



NOAA
FISHERIES

Northeast
Fisheries
Science Center

Overview of Fishery Dependent Data

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Collecting accurate and timely landings and discard data is the basis of sound stewardship of fisheries

Establishes scale in fisheries models

Identifies inter-relationships among fisheries

Identifies externalities of harvest

- Discards of managed and unmanaged species
- Takes of protected species

Establishes economic value to society

Basis for economic and social allocations

THEREFORE, it is essential to get it right.

The Nature of Fishing

A solitary pursuit, often occurring hundreds of miles from port, at night, in the worst of weather conditions.

Targeting of species is imperfect

Landings often occur when most of society is sleeping

Continuously changing landscape of species abundance, regulations, and economic needs.

The Nature of Fisheries Data

Reduce total removals collected by different gears over a vast spatial domain and with strong seasonal variability into a single value for the year.

Need to monitor attributes of landings—length, weight, age, sex via samples

Need to estimate discards and their attributes via at-sea observers

Must rely on valid samples to extrapolate to total

Do this consistently year after year.

The Nature of Management—Ever Increasing Demand for Information

Are harvest levels legal under the Magnuson Steven Act?

Do fishery management measures work?

Can we monitor discards accurately?

Can we reduce discards?

Do specialized gear types improve selectivity and reduce technical interactions?

Does access to closed areas matter?

Do we have the appropriate stock structure?

Is mixing of stocks important? Can we measure it?

Can we respond to changing conditions—such as increased discards due to a strong year class?

From Census to Sample

Vessel Trip Reports and Dealer Records for commercial data (St. Cyr and Conigliari)

Biological samples of landings in ports (Power and Wigley)

Recreational Landings and Discards (Shepherd)

Observer coverage

- Design and Allocation (Wigley)
- Real-time vessel selection (Shield)
- Program overview (Van Atten)

Cooperative Research (Hoey)

Questions?

Divider Title

Additional Divider Information