OPERATIONS – JEA PATROL P/V STIMSON

- Participants – OLE, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
- Western GOA and Bering Sea
- 19-day patrol: 26 Commercial Fishing Vessels boarded; 3 processor inspections.
- 57 investigations:
  - 13 Summary Settlement Offers
  - 3 incidents referred to GCES.
OPERATIONS – OBSERVER A SEASON OP

Dutch Harbor Observer Operation

- 47 investigations (from 170 observer statements)
  - 12 investigations ongoing
  - 35 resolved during the operation
    - 32 Compliance Assistance
    - 3 unfounded or lack of evidence
OPERATIONS – NONPELAGIC TRAWL

• Surveillance, Boardings, and Investigations
  • Alaska Wildlife Troopers
  • USCG
• Vessels Fishing in Non-Pelagic Trawl restricted areas:
  • BS Red King Crab Savings Areas
  • Middleton Island GOA Slope HCA
  • Kodiak Type I, Type II
  • Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area
  • Stellar Sea Lion Protection Areas
**OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL RESULTS (THROUGH MID-APRIL)**

- **OLE reviewed 802 trips** in waters that prohibit use or possession of NPT gear
  - 702 in RKCSA
  - 100 in GOA (40 Type I/II; 24 Marmot; 36 GOA Slope HCA)
- **12 vessels with metallic components** other than connectors aft of fishing circle and forward of mesh >5.5”
- Most vessels possessed floatation in access of buoyancy for net sounders (200lbs)
- **39 investigations**
  - 32 in the Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA)
    - 5 fully compliant; 26 no action; 1 review for referral to GCES
  - 7 in GOA (Slope Habitat Conservation Area)
    - 5 no action; 1 Summary Settlement; 1 referred to GCES
OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL: TRAWL GEAR PERFORMANCE STANDARD

- OLE monitoring requires significant at sea EffSort, Cost, and Intrusion into operations
- Observer statements – Source of all complaints
  - 51 reported occurrences 2009-2015
    - 80% were crab reported in the nets forward of the codend (outside observer sample population)
  - 28 OLE investigations - 2 written warnings
OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL: TRAWL GEAR PERFORMANCE STANDARD

Observer challenges:

- Dangers on deck
- Prioritization of duties
- Crab collections disruptive to haulback
- Limited access or view of nets during haulback
- Fragmented crab (uncounted)
- Outside sample population
- Vessels required to discard PSC crab “immediately and with a minimum of injury”
• Codends are regulated within the trawl definitions. However, the intent to regulate them is unclear (Section 4 of the BBRKC analysis)

• The salmon excluder floats exemption applies only to Incentive Plan Agreement member vessels in the BSAI

• OLE lacks an effective way to enforce -
  • Trawl Gear Performance Standard
  • GOA10% pelagic trawl gear bottom contact limit in nonpelagic trawl gear closed areas
NOAA published **NOTICE ON PREVENTING OBSERVER HARASSMENT** as a reminder to vessel owners and operators about their responsibilities in ensuring a safe work environment for observers.

**REWARD AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SHOOTING OF STELLER SEA LIONS IN CORDOVA**
QUESTIONS?