

Current NTAP Charter

Three primary areas of focus:

- Understanding the existing NOAA/NEFSC trawl survey gear performance and methodology
- Evaluating the potential to complement or supplement this and other regional research surveys
- Improving understanding and acceptance of NOAA/NEFSC trawl survey data quality and results.

Understanding NEFSC Trawl Gear Performance and Methodology

Including but not limited to:

- Survey design (station selection, temporal and spatial considerations)
- Survey operations
- Sweep efficiency/selectivity
- Fish behavior effects on trawl performance (*e.g.* herding/avoidance)
- Vertical distribution effects on trawl performance
- Day/night differences in trawl performance
- Current effects on trawl performance

Evaluate the Potential to Complement or Supplement Current NEFSC Surveys

Including but not limited to:

- **Inter-calibrations between industry vessels and NOAA FS/V Henry B. Bigelow or FS/V Pisces**
 - Would allow industry partners to supplement survey activity and be better positioned to perform the survey in the event that the Bigelow is not available.
- **Increased trawl survey station density using industry vessels.**
 - May improve precision of indices for species that are presently at low abundance.
- **New industry-based surveys to supplement/complement existing research trawl surveys.**
 - May include fixed-gear surveys in untrawlable habitat or a dedicated trawl survey for bottom tending species.
- **Inter-calibration among the established regional research surveys: NEFSC Ecosystem Survey, Northeast Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) and the Massachusetts and Maine New Hampshire state research surveys.**

Improving Understanding and Acceptance of NEFSC trawl Survey Data Quality and Results

Including but not limited to:

- Developing routine reporting products and distribution
- Explaining similarities and differences between research survey and commercial trawl operations
- Identifying preferred routine, near real-time research survey data types and format
- How to reconcile perceptions derived from survey data trends and commercial catch per unit of effort
- Best practices for keeping peers informed about the panel's work and results