

General Gear Selectivity Synopsis
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Reported by K. Castro

General Points of Discussion

1. Cover specifications should be carefully thought out. Refer to standards.
2. Standardize fish measuring techniques (average or whole number)
3. Standardize mesh measurements (wedge and gauge).
4. Optimize your catch (sub-sample or not to sub-sample)
5. Do close to commercial tows when possible to simulate real fishing. Catch size matters.
6. Is it better to fish more vessels or more areas? Selectivity is independent of population but between vessel variance is very large.
7. Always try to use commercial vessels not research vessels.
8. Precision versus accuracy (precision: closeness of repeated measurements of same item or ability to repeatedly obtain the same values; accuracy: closeness of a measured value to its true value or how closely does it resemble the true population)
9. Don't raise values in sub-sampling. Use ratios.
10. Evaluate several models for data. Evaluate variances/residuals.
11. Don't pool data from multiple hauls into one data set. Use as replicates to find mean L50 and SR. Unless absolutely necessary, then there are mathematical options to use to fix your false variances.
12. Power analyses done beforehand will greatly aid in your experimental design. This requires some study parameters ahead of time (from other study or pilot).
13. Use standardized software for consistency.

Action Items

1. What should technical reports contain so that data can be understood. Standardize information. Good guide in manual to start.
2. What data should be taken on gear/vessel, environment? There is a good data sheet as a good starting place in manual. Pingguo will work on “americanizing” it and Earl and John will look at info that overlaps into other databases.
3. Develop working groups for species that are being worked on by several researchers (monkfish, winter flounder, fluke and yellowtail). Thomas, Pingguo, Laura and Ben will start this process out). Hold working sessions to develop joint reports.
4. This will also lead into the development of a standardized data base. Vinnie may explore this a little more.
5. Develop proposal to purchase common software for data analysis for ME, NH, MA (Manomet), RI, NJ and VA. Pingguo will develop concept paper.
6. Continue to meet on regular basis for training and discussion. The next opportunity will be in Poland for ICES meeting. They will pursue additional training ideas there. In USA, the bycatch workshop will be the next opportunity for us to get together.