

Summary of 11/21/2013 WDS Selectivity Meeting

On November 21st, 2013 A selected group of CBSAC members met to discuss the 2014 plans and changes for the WDS and the surrounding the selectivity issues. From this meeting we reached a few valuable conclusions and action items to take into consideration for the WDS into the 2014 season.

In attendance: Joe Grist Chair: (VMRC), Andrew Turner Coordinator: (NCBO/Versar), Lynn Fegley (MDDNR), Glenn Davis (MDDNR), Alexi Sharov (MDDNR), Mike Seebo (VIMS), Rom Lipcius (VIMS), Sally Roman (VMRC), Mike Wilberg (UMCES), Tom Miller (UMCES)

The following action items developed from the meeting:

- Joe Grist/Mike Wilberg : In 2014, WDS staff will incorporate a new sampling design to evaluate the selectivity between MD and VA methodologies. This was proposed to be a paired vessel survey where in addition to the traditional depletion survey methodology, a new methodology will be explored involving overlapping transects that offer more statistically rigorous results for comparable effort and boat time according to current sampling design. .

For the 2013-2014 Advisory report and abundance estimates, the current depletion method will be suspended the 2012-2013 selectivity estimate which was calculated as a mutli-year average will be used as a proxy for the abundance estimate for this year's survey.

The proposed paired vessel survey will evaluate the selectivity of dredge gear from around 50 sites and will be conducted over 4 days, two days sampling mud substrate and 2 days sampling a sandy substrate. Suggested areas include the San Marcos Wreck area along with the Potomac River.

From this, we hope to identify the source of bias between the two states. Suggested sources to be evaluated are bottom types, dredge gear, vessel operation and specific retrieval and deployment methods employed by each agency.

As a control, it was suggested that each of the selectivity dredges will be evaluated based on small bright colored objects counted and deployed prior to dredging. This will allow for evaluation of methods even in the absence of large numbers of crabs in those areas.

In closing this multi season project will be evaluated after the completion of the 2014 advisory report. Thus, the proxy from the historically derived depletion method will be used for this year's abundance estimate. It was also suggested to use technological advances (Vemco, Side Scan, advanced global positioning systems, and sonar equipment) to better identify exact location of trawl position behind vessels.