



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center

Communications and Stock Assessment

TOR Theme 6

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Theme 6

Questions to Evaluate

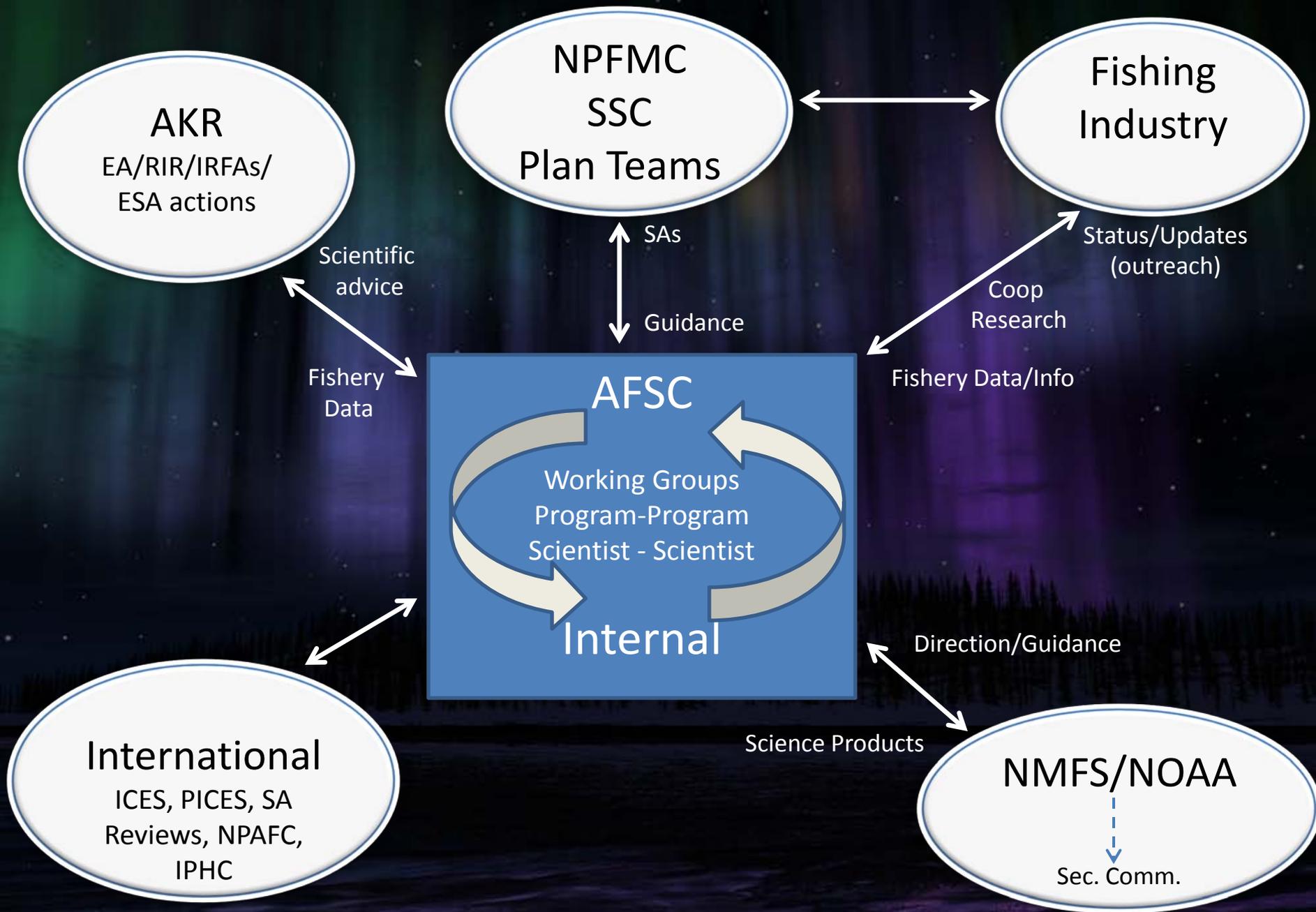
- 6) Does the assessment program adequately communicate their results, needs, and research?
 - a) Are assessment data needs being communicated to survey scientists, advanced technology experts, and fisheries – dependent data sources; and have improved data resulted from these efforts?
 - b) Are assessment process and results adequately communicated to fishery managers, affected public, and the scientific community?

Categories of Communication

- Internal (w/in AFSC) vs External
- Input (Receipt of Info/Data) vs “Exput” (Outreach/Product Distribution)
- Interpersonal vs Groups (WGs, Committees)
- Informal (phone, lunch, beverages) vs Formal (memos, white papers, committee minutes/recommendations, publications)

Purposes of Communication

- Obtain data (information) from fisheries, surveys, process studies, research studies
- Obtain direction from fishery and agency management: e.g., Council, Regional Office, NMFS/NOAA, Legal Counsel
- Provide SA methods & results to reviewers, managers, science community, public:
Industry/NGOs/general public (Outreach)



AFSC Miscellaneous Communications – Groups, Media, Processes, etc.*

- AFSC Workshop to Discuss Alignment of Stock Assessment Needs w/ Development of Advanced Sampling Tools
- Annual September and November Plan Team Meetings
- Stock Structure Working Group
- Geeks and Tweaks
- AFSC Web Pages and Quarterly Reports
- Sablefish (Blackcod) Almanac (annual newsletter to industry)
- REFM - MACE Acoustic Survey Priorities Annual Meeting
- National Stock Assessment Improvement Program (SAIP) Working Group
- AFSC Rockfish Working Group
- AFSC Maturity Working Group
- ICES & PICES Committees and Working Groups
- ABL SeaWeek: 3-week outreach program to elementary students
- CIE Reviews of Stock Assessments on a 5-Year Cycle
- */ See link in your agenda for expanded list of groups & committees

2013 AFSC Cooperative Research Projects

PROJECT TITLE	COMMENTS
AFSC Longline survey	Vessel Charter
Sablefish Logbook Interview and Database Program	Supported by 4 Longline associations and requested by N. Pacific Fishery Mgt. Council
Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl Survey	Vessel Charter
Cooperative Fishing Technology & Conservation Engineering for the AK Pollock Fishery	Collaboration with United Catcher Boats & Pollock Conservation Cooperative
Cooperative Research with Industry Foundation on Bering Sea Red King and Tanner Crabs	Collaboration with Bering Sea Fisheries Research Foundation (BSFRF)
A Feasibility Study to Investigate Vertical Herding Behavior of Pacific Cod in Response to Eastern Bering Sea Shelf Survey Bottom Trawl	A response to 2 independent reviews: CIE and by Maunder on behalf of Freezer Longline Coalition
Estimating Discard Mortality for Octopus in Alaska	Response to industry concerns
Cooperative Acoustic Surveys in Western Gulf of Alaska	Supported by Aleutian East Borough and local trawl fleet
Electronic Monitoring of Catch Quantity of Commercial Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Fisheries	In collaboration with and in response to concerns of small vessel longline fleets



Black Cod Almanac

MESA Program, Auke Bay Laboratories, NMFS, Juneau, AK

February 2014

Greetings!

To help improve communication and increase dialogue between scientists and members of the industry, we have started this newsletter. We hope to include any relevant research, links to new literature, summarized highlights of both Groundfish Plan Team and NPFMC meetings, and general news that may have an effect on those involved with the sablefish fishery. Please feel free to pass on, or send us email addresses of others who may appreciate receiving these newsletters.

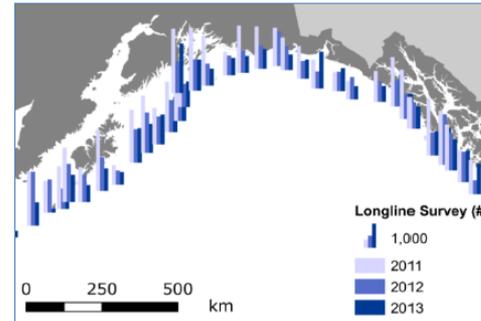


Crew members on the longline survey net a sablefish to be tagged.

2013 NMFS Longline Survey

The 2013 NMFS longline survey sampled waters throughout the entire Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea, June 2013 – August 2013. During the longline survey catch is recorded, a subset of sablefish otoliths are collected for age reading, all sablefish are lengthed, and sablefish are tagged for movement research. The results of this survey are used as one of the abundance indices used in the sablefish assessment model which estimates spawning biomass and is used to set harvest limits.

- Survey Relative Population Numbers (RPNs) were consistent for the western GOA, the Aleutian Islands, and the Bering Sea combined, and down in the central and eastern GOA which are at time series lows



Catch in number of fish at each station of the longline survey in the GOA for years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

- Killer whale depredation was up slightly in the Bering Sea, and sperm whale depredation was similar to 2012
- Total tagged fish: 2,589 sablefish, 1,125 shortspine thornyheads, 17 Greenland turbot, 6 spiny dogfish with pop-off satellite tags (PSATS), 27 sablefish with PSATS, & 4 lingcod with PSATS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• 2013 NMFS Longline Survey Update
• November 2013 Groundfish Plan Team Meeting Summary
• December 2013 NPFMC Meeting Summary
• New Research

This information has not been formally disseminated by the National Marine Fisheries Service and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.

Strengths, Challenges, & Solutions

Strengths: AFSC communications are an active multidimensional web of diverse individuals groups, purposes, and media.

Challenges: Declining opportunities for face-to-face communication & for mid-level scientists to present their work @ scientific fora.

Solutions: Reduce travel restrictions & modernize conferencing options.

Summary

- The AFSC has a longstanding open and transparent stock assessment process communicated both through the formal Council system and through a wide range of outlets and media.
- Communications are two way.
- We have a wide and diverse set of collaborations with universities, other agencies, NGOs, fishing industry, and within NOAA and the AFSC.

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Auke Bay Laboratories Fisheries Management Outreach

Vessel Activities

Grabs, Trawls, ROV, Currents, Sonar, GPS

Lab & Classroom:

Dissections & identifications

By-catch concept (“fish “ for m&ms in a “sea “ of jellybeans)

“Sonar” map seafloor (rocks in shoebox) using skewers/graph paper

