Essential Fish Habitat project status report

Reporting date: October, 2011

Project number: 2011-5

Title: Collection of seafloor imagery during AFSC bottom trawl surveys

PIs: Rose, McEntire

Funding year: 2011

Funding amount: $11,900

Status: ☐ Complete X Incomplete, on schedule ☐ Incomplete, behind schedule

Planned completion date if incomplete: Sept 2012

Reporting: Have the project results been reported? If yes, state where the results were reported and attach an electronic copy of the report.
NO.

Results: What is the most important result of the study?

The camera pressure housing, optics, batteries, lighting and control circuitry operated as expected. Limited field testing indicated camera mounting techniques on trawl door were adequate, providing for ease of operator mounting along with acceptable camera angle, distance and lighting parameters.

Due to late arrival of funding, the only field testing time available occurred during the last three days of the standard RACE ground fish survey and the camera trial was not conducted on normal survey trawl grounds. Instead the tests were conducted in an enclosed inlet in Southeast Alaska on very soft silty bottom. The door mounted camera captured only well lit mud clouds in front of the trawl door.

Using the prototype camera and mount, further sea trials will be conducted during the 2012 RACE trawl survey at standard survey locations. If the seafloor directly in front of the trawl door is still obscured by mud cloud a secondary mounting location on the trawl warp and slightly ahead of the door will be tested.