

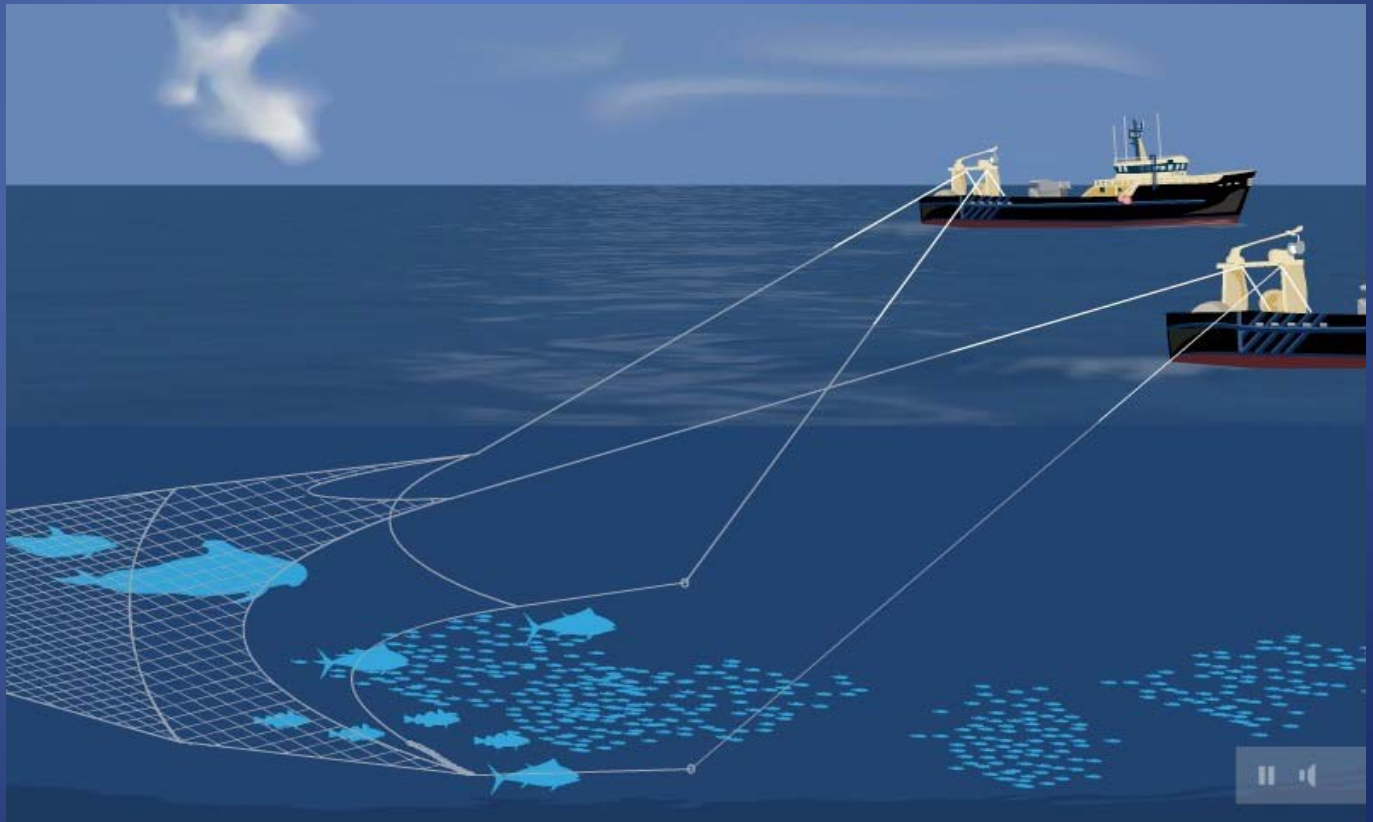
# Uncertainty Created Through Slippage

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# Introduction

- *Slippage* is an issue of concern in pump fisheries, including the Atlantic Herring pair trawl fishery.



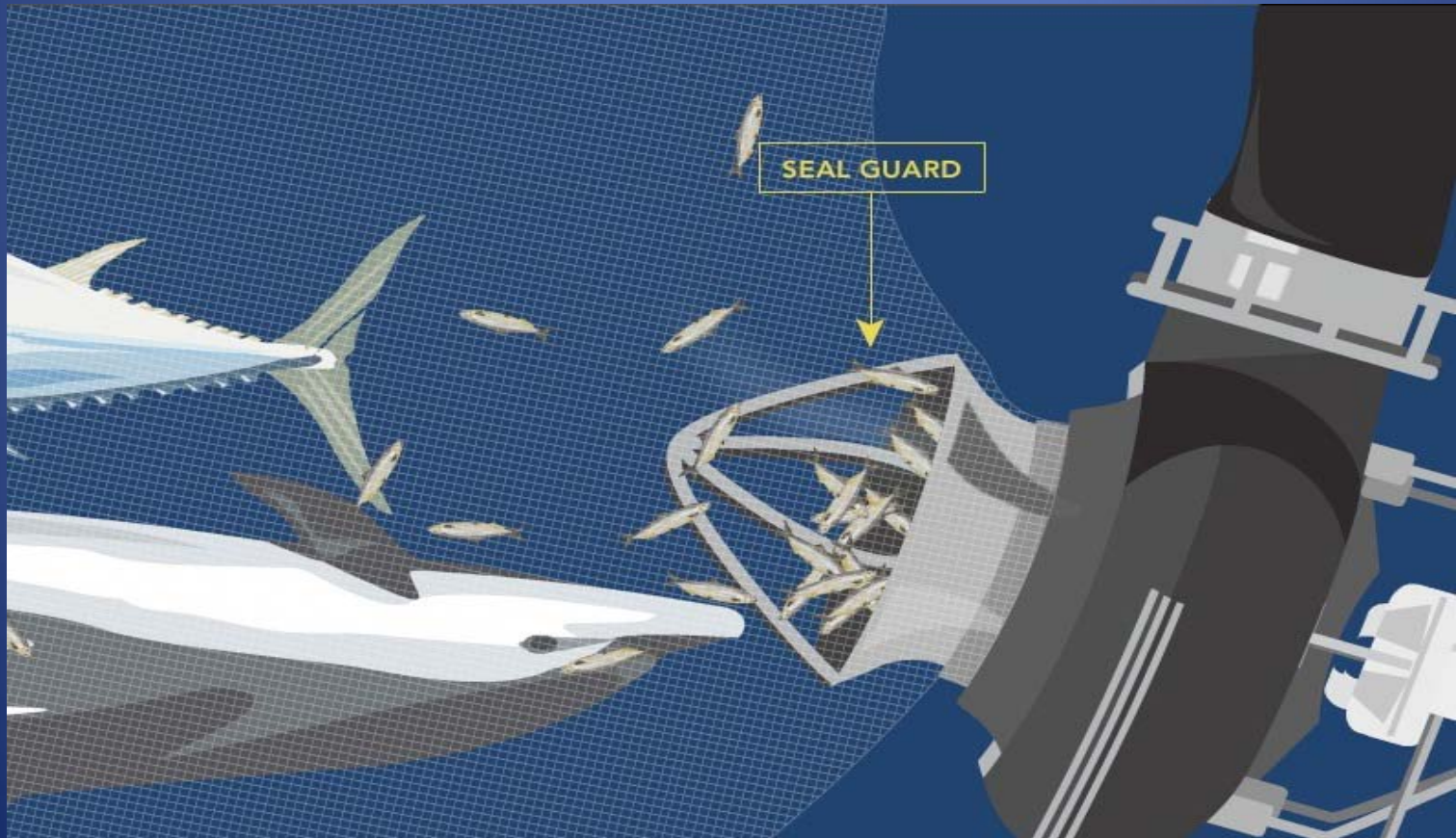
# Dumping

- Slippage occurs both with and without observer coverage when net contents are partially or completely discharged without sampling discarded catch.



# Sorting

- The problem of slippage is compounded by size-specific sorting grates.



# Pump with sorting grate



# Why Slippage is a problem



# Regional Example

- In 2007, the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program concluded that about 6% of observed tows were partially slipped at sea without sampling while 11% were completely slipped in the New England Atlantic Herring fishery.

# Regional Example

- In the Atlantic mackerel fishery, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council found that large bodied species such as marine mammals are prevented from entering the pump by the sorting grate, and are discarded while the cod end is submerged.



# Data Integrity

- Accurate catch monitoring data is critical to ensuring our nation's fisheries are well managed.
- Slippage seriously undermines knowledge of catch composition in certain fisheries and represents a major challenge to observers and to the integrity of monitoring programs.