

Project Title: *Testing Raised-Webbing Gillnets to Reduce Bycatch of Cod While Targeting Pollock*

Contract number: PZ06115

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Major Accomplishments and Milestones:

Due to a change in vessels (described in section below), work has not commenced for this project.

Unexpected Difficulties and Project Alterations:

Changes in regulation and fishing business plans have led two of the fisherman originally involved in this project (Dave Marciano and Pete Shoares) to discontinue their participation in the project. However Marciano discussed the project with Muniz, who has agreed to conduct work aboard his vessel F/V Lady Shannon. Since Muniz fishes for pollock at a different time of year from Marciano, the field work portion of the project has been rescheduled for December 2006-January 2007.

Next Steps (tasks for the next six months):

At-sea trials for the project will be conducted over the next two months. A gillnet supplier has been identified in Portland, Maine who will construct the nets. He is presently working on a sample for approval by the project partners, and will be able to complete construction of nets for the project by late-December. In the event this sample proves unsatisfactory, another supplier (in Gloucester, MA) has indicated interest in constructing the nets.

Project Impacts:

Since no work has been conducted, there are no results and no measurable impacts at this time. As described in the project proposal, the intended impact is to demonstrate whether this modification can increase the species selectivity of gillnets to target pollock while reducing catch of cod, flatfish, and other species encountered closer to the seafloor.

Shale Rosen

Date