



NOAA
FISHERIES

Northwest Fisheries
Science Center

Commercial Fisheries: Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities

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Strengths

- Commercial data collections
 - Broad range of participants
 - Robust and accessible data system
 - Council support for mandatory data collection
 - High response rate from industry for voluntary collections
- Collaborations
 - Academics
 - Interdisciplinary collaborations with ecologists and observer scientists
 - Other science centers
- Diverse set of research with value to management and scientific community
- Communication of data collections statistics/performance metrics
 - EDC reports
 - Fish EyE web interface

Challenges

- Balancing Council and individual research priorities
- Council and research timelines often very different
- Cost and earnings survey are resource intensive, and may not be sufficient for many research questions
- Involvement in providing Council social and economic advice is fairly new
- Two baseline EDC data years
- Fishery complexity
 - Highly heterogeneous industry
 - Vertical integration
 - Fishery participation
 - Multispecies nature of groundfish fishery
 - Regulatory complexity

Opportunities and Strategies

- Broadening scope of current cost and earnings surveys
- Extend EDC methods and procedures to voluntary cost and earnings data to develop single data series from 2004-present
- Integrate economic data and models into management strategy evaluations
- Link quantitative and qualitative data together (EDC and Catch-Shares Social Study)
- Strategic planning to provide products to management community (on a useful timeline) while balancing individual contributions to scientific community

Questions?