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Increased Monitoring of the Multispecies Fishery in the Northeast United States

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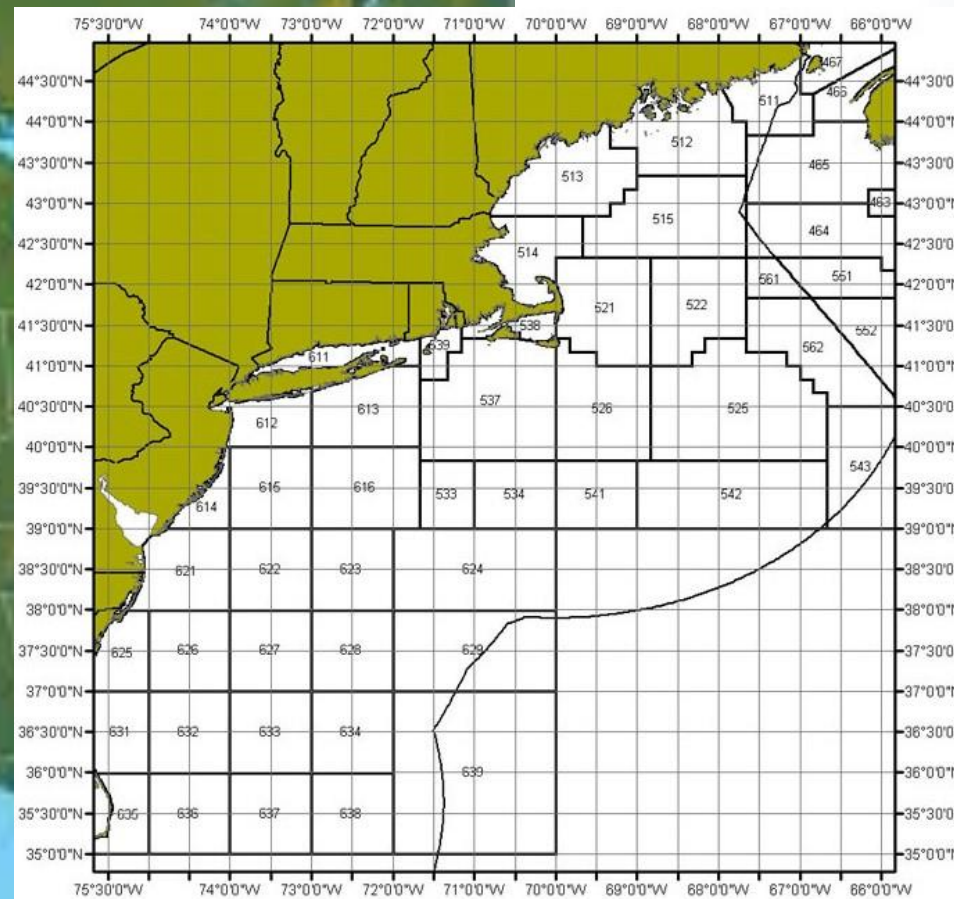
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Background

- Fishing for groundfish in Northeast U.S. has a long history
- Today's fleet is made up of approximately 171 active vessels
- Monitoring of fleet is a priority for the region
 - At-sea monitor (ASM) program created 2010
- Recent change to coverage of the fishery





Groundfish

Atlantic Cod



Pollock



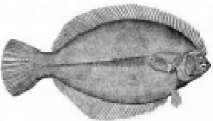
Haddock



Redfish



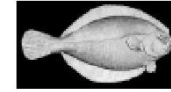
Winter Flounder



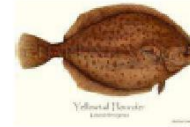
Witch Flounder



American Plaice
Flounder



Yellowtail Flounder



Atlantic Halibut



White Hake



Atlantic Wolffish



Ocean Pout



Sand Dab Flounder



Methods

Realized Coverage by Year		
Year	Target Coverage	Realized Coverage
2010	38%	32%
2011	38%	27%
2012	25%	22%
2013	22%	20%
2014	26%	25.7%
2015	24%	19.8%
2016	14%	14.8%
2017	16%	17.3%
2018	15%	14.5%
2019	31%	23.1%
2020	40%	11.6%
2021	40%	32%
2022	*80%	**61%

- Fleet wide target and sector specific
- Groundfish sectors
- Monitoring targets have been variable
- 2022 monitoring target driven by need for additional monitoring

*Reduced from 99%

**Preliminary estimate



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Methods

- Currently 87 At-sea Monitors (ASM) and 45 Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) observers
- Contracted third party to train more ASMs
- Modified Pre-trip Notification System (PTNS)
- Updated training seat allocation policy
- Prep internally/externally

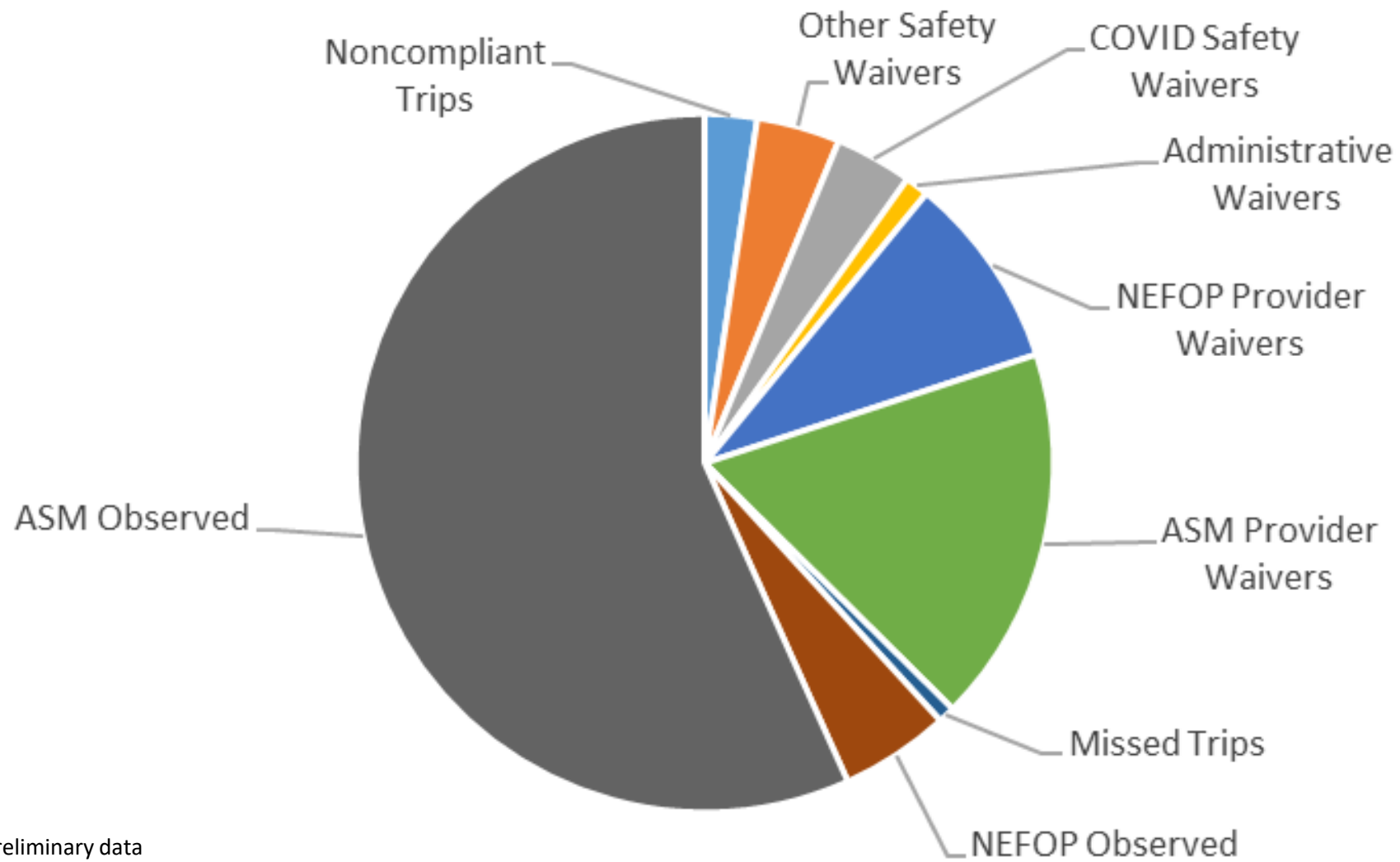


Results

- Less than target, slowly increasing
- Communication, compliance, training opportunities have been on target
- Not enough observers (ASM and NEFOP)
- Additional challenges



Groundfish Trip Outcomes 2022 Fishing Year*



*Preliminary data



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Conclusion

- Recruitment, retention, pay are central challenges
- Lessons learned
- Prepare for next year



Acknowledgements

Observers + observer provider staff
PTNS and groundfish teams
CFF and NOAA staff