

# Pilot Hook and Line Survey

## Motivation:

- Many historical fisheries surveys will be unable to operate within and around offshore wind farms
  - Preclusion of fisheries surveys will impact data availability for stock assessments and fisheries management
- New survey tools are necessary to provide data continuity as offshore wind progresses

## Goal:

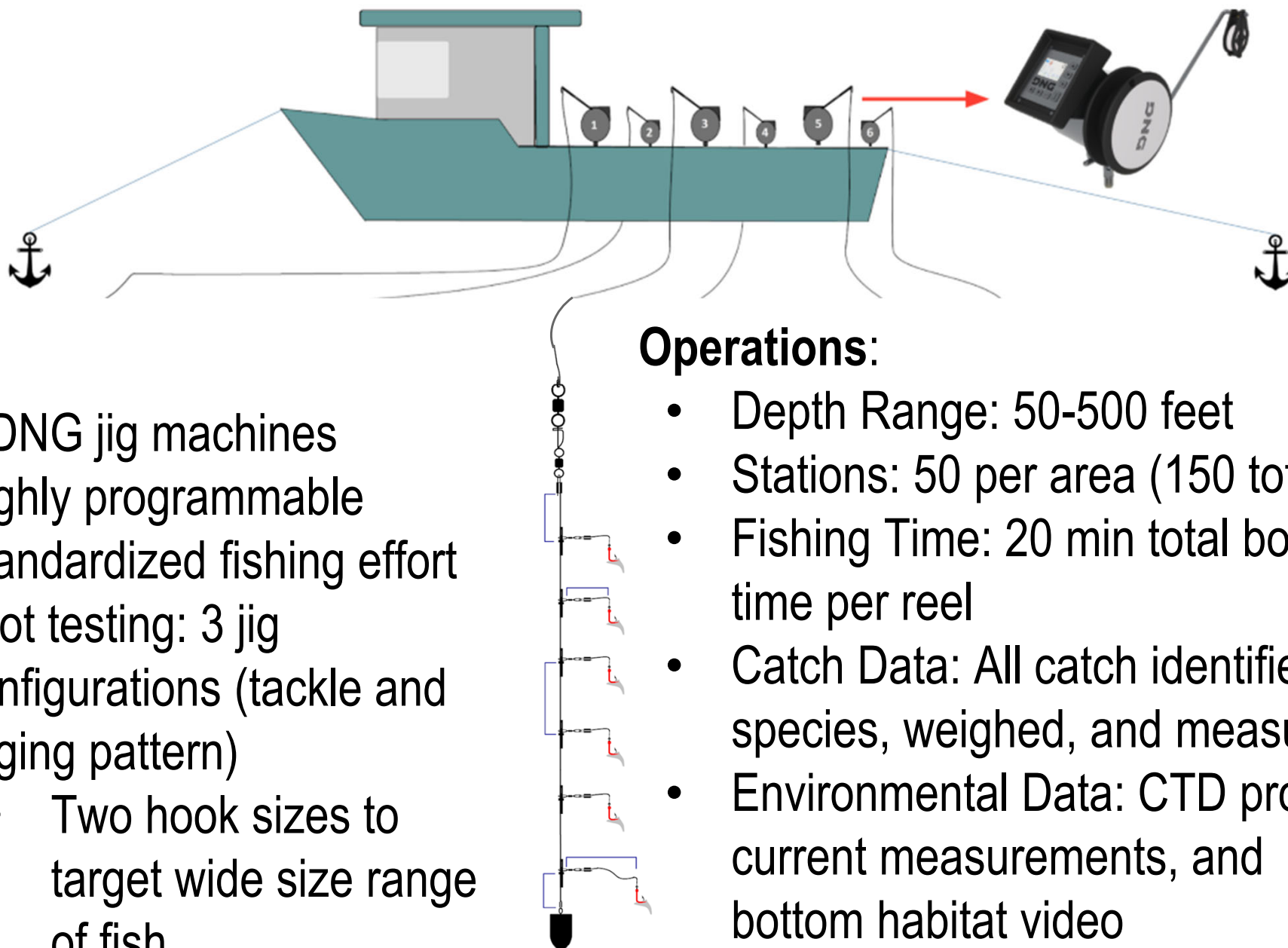
- Develop and test the methodology for a new hook and line survey to provide data continuity for multiple resources species in complex habitats and alongside offshore wind turbines



## Approach:

- Develop and document draft hook and line survey plan as part of the NEFSC's offshore wind survey mitigation initiative
- Refine survey design, gear, and operations in partnership with fishing and science communities → 9 workshops from ME to VA in November 2023

# Pilot Hook and Line Survey



## Gear:

- 6 DNG jig machines
- Highly programmable
- Standardized fishing effort
- Pilot testing: 3 jig configurations (tackle and jigging pattern)
  - Two hook sizes to target wide size range of fish

## Operations:

- Depth Range: 50-500 feet
- Stations: 50 per area (150 total)
- Fishing Time: 20 min total bottom time per reel
- Catch Data: All catch identified to species, weighed, and measured
- Environmental Data: CTD profiles, current measurements, and bottom habitat video

# Pilot Hook and Line Survey

## Approach:

- Recruit 3 vessels to support the pilot hook and line survey
  - GOM: F/V Lady Rebecca, Newburyport, NH
  - SNE: F/V Frances, Point Judith, RI
  - Mid-Atlantic: F/V Rudee Whaler, Virginia Beach, VA
- Conduct pilot hook and line survey in the Gulf of Maine, Southern New England, and Mid-Atlantic in spring 2024
- Review operational successes and challenges, analyze data to assess gear selectivity, and identify necessary modifications to achieve survey goals

