



ALASKA POLLOCK FISHERY GEAR INNOVATION INITIATIVE

Alaska pollock fishery operators have launched a comprehensive, multi-year research project to better understand pelagic trawl gear interaction with the seafloor habitat. The Gear Innovation Initiative represents an unprecedented level of collaboration across Alaska's entire pollock trawl fleet and its fishermen.

A THREE-STAGE PROJECT

Already underway, the project uses applied research and empirical data to provide more accurate understanding of habitat disturbances by:



CATALOGING THE GEAR

Create an inventory of all pelagic trawl gear currently used by the pollock fishery in the Eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.



CONDUCTING COMPUTER SIMULATIONS

Develop 3-D model visualizations to assess how the pelagic gear takes shape underwater and responds to various conditions.



COLLECTING EMPIRICAL DATA

Collect at-sea data to better understand the potential implications of pelagic trawl gear on seafloor habitat.

This initiative will improve assessments of pelagic trawl gear habitat disturbance to support fishery management decisions, and aid the fleet in refining their gear to achieve conservation gains as necessary.

A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT

"The Gear Innovation Initiative helps ensure that pollock fishing gear impact evaluations and resulting management policies are based on current, accurate and transparent gear information."

BRAD HARRIS, PH.D.

Professor of Marine & Environmental Sciences
FAST Lab Director, Alaska Pacific University

INITIAL GROUNDWORK
DEVELOPED BY:



MIDWATER TRAWLERS
COOPERATIVE



PENINSULA
FISHERMAN'S
COALITION