

IEc

Gathering Improved Activity and Gear Information for ALWTRP Fisheries

Prepared for:

Protected Resources Division
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
NOAA Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Prepared by:

Industrial Economics, Incorporated
2067 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
617/354-0074

November 19, 2015

Objectives

- Improve commercial fishing data available to support development and implementation of ALWTRP
- Address both state and Federal fisheries
 - Vessel activity
 - Gear configuration
- Consider MMPA-based reporting system
 - Options for design and administration
 - Examine value to current modeling tools and future policymaking
- Build base of information that anticipates future management measures and supports needed analysis

Concerns with Current Data

- Vessels that hold Federal permits
 - No data on activity of vessels holding only a lobster permit (“gap” vessels)
 - For lobster fishery, Co-occurrence Model currently employs generic gear configuration assumptions based on expert judgment
- Vessels that hold only state permits
 - Inconsistent data across states; limits comparability and accuracy
 - Labor-intensive collection, pre-processing, and addition of data to Co-occurrence Model
 - Hard to keep pace with emerging fisheries and changing activity levels

Summary of Data Sought: Trap/Pot Fisheries

- Critical data:
 - Approximate fishing location during specified period of activity
 - Total traps fished
 - Configuration (traps per trawl, number of buoy lines)
- Potentially useful for future analysis:
 - Landings
 - Trap hauls
 - Trips
 - Number of vertical lines
 - Groundline between traps
 - Use of anchor lines (if any)
 - Buoy type
 - Rope gauge
 - Home port
 - Landing port
 - Gear loss
 - Number of crew
 - Vessel size
 - Permitted traps

Summary of Data Sought: Gillnet Fisheries

- Critical data:
 - Approximate fishing location during specified period of activity
 - Strings fished
 - Panels per string
- Potentially useful for future analysis:
 - Landings
 - Net hauls
 - Trips
 - Panel size
 - Panel spacing
 - Buoy type
 - Use of anchor lines (if any)
 - Rope gauge
 - Home port
 - Landing port
 - Number of crew
 - Vessel size

Key Dimensions of Reporting Requirement

- **Activity covered** - all activity by vessels in ALWTRP fisheries, or a targeted subset of vessels/activity?
- **Census or survey** - require response from full population or statistical sample?
- **Reporting method** - paper/mail, electronic (Excel/email), Internet-based?
- **Reporting frequency** - how often would fishermen submit a report?
- **Period of activity** - what period of activity would each report address (e.g., individual trips, months)?
- **Spatial specificity** - how precise should location data be?
- **Gear parameters** - how much detail on gear configurations would reports require?

Considerations for Work Group

- Major tradeoffs
 - Reporting burden vs. detail/precision
 - Confidentiality vs. information required for management purposes
 - Standardization vs. continuity/consistency with state's current reporting requirements
 - Accessibility vs. data processing burden
 - Timely data collection vs. system development costs
- Draw on TRT expertise to craft workable approach
- Consider current and potential future information needs
- Consider collaborative administration with states

IEC

INDUSTRIAL ECONOMICS, INCORPORATED

617.354.0074