fewer groundfish trips. However, when fishermen are able to fish, in many cases, their trips appear to be somewhat longer. Economic indicators of net revenue suggest that what was an increasing trend in average earnings per day for vessel owners on groundfish trips has declined substantially in 2013 to a four-year low, accompanied by continued declines in crew earnings. Values on non-groundfish trips are more stable. In aggregate, however, total owner and crew shares of net revenue have continued to decline.

Consolidation in the fishery continues, as all species and groundfish revenues are earned by smaller numbers of vessels and vessel affiliations. The high level of concentration of revenues earned by fishermen for all species, and especially for groundfish, continues to persist.

The NEFSC continues its work to provide more and better information on the impacts occurring in the groundfish fishery, as well as other Northeast fisheries. NEFSC staff economists are analyzing data recently collected from our survey of commercial fishing vessels for costs incurred in 2011 and 2012 and are making those data available to NEFMC staff for the analysis of proposed management actions. Those data are especially important because they contain information about the fixed, or non-trip, costs (including leasing costs) associated with running a commercial fishing business, which is necessary to understand profit. Fixed costs may vary considerably depending on vessel size and primary gear type, among other factors. The NEFSC has also recently collected socioeconomic data from vessel owners and vessel crew across fisheries to better understand how regulations across fisheries affect fishermen in their work and also in their daily lives as individuals and community members. These data will enable further development of governance, stewardship, and well-being performance indicators. In addition, the socioeconomic survey of vessel crew will provide needed demographic data on crew (which currently do not exist) and help to better understand how compensation to crew may be changing as fishing regulations change. NEFSC staff are also engaged in work to automate the production of basic performance measures for the Northeast’s catch share and non-catch share fisheries, which will enable us to provide basic performance indicators for the other fisheries in the region in a more widespread and timely manner.

Finally, these findings apply to the active participants who have remained in the groundfish fishery. However, they tell us little about the participants who are no longer actively fishing. The NEFSC is currently finishing up a series of ethnographic interviews to be able to report on the social and economic experiences of fishermen who have transitioned out of the active groundfish fishery into other fishing and non-fishing related activities.

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