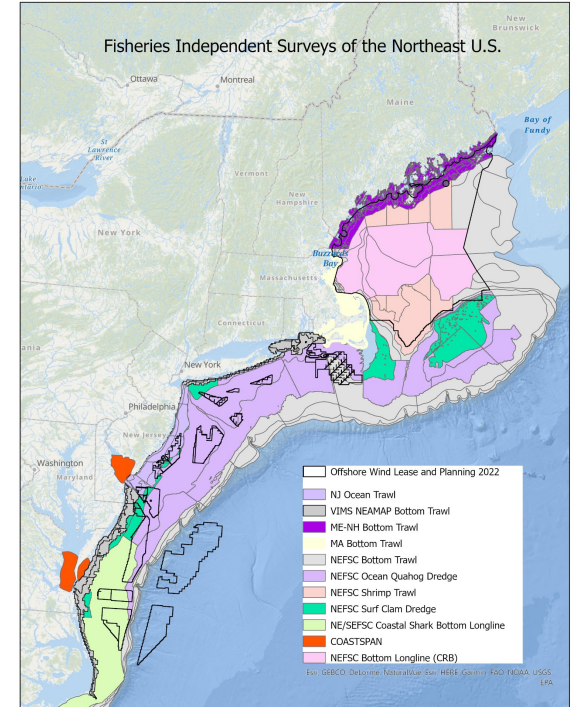


NTAP Full Panel Meeting

July 13, 2022

Center Updates

- Survey updates: spring 2022 BTS, prep for autumn 2022 BTS now
-
- Update on recent studies: Miller chainsweep update, Area-swept / wingspread update (letter to councils, study discussed at Assessment Oversight Panel)
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- Wind: SSEE Workshop Reports (links on the website; website link in the agenda), Gulf of Maine Planning Area, Survey Mitigation Implementation Strategy, NMFS research priorities effort
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- Data mgmt: FRIMS update, Log archiving project
-
- Comms with assessment scientists: Alex Dunn joined NEFSC NTAP team, dedicated NTAP updates from NEFSC NTAP team to Population Dynamics Team are being developed



Questions?

Priorities discussion - poll methods

- At the last NTAP meeting in March, Mike presented a list of study ideas, we had a general discussion which was described in the meeting summary as follows:
 - account for progress that has been made by NTAP and beyond; consider ranking the priority of each based on our ability to improve our ability to address that problem.
 - Wind is a priority of NTAP, as it is a priority of the Councils.
 - co-chairs determine how to proceed
- review of past meetings was done and summarized in a [spreadsheet](#). Includes all previous study ideas and previous priority ranking efforts.
- Reviewed Charter Objectives and subobjectives (Charter objectives [spreadsheet](#)) -charter was redone last spring/summer
- NEFSC drafted a survey more focused on the needs of NTAP, not specific study ideas; co-chairs, MAFMC lead, and NEFSC lead reviewed
 - Goal: what does NTAP want to accomplish?
- Sent out Poll EV survey on Tuesday 6/7/2022
- 8 questions, including 3 “open answer” questions

Priorities discussion - poll results

- 11 respondents = 37% response rate
 - Poll was sent to 30 people: 20 NTAP members + 10 additional NTAP email recipients
- Not all questions were answered by all 11 respondents
- Poll allowed people to rank priorities by moving questions up and down
- A total score for each priority was generated by weighting each priority by the number of times it was ranked as #1, 2, 3, etc
- Results slides show top 3 priorities indicated for each question
- Results slides also indicate how many respondents ranked a priority #1 to give a sense of skewness

Priorities discussion - poll results

Understanding the trawl gear performance and methodology

1. To improve availability correction factors to improve reliability of the data for assessments (determine if fish are available to a survey - day/night position; gaps in sampling from fixed gear or offshore wind; availability due to climate change/seasons) (2/11)
2. To make adjustments to the gear or operating protocols in order to increase consistency of performance (i.e. increase number of valid tows) (2/11)
3. To improve catch efficiency correction factors to improve reliability of the data for assessments (determine what proportion of fish the net catches such as spreading studies; sweep studies; and tow length or speed studies) (3/11)

Priorities discussion - poll results

Evaluate the potential to complement or supplement current NEFSC surveys

1. To make assessments better by having intercomparable data between different surveys that are currently operating (e.g., NEAMAP and Bigelow) (4/10)
2. To have a backup plan in the event the Bigelow is unavailable (mechanical breakdowns; refit periods; etc) or doesn't get enough sea days (1/10)
3. To make assessments better by developing new surveys/data collections (e.g., flatfish; acoustics; video; fixed gear) for any reason (sampling in more seasons; increased sampling density; inability to use trawls in all areas; Bigelow survey failures; etc) (2/10)

Priorities discussion - poll results

Improving understanding and acceptance of NEFSC trawl survey data quality and results

1. To understand how assessments use trawl survey data (and ultimately how to make assessments better) (4/10)
2. To understand how surveys are done/the value of surveys (0/10)
3. To document what has been done and learn from the work (2/10)

Priorities discussion - poll results

Consider the use of fishery independent data in other regions (particularly within the North Atlantic, as well as internationally) - Why?

1. To understand how catchability information from other gear studies can inform our understanding of the NEFSC trawl survey (7/9)
2. To make data more available across regions (2/9)
3. To ensure that fishery independent data from other regions is being used in assessments (0/9)

Priorities discussion - poll results

What are your top goals and priorities for NTAP? What do you want to see NTAP achieve?

1. Improve trawl survey data/program, minimize uncertainty of trawl data, improved measurements of abundance and spatial distribution
2. Add more surveys to assessments, integrate more surveys (including acoustic)
3. Adapt to offshore wind
4. Use industry vessels to expand the BTS footprint, increase sampling density, and fill in if Bigelow is unavailable
5. Understand why AFSC model isn't used here
6. Understanding vessel effects, including revisiting Albatross/Bigelow calibration work
7. Documenting and communicating knowledge

Priorities discussion - poll results

What do you want to achieve by participating on NTAP?

1. Correct flaws in current program, improve upon random stratified approach
2. Enhance program with additional surveys
3. Better data, improve indices of abundance
4. Better use of data
5. More trust
6. Use commercial gear for sampling
7. Share expertise and knowledge, stay informed
8. Learn from experts, understand concerns of industry
9. Better understanding of capabilities and limitations of fishery-independent surveys

Priorities discussion - poll results

Other thoughts and comments

1. Greater industry participation in the process (scallop fishery as good example of involvement)
2. Not achieving optimum yield due to mismatch of allocation and availability
3. Not a fan of most of the list of objectives or activities
4. NTAP could serve a vital role in designing fisheries surveys for offshore wind