Monitoring Program Discussion Questions
for the
Cook Inlet Salmon Committee Meeting
March 6, 2019

Statute and regulations require the Secretary to assess total catch. The methods to do this must be in the FMP. Total catch includes fish landed and fish discarded at sea.

What requirements do we have to meet? - Guided by National Standards and regulation
- **MSA § 303(a)(11)** - Assess the amount and type of bycatch, and do what we can to minimize it. The Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) is meant to do this.
- §**Section 600.1610(a)(1)** - Requires every FMP to identify the SBRM procedures.
- **MSA §313(h)** - Ensure the accurate counting, at a minimum, of target species, economic discards, and regulatory discards.
- **MSA §301(a)** and associated guidelines -
    - **National Standard 1- Optimal Yield-** Total accounting of catch is required for management of salmon Annual Catch Limits.
    - **National Standard 9 - Bycatch** - Promote a bycatch database, assess impact of management on bycatch, minimize bycatch, and evaluate measures to do so.
    - **National Standard 2 - Scientific Information** - If we don't have it, how do we get it?

Determining what is caught is made up of two parts: target species retention, and discards.

Target Species Retention
What **salmon** are being caught and retained?
- Retention is any salmon not discarded at-sea.
    - Currently, ADFG fish ticket and eLandings system used to determine landings. Is this adequate? Are there implementation issues with using eLandings/fish tickets as the recordkeeping process?
    - Appears nearly all processors are on eLandings already.
    - Do we need to separate EEZ from non-EEZ waters?

Discards of other fish
What other species are being caught, and how much?

Context: We currently have very little information on discards at-sea. To comply with our legal requirements, we'll need to provide a way to estimate discards. If discards are minimal, a complicated assessment program may not be needed. But, we need data to show this.
Basic questions:
- What **salmon** are being discarded at-sea?
    - Does this occur? Some potential reasons: e.g., Product quality or size issues, resulting in high grading, drop offs prior to fish coming onboard.
    - What data are currently available to assess this issue?
    - Do we need accounting inside and outside EEZ for SDC?
    - Would a simple full retention requirement for salmon address this issue?

- What **other fish** are being caught in the EEZ? Cod, sculpin, dogfish, flounder, ect.
  - What data are currently available to assess this issue?
  - Can this be addressed through a full retention requirement for groundfish? i.e., discard prohibited at-sea?

- **What is practicable for the fishery and provides verifiable data for at-sea monitoring?**

Monitoring and Reporting Tools

VMS	Logbooks (Paper or electronic)	Electronic Monitoring	Observers	eLandings

Full Retention versus No Retention

	Full retention	**No retention**
Considerations	● Federal Fisheries Permit ● Easier compliance monitoring ● Processor permitting	● No Federal Fisheries Permit ● More recordkeeping or logbook requirements ● How to monitor discards?

How could self-reported logbook and/or eLanding data be validated?
- Without accounting for fish onshore, there is more uncertainty.
- Do all processors use eLandings?
- Would processors be able to obtain the needed permitting?
- Would processors be able to discard or market bycatch landings?

Would the fleet be willing and able to take observers? Many vessels are <40' in length.
- Extensive regulatory structure to support observer needed- sampling stations, safety regulations, funding.
- How would observers be funded?
  - Industry- pay as you go model
  - Grants
  - Federal money (difficult, not stable, and unlikely)

Would the fleet be willing and able to take electronic monitoring?
- Would the fleet fund a pilot program?
- Data collection, review, and storage infrastructure required.

Would the fleet be willing and able to accurately complete detailed logbook entries for each set?
- Funding for logbook development, review, and follow up?
- How does NMFS verify logbook entries?

Another option that hasn't been explored is the concept of a baseline data collection program to determine the scope of the problem. Perhaps some of the elements above could be combined into a Research Plan for initial data collection:

- **Research Plan for assessing bycatch?**
- A study design (yet to be determined) that collects baseline data to evaluate groundfish (and salmon) discards.
  - Funding?
    - Grants
    - Industry
    - Federal groundfish observer program (pay as you go model)
  - How might NMFS/Council incentivize data collection?
  - **Test Fishery Data**:
    - Could this data be used to derive a bycatch rate (or modeled estimate) that could be applied to fishing in the EEZ (e.g., a bycatch rate derived from test fishery information and applied to landings in the EEZ)?
      - Is this data representative of fishing activity?

§679.2 Definitions

Species description	Code
Atka mackerel (greenling)	193
Flatfish, miscellaneous (flatfish species without separate codes)	120
FLOUNDER:	
Alaska plaice	133
Arrowtooth	121
Bering	116
Kamchatka	117
Starry	129
Octopuses	870
Pacific cod	110
Pollock	270
ROCKFISH:	
Aurora (*Sebastes aurora*)	185
Black (BSAI) (*S. melanops*)	142
Blackgill (*S. melanostomus*)	177
Blue (BSAI) (*S. mystinus*)	167
Bocaccio (*S. paucispinis*)	137
Canary (*S. pinniger*)	146
Chilipepper (*S. goodei*)	178
China (*S. nebulosus*)	149
Copper (*S. caurinus*)	138
Darkblotched (*S. crameri*)	159
Dusky (*S. variabilis*)	172
Greenstriped (*S. elongatus*)	135
Harlequin (*S. variegatus*)	176
Northern (*S. polyspinis*)	136
Pacific Ocean Perch (*S. alutus*)	141
Pygmy (*S. wilsoni*)	179
Quillback (*S. maliger*)	147
Redbanded (*S. babcocki*)	153
Redstripe (*S. proriger*)	158
Rosethorn (*S. helvomaculatus*)	150
Rougheye (*S. aleutianus*)	151
Sharpchin (*S. zacentrus*)	166
Shortbelly (*S. jordani*)	181
Shortraker (*S. borealis*)	152
Silvergray (*S. brevispinis*)	157
Splitnose (*S. diploproa*)	182

Species description	Code
Stripetail (*S. saxicola*)	183
Thornyhead (all *Sebastolobus* species)	143
Tiger (*S. nigrocinctus*)	148
Vermilion (*S. miniatus*)	184
Widow (*S. entomelas*)	156
Yelloweye (*S. ruberrimus*)	145
Yellowmouth (*S. reedi*)	175
Yellowtail (*S. flavidus*)	155
Sablefish (blackcod)	710
Sculpins	160
SHARKS:	
Other (if salmon, spiny dogfish or Pacific sleeper shark—use specific species code)	689
Pacific sleeper	692
Salmon	690
Spiny dogfish	691
SKATES:	
Alaska (*Bathyraja parmifera*)	703
Aleutian (*B. aleutica*)	704
Whiteblotched (*B. maculate*)	705
Big (*Raja binoculata*)	702
Longnose (*R. rhina*)	701
Other (if Alaska, Aleutian, whiteblotched, big, or longnose skate—use specific species code)	700
SOLE:	
Butter	126
Dover	124
English	128
Flathead	122
Petrale	131
Rex	125
Rock	123
Sand	132
Yellowfin	127
Turbot, Greenland	134