



Trigger Questions: Fishery Independent Surveys

How was the trawl gear and trawling protocols developed for the Northeast Fisheries Science Center surveys conducted on the FSV Henry Bigelow?

Why does the Bigelow use a rockhopper sweep and how can you expect it to adequately sample flatfish, skate and monkfish?

How can we be confident that research survey gear the Bigelow is fishing the gear effectively? How is this monitored?

How do you know that the gear is on the bottom? How do you evaluate whether a survey tow is representative? How are data used or not used for tows where there are significant gear or gear performance issues?

The Bigelow does not sample some inshore areas anymore. Are these inshore areas sampled and if so, who surveys these areas.



Trigger Questions: Fishery Dependent Data

Are the data that we provide in Vessel Trip Reports (VTR's) incorporated into stock assessments or used for other scientific purposes? What about dealer reported data?

Fishery observer data are used for a variety of purposes. How are fishery observer data incorporated into stock assessments? What other scientific processes utilize observer data?

How does the Observer Program ensure that it achieves representative coverage of each fishery? Who decides on the priorities?

What training do observers receive? What quality control measures are there relative to observer performance and data handling?



Trigger Questions: Cooperative Research Data

How can we identify information needs of stock assessments that could be addressed through Cooperative Research projects?

Who decides on research priorities for the Research Set-Aside programs?

Has cooperative research been incorporated into stock assessments? What are the impediments preventing greater utilization of information generated through Cooperative Research.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of conducting resource surveys on research vessel vs. commercial fisheries platforms?