

Issues to be Considered by the Peer Review Panel

The following list of issues was generated by participants at a trawl survey experiment workshop held from January 14-15, 2003 in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. This meeting was held to review analyses of a gear experimental cruise to evaluate the cumulative effects of offset warps and other gear issues on finfish and invertebrate catchability. The Peer Review Panel will hear presentations on these issues during the first day of their February 3-8, 2003 meeting in Durham, New Hampshire.

- 1) Is the experimental and pairing design, sufficient to detect large differences (e.g. 100%) in catch weight between gear treatments? Are variables that might confound the analyses (time of day, pairing design, tide, etc) sufficiently controlled? Given the experimental design and sample size, what level of difference should these analyses be able to detect (power analysis) with reference to the overall catch of individual species?
- 2) Do the results of the Starr and Fogarty analysis to detect differences in catch weight between treatments on the Albatross indicate either a systematic difference in catch weights across a suite of species or within individual species?
- 3) Does the incidental catch rate of non-target material (macro-invertebrates, shells, other bottom material) indicate differences in bottom tending between the two gear treatments on the Albatross that can be related to differences in catchability of target finfish and invertebrate species?
- 4) Is the experimental design sufficient to test for differences in the size distribution between the two gear treatments on the Albatross? If so, is there evidence of systematic differences in the size distribution of fish between gear treatments?