Lobster Draft Addendum XXVI/Jonah Crab Draft Addendum III

NEFMC

December 2017

Problem Statement

- Current harvester reporting requirements do not provide the level of information needed to respond to management issues
- While the lobster fishery moves further offshore and the Jonah crab fishery primarily occurs in federal waters, the majority of biological sampling occurs inshore

<u>Goals:</u>

1. Utilize the latest technology to improve reporting
2. Collect greater effort data
3. Increase the spatial resolution of harvester reporting
4. Advance the collection of biological data offshore

Timeline

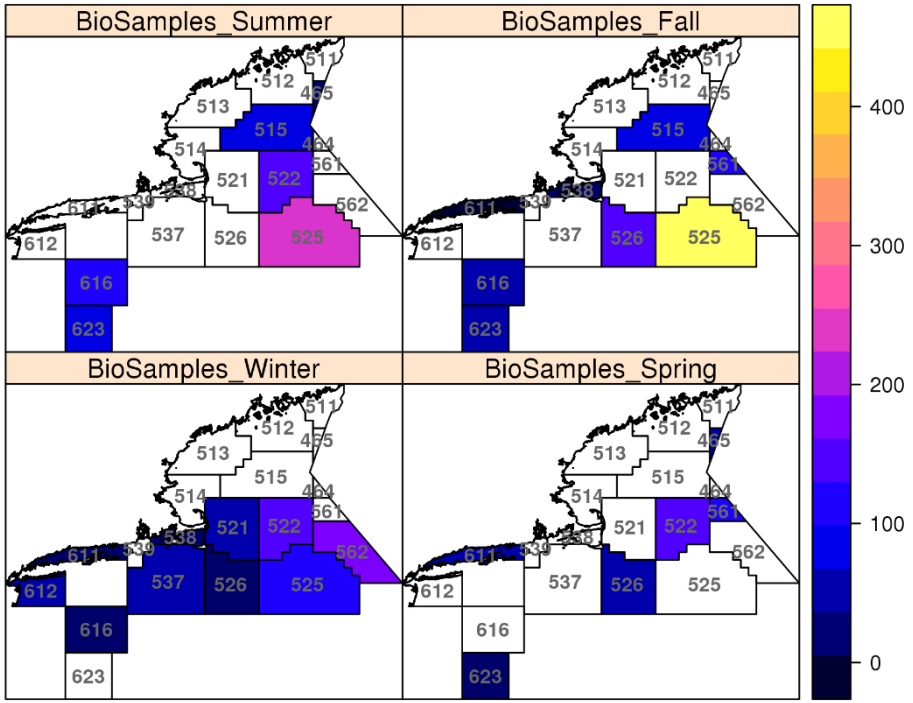
January 2017	Board initiated Addendum XXVI
February – October 2017	Draft Addendum developed by PDT; TC completed analysis
October 2017	Board considers approving document for public comment
November 2017 – January 2018	Public comment period including public hearings
February 2018	Final Action on Addendum
TBD	Implementation Deadline

Harvester Reporting Deficiencies

- Lack of spatial information collected
  - Stat area too coarse to respond to outside management actions (e.g. coral zones)
  - Multiple LCMAs in a single stat area
- Lack of data collected on depth of fishery
  - Ex: national monument presented options based on depth
- Not all harvesters report
  - Maine accounts for >80% of lobster harvest but only 10% of harvesters report
  - Lobster-only federal permit holders are not required to report through VTRs

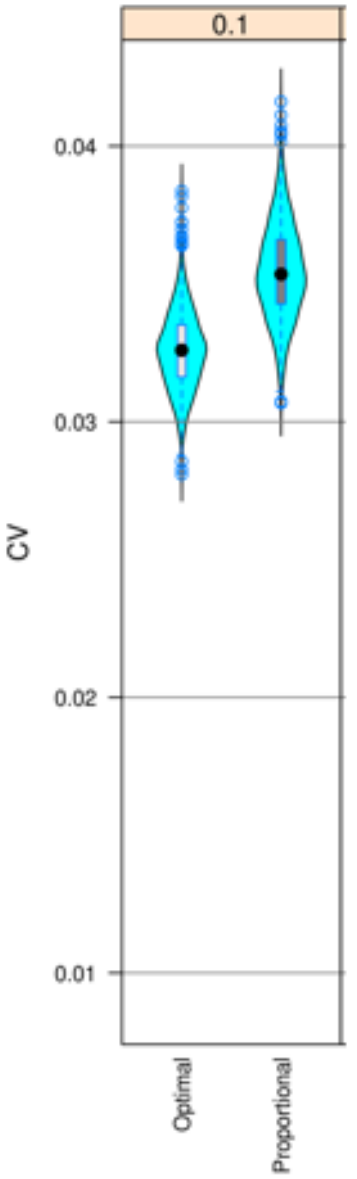
Bio Sampling Deficiencies

- While current surveys span a broad length of the coast, most surveys are conducted within 12 miles of shore
- Of concern b/c increasing portion of landings from offshore
- TC identified data gaps in fishery by comparing sampling effort to magnitude of landings in each stat area; greatest data gaps in GBK and offshore GOM



TC Analysis on % Reporting

- Overall, TC recommended 100% harvester reporting to accurately account for all trap hauls and spatial extent of effort
- In interim, TC found current 10% harvester reporting in Maine is sufficiently precise, in large part due to large size of lobster fishery
- Precision of 10% reporting would increase if sampling focuses on permit classes which contain a large # of vessels and have high variance in landings (i.e. optimal vs. proportional sampling allocation)



Issue 1: Percent Harvester Reporting

Option A: Status Quo

- Minimum 10% reporting w/ expectation of 100% reporting over time
- States w/ higher level of reporting required to maintain that %

Option B: Maintain Current Reporting Effort – TC Optimal Approach

- If state at 100% reporting, maintain that %
- For states w/ less than 100% reporting, maintain current level of effort but distribute through an optimal allocation
- Expectation of 100% reporting over time through use of electronic reporting

Option C: 100% Harvester Reporting

- **Sub-Option 1:** 100% trip level reporting
- **Sub-Option 2:** 100% trip level reporting; however, commercial harvesters who landed less than 1000 lbs of lobster and Jonah crab in the previous year can submit monthly landings reports

Electronic Reporting

- Electronic reporting is highly encouraged by PDT and TC
  - Cost effective method to increase reporting
  - Flexibility to collect expanded data elements
- Recommended states use eTrips or eTrips Mobile
  - Can be implemented at little to no cost to states
  - Approved by GARFO for eVTRs
  - Well established relationship between ACCSP and ASMFC
- States can use a different platform for electronic reporting but must be API compatible
  - Submit proposal to Board demonstrating platform meets reporting requirements and can accommodate scale of fishery

Issue 2: Reporting Data Components

Option A: Status Quo

- Unique trip ID, vessel #, trip start date, stat area, # of traps hauled, # traps set, species, pounds, trip length (and soak time for Jonah crab)

Option B: Expanded Data Elements

- Depth, bait type, soak time

Option C: Gear Configuration Elements

- # traps per trawl, # buoy lines

Board can chose both Options B and C

Issue 3: Spatial Resolution

Option A: Stat Area (Status Quo)

Option B: Stat Area and LCMA

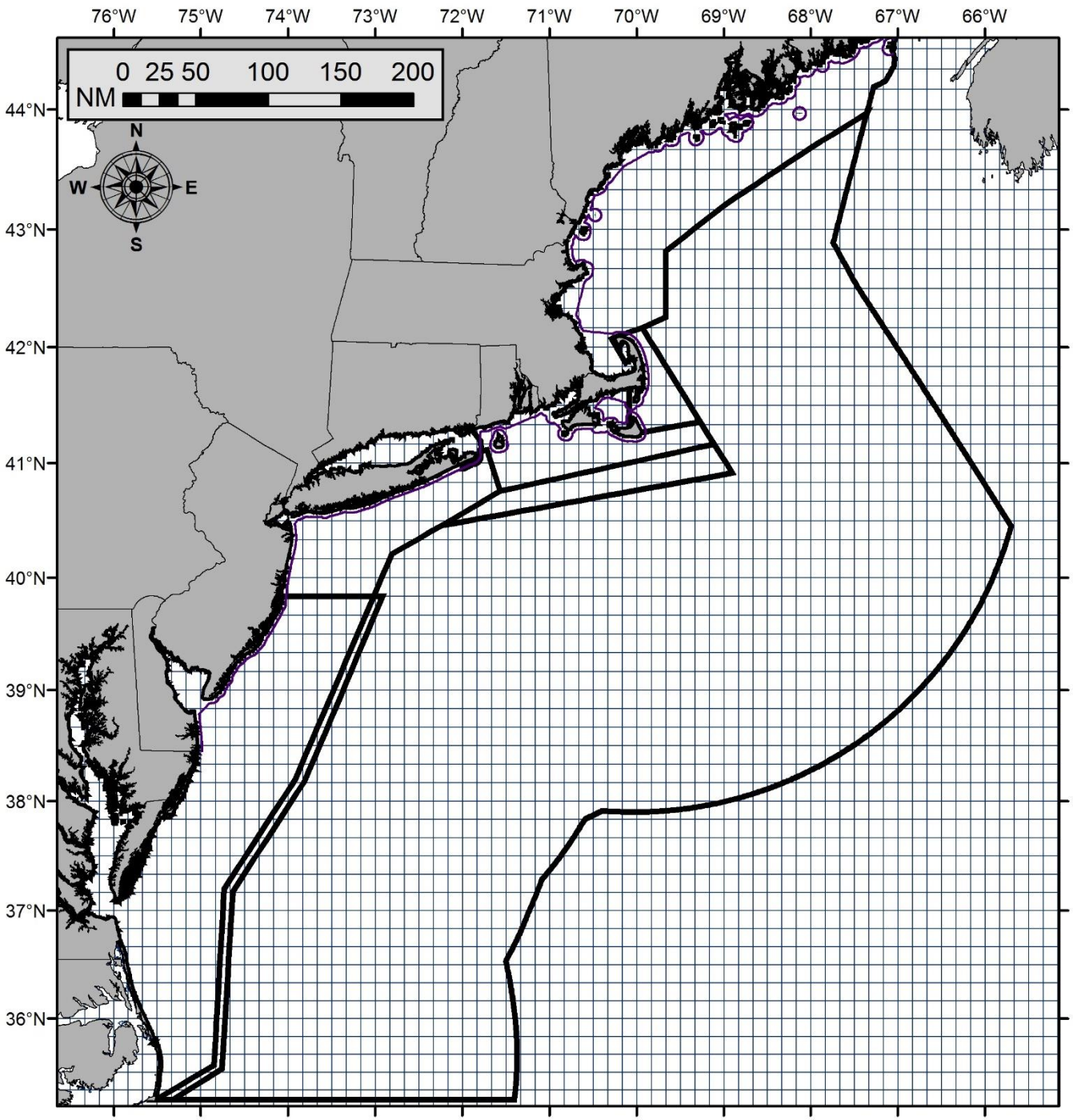
Option C: Stat Area and Distance from Shore

- 0-3 miles, 3-12 miles, >12 miles

Option D: 10 Minute Squares

Option E: Electronic Tracking (can be combined with above)

- As a first step, one year pilot program to test electronic tracking devices in fishery
- Subcommittee will design and implement pilot program
- Technologies evaluated based on ease of compliance, ability to determine trap hauling vs. steaming, industry feedback, cost-per-fishermen, LEC feedback
- After 1 year, Board can end program, extend program, or pursue implementation of tracking in fishery


76°W
75°W
74°W
73°W
72°W
71°W
70°W
69°W
68°W
67°W
66°W
44°N
43°N
42°N
41°N
40°N
39°N
38°N
37°N
36°N
0 25 50 100 150 200
NM
N
W
E
S

Biological Sampling for States

- Non *de minimis* states still required to complete trawl survey, VTS, and/or settlement survey
- States required to conduct a minimum of 10 sea/port sampling trips in lobster and Jonah crab fisheries, combined
  - Baseline requirement; not representative of population
  - If states comprise more than 10% of coastwide landings in either lobster or Jonah crab fishery, conduct additional sampling trips
  - If a state is unable to complete 10 trips, must notify Board in annual compliance report as to why sampling trips were not completed and future sampling efforts

Recommendations in Federal Waters

1. **Establish harvester reporting requirement for lobster-only federal permit holders**
   - To percentage approved by Board or higher in each stat area
2. **Creation of fixed-gear VTR**
   - Single VTR form limits data that can be collected
3. **Implementation of a targeted lobster sampling program in federal waters**
   - Increased harvest and effort offshore
   - Appendix 3: TC recommended sampling program including location of data gaps in fishery

Questions?