

Cooperative Research: The Road to Westphalia

John Boreman, Director

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Outline of Presentation

- Establishing a Common Understanding
- Expectations
- A Reality Check
- The Road to Westphalia



Establishing a Common Understanding

Cooperative Research:

... a scientific activity involving two or more partners that gain more collectively than separately in the pursuit of a shared research goal



What Constitutes a Scientific Activity?

- Statistically robust methodology
- Sufficient replication
- Minimal Bias



Gaining more collectively than separately...



- Increase staffing capability
- Broaden range of expertise
- Contribute instrumentation and platforms
- Jointly design, collect, analyze, and present

Expectations- Agency

- Increase the range and number of “eyes and ears”
- Take advantage of fishing experience
- Introduce industry participants to scientific method, statistical design, and hypothesis testing

Expectations - Industry

- Real-time application of results
- Keep crews employed during “down time”
- Experiment with new gears, try out new areas
- Demonstrate superior fishing skills

A Reality Check

- Staffing, data management, and equipment
 - Impact on base programs



A Reality Check

- Staffing, data management, and equipment
 - Delays in processing routine data and samples



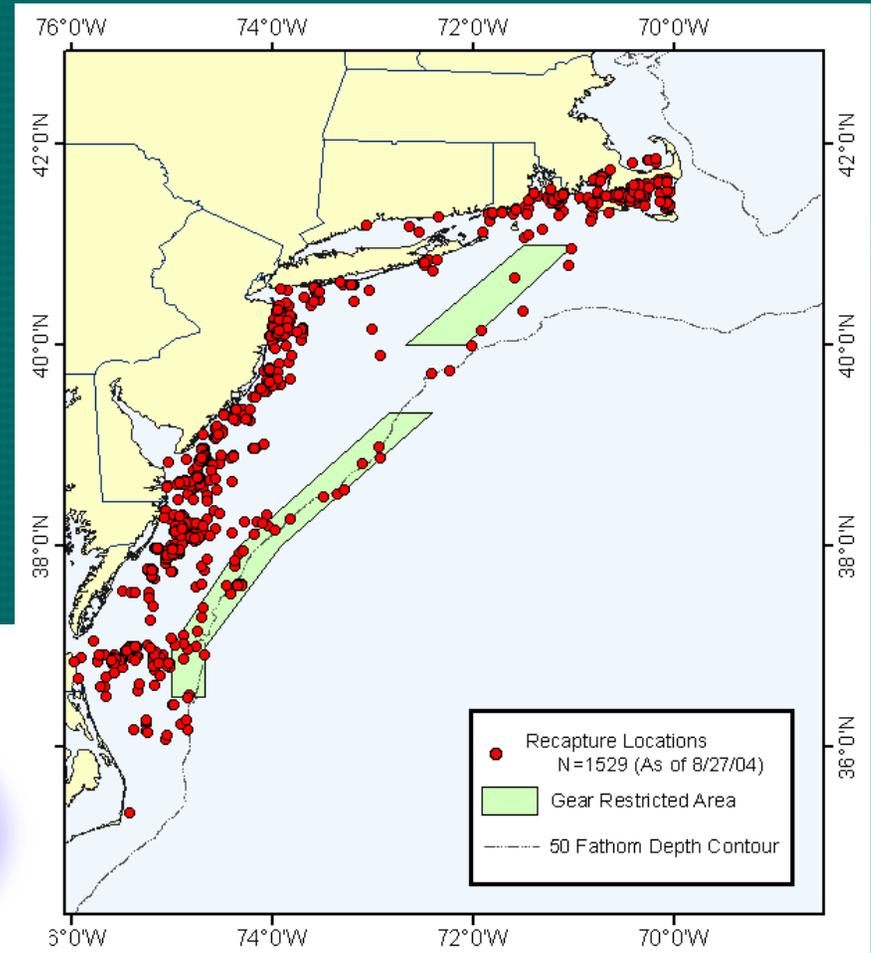
A Reality Check



- Regulatory and legal hurdles
 - Permits
 - Use of days-at-sea
 - Accounting for added mortality

A Reality Check

- Peer review of reports



The Road to Westphalia

- How will we know when we get there?
- Moving from ...
 - Mistrust among the partners
 - Low confidence in research and survey findings
- To ...
 - Complete trust in each other's information
 - 100% confidence that information is representative

Roadside Assistance

- Cooperative Research
- Two-way Education
- Open and Candid Communications



A Proposed Action Plan

1. Revisit budgets, staffing plans, and schedules
2. Improve the permitting process to avoid unnecessary delays
3. Develop a standard means of accounting for added fishing mortality
4. Resolve issues: sale of catch, use of DAS
5. Agree on a peer review process

Final Comment



- Cooperative research is a growing and necessary part of a well-rounded marine science program.
- As we move into the era of ecosystem-based fisheries management, partnering with industry, academia, and non-profit organizations will undoubtedly become more important to successful stewardship of living marine resources.