




## Aleutian Island GKC

"Stock Assessment" based on average historical catch (~6 million Ibs): Tier 5 (lowest)
Triennial Survey, Fishery observer data
Not consistent, potentially biased
Population model using observer data
Potential bias due to observer data
Can we Design a Cooperative survey?
(Consistent and unbiased survey)

## What's the problem?

Area
Sampling design
Spatial extent
Accuracy/Precision
Cost Effective


## ADF\&G Triennial Survey

Cost:
5 FB II (salary/seaduty/benefits) for 28days
$30 \mathrm{~K} /$ person $=150 \mathrm{~K}$
(150 biologist days)
Vessel charter: wanted 10K/day = 280K

Total Cost: ~430K


## Cost due to area too great

So use next best (only) thing for index of abundance: Fishery observer data

## Observer data

Fishery Dependent
Fishing "hotspots"
hyper-stability / independence
Variable gear, skipper, bait, etc
Standardized CPUE
Best with what we have

## Observer data



## Observer data



## String locations

High ove Confirm Non-ind
$n \neq 400$
CVs bias


## Fished Area

AIGKC Eastern Region (H), >0 pots, >0 crab FINAL Selection: $\mathbf{n}=1100$ (1990-2012)


## Observer data




## Cooperative Survey?

Improve spatial extent
Reduce potential for hyperstability
Provide consistent data long-term
Cost effective



## Survey Design

 Version 2Blue $=1000 \mathrm{~m}$ contour




## Survey Design



## Reality

High Trawl areas excluded

1 = 66 (22/vessel)
Erla N modified (shortened) strings in non-core areas Runs 50 pot strings.



## Early Results

y Dawn: 1 staff, 20 strings, 5 pots/string
5666 Total crab, 2077 measured
Lost one string to Trawl fleet (2 others recover
N: 2 staff, 19 strings, 5 pots/string
4352 Total crab, 1414 measured
icia Lee: 2 staff, 18 strings, 7 pots/string
5497 Total crab, 2382 measured
57 strings (321 pots)

## Early Results

Spatial Extent:
Covers 95\% of EAG (high trawl areas excluded) Stratified, 2-stage design (data are independent Still need to examine variance and sample size Skippers/crew impressed with staff

## Early Results

## Cost:

5 ADFG(salary/seaduty/benefits/travel) for 14d ~1K/person/day = 70K
Fleet:
Increased fuel cost: TBD
Increased time/effort to catch TAC: TBD

## Early Results

Logistically feasible to due Coop survey Industry, NRC, ADF\&G

Cost effective
(150 - 200K to survey EAG + WAG)

## Next Steps

Full debrief with skippers and staff
(improve efficiencies)
Examine within and among string variability (sample size estimates)
Explore better stratification options
(Skipper, Habitat, Effort)
Initiate in WAG
How/when to integrate into SA
Long-term funding source
Incorporate small-mesh pots

## Better Stratification?

## Area: Spreads effort out, reduces clumping

Habitat: Ideal, but lots of issues (same as S. CPUE)
Effort: Typically not good to use (part) of response variable; proxy for habitat? But fished area reduced.



## What's the problem?

AREA


## ADF\&G Triennial Survey

Bering Sea


Pacific Ocean

5nm apart 10pot strings
100fathoms apa
String ~ 0.9nm
Quantifying "all"
$\mathrm{n}=85$ (850)
Sampling area 85

Relative Index of Tagging (growth/

## Fished Area

Blue $=1000 \mathrm{~m}$ contour All observer data

## Fished Area

2008/09

## Inventory

Industry:
Vessels/crew/gear/on the water/willingness
(recognize asking them to modify behavior)

ADFG/NOAA/NRC:
Personnel/Sampling design/some gear
How do we utilize all resources most efficiently?

## Version 1 (last year)

Commercial gear
First trip during Commercial season
2 stage design (pots within strings / strings)


