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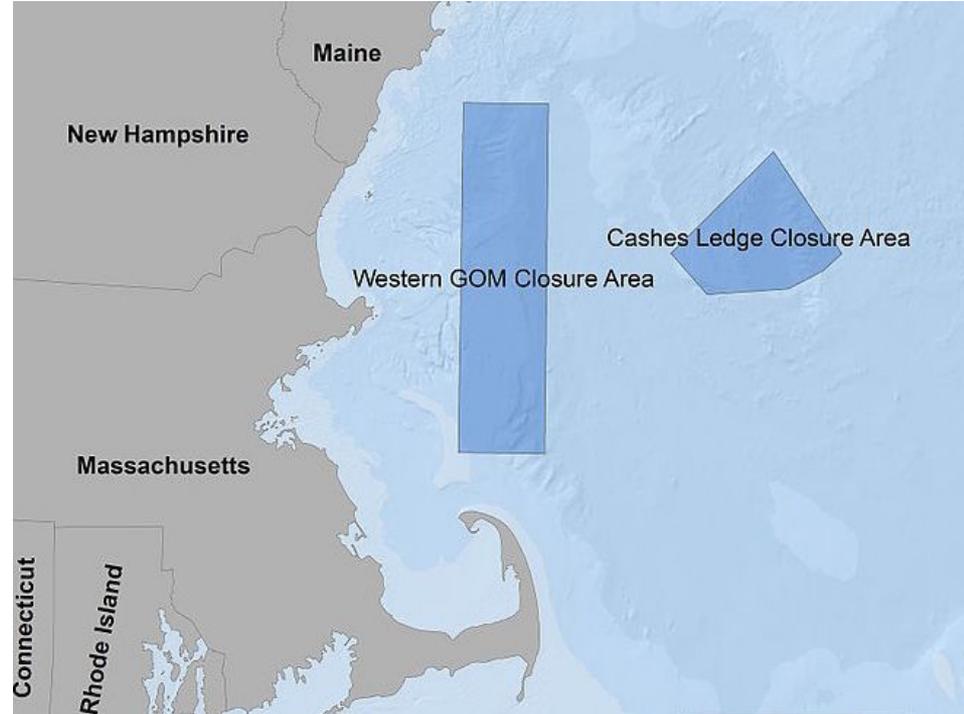
Gettin' Jiggy Wit It: Hook Gear in Gulf of Maine Closed Areas

A collaborative effort between the Fishery
Monitoring Division, Sustainable Fisheries
Division, and Industry

Kevin G. Jackson, Cooperative Research Branch
October 4th, 2017

Project History

- Four fishermen applied for Exempted Fishing Permits to fish the Western Gulf of Maine and Cashes Ledge Closed Areas
- Goal is to determine whether pollock can be efficiently targeted with hook gear in the WGOM/CL CA without catching cod
 - Possible eventual sector exemption
- SFD asked CRB and FSB to help provide coverage for the trips



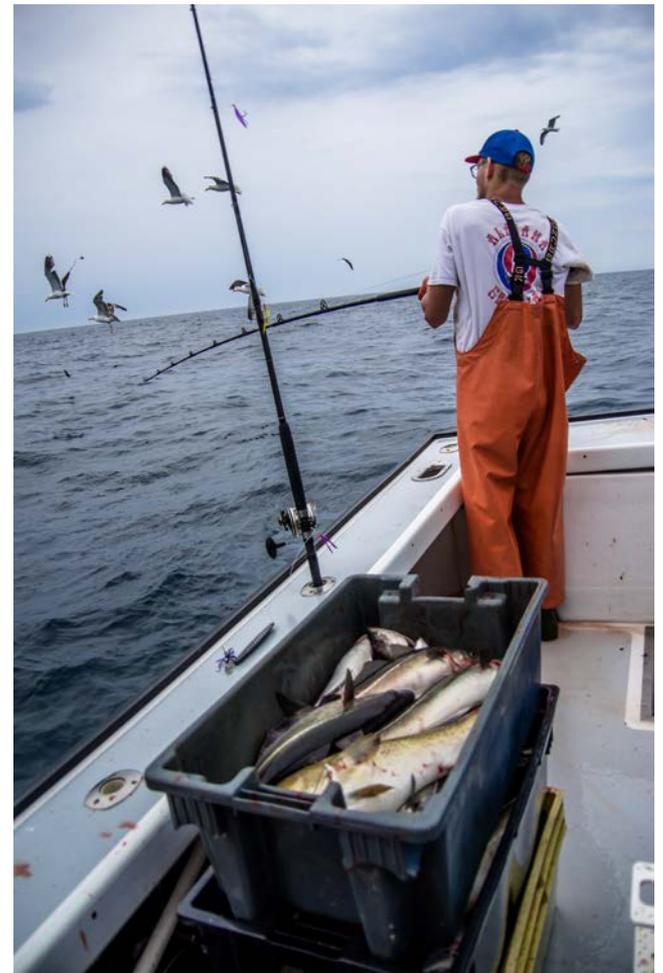
Vessels

- Two vessels primarily using the EFP
 - Finlander
 - Lisa Ann IV



Gear Types

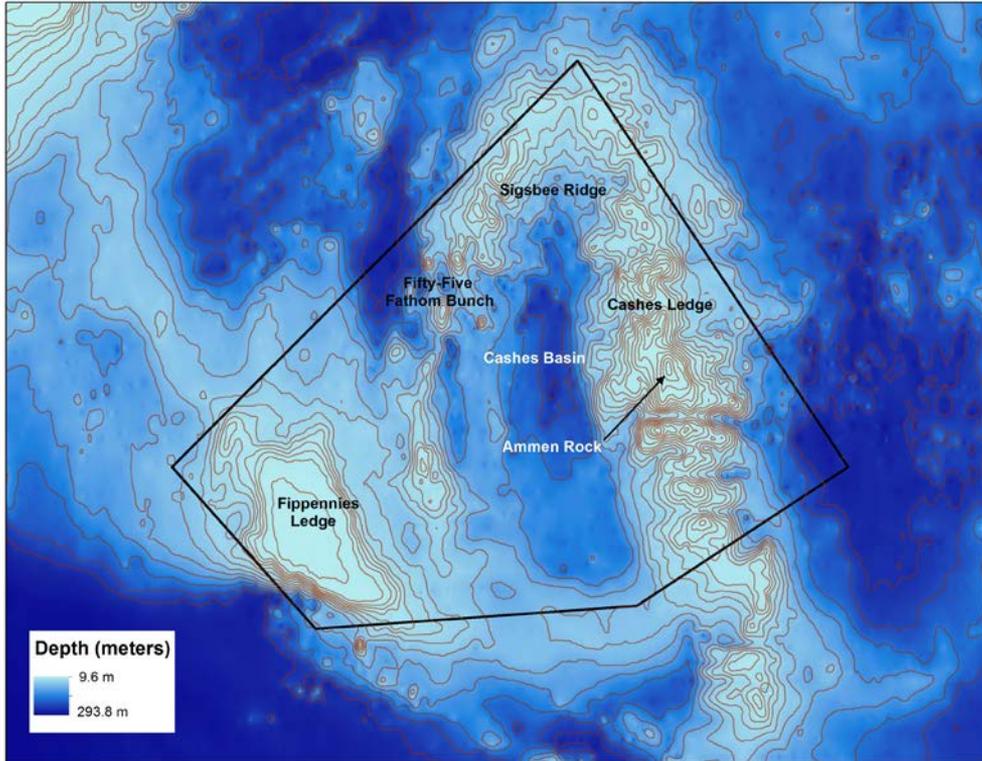
- Finlander
 - Rod and reel



Gear Types (cont.)

- Lisa Ann IV
 - Auto jigging machines, rod and reel





Effort

- 11 CRB trips on Finlander
 - 12 ASM/NEFOP trips
- 10 CRB trips on LAIV
 - 2 ASM/NEFOP trips
- Majority of trips on Fippennies Ledge, with some effort on the 55 and Sigsbee

CRB objectives

- Observe and record the cod:pollock ratio



Secondary CRB objectives

- Collect biological samples on data poor species



- Wolffish



- Cusk



- Atlantic Halibut



- Shark tagging for the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program



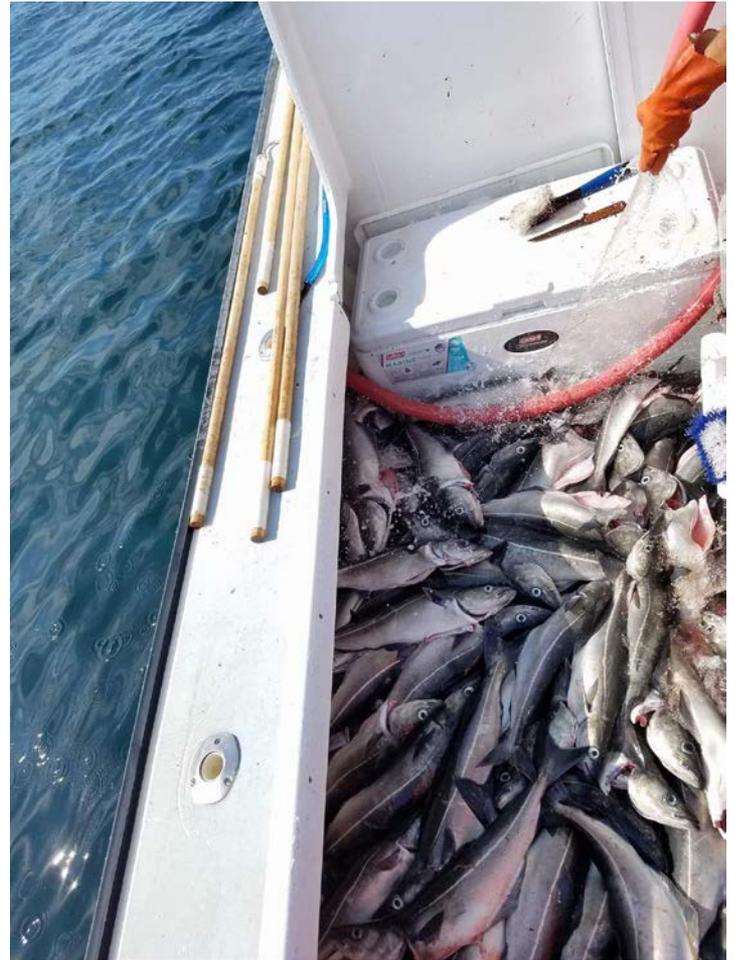
Preliminary Observations

- Cod catch was more significant in July
 - Heavy mixing, difficult to avoid
 - Fish seem to have segregated after mid-August, easier to target just pollock

	Pollock (K)(lb)	Pollock (D)(lb)	Cod (K)(lb)	Cod (D)(lb)
July	23724	963	2760	441
August	14645	826	832	78
September	6723	187	374	11

Preliminary Observations (cont.)

- Time of day (morning bite) and tide (last two hours of the ebb) appears to influence pollock catch
 - Slack tide seems to bring more haddock and cod into the area
- Sharks take significant (>10%) amount of total catch in summer months



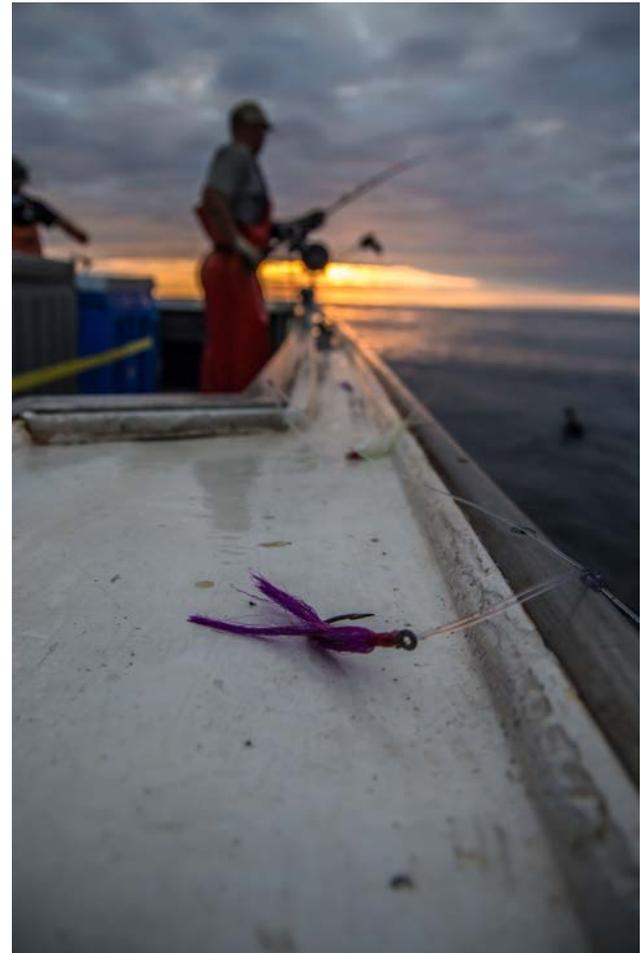
Preliminary Results (cont.)

- Great source of samples
 - Wolffish, cusk, halibut
 - Large cod > 95cm.



Moving Forward

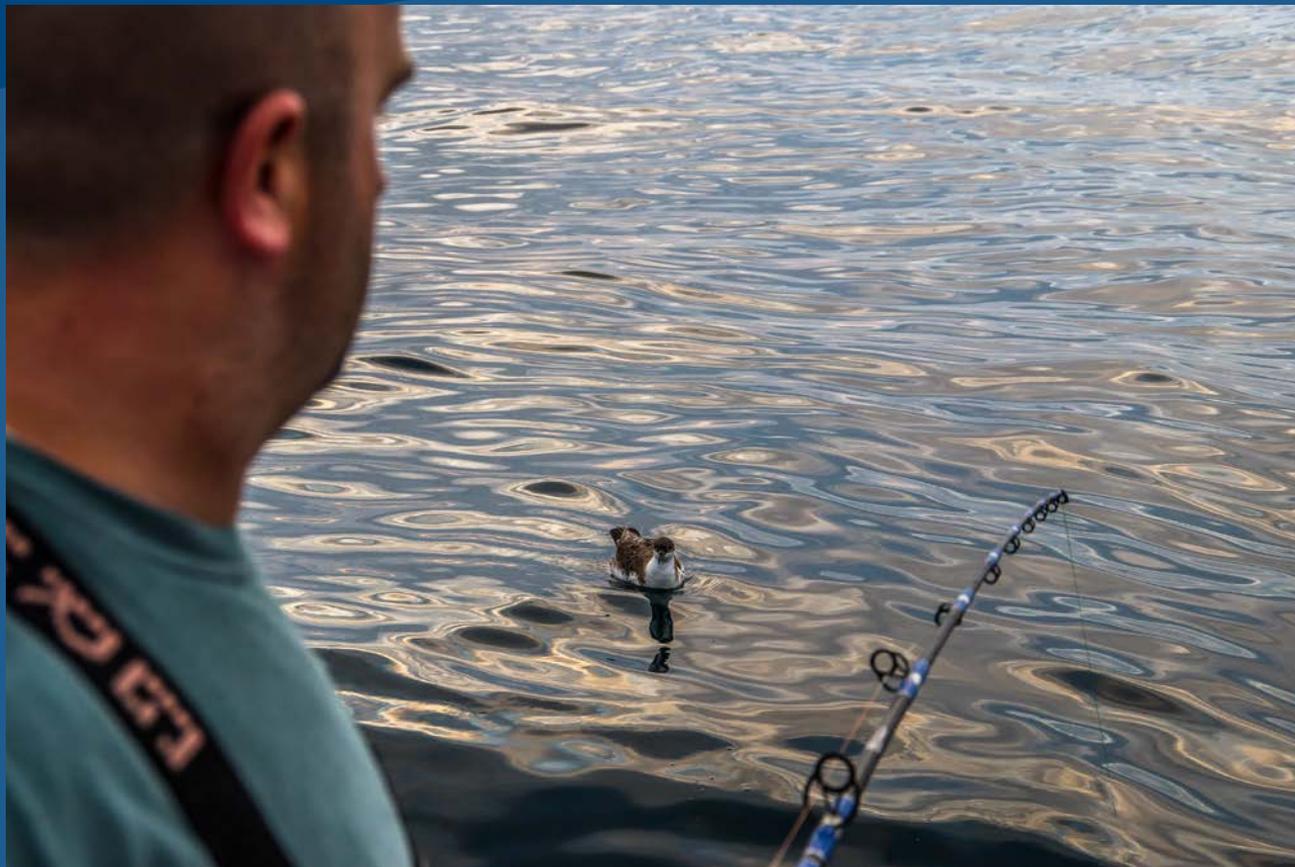
- Trips will continue until the EFP expires in May 2018
- Likely that fishermen will reapply for the next fishing year

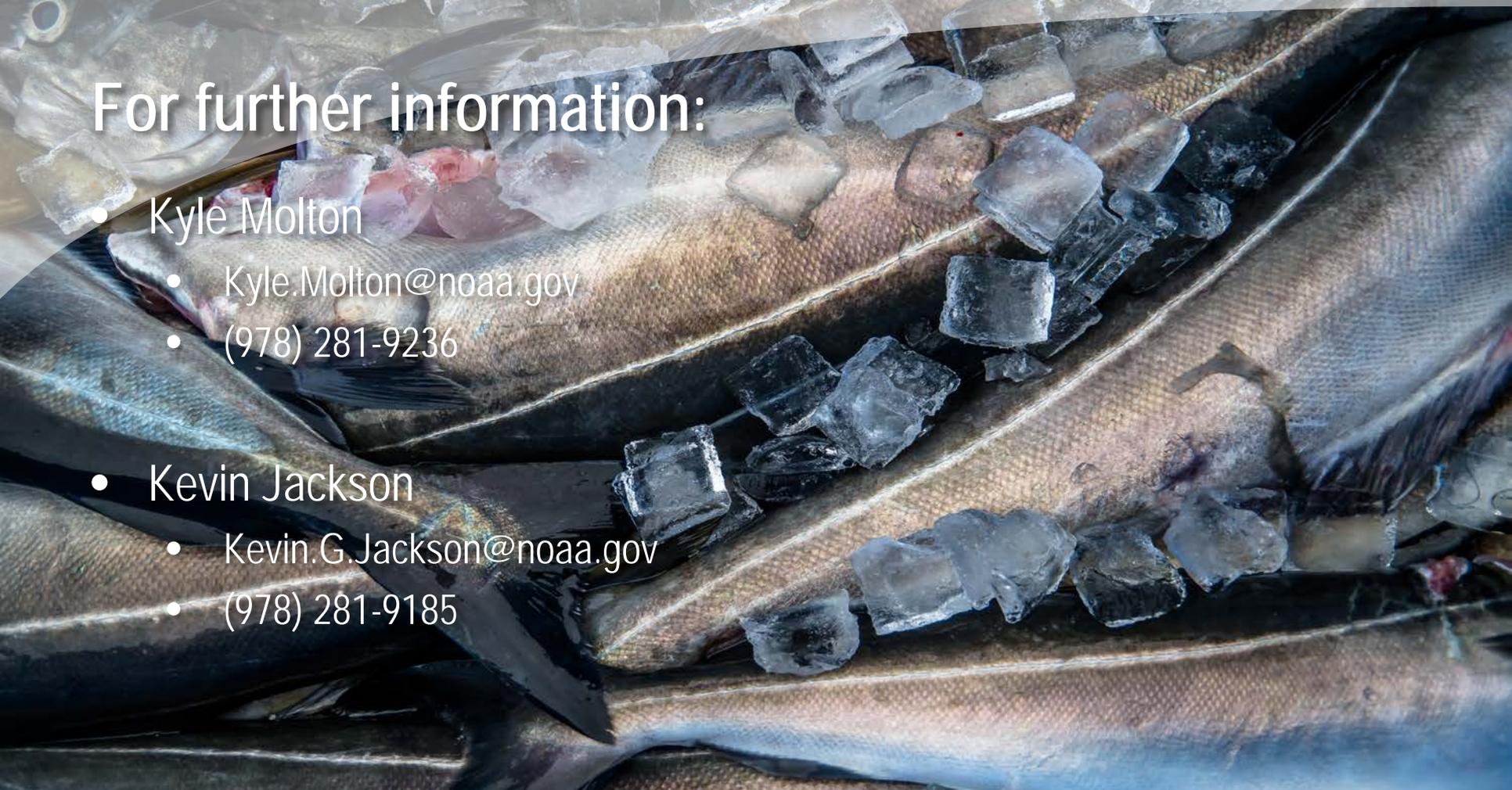


Thanks

- GARFO/SFD
 - Ryan Silva, Kyle Molton, Claire Fitz-Gerald
- CRB
 - Dominique St. Amand, Giovanni Gianesin, Chris Sarro, Calvin Alexander, Elizabeth Marchetti
- FSB
 - KB McArdle & observers who have sailed on these trips
- Captains & Crew

Questions?





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