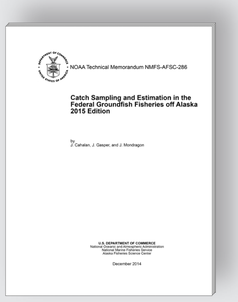
Catch Sampling and Estimation in the Federal Groundfish Fisheries Off Alaska

- Federal fisheries off Alaska are scientifically monitored and legally enforced under a number of federal requirements.
- The collection of high quality data on both landed and at-sea discards of federally managed species is critical for implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Act standards, particularly National Standard 1 and associated guidelines that require the total accounting of catch.
- NOAA Fisheries, Alaska Region, assesses catch by integrating industry-supplied information with data collected by an at-sea and shoreside observer program administered by the Alaska Fishery Science Center.
- Data sources are consolidated for catch estimation in a database called the Alaska Region Catch Accounting System (CAS); sampling and computational details are presented to the right.
- Data consumers include inseason managers who insure catch is within specified limits, stock assessment scientists who use catch information in their assessments, industry managers who monitor catch allocations and bycatch amounts, agency analysts, policy makers, and the public.
- The continuing challenge is to implement rigorous methods while meeting the need for expedited information for quota monitoring and inseason management. Evaluation and improvement of the catch estimation procedures presented here is an ongoing effort that will result in estimators that are more robust and continue to meet management needs.



Cahalan, J., Mondragon, J., and Gasper, J. 2014. Catch sampling and estimation in the federal groundfish fisheries off Alaska: 2015 Edition. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-AFSC-286: 42 p. http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-286.pdf

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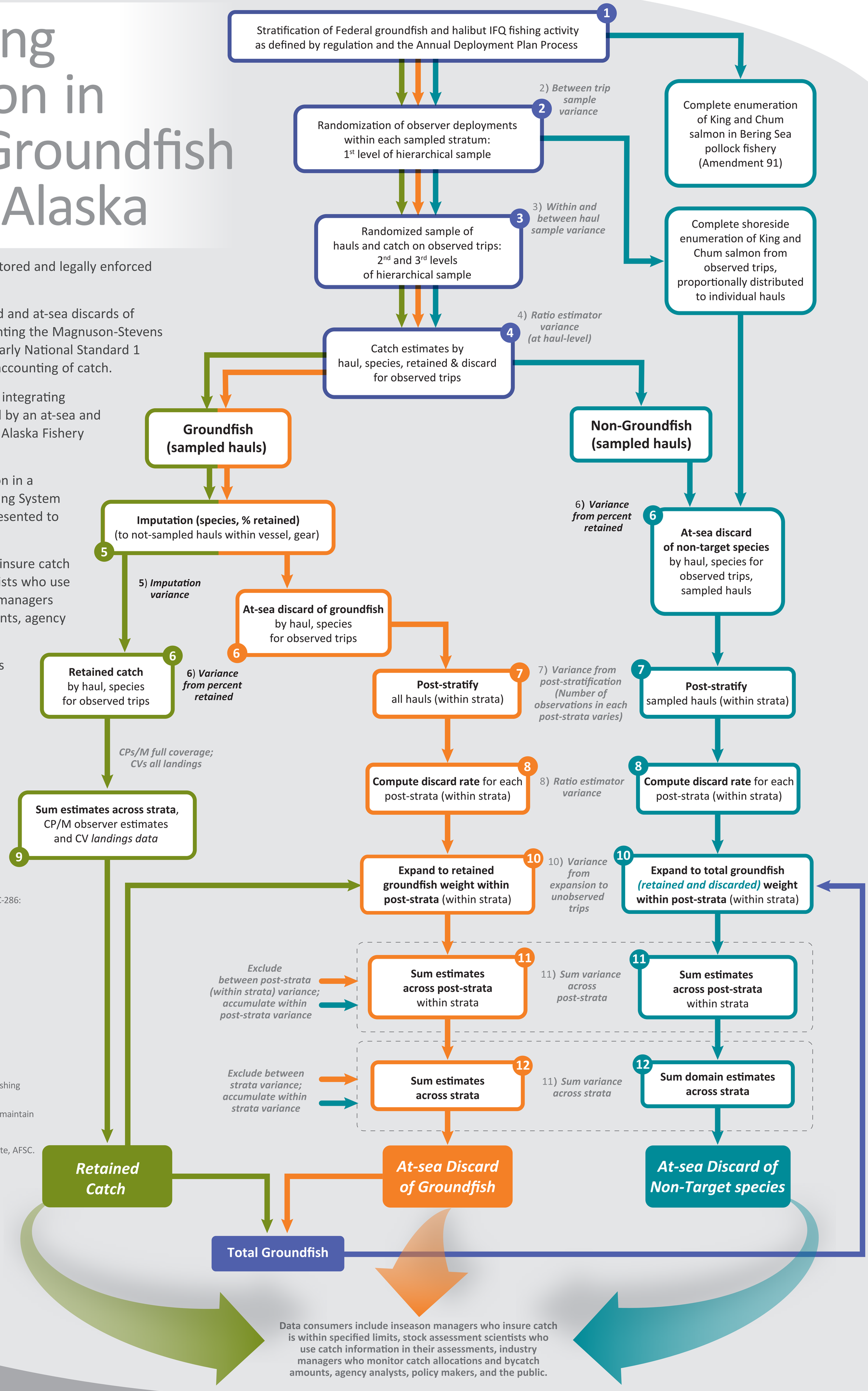
We thank the many groundfish observers who are deployed to commercial fishing vessels in Alaska to collect high-quality data for science and management, and the dedicated programmers and application developers who create and maintain the Catch Accounting System.

Flow chart adapted from Cahalan et al. 2014. Graphic design by Rebecca White, AFSC.

The recommendations and general content presented in this poster do not necessarily represent the views or position of the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service, or the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.



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