



IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth



Age and growth background:

- ❖ 30+ species from BS, GOA & AI (high Arctic) aged
- ❖ 30K-40K otoliths on average aged each year
- ❖ 2 Program Activities: Age determination studies (8 FTEs)
 - & Age validation and life history studies (2 FTEs)
 - & database development/support (1 FTE)

**NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE**

IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth

Sample intake/prioritization process

Production ageing process

Research
Observer
Special

Sample Prep.

QA/QC

- Age estimation
- 20% Precision test
- Age validation
- Released by Sept. 30

QA/QC



Products

Distribution

AFSC WEBSITE

Status	Group	Request	Sample size	Number Road	Date Released	Comments
In queue	A	2012 Aberdeen Island otolithfish survey	0			
In queue	A	2012 Chukchi Sea survey	0			N. The otoliths will be collected in August/Se
In queue	B	2012 Gulf of Alaska otolithfish survey	0			
In queue	B	2012 Gulf of Alaska otolithfish survey	0			
In queue	A	Eastern Bering Sea RADG survey special collection				We welcome collaboration with Age and Growth staff Requested on behalf of Jim Janak
Ageing	B	2012 Bering Sea shelf otolithfish survey	1110	696		
Ageing	B	2012 Shelikof Strait otolithfish survey	1109	1117		
Released	A	2004/05 Aberdeen Island special collection	725	544	1/9/2012	
Released	A	2012 Aberdeen Island otolithfish survey	440	432	6/31/2012	
Released	A	2011 Bering Sea observer collection	3440	3431	6/26/2012	
Released	B	2011 GOA otolithfish survey	1679	1604	2/23/2012	
Released	B	2011 GOA hydroacoustic survey	1333	1321	2/20/2012	
Released	B	2011 Gulf of Alaska observer collection	2253	2222	8/7/2012	
Released	B	2012 ADG Out of Alaska special collection	569	505	1/11/2013	
Released	A	2012 Bering Sea otolithfish survey	1797	1785	8/29/2012	
Released	A	2012 Bering Sea hydroacoustic survey	2562	2445	7/20/2013	
Released	A	2012 Bering Sea observer collection	3179	3165	6/24/2013	
Released	A	2012 Bering Sea hydroacoustic survey	305	305	9/6/2012	
Released	B	2012 Gulf of Alaska observer collection	2295	2257	8/6/2013	
Released	B	2012 Shelikof hydroacoustic survey	676	677	8/30/2012	

AGE DATA

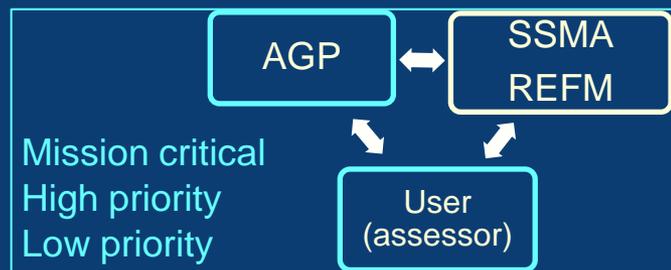
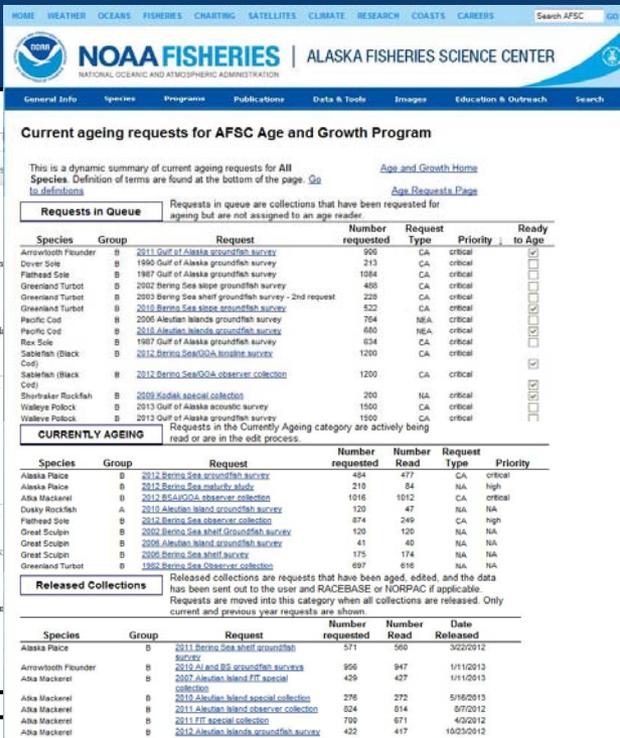
- RACEBASE
- NORPAC
- QA/QC Reports (Requestor)
- Web tools

IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth (Intake and prioritization process)

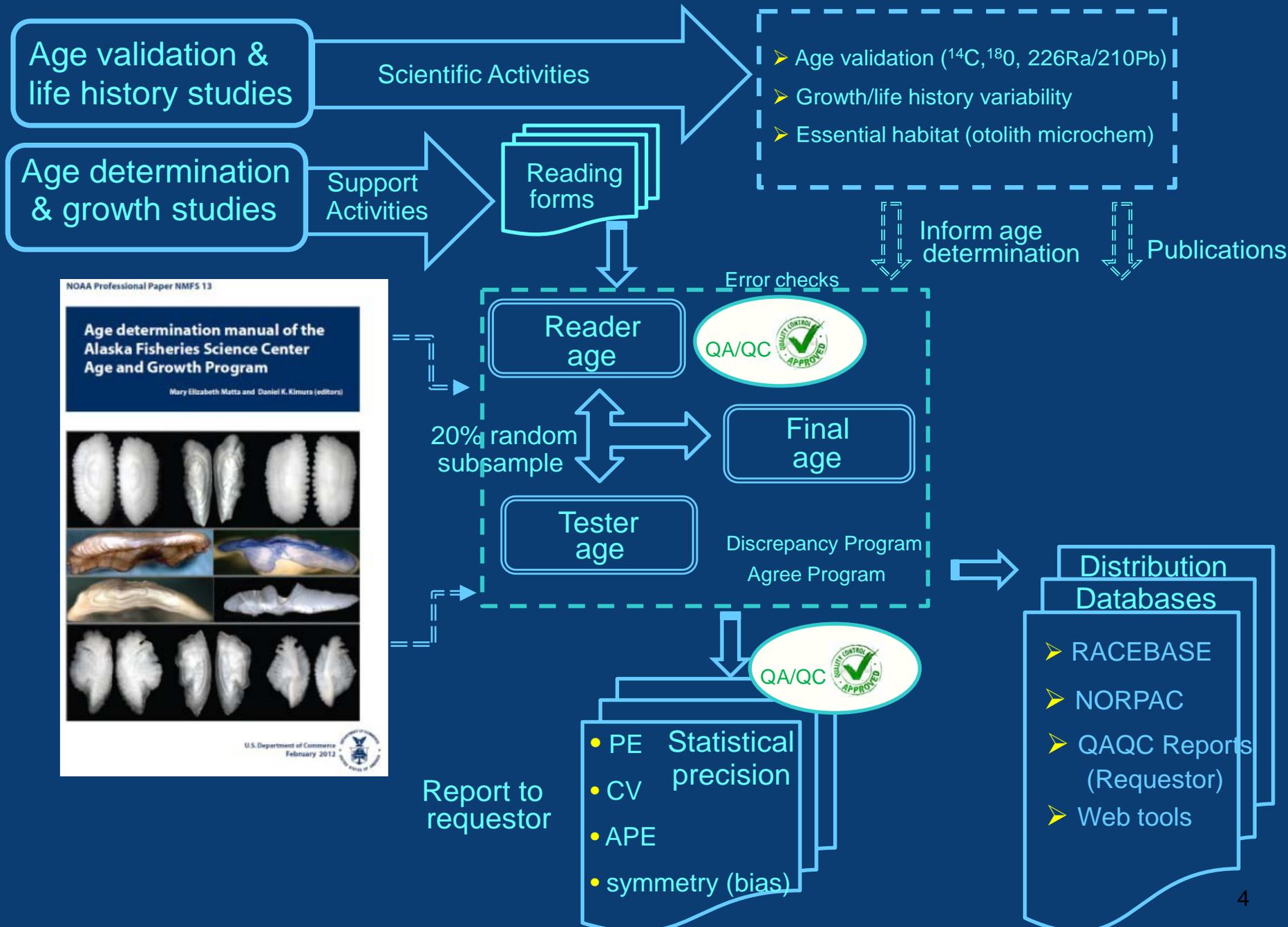


AGPS, Intended to provide:

- User friendly interface for ageing requests (web-based)
- Means of setting priorities for sample processing (aligned with NOAA mission goals & NPFMC tier system)
- Documentation and tracking of ageing requests through the production process
- Process tied to timing of assessment cycle, transparent, accountable, future planning)



IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth (Ageing production process)



IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth (Strengths)



- Staff (seasoned, professional, team oriented)
- Communication with clients (assessors, researchers) supported by transparent sample prioritization system (AGPS) tied to stock assessment cycle ensure timeliness
- Credible (validation studies, scientific pubs, age determination manual)
- Physical resources (Labs, equipment, facilities)
- Database development and support (web-based products-AGPS, research & outreach, data archiving)
- Extensive collaboration with federal, state and university researchers (Committee of Age Reading Experts)

IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth (Challenges)



- Staffing needs (down 3 FTEs)
- Increase production demands on Tier 1 & 2 species (Samples requested: 2011 = 30k, 2012 = 45K, 2013 = 54K)
- Increase production demands for Non-targeted species (require development of age determination criteria and more time-consuming prep methods)
- Age Validation (1/3 of species assessed for ageing accuracy) needed for many additional species
- Unprocessed requests (some high and low priorities)

IV. Data Streams – Age and Growth (Solutions)



- Backfill FTEs, NOAA interns & terms, supplement staff with contractors and students (undergraduate/graduate)
- Evaluate minimum age samples needed to maintain Tier 1 & 2 assessments with adequate statistical precision
- Divert sample age processing from production to non-target species (grad. student support)
- Seek external funds (NPRB, etc) to support age validation studies (grad student support)