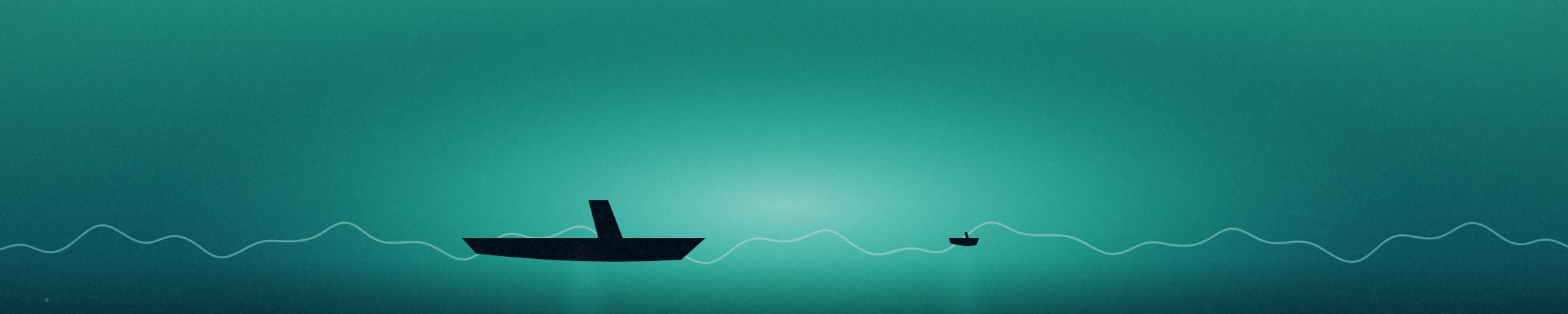




ALASKA FISHERIES SURVEYS · SEPTEMBER 2026

Two instruments
on the same line, in parallel.
That's the bill.

DEPTH 78 m · KEY DOWNWELLING el 76 · 57°30'N 168°00'W
NOAA FISHERIES FRAMEWORK, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2026 (C01)

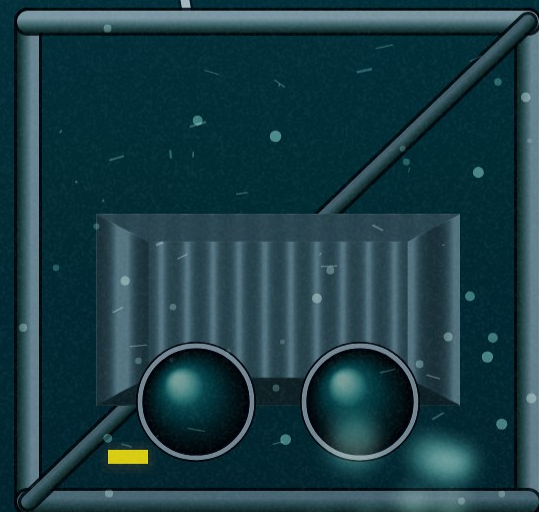
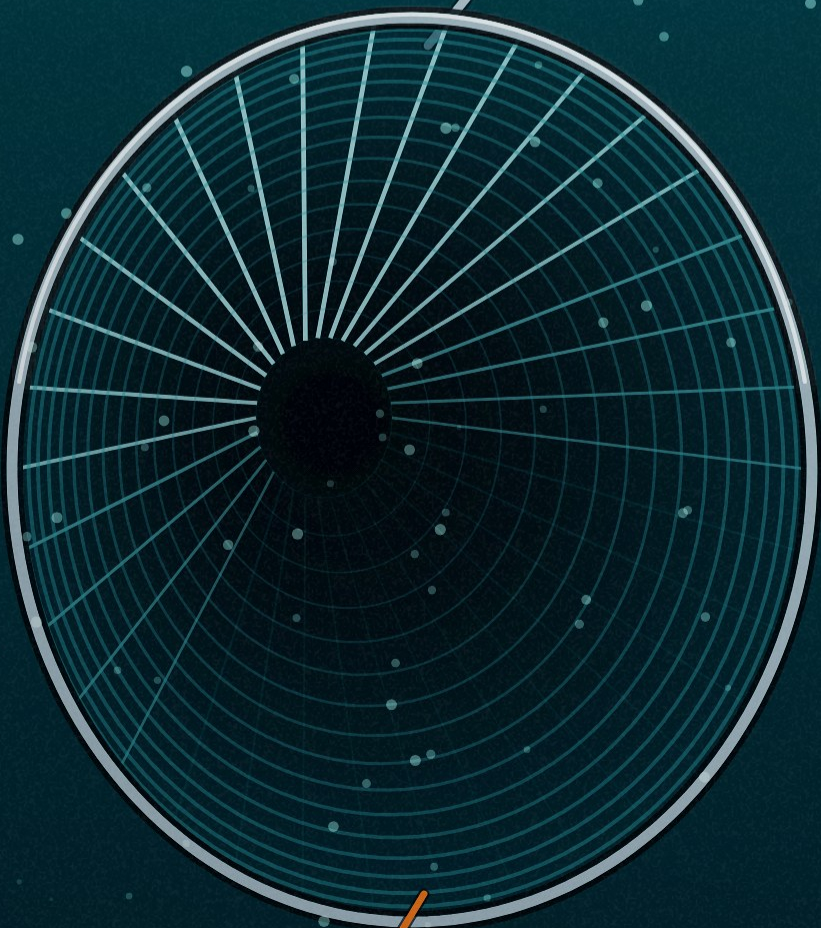


The new instrument is allowed to be different.

"Consistency in information that FIS data products provide is more important than consistency in FIS methods."

KOTWICKI ET AL., ICES JOURNAL OF MARINE SCIENCE (C03, C04)

FIS, A FISHERIES INDEPENDENT SURVEY. FIVE COLLABORATORS (C14)



Agreement is bought. It is never assumed.

The framework calls for "incremental incorporation and calibration of new technologies" rather than "a wholesale replacement of existing methods that would disrupt the historical baseline of a time series" (C05). The most common way to do it is to run the old method and the new one in parallel for a fixed period (C07).

SAME AREA IN 40 PERCENT LESS TIME WITH
Drix ALONGSIDE, NOAA SAYS (C17)
SCHEMATIC. STATION POSITIONS ARE
COMPOSITION, NOT SURVEY DATA.

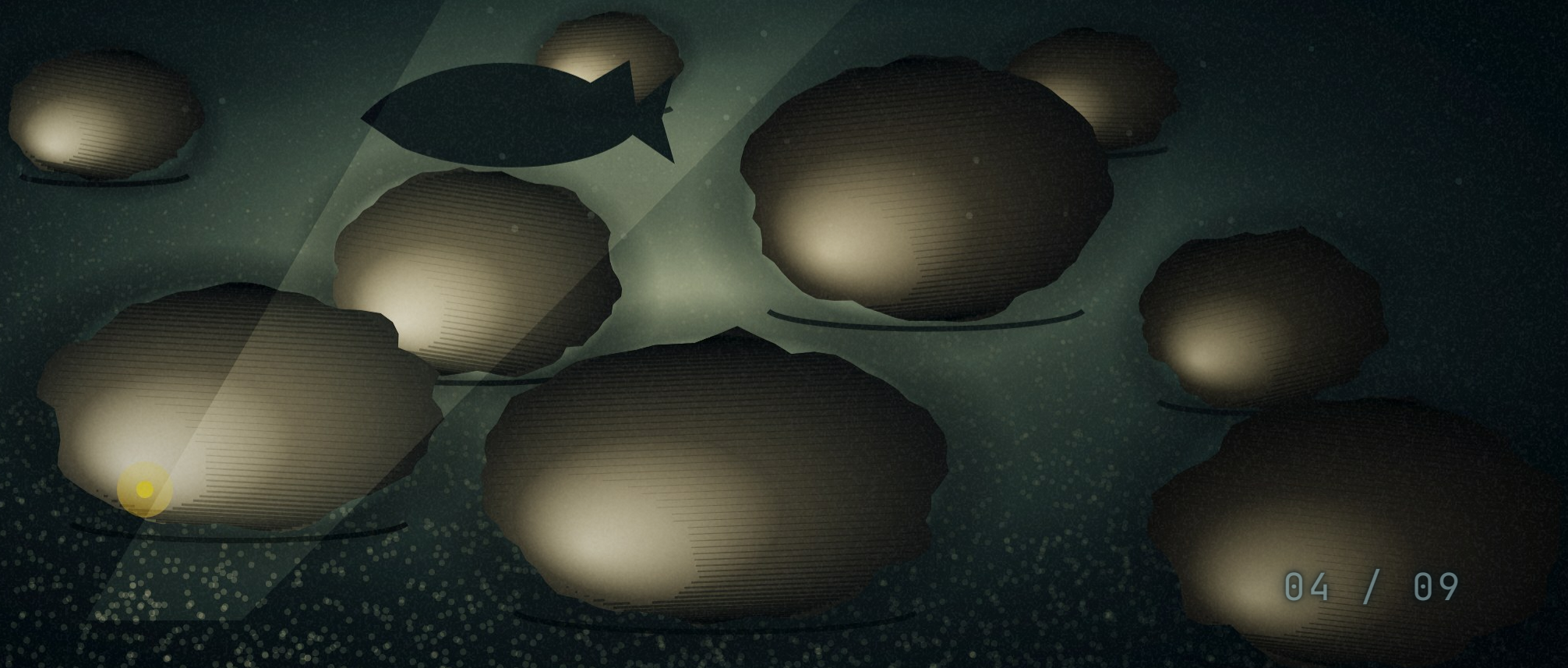


SHIP ALONE 10 UNITS • WITH Drix 6 •
PARALLEL PROJECTION

03 / 09

Ground the net can't cross.

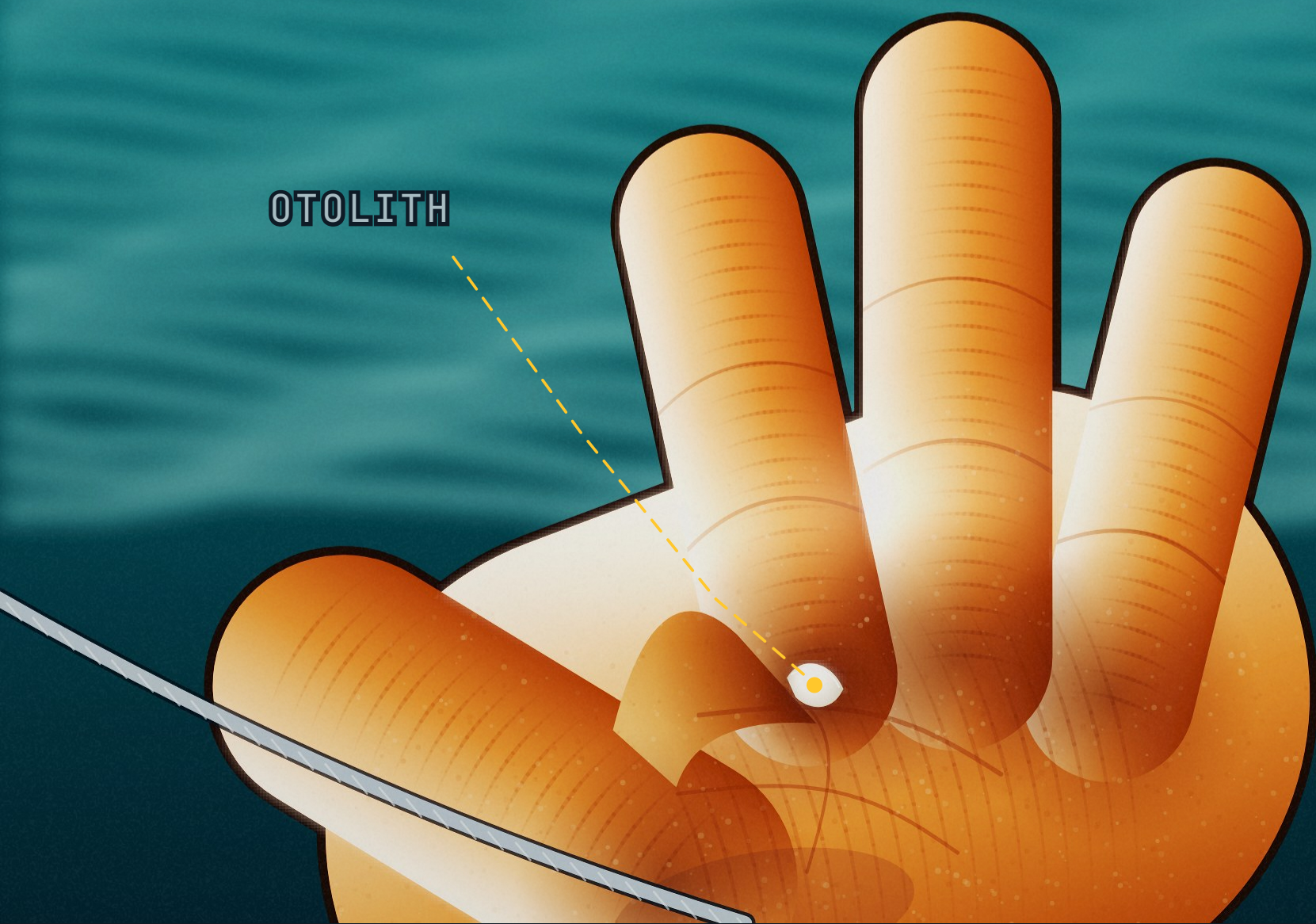
3D STEREO CAMERA SYSTEMS, ALASKA FISHERIES
SCIENCE CENTER,
FOR SURVEYING UNTRAWLABLE FISH HABITAT (C19)
LIGHT SOURCE, RIG STROBE, az 214 el 28 · DEPTH
118 m



The camera can see it. It can't hold it.

NOAA says the camera techniques "are not intended to replace hands-on sampling because physical specimens are essential for critical data, including age, feeding habits, and body condition" (C20). A near-infrared machine reads an otolith in 30 to 50 seconds, more than 10 times faster than a human at a microscope (C18).

OTOLITH



LESS THAN

0.006%

The framework's own figure for the share of total Alaska seabed area that bottom trawl survey gear contacts, offered against calls to ban extractive sampling (C08).

MULTIBEAM RELIEF · SYNTHETIC SUN az 315 el 45

NOT A PHOTOGRAPH

ALASKA POLLOCK LANDINGS TOPPED 3 BILLION POUNDS IN 2024 (C31)



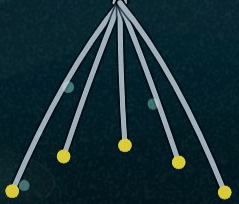
The record is being pulled from two sides at once.

The framework lists funding, vessel availability, new sampling objectives and new technology as human forces that break a time series (C09). NOAA says fish populations have shifted into deeper water or farther north where surveys have not traditionally been conducted (C12).

MODEL PROJECTION, NOT OBSERVATION. MOST OF EIGHT STUDIED SPECIES

SHIFT 50 TO 200 km NORTH BY 2080 TO 2089 (C32)

FIVE STRANDS, FIVE COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS (C14)



0 km 50 200

Twelve days later, the same question, on a smaller boat.

On September 15th, 2026 the North Pacific Council's Partial Coverage Fishery Monitoring Advisory Committee reviews the draft 2027 Annual Deployment Plan (C22, C23). The 2026 plan defines a no selection pool, vessels with no probability of carrying an observer or an electronic monitoring system on any trip that season (C28).

THREE POOLS. NO SELECTION, EM TRIP SELECTION,
OBSERVER TRIP SELECTION (C29)

NMFS EXPECTED TO MONITOR 1,473 PARTIAL COVERAGE TRIPS
OF 4,341 IN 2026 (C27)

MORE THAN 450 OBSERVERS A YEAR (C30)

TWELVE DAYS (C33). NO SOURCE CONNECTS THE TWO
DOCUMENTS.



The committee takes comment letters.

The draft 2027 Annual Deployment Plan had not yet been posted on the meeting page as of September 6th, 2026 (C25). The Federal Register notice says public comment letters will be accepted and should be submitted electronically through the meeting page (C24).

Read the draft before the meeting on September 15th, 2026 and send the committee a letter.

MEETING 8:30 a.m. TO 4 p.m. ALASKA TIME, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2026 (C22)
SOURCES IN COMMENTS