

Science, Service, Stewardship



**NEFSC Social Sciences Branch
New Data Collection Initiatives**

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Why new data collection initiatives?

- Touchstone Report 2011 recommends:
“Scale up the collection and use of socioeconomic data in FMPs in order to make socioeconomic analysis a more visible and meaningful part of the management process”
- Broad Mandate under the MSA:
Conservation and management measures shall
 - NS5: “...where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources...”
 - NS8: “...take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic and social data...”

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Goals of NEFSC/SSB Performance Measures Program

- **Proactive socio-economic data analysis:** Economic & socio-cultural economic information on fisheries performance provided to managers and stakeholders *on an ongoing basis* - not only as a reaction to a proposed regulatory action.
- **Communication:** Fisheries performance information that serves as common ground for discussion and the “go-to” source for inquiries about what’s going on in the fisheries.
- **Assessment:** Are we achieving MSA Standards and meeting FMP goals? What are the issues, successes, and failures?
- **Comparison of Performance under Various Regulatory Mechanisms:** Catch Share & Non-Catch Share Fisheries

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NEFSC/SSB Performance Measures



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SSB Data Collection Efforts Summer 2012

- 1. Socio-economic Surveys of Commercial Fishermen in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic**
 - Vessel Owners
 - Vessel Crew
- 2. Northeast Fishing Vessel Annual Cost Survey**
 - Vessel Owners

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Details on Surveys

Vessel Annual Cost

- 1700 Vessel Owners in Northeast
- Stratified by Vessel Size and Gear Type
- Mail Survey –may return via mail or complete on web

Socioeconomic Vessel Owner and Crew

- 1330 Crew Members and 800 Owners in NE & Mid-Atlantic
- Stratified by Fishery
- Crew members interviewed on the docks on tablets, owners received a mail survey

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Northeast Vessel Annual Cost Survey

- Trip cost information collected by observers reflects only a component of the total costs of commercial fishing.
- Analyzing costs across fisheries, vessel sizes and gear types ties directly into the financial viability and distributional outcomes performance measures.
- SSB has not collected data on annual costs since 2008.

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Northeast Vessel Annual Cost Survey

- Vessel Information
 - e.g ownership type, number of owners, market value of vessel
- Repair/Maintenance/Upgrade Improvement Costs
- Fishing Business Related Costs
 - e.g., vessel insurance premiums, mooring/dockage fees, crew payments
- Operating Costs
 - e.g., fuel, ice, bait, fishing supplies
- Lay Systems

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Vessel Owner and Crew Socio-economic Surveys

- Target known data gaps
 - Allow for development of performance measures,
 - *distributional outcomes
 - *governance
 - *stewardship
 - *well-being
 - Collect basic demographic information (esp. important for crew)
- Allow tracking of trends across fisheries & across time
- Allow us to present the broader picture
 - Analysis of economic and social impacts on fishermen & their communities from proposed regulatory actions.

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Vessel Owner and Crew Socio-economic Surveys

- Distributional Outcomes
 - employment and income: ease of finding employment, share systems, other sources of income for the household
- Governance
 - perceptions of regulations, fisheries management process
- Stewardship
 - perceptions of trends for bycatch, discards, highgrading
 - perceptions of responsibility for stewardship of fishery and sea
- Well-Being
 - job satisfaction, connection to community, health insurance status

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What we're learning... a new approach.

- Minimizing the burden for fishermen
- Improving our communication
 - Touchstone Report, 2011: "Most industry representatives said they are never told what a report is used for or where it goes."
- Increasing engagement with the fishing community