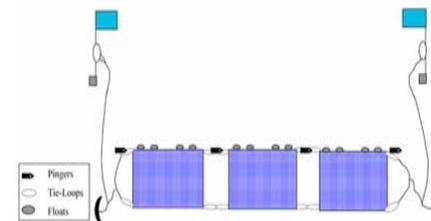
Built 30 units after field testing

Observer certification training for proper use



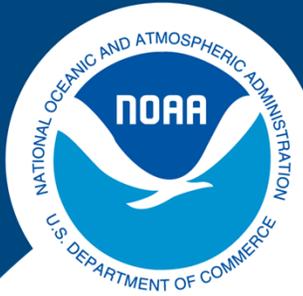
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Brands of Pingers
Dukane
Airmar
Fumunda
Unknown
Combination
Other



Type of Pinger Data Collected

Pinger Conditions	Variables Collected By Trip Type	NEFOP	ASM	PINGER TESTER
Unknown	Pingers used (yes/no)	√		√
No pingers used on gear	Number of pingers on string	√		√
Audible, not tested	Frequency of pingers used (kHz)	√		√
Audible, tested, and detected	Brand of pingers used	√		√
Audible, tested, and not detected	Number of pingers hauled (p/haul)	√	√	√
Inaudible, tested, and detected	Number of pingers lost (p/haul)	√		√
Inaudible, tested, and not detected	Condition of pinger near porpoise	√		√
Inaudible, not tested	Condition of every pinger on string			√ (L)
Absent (lost)				



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Website Reports:

- Monthly Summary of Incidental Takes
 - Gear, target, date, species, animal condition
 - NEFOP and ASM
 - ~2 weeks after the previous month
- Monthly Maps of Incidental Takes
 - Location of takes by species
 - NEFOP and ASM
 - Approximately 60-days
- Annual Report of Incidental Takes

http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/fsb/take_reports/nefop.html

Expected End Users and Public Reports

FSB supplies data for others

Protected Species Branch, NEFSC

Protected Species Division, NERO

Office for Law Enforcement, NMFS

Sector Managers

Fishery Management Council Members

State Agencies