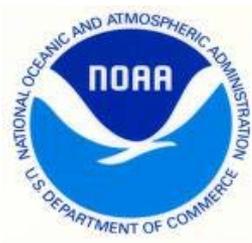


NOAA Fisheries Groundfish Science Report to PFMC

March 2011

John Stein and John Ferguson
NOAA Fisheries
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
Seattle, Washington



Trawl Catch Shares Observer Training Sessions

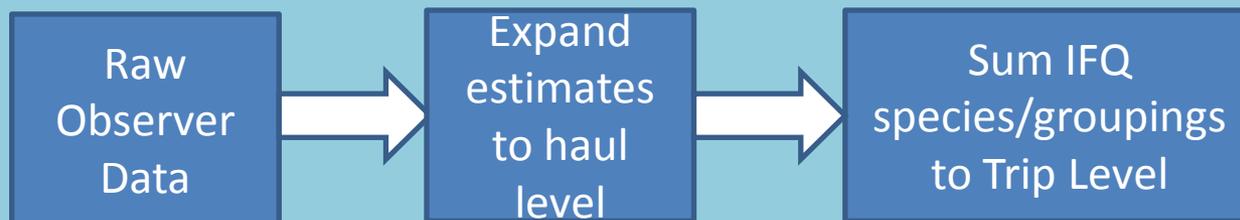
- Trainings - 13 day course for trawl catch share observer candidates who did not work for WCGOP in 2010
 - November 29 - December 15, 2010
 - January 10 - 26, 2011
 - February 7 - 25 ($n = 80$ trained so far)
 - March - conduct WCGOP training
 - April 11- 27
 - May 9 - 25
 - August
 - October (tentative)
- Goal: Was to have 125 observers trained; current goal is to have 175 available to the providers

ITQ Update

- Implementing a new program under a CR
- Training vs data delivery
- Coordination with NWR, NWC, providers, and PSFMC
- Implementation is going fairly well....but it's a very dynamic and people want a lot of data (e.g., risk pools, ESA consultation, EFH habitat)

Data Delivery Process

- Determined sampling changes (completed: November 2010)
- Created functionality document and example hauls (completed: February 28, 2011)
- Writing query (in progress)
- Testing query (in progress)
- Make data available



Expanding estimates to trip level

Simple Species Expansion

Unsampled
Thornyhead

Unsampled
IFQ Flatfish

Unsampled
IFQ Species

Unsampled
IFQ Rockfish

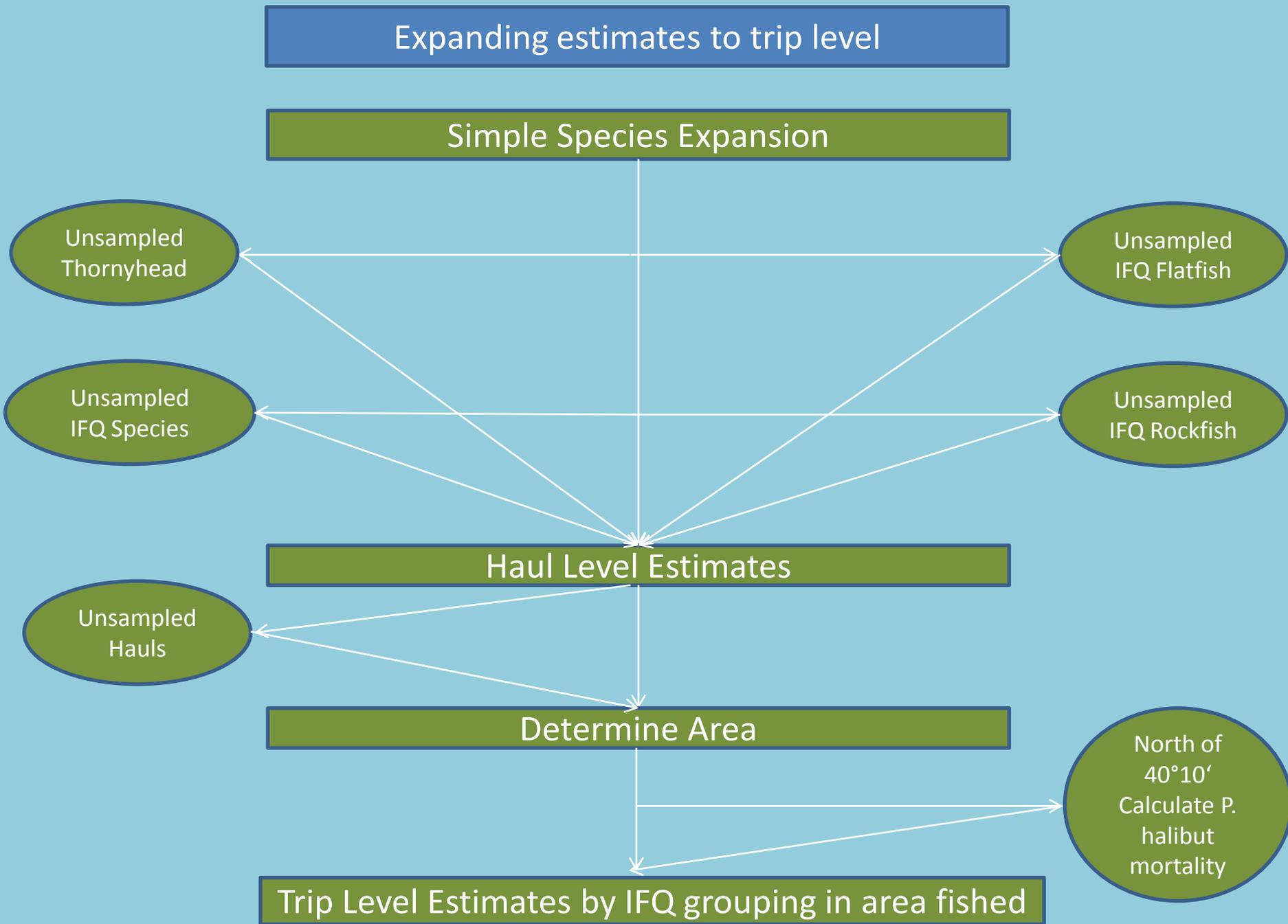
Haul Level Estimates

Unsampled
Hauls

Determine Area

North of
40°10'
Calculate P.
halibut
mortality

Trip Level Estimates by IFQ grouping in area fished



FRAMD Director Recruitment Update

- Vacancy announcement was open from February 14 to February 28
- March: Review applications, conduct interviews, and meet with Division staff
- April: Final selection, offer, negotiation
- New Director on board NLT May 1
- Ferguson to stay involved through December to assist new Director and aid a smooth transition

Update: Rockfish/hake Pre-recruit Survey in 2011

Scenario 1: If SWFSC receives 45 days on R/V Shimada for the California part of the survey in May and early June, there are two possible options for the northern portion:

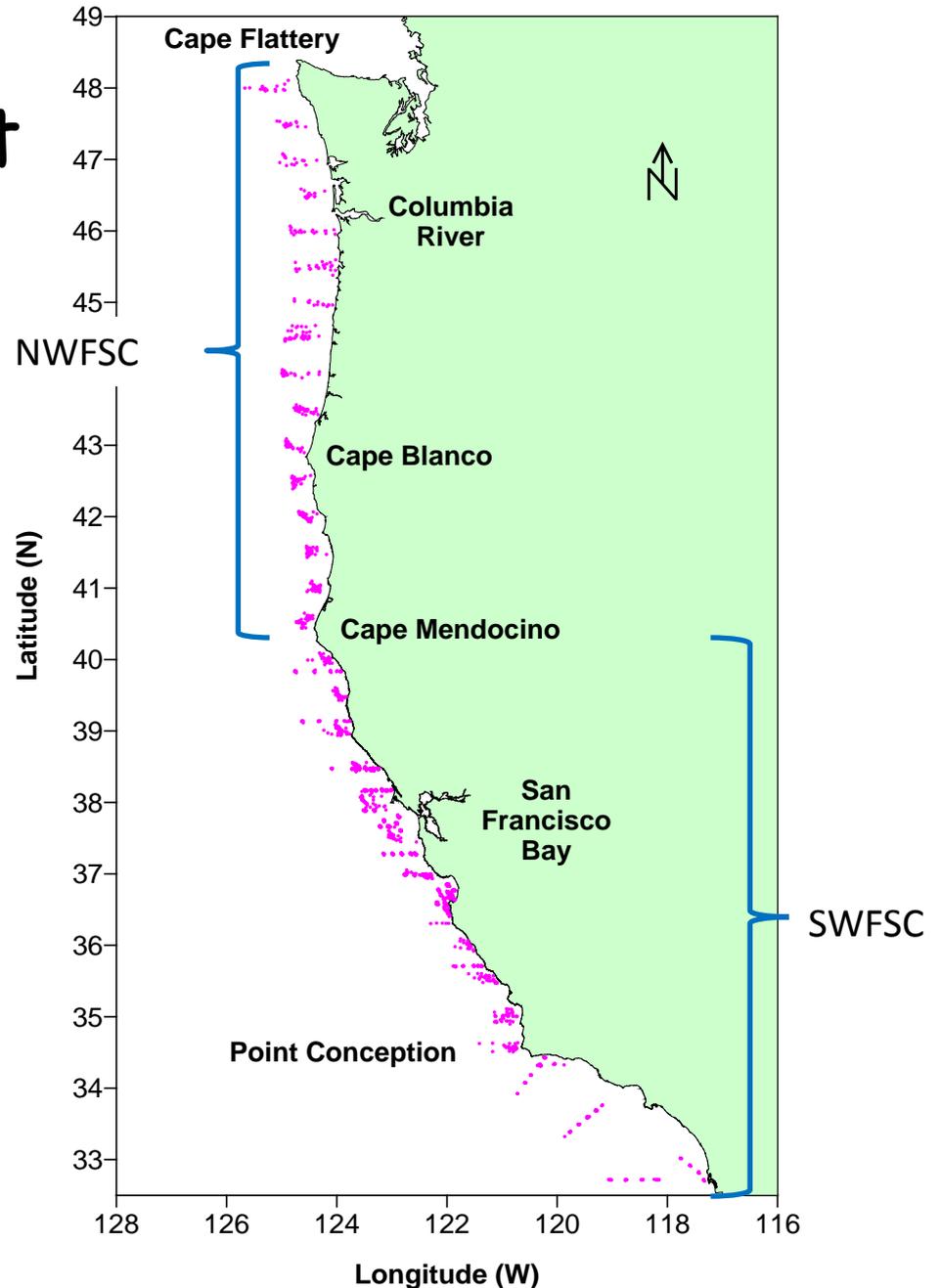
- a) charter the Excalibur to do an intervessel fishing comparison at the northern end of the SWFSC survey in early June, and continue up the coast to complete the northern survey until around June 20 when the Excalibur is no longer available (most likely)
- b) charter another vessel to fish later in the summer when we think pre-recruit hake and rockfish are more available in the northern survey area, but there would be no intervessel or interannual comparisons

Scenario 2: If SWFSC does not get time on the Shimada but has funding to charter a fishing vessel, then the best strategy would be to charter one vessel (i.e., the Excalibur) to do the entire survey starting in the south in early May and finishing off Washington around June 20.

Survey Covers US West Coast

Joint effort of the
SWFSC and the
NWFSC & Pacific
Whiting Conservation
Cooperative

2001-2009:
1,813 trawls (~200
trawls/yr)



"Big 4" Vision for Annual Surveys along the West Coast¹

- Groundfish Bottom Trawl Survey (NWC); 2 passes from Canada to Mexico; cooperative with industry
- Juvenile rockfish and hake recruitment survey (joint); Southern California to Mendocino (SWC) and Mendocino to Washington (NWC); cooperative with industry²
- Hake and sardine acoustic survey (joint); Shimada; joint with Canadian vessel (Ricker)²
- Juvenile salmon recruitment (joint); Monterey to La Push; cooperative with industry³

¹ All 4 have ecosystem observation components to aid EBM

² Recommended by 2011 hake STAR panel

³ Recommended by EPDT report to PFMC dated February 2011

Extra slides....

2011 Hake Assessment

- STAR met Feb. 7-11, in Seattle (Deca hotel)
- We made significant progress in addressing comments of prior STAR Panels:
 - Developed sex-specific acoustic estimates to address differential male/female growth rates
 - Created programming to summarize all fishery data by time blocks, to better account for the effects of within-year growth in the analysis of length data
 - Reanalyzed the 2009 acoustic survey data due to squid, and these data are now included in the model
 - Met with Canadian colleagues and reached agreement on inclusion and treatment of data, the assembly of a single, comprehensive assessment document, and suggested changes to TORs

2011 Hake Assessment

■ Result:

- New acoustic data processing that significantly reduced analysis times
- Including 2009 data tightened up the confidence intervals around estimated biomass
- Panel review focused on model differences (approach, philosophy)
- The 2 models have increased congruence in terms of trends and uncertainty

■ Summary: Much improved assessment for management decisions

Added Complications

- Need to code to:
 - Recognize situation
 - Employ appropriate equation
- 3 Gear Groups
- 4 Areas
- Pacific halibut
 - Sampling variation leads to multiple equations being needed to accurately calculate mortality