

Challenges to Effective Catch Monitoring: a non- NMFS perspective



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Approach

- Possible Approaches
 - Talk about the obvious issues
 - Draw from the experience of state employees involved in the data collection
 - Talk to the upline managers directly involved in drafting legislative and board rule changes



Myopic Approach

- *Focus:* Georgia Specific
- *Why:* One size fits all approach does not work for all states
- *Who contributed?* Coastal Resources Division Director, Commercial Statistics Coordinator, MRIP Program Coordinator



Challenges Identified

■ Commercial

- Federally permitted dealers already required to report weekly
- State does not require a dealer permit but landings reports are required monthly
- Enforcement can be problematic
 - Lack personnel to provide coverage
 - Landings reporting infractions not as high a priority
 - Penalty of non-compliance not enforced
 - Accountability issues
 - Treated as a criminal offense
- Under reporting
 - Verification of catch



Challenges Identified

■ Commercial

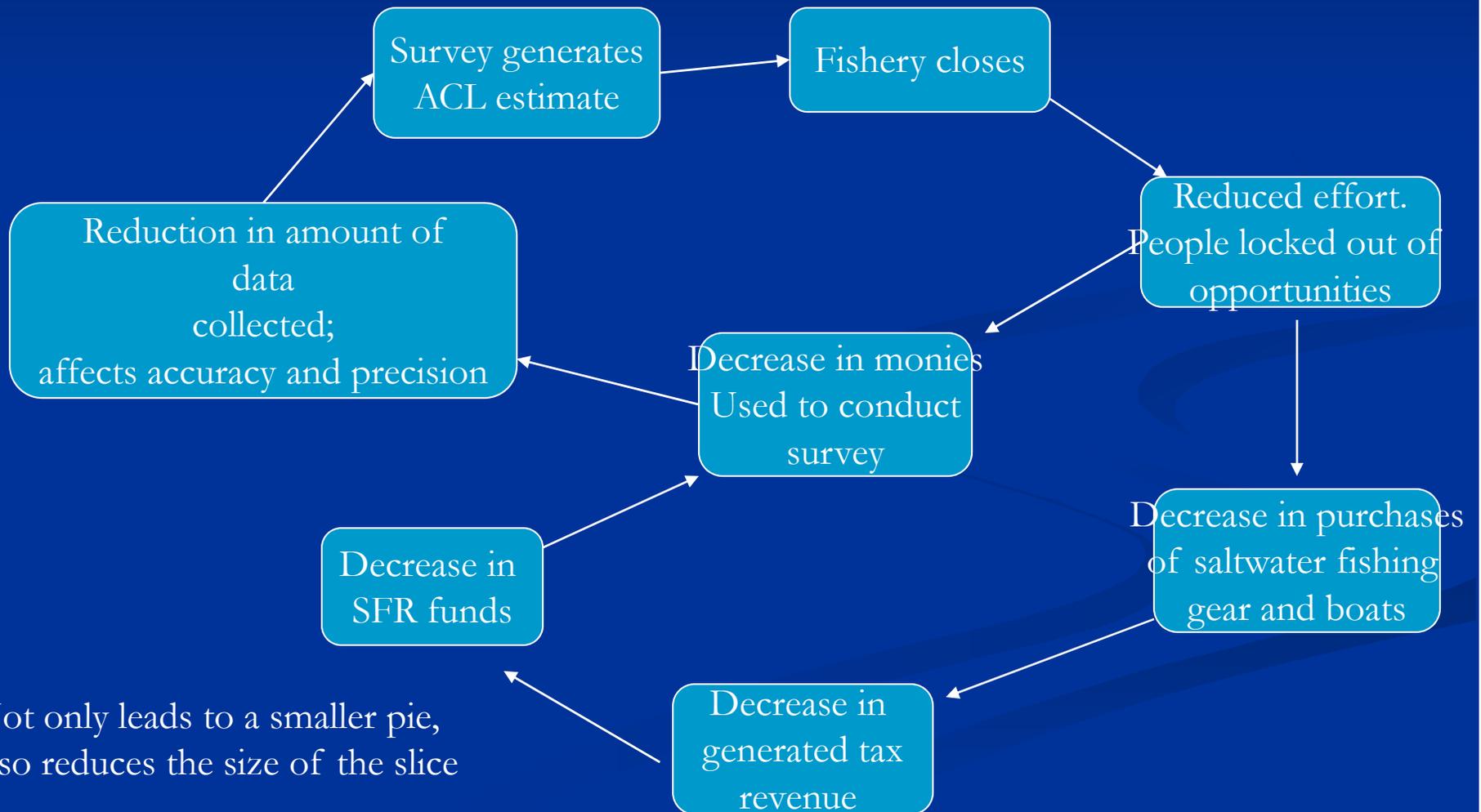
- Flat-lined Budget. State has received a static amount for 10 of the last 11 years. Last increase was less than 10% of the total.

■ Recreational

- Budget: fixed on the side of federal dollars; State budget getting tighter
- Regionally managed; lacks state specificity
- Number of species and species identification issues
- Imprecision of estimates for many offshore species
- Participation is not mandatory; what happens when constituents refuse to interview?



Effects on State Level Funding for Recreational Data Collection



Not only leads to a smaller pie,
also reduces the size of the slice



Challenges Identified

■ Management

- States lack the ability to be reactive for fishery closures
 - Legislative involvement
 - State governments looking to reduce the presence of "big government"
- Government management frameworks still take time (i.e., public comment period, legislative/Board of Natural Resources review and acceptance).

■ Largest challenges identified across the board?

- CONSTITUENT BUY-IN AND INCREASING TRUST WITHIN THE INDUSTRIES
- Trade-off between timeliness and precision and accuracy

Correct the Perception



State Agencies act as the interface between NOAA Fisheries and Constituents

The Unknown Consequence...

Will the Government restrict access to a public resource when the information lacks the quality needed for management purposes?