

Draft

Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel

Gear Efficiency Survey Options on the Karen Elizabeth

Northeast Fisheries Science Center Briefing

Draft Webinar Summary

**Webinar Participants**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Terry Alexander	Member, NEFMC	Tim Miller	NEFSC
Chris Batsavage	NC DMF; MAFMC	Frank Mirarchi	Comm. Fisherman-
Jim Gartland	VIMS	Philip Politis	NEFSC
Vito Giacalone	NE Seafood Coalition	David Richardson	NEFSC
Pingguo He	Umass Dartmouth-SMAST	Chris Roebuck	Comm. Fishermen-F/V Karen Elizabeth
Meghan Lapp	Seafreeze	Richard Seagraves	MAFMC
Andy Lipsky	NEFSC	Ryan Silva	GARFO
John Manderson	NEFSC		

On July 31, 2017 from 10-11:30 am NTAP convened a webinar for NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) to present a briefing on survey plan options for the upcoming August 2017 Twin Trawl Study on the F/V Karen Elizabeth. This webinar was used to solicit input through NTAP and meeting participants to discuss the merits of various survey options, to help inform NEFSC's decision on the final survey objectives for the upcoming survey. The three survey options are described in the NEFSC's Cruise Plan Options document previously shared with NTAP members and available on the [NTAP website](#).

Three Survey Options under consideration (all following 2015/2016 Twin Trawl Survey methods):

1. **Sampling Option #1- Gulf of Maine-Mid-Atlantic Bight:** Broad coverage of flounders and red hake
2. **Sampling Option #2- Mid-Atlantic Bight and Southern New England-** Summer Flounder focus, winter flounder secondary
3. **Sampling Option #3- Gulf of Maine to Southern New England-** Winter flounder focus, summer flounder secondary

### **Meeting Summary:**

David Richardson provided a detailed overview of the three survey options considered for this year's survey, outlining the broad goals of this cooperative gear research, assumptions for each of the survey options, and the relative merits and constraints of each. Dave also presented a recommended NEFSC option to focus on Summer Flounder (other species would also be sampled) to best inform the summer flounder benchmark assessment scheduled for 2018. Andy Lipsky facilitated the discussion of the various options with webinar attendees to seek input on a preferred survey option. A variety of viewpoints were shared by members of the group highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of each of the three options. Through this dialogue and review of options by the group a recommended survey option was selected and described below.

### **Materials:**

Richardson Presentation [[Link Here to NTAP Website](#)]

### **Recommended Survey Option:**

**Option #2 with a modification** to achieve some of the objectives in Option #3 was selected by the group as the preferred survey option. Summer Flounder would be the priority species and sampling would occur in Southern New England & Mid-Atlantic Bight (as necessary). Windowpane and SNE Winter Flounder would also be captured in this survey scheme and contribute to filling data gaps in these species. Once sufficient sampling of Summer Flounder is achieved-the survey team would then seek to fill its secondary objective of sampling in the Western Gulf of Maine (i.e. Ipswich Bay) to collect data on red hake (primary) and winter flounder (secondary) and other flatfish species captured following decision-criteria/move-on rules to be implemented in real time as data is collected and evaluated.

### **Next Steps**

1. NEFSC survey chief scientist, John Manderson, with support from NEFSC team to work with Chris Roebuck to finalize survey plan details and protocols based on Option #2 with/ Modification described above (Completed by August 16).
2. NEFSC team (Miller, Richardson, Manderson) to develop decision-criteria and real-time tools to automate move-on rules and sampling decision-making (Complete by August 16).
3. NTAP to schedule in next future meeting discussion of future research priorities, e.g., other species priorities, catchability differences due to gear configuration, e.g., configurations between deep and shallow fishing depths.