

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 04-105

December 30, 2005

Science and Technology

Standards and Protocols for Surveys

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: F/ST

Certified by: F/ST (B. Ponwith)

Type of Issuance: Renewed March 2013

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

Attachment 1

Background Documents

1. Memorandum dated September 16, 2002 from Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr., Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to William Hogarth, Ph.D. Assistant Administrator, NMFS, on the Albatross Fishery Survey Issue in the Gulf of Maine.
2. Memorandum dated, September 23, 2002, from William Hogarth, Ph.D., Assistant Administrator, NMFS, to William Fox, Jr., Ph.D., Director, Office of Science and Technology, on Vice Admiral Lautenbacher's 9/16/02 Order.

Procedural Directives:

1. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Ichthyoplankton (1/15/2003)
2. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Groundfish Bottom Trawl (3/16/2003)
3. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Mid-Water pelagic Surveys (11/03/2003)
4. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Fixed Gear Trap, Camera Pod Surveys (12/22/2003)
5. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Fisheries Acoustic Surveys (1/15/2004)
6. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Longline Surveys (12/31/2003)
7. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Shrimp Trawl Surveys (12/31/2003)
8. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Hydrodynamic Dredge Surveys and Ocean Quahogs (12/19/2003)
9. NOAA Fisheries Protocols for Scallop Dredge Surveys (1/07/2004)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

THE DIRECTOR

SEP 23 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: Science Center Directors

William W. Fox, Jr., Ph.D.
Director, Office of Science and Technology

FROM: 
William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: Vice Admiral Lautenbacher's 9/16/02 Order

In response to VADM Lautenbacher's Order of 9/16/02 (attached) I have assigned F/ST the oversight/coordination responsibility for NMFS' end of meeting the stand down order and its 5 points. Contact point in F/ST is James M. Meehan (e-mail: James.M.Meehan@noaa.gov tel: 301-713-2363).

Further I am assigning point #3, the lead responsibility for coordinating a review and production of standards and protocols for each of our trawl surveys to the AKFSC. Please let Jim Meehan know who has this responsibility. I understand that Dave Sommerton has been assigned to conduct a workshop in November that is the linchpin for the standards and protocol. F/ST and each must Center assist as needed. OMAO needs to participate as appropriate.

In regard to point #1, if you, working in coordination with OMAO personnel, have not physically calibrated your trawl warps for standardized trawl surveys within the last 90 days and plan to conduct such surveys in FY 2003, please send notification and documentation to OMAO and F/ST as soon as you have completed the physical calibration check.

In regard to point #2, please document the results of your actions and copy F/ST. F/ST will assist in obtaining an appropriate review of the results of any data adjustments and revised stock assessments by the Center of Independent Experts.

In regard to point #4, the Centers will work in coordination with OMAO personnel to insure that physical calibration of all trawl warps are completed prior to, and at the completion of, each

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES



individual survey, whether consisting of single or multiple cruises. Copies of documentation of the calibrations are to be sent to OMAO and F/ST.

In regard to point #5, F/ST working in coordination with OMAO will facilitate the CIE review the trawl survey procedures stemming from the results of point #3.

In addition to the above, I have assigned F/ST the responsibility of coordinating a similar review and production of standards and protocols for each of our surveys in addition to the trawl surveys covered in the Vadm's order. This activity should be completed by the end of 2003. F/ST will supply further details in the near future.

Attachment

cc: M. Sissenwine - F
W. Fox - F/ST
B. Taylor - OMAO
J. Meehan - F/ST2
B. Ponwith - F/ST2
S. Brown - F/ST2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 16 2002

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

William Hogarth
Assistant Administrator, NMFS

Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields
Director, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

James Walpole
Director, Office of General Counsel

FROM:

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

SUBJECT:

Albatross Fishery Survey Issue in the Gulf of Maine

In view of the recent concerns surrounding the survey methodology and calibration of trawl cables on the NOAA Ship Albatross, the following actions should begin immediately with results reported as noted below.

(1) The Director of the Office of Marine Aviation Operations (OMAO) in coordination with the Assistant Administrator (AA) for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) will execute an immediate stand down of all NOAA fishery vessels for which trawling operations are planned for the first quarter of FY 2003 and that have not physically calibrated trawl warps within the last 90 days. Operations will recommence upon completion of a physical calibration check of trawl warps using appropriate calibration procedures. This stand down applies only to those vessels engaged in trawling operations that require periodic calibration.

(2) The AA for NOAA Fisheries will take action to review the data from any surveys that may have been completed with potentially out of calibration trawl cables, adjust as necessary, and rework all affected fish stock assessments. Results to be made available to any affected fishery management council as soon as possible, but in any case within 60 days. Results of data adjustment and revised stock assessments will be reviewed by an independent panel (non-Federal Government employees).



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(3) The Director, OMAO and the AA for NOAA Fisheries will review current protocols and directives regarding trawl survey operations, determine what changes are needed, and publish a new protocol. The objective of this effort is to ensure that all aspects of preparation for trawl surveys and trawl survey procedures are consistent and in keeping with the highest quality standards to provide for survey data accuracy and consistency from one survey to the next. Action to be completed within 90 days.

(4) Until the new protocol is published and in effect, the Director, OMAO in coordination with the AA for NOAA Fisheries will ensure that all trawl equipped vessels physically calibrate trawl warps prior to and at the completion of each survey regardless of whether that survey consists of single or multiple cruises.

(5) NOAA Fisheries, in coordination with OMAO will convene an independent panel (non-federal government employees) to review our revised trawl survey procedures and provide recommendations for improvement. Final report will be made public upon completion of this comprehensive review. Action to be completed within 180 days.