

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

NTAP overview

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NTAP Full Panel Meeting Thursday, December 14, 2023

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Purpose

- Started in 2015
- Joint Council Advisory Panel
- 3 primary objectives:
 1. Understanding the existing NOAA/NEFSC trawl survey gear performance and methodology.
 2. Evaluating the potential to complement or supplement this and other regional research surveys.
 3. Improving understanding and acceptance of NOAA/NEFSC trawl survey data quality and results

NEFSC Bottom Trawl Survey

Objectives:

- Monitor trends in abundance, distribution, and life history for demersal fish (informs stock assessments)
- Monitor ecosystem changes (informs status of ecosystem reports, stock assessments and climate assessments)

Survey design: Stratified random

- strata were determined by depth and region
- ~370 station locations randomly selected per season, fall & spring
- # per stratum based on stratum size and variability of catch

| | 1963-2008 | 2009-present |
|--------|--|--|
| Vessel | Albatross IV | Henry B. Bigelow |
| Net | Yankee #36 trawl (9.1 m/30 ft bridles) | four-seam, 3-bridle bottom trawl (36.6 m/120 ft bridles) |
| Sweep | Roller | Rockhopper |
| Doors | 450 kg/990 lb Euronet Polyvalent | 550 kg/1200 lb Poly-ice oval |

Albatross IV
1963-2008

Longest continuously running, standardized fish survey in the world.

Standardized surveys minimize the variability typical for commercial fisheries data and thus generate more consistent indices of stock abundance (Doubleday and Rivard, 1981)

Henry B. Bigelow
2009-present

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Organization

- 2 co-chairs - 1 each from each Council that determine agendas and report back to their respective Council
- MAFMC NTAP Coordinator - handles communications, meeting minutes, website
- NEFSC Lead - works with coordinator and co-chairs to follow the charter, plan meetings, prepare information for meetings
- Working Groups - a subgroup of NTAP members working on a specific topic
- NEFSC NTAP Team - a team of NEFSC scientists that support NTAP

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Members

- 20 members
- NEFMC and MAFMC, industry stakeholders, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), non-federal scientists, and NEFSC, as described in the charter
- Each Council appoints an equal number of members

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Members

- Appointments are for 1 year
- Members attend at least 3 meetings per year (WG and/or full panels meetings) - in person and via WebEx
 - Costs for attending meetings are covered by MAFMC
- Members should be familiar with email, scheduling, and video conferencing

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- 2-3 Full panel meetings per year. In-person preferred, locations vary throughout the region.
 - Meetings announced in Federal Register
- 3-6 Working group meetings, typically via WebEx
 - Meetings not publicly announced
- Scheduled using polling software like Doodle
- Monthly email updates
- 2 websites: MAFMC maintains the primary operations website; NEFSC maintains a website more focused on science products
- Decisions made by consensus

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- Co-chairs report recommendations to the Councils
- Recommendations also inform NEFSC directly at the meeting
- NTAP develops its own publications -reports and peer-reviewed publications. Members assist with advising and conducting research, drafting research communications, and/or editing communications.

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Key Resources

- [NTAP charter](#)
- [NTAP website](#)
- [NEFSC NTAP website](#)
- [Operations Manual and Orientation Document](#)
- MAFMC (Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council). 2021. [Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures](#) (SOPP) rev. Feb 2021 and other [Council Policies](#).
- MAFMC (Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council). Travel Website and 2019 Guidelines. <https://www.mafmc.org/travel>
- NEFMC (New England Fisheries Management Council). 2020. [Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures](#) (SOPP) rev. 2015 and [Operations Handbook](#) rev. Feb 2020.
- NEFMC (New England Fisheries Management Council). 2022. [Advisory Panel Operations Handbook](#) rev. Feb 2022.
- NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy. 2021. [NOAA Administration Order 202-735D.2](#)
- Tables describing which stock assessments use the Rockhopper Catch Efficiency Study results are published by the NEFSC NTAP team and posted online: there is also a [dashboard](#) for NTAP members
- [Marine Resource Education Program](#)
- [NEFSC Trawl Survey protocols](#) (Politis et al., 2014)
- Overview of the stock assessment process
 - An [overview of how the survey is used in assessments](#) was presented to the NTAP in 2015 by Michael Martin

Upcoming activities

Dec 18 - industry-based survey draft 2 released to NTAP, comments due Jan 7

Feb 8 - NTAP meeting in Alexandria, VA

Spring - complete the Bigelow Contingencies Plan - includes 2-3 working group meetings and document review

Restrictor rope study peer review paper being drafted