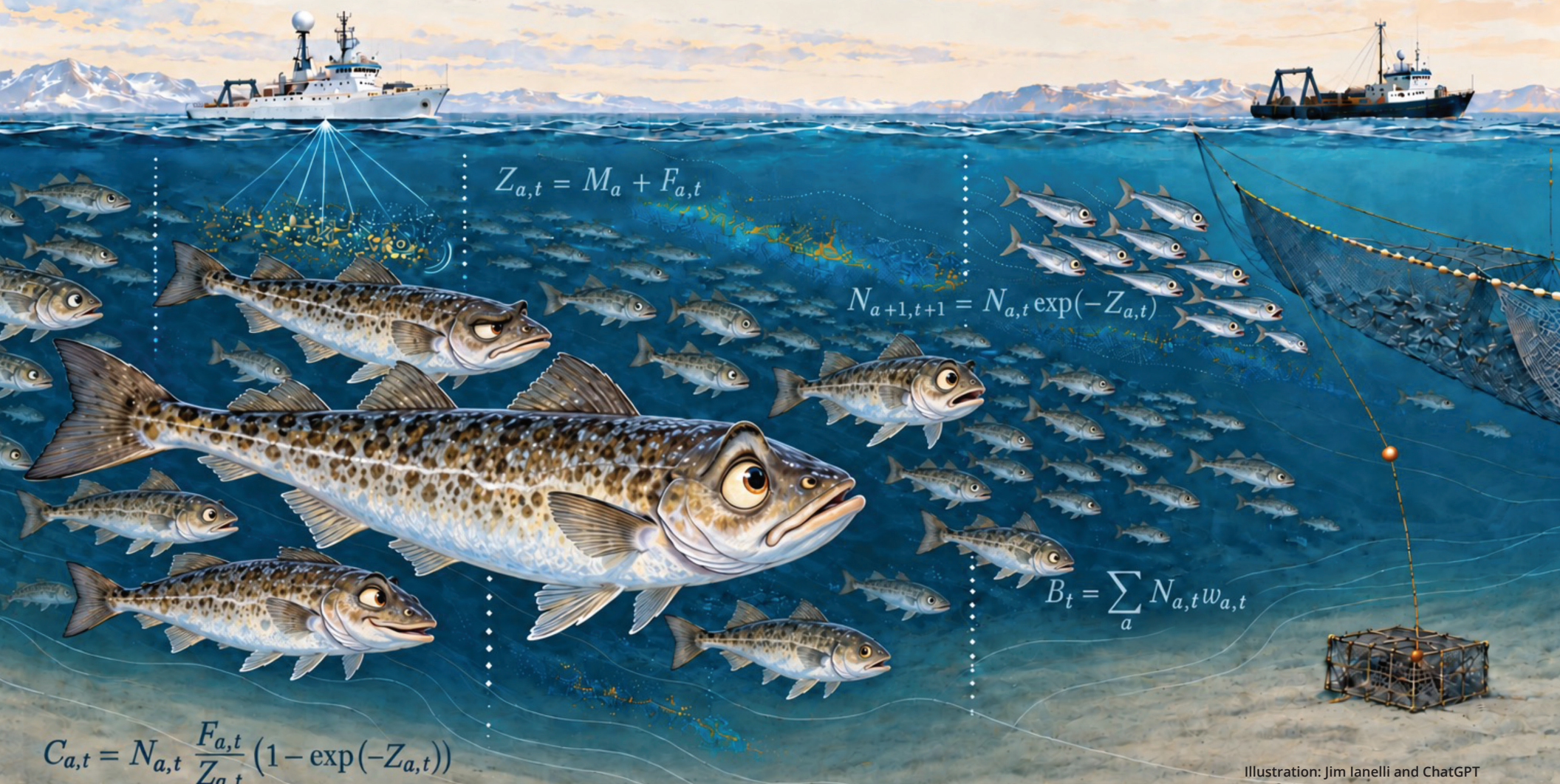


Eastern Bering Sea pollock in 2026: Assessment excitement, and what real-time monitoring and the trawl footrope can tell us

Jim Ianelli (NOAA AFSC) and Steven Martell (SeaState, Inc.)



Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 4:00 pm
Room 102, First Floor, Fishery Sciences
1122 NE Boat Street, Seattle, WA 98105

The eastern Bering Sea walleye pollock fishery is the largest single-species fishery in the United States. This talk looks at it from two directions: the stock assessment, and how the trawl fleet actually operates.

In the first part, Ianelli presents the 2026 assessment, the first since 2024; the 2025 assessment was not completed during the lapse in federal appropriations. Two years of new survey, fishery and weight-at-age data enter at once. At the same time, the primary model moves from the original model to more modern versions. In the second part, Martell uses 18 years of observer and VMS records to examine how often pelagic trawls foul crab pots. "Caught crab pot" is the most common gear-problem code in the fishery, and pot encounters occur across 87% of the trawl grounds.

Together, the two parts show how fishery operations shape both the data that go into the assessment and the advice that comes out of it.

Reception to follow

A limited zoom option is also available: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/92902803279>

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