

Science, Service, Stewardship



Increasing Fishery Flexibility through Further Reduction of Bycatch

HMS Advisory Panel Meeting
September 21-23, 2010

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Increasing Fishery Flexibility through Further Reduction of Bycatch – Presentation Outline

- Individual roles and performance objectives/standards for bycatch reduction
- Testing electronic monitoring technology
- Training and education



Individual roles for bycatch reduction

- Currently, bycatch management in Atlantic HMS fisheries is conducted fleet-wide
 - Potential individual disincentives for bycatch avoidance
- Increasing individual responsibility for bycatch avoidance could allow for individuals with low bycatch levels to be rewarded via performance standards/objectives
- Some benefits for consideration might be:
 - Performance based customized/adaptive management measures that provide more flexibility with times, areas, and methods
 - An ability to continue to fish when others in the fleet might not be able to due to portions of the fleet reaching a certain bycatch restriction



An Example: Bering Sea Chinook Salmon - Incentive Based Bycatch Management

- Chinook salmon – ESA listed for some rivers
- Bering Sea pollock fishery forced to close before annual pollock quota was achieved due to chinook salmon catches
- Under bycatch management plan, chinook salmon allowable take is divided between sectors including the Bering Sea pollock fishery
- Hard bycatch caps – set at two levels
- Incentive plan agreements (IPA) – participants operate under the larger bycatch cap with transferability provisions
- Performance Standard - ensures chinook salmon savings regardless of whether IPA successfully minimizes bycatch
- More information - <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/sustainablefisheries/bycatch/default.htm>



Observers and Monitoring – A Critical Component

One consideration for developing adaptive management and incentive plans is the presence of adequate monitoring (observers or electronic).

Observers are currently used in the PLL fishery. Coverage ranges from around 8% to 100%. Observer coverage is expensive and doesn't provide 24-hr coverage.

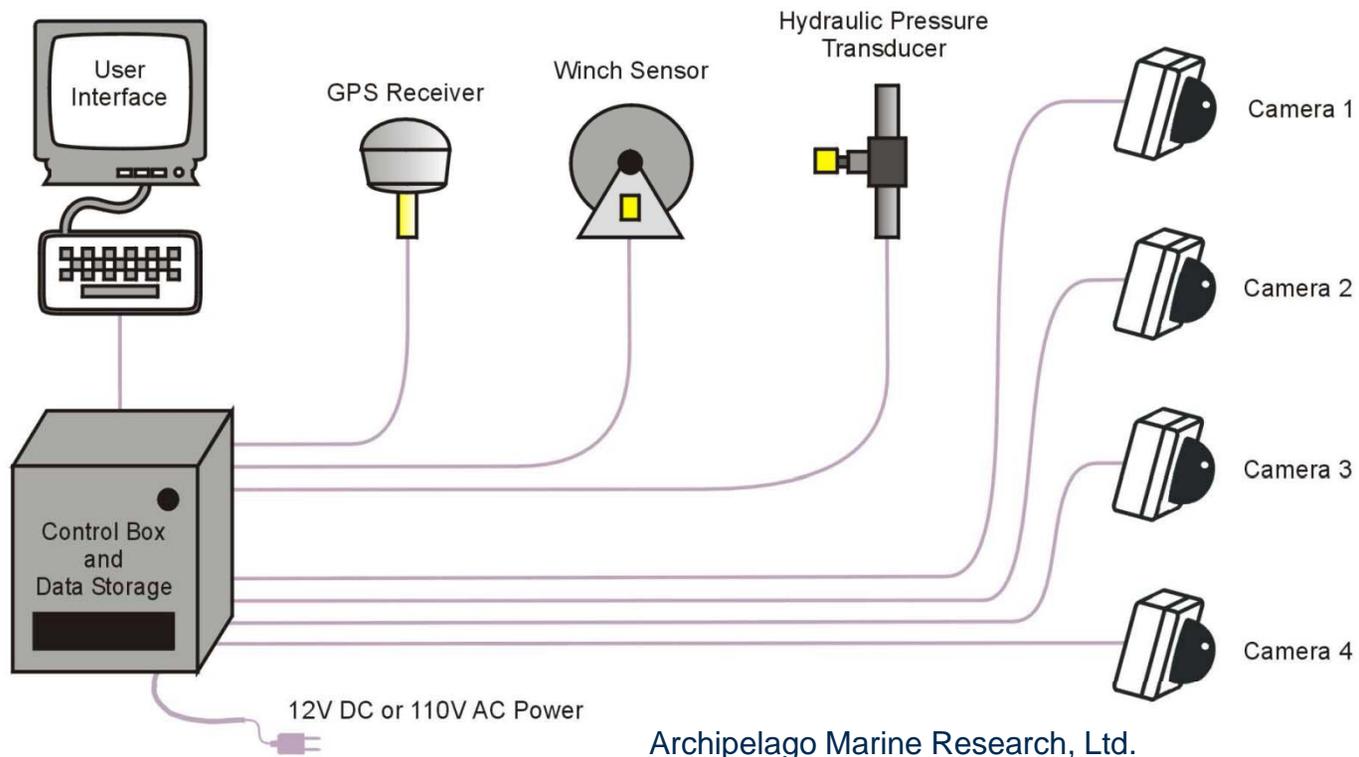
Electronic monitoring has been explored in pilot studies:

- GOM reef fish EM pilot
- Hawaii longline fishery EM pilot
- Alaska halibut longline EM program

The objectives and results for each study varied...



Pilot Studies – Testing Electronic Monitoring Technology





Pilot Studies – Testing Electronic Monitoring Technology



Photos: Archipelago Marine Research, Ltd.



Testing Electronic Monitoring (EM) Technology

Considerations for Atlantic HMS fisheries

- Is EM appropriate for HMS fisheries?
- Is EM feasible in HMS fisheries?
- What special considerations are there – EM arrays, costs, species ID, regional concerns, etc.
- Are there partnership opportunities?
- Are there possible funding sources?
- Is there interest in pursuing EM in HMS fisheries?



Training and Education

Potentially modify existing PR workshop curriculum to further educate fishermen about the importance of reducing bycatch and bycatch mortality

Strive to develop increased sense of personal stewardship for the fishery among participants

Promote and/or publicize workshops to educate U.S. consumers about this innovative program in the U.S. pelagic longline fishery

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We welcome your input!