Fishing Methods Work Group Meeting #2

May 15, 2025 | Meeting Summary

The Fishing Methods Data Work Group is one of two Work Groups supporting ROSA's Data Governance Program in 2025. This Work Group is focused on data collection from survey methods similar to fishing gear, including bottom trawl, gillnet, trap/pot, scallop dredge, and clam dredge.

Work Group Goals
- Where should ROSA recommend people publish fisheries-related data?
- How should data be organized to maximize discovery and reusability?
- What else can ROSA do to support data governance for this data type?

Potential topics for recommendations
- Documentation (including metadata)
- Metadata standards and recommended repositories
- How to organize and structure datasets within a 'project'
- Any other specific info to be included (i.e. special fields, tags)
- Catalog of experimental designs used
- How to be good data managers for our future selves
- How to preserve and publish data to answer regional or cumulative impact questions

The group began by discussing the cross-walk and comparisons of metadata fields across several trawl surveys (e.g. Rutgers, SMAST, FishGLOB), and the heterogeneity in metadata more broadly. There was a general sentiment that even for metadata tools that exist, there is a lack of support for maintaining, updating, and evolving the tools to meet user needs.

Meeting attendees were then asked to spend 5 minutes gathering a bit of info about the number and size of the data holdings related to fisheries methods at their organization, and then sharing with the group to facilitate better understanding of the volume of data that could be mobilized. Questions and needs around data licensing were raised and discussed, as well as the need for better understanding risks in sharing data.

Potential opportunities for ROSA to support:
- Hold further conversations with participants who volunteered to dig more into metadata and data sharing agreements in their work and organizations.
- Share data licensing workshop materials on Creative Commons licenses
- Provide guidance on assessing potential risks associated with sharing data