

Research priorities slides from July 2023

We didn't get to this part of the agenda in July

Brainstorm next research project

Goal: 3-5 specific projects we can seek funding for/advocate for to Councils

Background:

Survey and discussion at last several NTAP meetings

No consensus on relative importance of catch efficiency studies but consensus around importance of adapting to offshore wind

Link to Research Track Assessments, Council priorities, and Cooperative Research Summit findings should be taken into consideration

Brainstorm new projects

1. Restrictor rope expansion
 - a. Test hypothesis that gear performance is improved across depths, vessels, and crews
 - b. Assess impact on catchability in Gulf of Maine environment
2. Gear testing
 - a. New survey gear to supplement trawl survey - acoustics, optics, eDNA
3. Extending existing surveys into wind development areas
 - a. NEAMAP expansion, calibration
 - b. Is calibration needed to integrate multiple surveys
4. Offshore wind fisheries surveys/monitoring
 - a. Standards for trawl surveys
 - b. Creating a system where all surveys are linked, common database
5. Build tools to clarify the linkage between surveys and assessments
6. Bigelow contingency and mitigation planning
7. “Test bed” research array in South Fork/Vineyard Wind
 - a. Fishability
 - b. Testing of monitoring tools to augment or replace Bigelow sampling (acoustics, smaller vessel, eDNA)

For each project idea:

1. Does it address an NTAP objective?
2. Is it an identified Council research priority?
3. Are there known obstacles that prevent the work from being successful/useful/affordable etc?
4. Any connection to Moulton task force?
5. Does project meet multiple objectives?
6. Is anyone else doing this?

NTAP Objectives

- Understanding the trawl gear performance and methodology
 - *catchability and gear performance*
- Evaluate the potential to complement or supplement current NEFSC surveys -
 - *have intercomparable data between different surveys that are currently operating*
- Improving understanding and acceptance of NEFSC trawl survey data quality and results -
 - *how assessments use trawl survey data*