



Session IV A

Commercial Data

Overview of Data issues

- Introduction
- On-going data collection programs
- History
- Comparison of dealer and vessel reports
- Issues affecting data quality
- Limitations
- Strengths

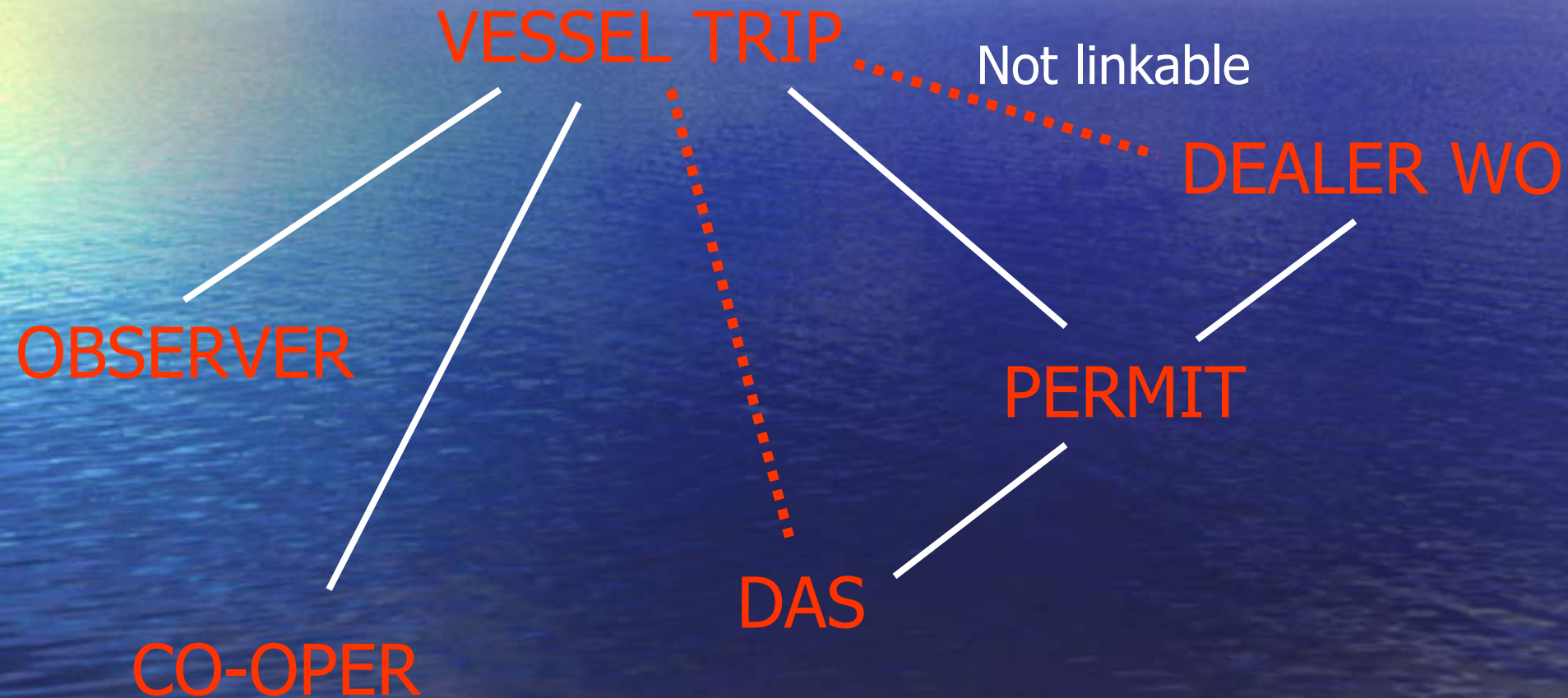
Objectives of data collection

- To evaluate the performance of fisheries (including economic and cultural aspects) relative to management
- To help make rational decisions
- To provide the best available data to determine fisheries policy and management objectives
- To protect the confidentiality of those providing data

On-going Data Collection Programs in the Northeast

- Dealer Weighouts
- Fishing Vessel Trip Reports
- Permit files
- Processed Products Surveys
- DAS call-in Databases
- Research Vessel Surveys
- Census

Database Relationships



Dealer weighout data collection history

- Begun in 1930's with haddock
- Expanded in 1960's to include more ports, species, and areas
- 1980's added 3 tier system
 - Landings by trip
 - Interview data
 - Sample of trips
- Mandatory reporting began in 1994

Weighout Database

History of Northeast States

- 1964 – ME, MA, RI
 - 1978 – NJ
 - 1981 – NY, VA
 - 1982 – NH
 - 1986 – NY
 - 1989 – CT, DE
 - 1997 – NC
-
- What about other States?

Fishing Vessel Trip Reports

- **Logbooks submitted directly to NMFS from permitted vessels**
 - One report for each trip, or each sub-trip (if switch area, gear, or mesh/ring size)
 - Within 15 days of end of month
 - Self-reporting
 - VTR data assumed to be subset of total landings

Comparison of Databases

Vessel Trip Reports

- Vessel
- Port
- Species
- **Gear**
- Lbs landed and discarded
- Dealer
- **Areas fished**
- **Date/time sailed and landed**
- Crew
- Tows

Dealer weighout

- Vessel
- Port code
- Species code
- Month, day, year
- Gear code
- **Lbs landed per species**
- **Lbs landed per trip**
- **Revenue**

Permit files

- Permit files contain vessel and dealer permits issued by NMFS/NER for commercial fishing and sales in the Northeast (Maine to Virginia, some North Carolina)
- Fishing year for multispecies permits
May 1- Apr 30

Permit files data elements

- Owner information
- Vessel physical characteristics
- Fishery information
 - Fishery (NE Multispecies)
 - Category
 - Limited access permits
 - Individual DAS
 - Fleet DAS
 - Other
 - Open access permits
 - Gear

Wholesale and Processed Product Surveys

Employment per firm

Type of finished product

Packaged shellfish

Cured products

Prepared foods

Finished product volume

FOB plant values

Processed Products Survey Limitations

- Can't determine how much of product is from
 - Overseas
 - Other regions of US
- Can't match processed product to any other database
- Not timely
- Cannot determine accurate mark-ups of product to final sale

DAS call-in database

- **Groundfish DAS are tracked primarily through the NMFS DAS call-in system**
 - **Vessels start their DAS clock by calling into the DAS program prior to leaving port**
 - **Vessels stop their DAS clock by calling out of the DAS program after returning to port**
- **Maintained by Enforcement**

Census Data

- **Contains contextual information on communities**
- **Provides sense of vulnerability of the community to change**
- **Will be useful for NS8**

Research Vessel Survey Data

- Bottom trawl surveys have been conducted by NEFSC in the Gulf of Maine region since 1963
- Used to evaluate trends in abundance and biomass, size and age composition, total mortality, length /weight relationships, and changes in maturation at length

Issues Affecting Data Quality

- **Reporting compliance**
- **Misreporting**
 - **Reliability of area fished**
- **Data entry and auditing procedures**
- **Completeness**
- **Quality of data is dependent on honesty and accuracy of the person reporting the information**

Weaknesses

- **Lack of link (an appropriate unique vessel trip identifier) between vessel and dealer reports**
 - **Hard to correlate effort and location data with landings data**
 - **Cannot identify all transactions associated with a trip in the dealer report**
- **Timeliness**
- **Accuracy**
- **Completeness**
- **Consistency**

Strengths

- **Complete coverage for total landings and value**
- **Same data is used for most FMP's in the region**
- **Different levels of analysis are possible**
 - **Regional, state, port**
 - **Vessel**
 - **Monthly, annually**
- **Evolving system**