

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP)



Northeast Fishery Observer Program Objectives

- Work with Industry to Improve Fishery Information Base
- Monitor Biological Characteristics of Catch
- Estimate Takes of Protected Species
- Monitor Discards
- Monitor Experimental Fisheries
- Design and Monitor Conservation Gear
- Obtain Economic Information
- Monitor Foreign Fisheries

NEFOP Organization

Branch Chief

Branch Secretary

Biologists (6)

Statistician (1)

Computer Assistants (1)

Program Director (Contractor)

Administrative Assistants (2)

Supervising Editor (1)

Editors (3)

Entry (3)

Area Coordinators (3)

And... OBSERVERS (43)

Northeast Fishery Observer Program Budget

Funding Sources:

- NOAA Fisheries
- Atlantic Coast Cooperative
Statistics Program
- NOAA Office of Protected
Species
- Industry Funded Fisheries

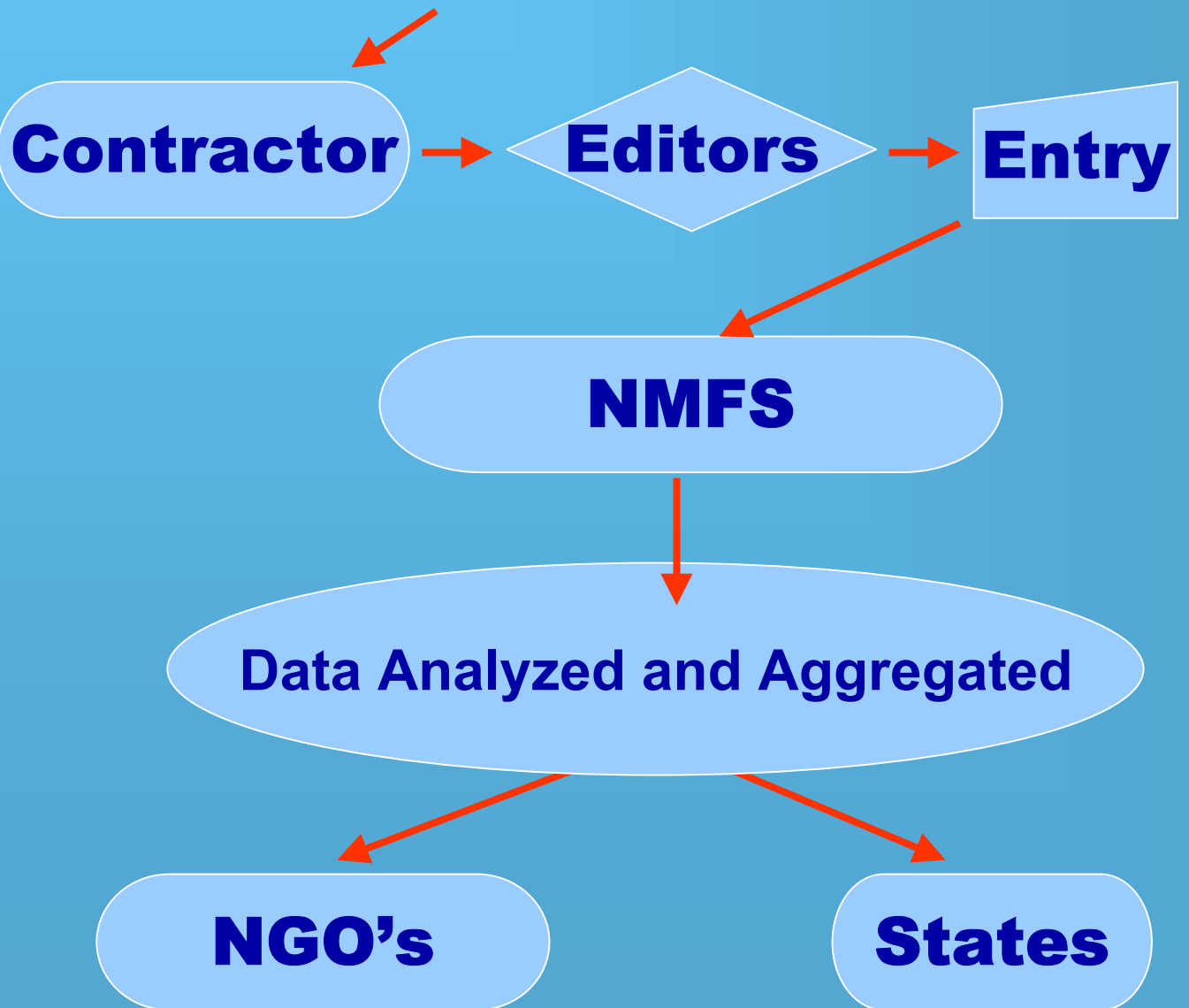
Approximate Cost: \$1,150
per day at sea

\$606.00 Contractor

\$545.00 NMFS

Total Budget: \$7-9 Million

NEFSC Fisheries Observers
(class of September 2002)



IN 2001 the Northeast Fishery
Observer Program sampled:

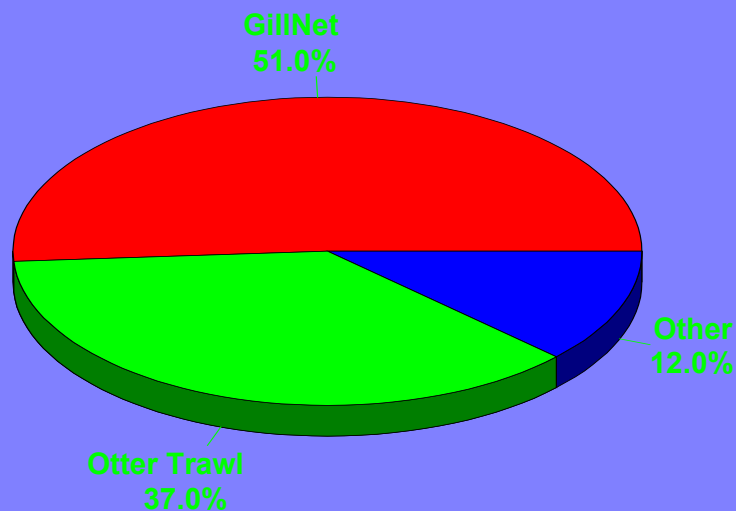
1,495 Trips

7, 784 Hauls

And Spent 2300 days at Sea

2001 Observer Coverage

by Gear Type

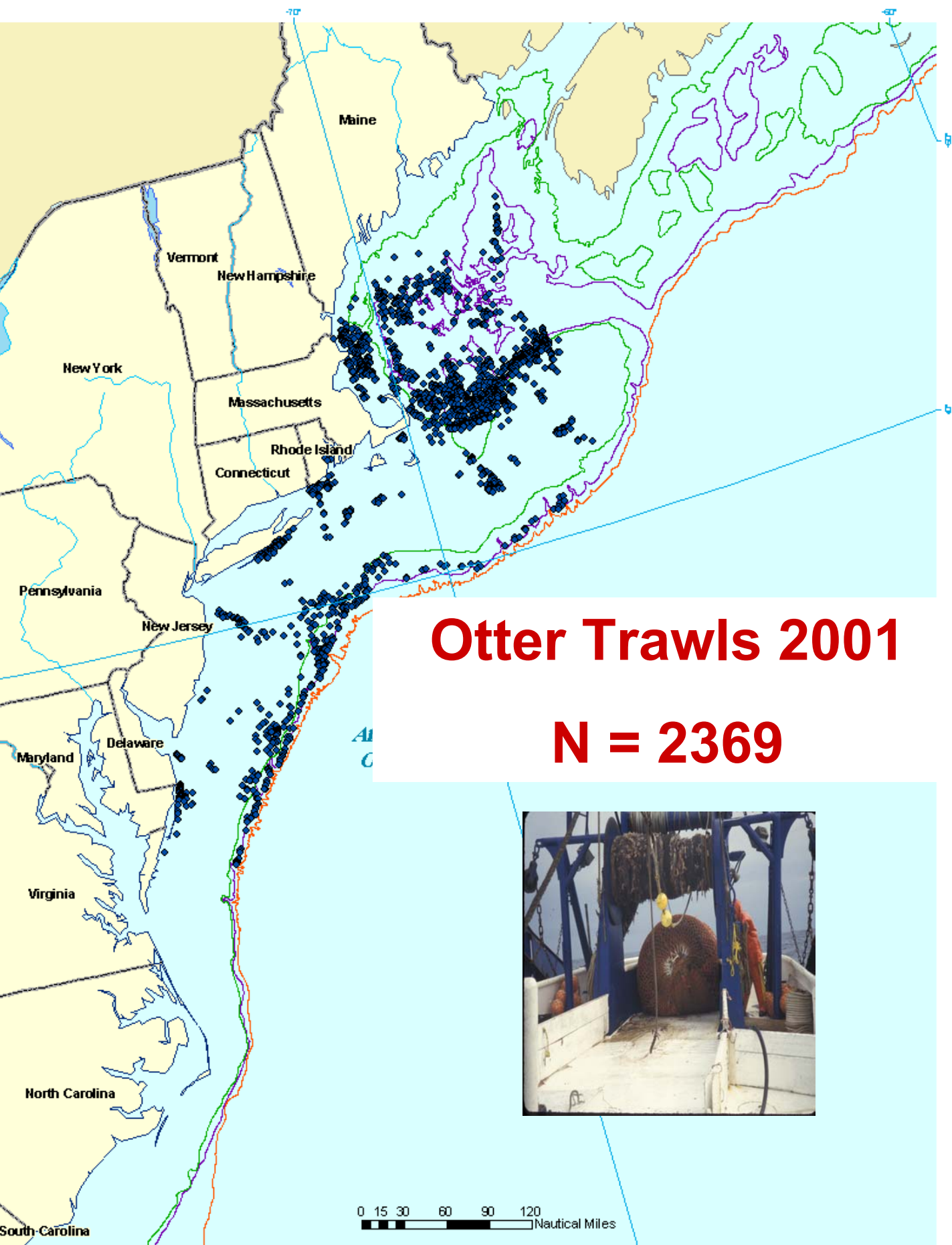


Some Issues in Observer Sampling

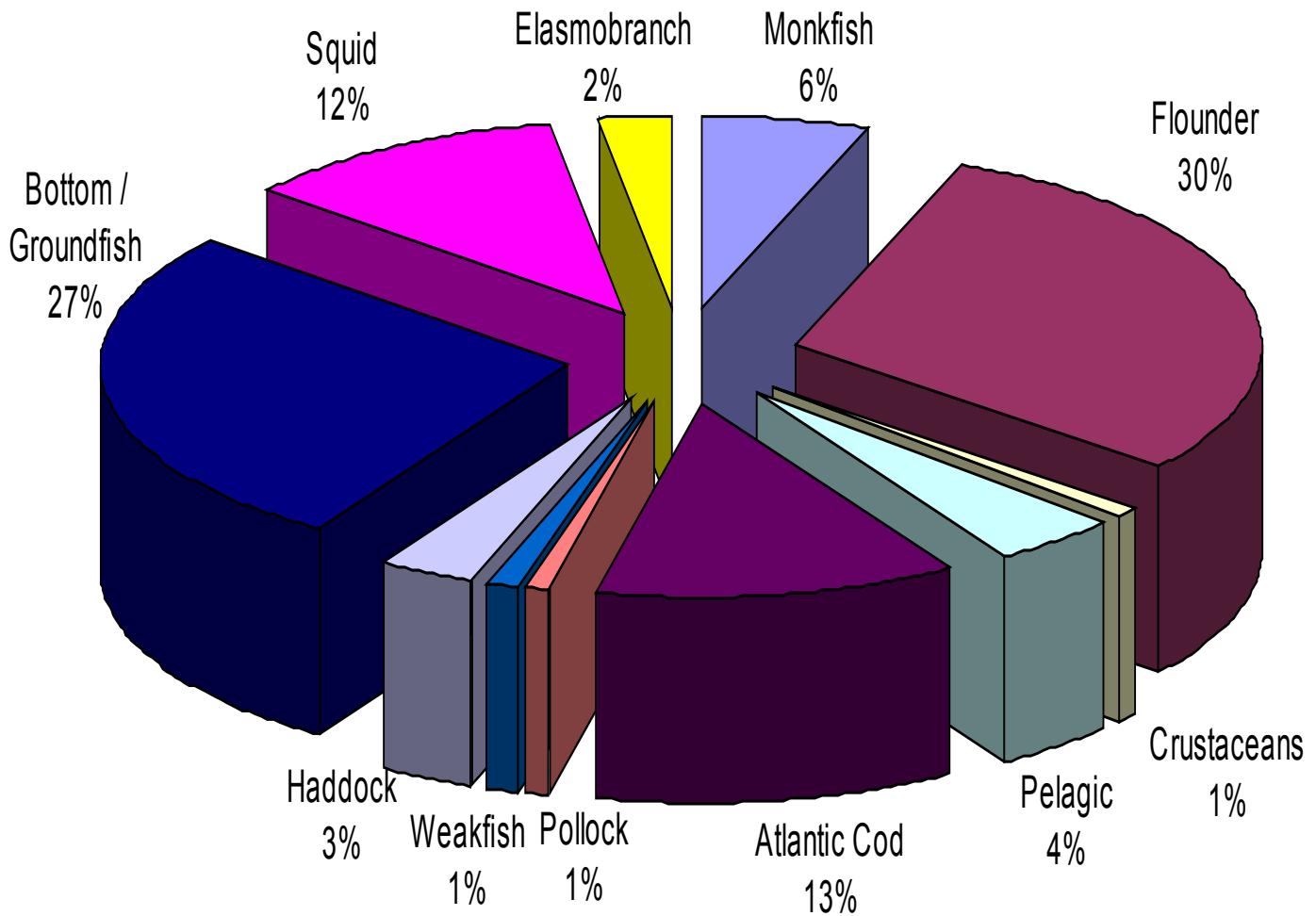
- Is Sampling Representative of the Fleet as a Whole?
- What are the Biases?
- Does Fishing Behavior Change when Observers are Onboard?
- What could prevent this?
- Coverage levels, how much?
- Funding
 - Federal
 - Industry

Data Sources for Stock Assessment

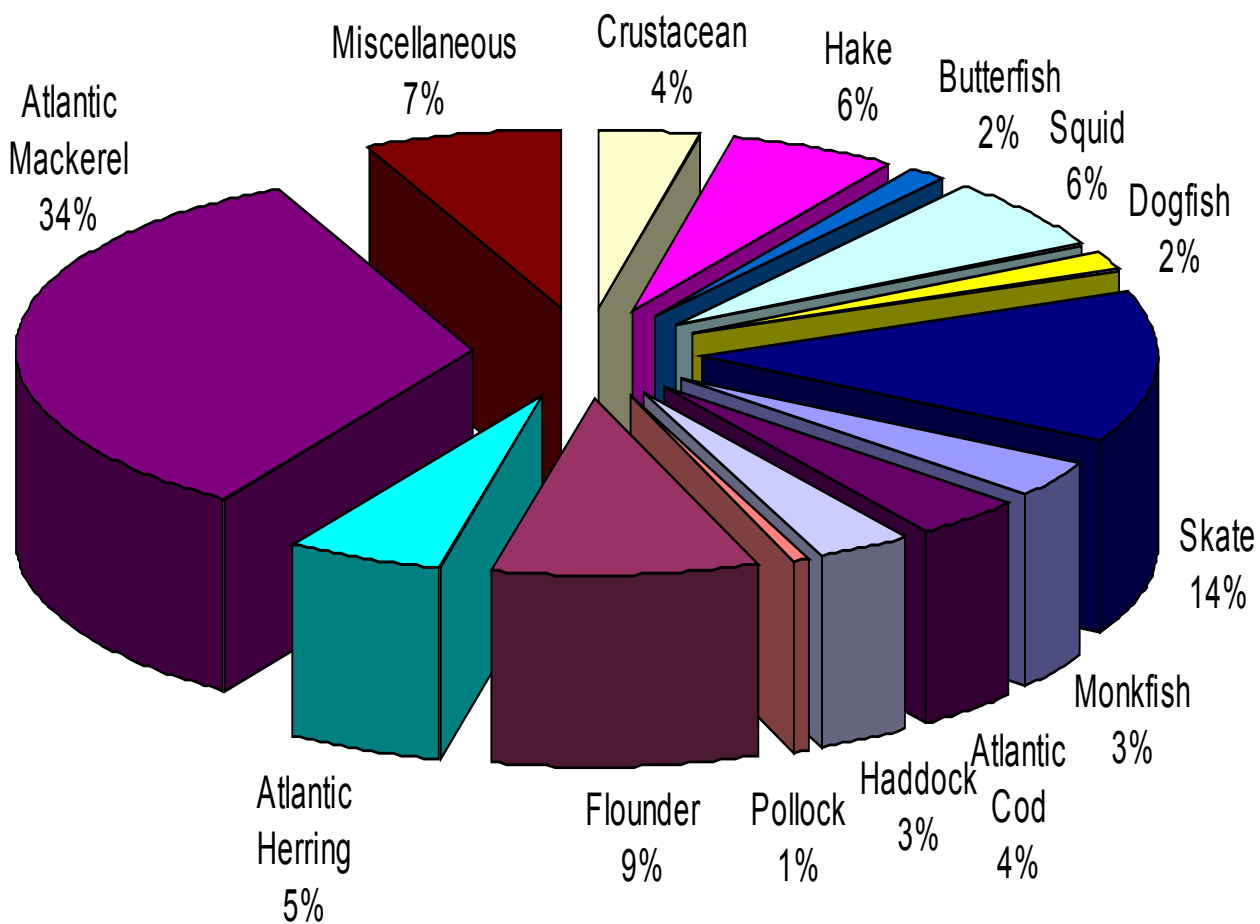
- Port Sampling & Interviews
- Vessel Trip Reports
- Observer Data
- Research Vessel Surveys

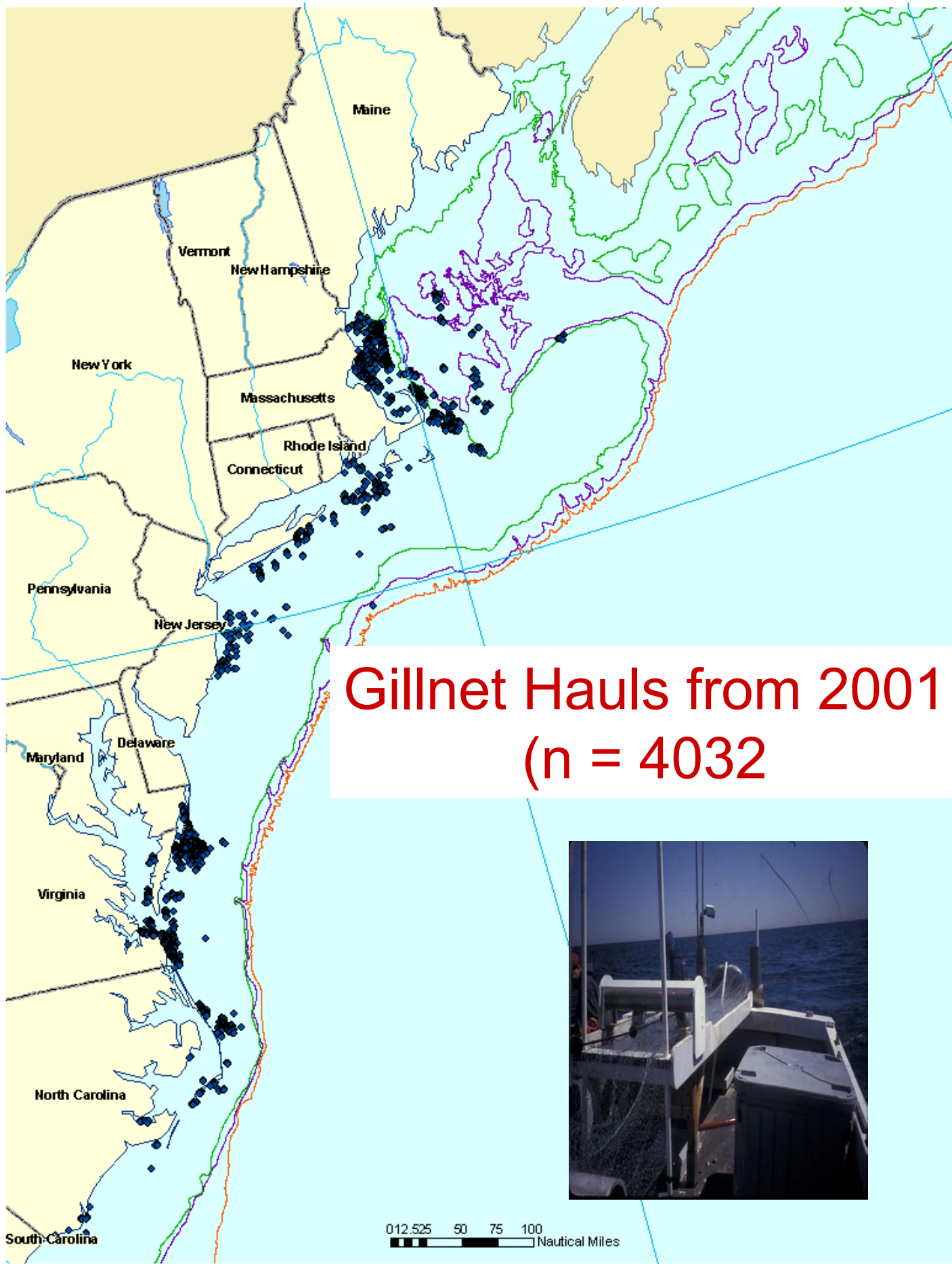


Trawl Target Species



Otter Trawl Primary Species



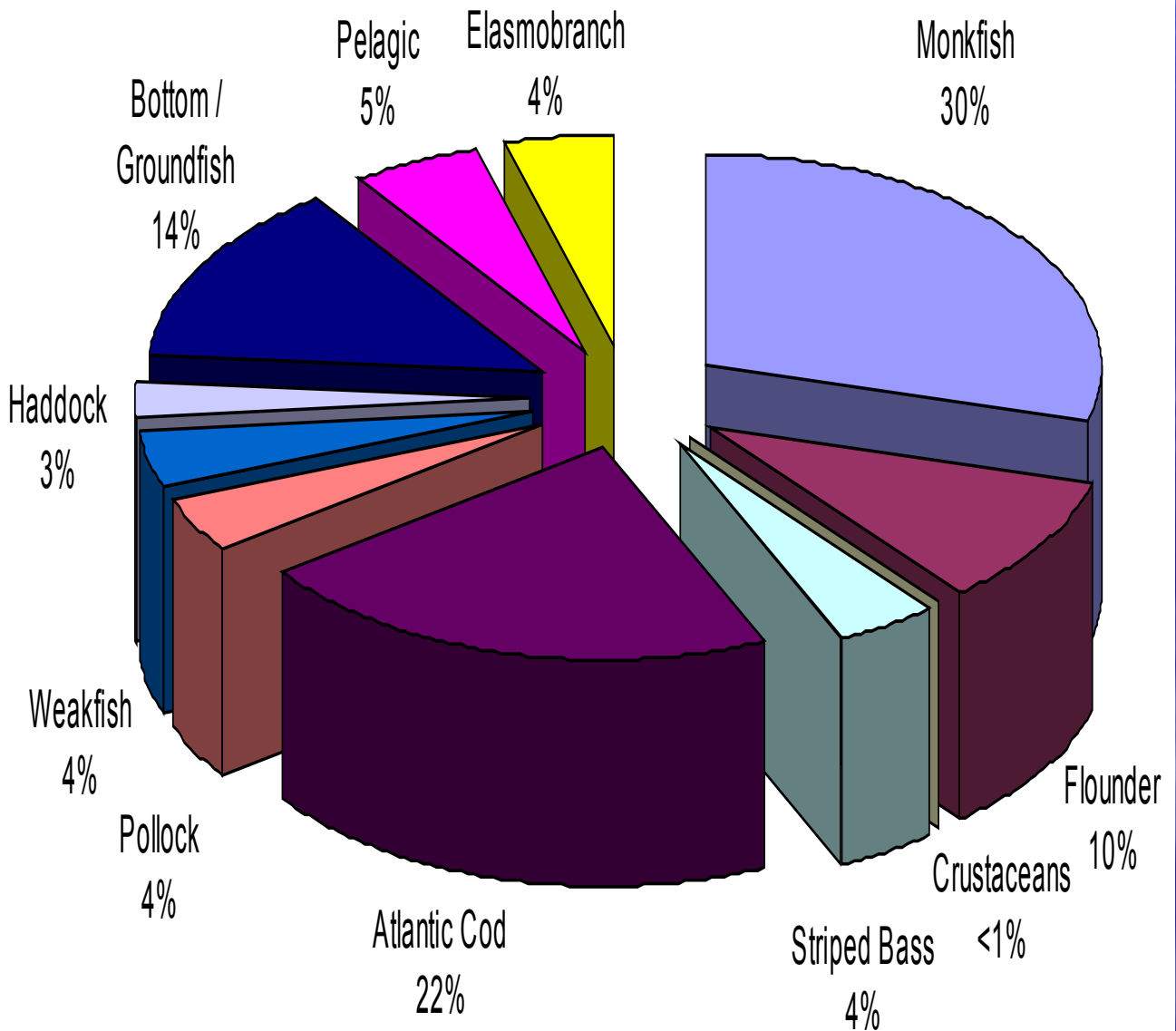


Gillnet Hauls from 2001 (n = 4032)

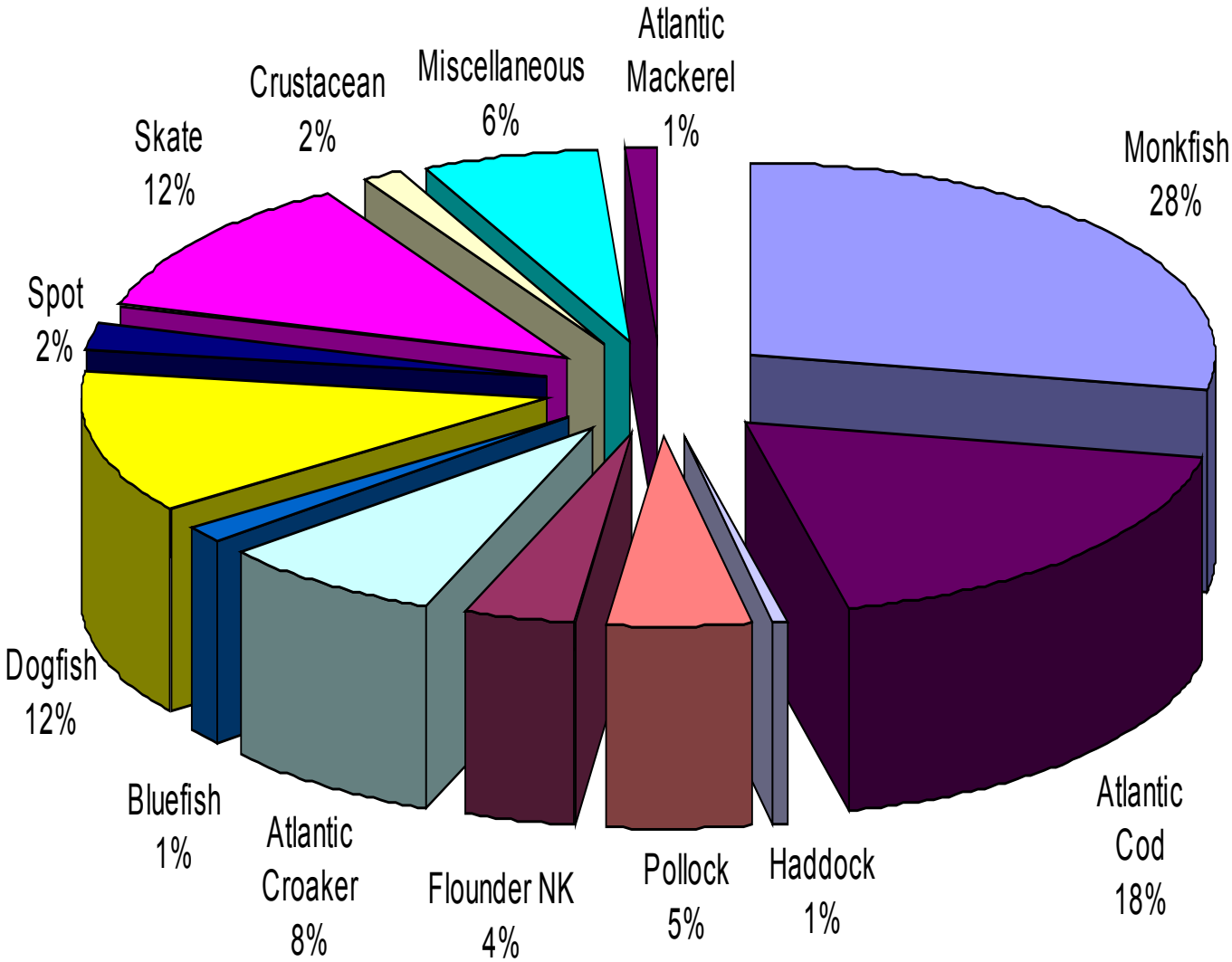


0 12.5 25 50 75 100
Nautical Miles

Gillnet Target Species

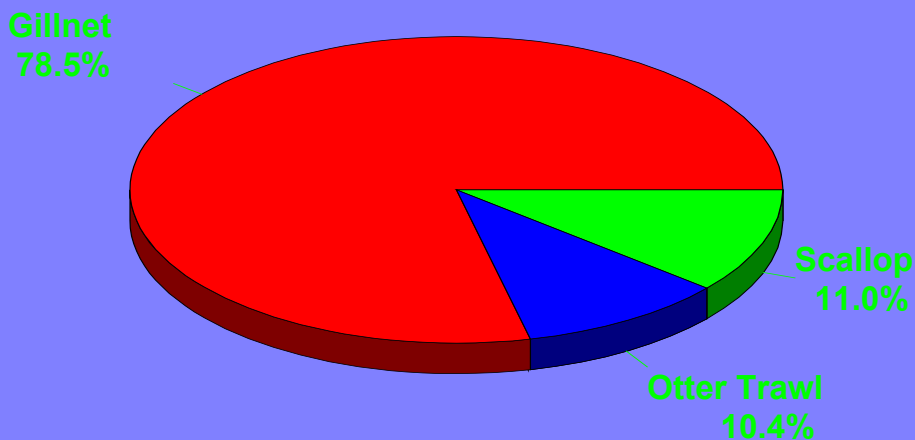


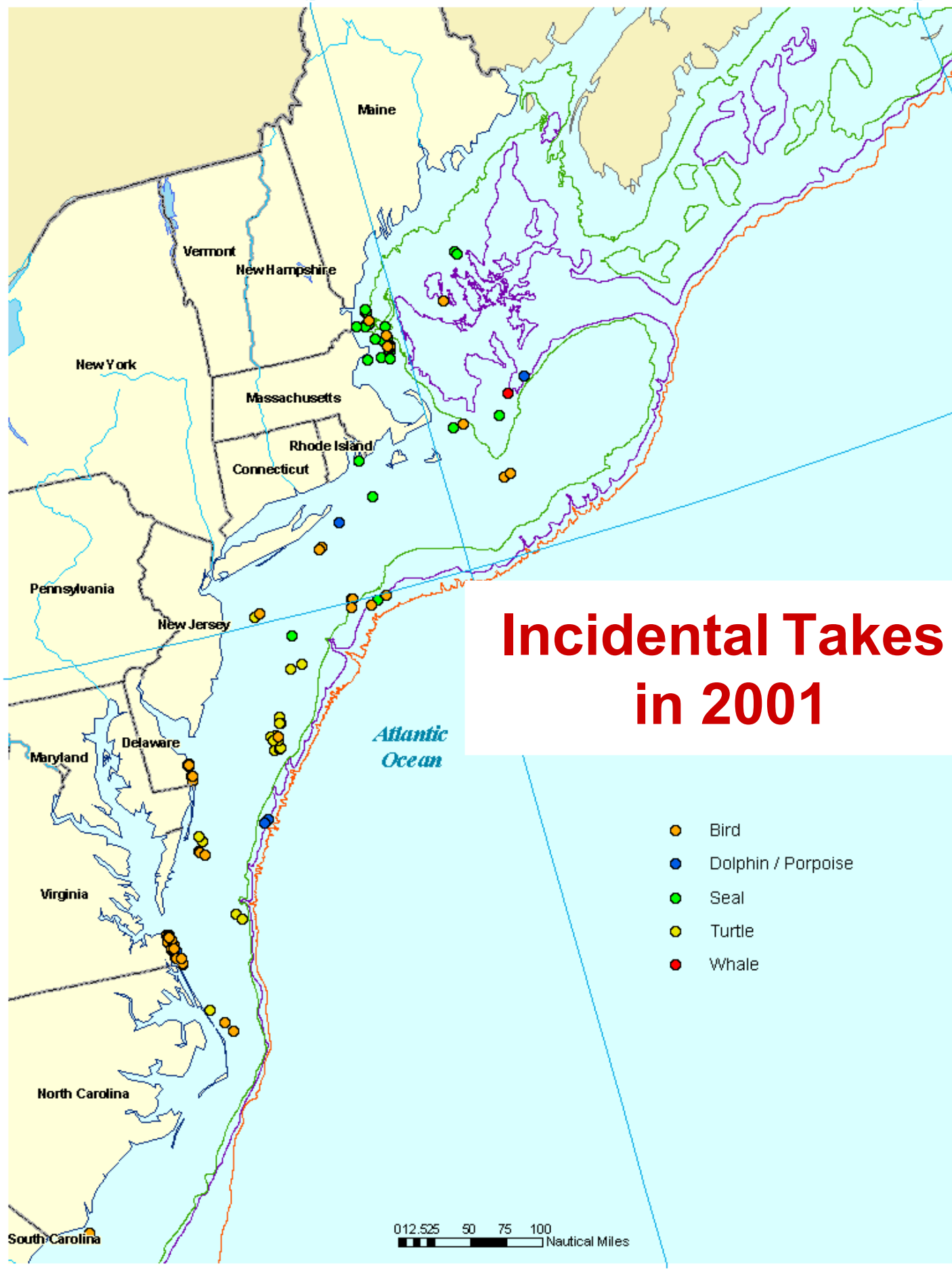
Gillnet Primary Species



NEFOP Observers Documented 82 Incidental Takes of Marine Mammals and Turtles in 2001

Observed Incidental Takes by Gear Type in 2001



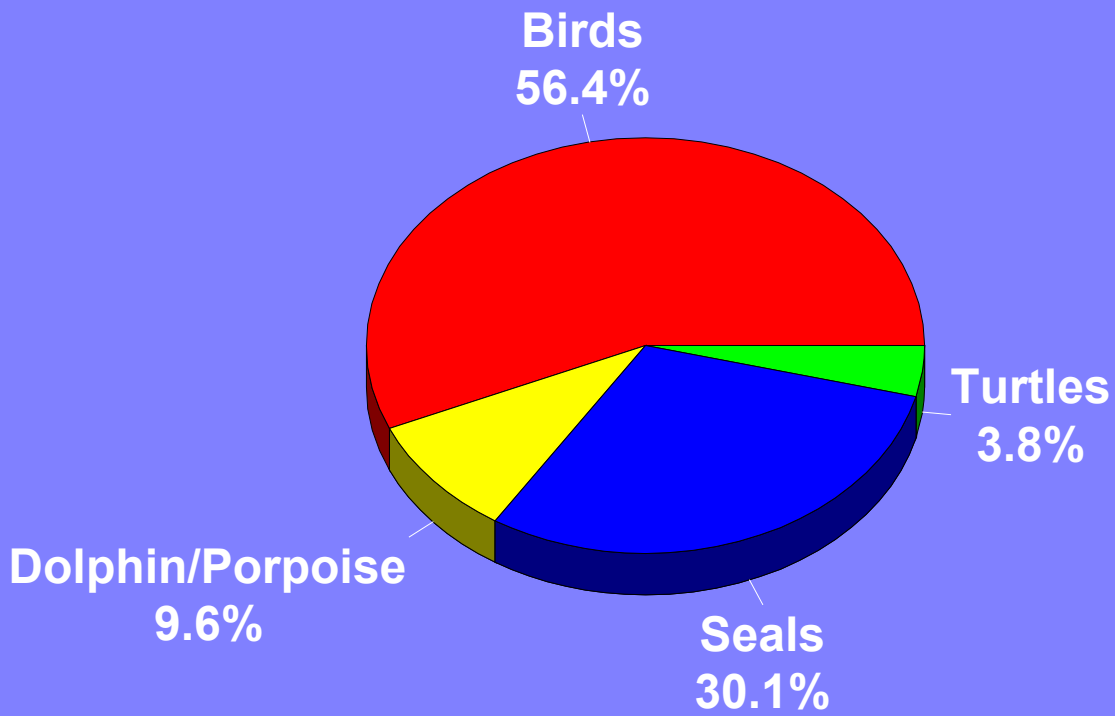


Incidental Takes in 2001

- Bird
- Dolphin / Porpoise
- Seal
- Turtle
- Whale

0 12.5 25 50 75 100
Nautical Miles

Incidental Takes 2001



Birds = 81

Dolphin/Porpoise = 16

Seals = 47

Turtles = 19

THE FUTURE

- Observer Programs will grow
 - Litigation driven
 - Management needs
- More industry participation
 - Program direction
 - Funding
 - Experimental studies
- Electronic Data entry at sea
- More Outreach and Education
- More Access to data
- Web Site Development