Science, Service, Stewardship



Research update: Can Satellite Tags Inform Management for a Data Poor Species? NOAA Pete Hulson, Cindy Tribuzio, and FISHERIES **Karson Coutre** Auke Bay Lab, AFSC SERVICE

Outline:

1. Satellite tagging project info

- 2. Satellite tags to estimate location \Rightarrow bottom depth
- 3. Estimating vertical availability to bottom trawl survey

Satellite tagging project:

- Used Pop-off Satellite Archival Tags (PSAT): Temperature, depth, light intensity
- Tagging occurred 2009 2013: 2010 – 2013 evaluated here







Satellite tagging project: Location data

- Light info provides 'observed' daily location at local noon (zenith)
- Observed data can be variable, use geolocation model (Kalman filter) to estimate track line with uncertainty



Satellite tagging project: location estimates

- Location estimates provide opportunity to match with bottom depth through bathymetry observations
- Not perfect, includes fairly substantial uncertainty in location





Estimating vertical availability to bottom trawl survey: 2 methods

1. Nichol et al. method: max depth in 24 hours considered bottom

2. Geolocation method: bottom depth determined from bathymetry at estimated location

Vertical availability: estimated as proportion of time spent under head rope (w/in 7 m of bottom) during survey operating hours

Estimating vertical availability to bottom trawl survey: Results

| | Number of | VA | SD in VA | VA | SD in VA |
|--------|-----------|----------|----------|---------------|---------------|
| | days | (Nichol) | (Nichol) | (Geolocation) | (Geolocation) |
| Pooled | 1585 | 0.609 | 0.341 | 0.031 | 0.071 |
| 2010 | 261 | 0.519 | 0.329 | 0.021 | 0.019 |
| 2011 | 269 | 0.619 | 0.345 | 0.020 | 0.069 |
| 2012 | 670 | 0.551 | 0.325 | 0.037 | 0.069 |
| 2013 | 385 | 0.736 | 0.328 | 0.035 | 0.092 |











Conclusions:

- Nichol et al method largest estimate, but has large uncertainty that ranges from 0-1
 - Geolocation is more defendable, but uncertainty present in both location estimates and bathymetry data
 - If we've learned anything, it's that we now have a quantitative idea of how relative the trawl survey biomass is for spiny dogfish
 - Our biomass estimates from the trawl survey are possibly half as large (or less) than the actual abundance

Conclusions:

• For comparison:

- q/efficiency = 0.432 in NEFSC spiny dogfish assessment
- NWFSC (ASA) estimates trawl catchability between
 0.04 0.55 for trawl surveys

| Survey catchability (Q) | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| AFSC triennial early survey | 0.22 |
| AFSC triennial late survey | 0.16 |
| AFSC slope survey | 0.55 |
| NWFSC shelf slope survey | 0.28 |
| NWFSC slope survey | 0.04 |
| IHPC survey | 3.46E-07 |

North sea spurdog (ICES) q = 0.0006

Plan Team Discussion:

- What do you think of the method?
- Let's save implementation/implications discussion for tomorrow morning during Cindy's talk, but, food for thought tonight:

 $OFL = F \times B$, $ABC = 0.75 \times OFL$

F as estimated from a demographic model is, by definition, applied to the true biomass. The results suggest here that the true biomass is not the trawl survey biomass.

