Overview of January and February Trawl Rationalization Monitoring Meetings
Workshops held in January and February to discuss monitoring under the trawl rationalization program

- Purpose was to provide a forum for discussing the ways in which catch will be documented under IFQ system

- Participants had an eye toward a system which would be “effective, but cost efficient”
Several points were discussed

- At sea observer system
- Shoreside monitor system
- State fish ticket system
- Port sampling system
- Enforcement’s role
- IFQ transfer tools
- Private arrangements for cutting observer costs
- Federal, state, private responsibilities for program components
Key outcomes and potentially influential decision points

- Requirements for an at sea observer are specified in regulation
- Shoreside monitor may not necessarily have those same requirements
- Two possibilities exist for the role of state fish tickets in catch reporting under the IFQ system
- Role of enforcement in ensuring catch reporting compliance and accuracy may change fundamentally as a result of observers and catch monitors
- Catch reporting redundancy can be built into the system at opportunistic places to improve the reporting accuracy of observers and monitors
- Some industry members can potentially pool observers over a given time period to reduce costs
At Sea Observer Standards

Outlined in the document National Minimum Eligibility Standards for Marine Fisheries Observers

- 1) a bachelor’s degree ...with a major in one of the natural sciences and a minimum of 30 semester hours or equivalent in the biological sciences...

- RAs and Science Directors may waive the education and experience requirements ... if a (candidate) has acquired ... skills to be eligible for observer training through a NMFS authorized alternative training program....
Shoreside monitor standards

Shoreside monitors may not need to meet the same requirements. Two options were discussed:

- Meet the same requirements as at sea observers
- Operate like the “weighmaster program” previously run by the Fishermen’s Marketing Association
SS monitors as observers?

Discussion was that:

- Meeting such minimum standards may tend to result in a more “professional” individual
  - This may increase the confidence and accuracy of shoreside catch monitoring, potentially decreasing the need for data QA/QC as well as potentially decreasing the need for shoreside enforcement presence
SS monitors as “weigh masters”?

Discussion was:

- FMA had run a successful program in the past that was relatively low cost.
  - Combining weighmasters with the catch reporting incentives created by the IFQ program should result in quality catch reporting
State fish tickets in shoreside catch reporting

- Three catch data systems run alongside the IFQ program
  - At sea observer system
  - Shoreside monitor system
  - State fish ticket system

- Two alternative viewpoints were discussed regarding the role of state fish tickets systems
  - That the IFQ program be run entirely off at sea and shoreside monitor data
  - That state fish ticket data eventually replace shoreside monitor data
Alternative views regarding the role of state fish ticket systems

- State fish tickets not used for IFQ program management
  - Concept was that with a well-run shoreside monitor system, the need for state fish tickets may not necessary for management.
  - Fish ticket adjustments made several months after the fact make it difficult to administer and operate under the IFQ program
Alternative views (cont)

State fish tickets replace shoreside monitor data

- Concept was that state fish tickets which have been QA/QC are better catch reports than shoreside monitor reports
- The signature of the harvester and processor on the fish ticket provides a vehicle for enforcing catch reporting
Opportunistic catch reporting redundancy to improve catch reporting

Appear to be opportunities for simple catch monitoring redundancies to improve the catch monitoring system

- Require that at sea observers estimate landings and discard of OFS
  - Compare estimates to SS monitor OFS estimates with at sea observer estimates → provide feedback to both persons to improve estimation over time

- Compare port sampler information to SS monitor information
  - Provide feedback to SS monitor to improve estimation over time

Improvements in observer and monitor reporting may reduce need for data QA/QC and improve management accuracy
Observer pooling to reduce cost

Some industry members and observer companies outlined a model to reduce private observer costs:

- Long term contract between groups of fishermen and an observer company for a given number of observers
- Vessels share a smaller number of observers during that time period
  - Long term contract reduces observer turnover which may reduce cost
  - Sharing observers across a larger number of vessels may reduce cost