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FISHERIES

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center

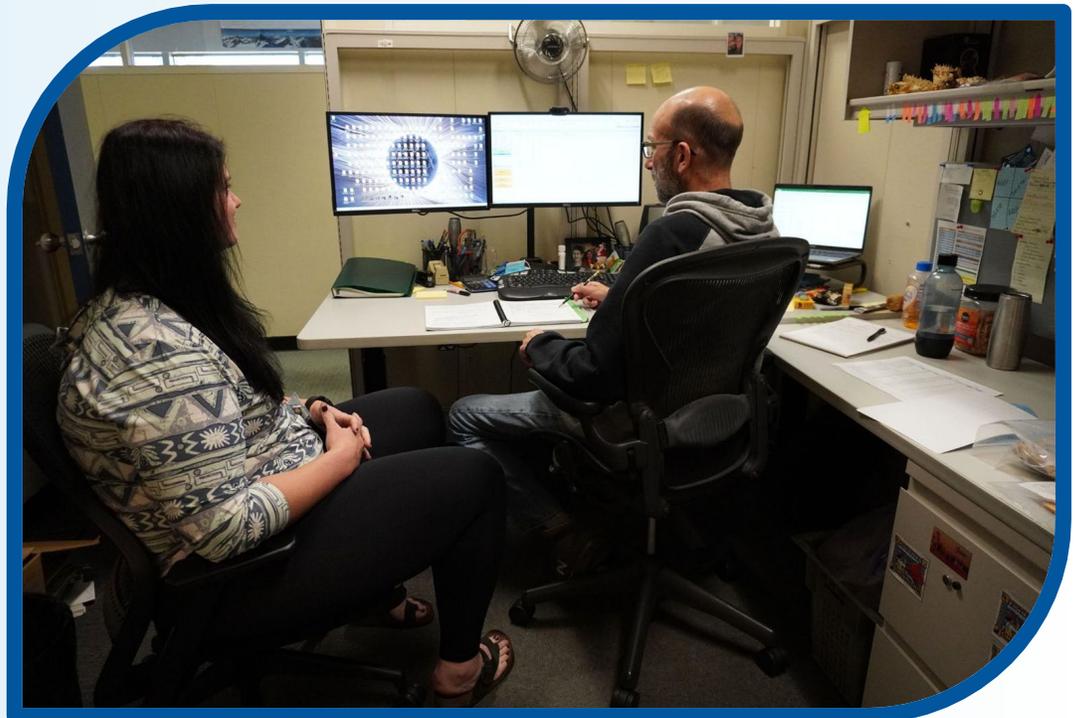
Fisheries Monitoring
Analysis Division

Information Technology Services Program

What We Do

The Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis (FMA) Division relies on our integrated Information Technology Services Program to conceive of, design, and maintain a robust suite of applications, databases, and data products. These products are used by fishermen, observers, fishery managers, researchers, and others.

The IT program makes annual, iterative improvements and modifications to our data systems to optimize data collections, help communications, and enhance data reporting and utility of fishery-dependent information.



Debriefing an observer.



2024 Accomplishments

Enhancements to custom software (ATLAS):

- Improved ATLAS software application used by fishery observers in the field to record, quality control, transmit and data, as well as communicate with FMA. Major improvements in 2024 included:
 - Area-specific length-to-weight relationships for Pacific halibut yielding more precise estimates for these relationships
 - Ability to transmit images from sea, which allows for more accurate real-time species identification
- Improved ATLAS functionality allowed observers to be judicious about transmission costs incurred by vessels, and to prioritize when and what to send from sea
- Image transmission from sea introduced significant benefits by allowing FMA staff to confirm the identity of unusual, out of range, or protected species in near real-time and better document details of interactions between commercial fisheries and protected species.

Responded to changes at the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC):

- Incorporated new geographic-specific tables into ATLAS that:
 - Ability to associate fishing location with halibut biological samples (e.g. length and weight)
 - Reduced observer workload thereby increasing sampling efficiency.
 - More precise specification of the IPHC Regulatory Area where fishing occurred

2025 Preview

- Significant improvements to the Observer Declare and Deploy System (ODDS) to reduce bias and uncertainty in fisheries monitoring. The ODDS database and web application is used by vessel owners and operators, to ensure statistically and scientifically sound fisheries monitoring. These improvements will allow FMA, and resource managers better meet annual fisheries monitoring goals.
- Improvements to the Vessel Survey and Observer Check-In web applications



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