

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: August 17, 2012

This form provides daily updates for two survey vessels conducting fisheries surveys in waters off Alaska during August and September 2012: *The F/V Alaska Knight* is conducting a bottom trawl survey in the Chukchi Sea and the F/V Bristol Explorer is conducting a surface trawl / acoustic survey, as well as plankton and oceanographic surveys, in the Chukchi Sea and northern Bering Sea. The attached maps show planned sampling locations, stations completed to date, and stations planned for today. The survey schedules for the vessels are:

Bottom Trawl Survey (F/V Alaska Knight):

Aug 9	Depart Dutch Harbor	Aug 31/Sep1	Nome, crew change
Aug 12/13	Nome, pick up scientists	Sep 2-18	Southern Chukchi Sea
Aug 14-30	Northern Chukchi Sea	Sep 24	Return to Dutch Harbor

Surface Trawl Survey (F/V Bristol Explorer):

Aug 3	Depart Dutch Harbor	Sep 11/12	Nome, crew change
Aug 6-23	Southern Chukchi Sea	Sep 13-25	Northern Bering Sea
Aug 24/25	Nome, crew change	Sep 28	Return to Dutch Harbor, offload
Aug 26-Sep10	Northern Chukchi Sea		

Notes from the field:

F/V Bristol Explorer: We are making progress again after a short break due to weather. Finished the day with a large catch of capelin.

Summary of today's catches (8/16/12): chum (adult) – 1, herring – 384, slender eelblenny – 10, jellyfish (combined) – 42, shorthorn sculpin – 3, Arctic cod (age0) – 1, capelin – 5714, Bering flounder – 1, Bering wolffish – 2, yellow sole – 2.

Interesting birds of the day: Pectoral sandpiper, sabine's gull, and approximately 10 unidentified male eiders (probably common).

Marine mammals: One unidentified seal and a minke whale.

F/V Alaska Knight: Alaska Knight successfully completed three bottom trawl samples and two beam trawl comparison tows at the three innermost stations in Kotzebue Sound: B-05, B-06, and C-05. On Friday, our first station will be C-04, and then we'll move on to complete stations D-04 and D-03.

Arctic Coastal Ecosystem Survey (ACES): Correction funded by NPRB/BOEM

R/V Aquila: Approximate Location, Speed, and Course: 65d 49.4' N x 167d 35.1' W, 0kts (anchored) at 08h30 on Aug 16.

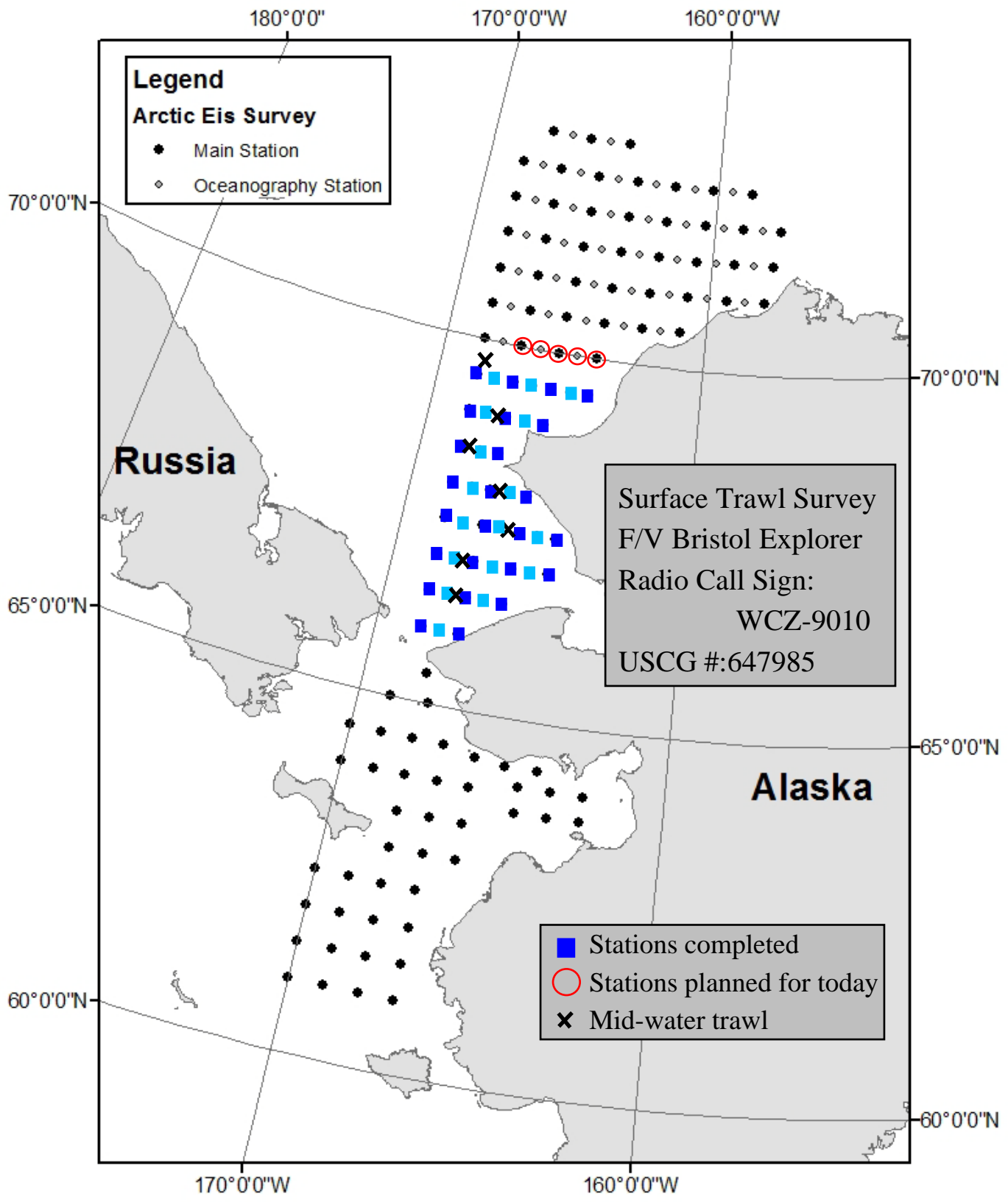
Type of Activity: Yesterday (Aug 15) we deployed our passive acoustic mooring at 64d 50.8'N x 168d 23.4'W and decided to anchor at the above position (up the coastline from Wales) until the winds and seas come down. If the wind does die down today we will continue our work with two sampling stations (CTD and Tucker sled net tow) in the Bering Strait, then continue on our way up to our sampling line Point Hope. We will also be conducting visual (marine mammal and seabird) observation and passive acoustic monitoring once we are underway. Most likely though, we won't be underway until tomorrow morning.

At our sheltered anchor here we've got a Beaufort 5 with chop and no swell. Winds are 25 kts from 135T (last night there were gusts to 45). Visibility is unlimited.

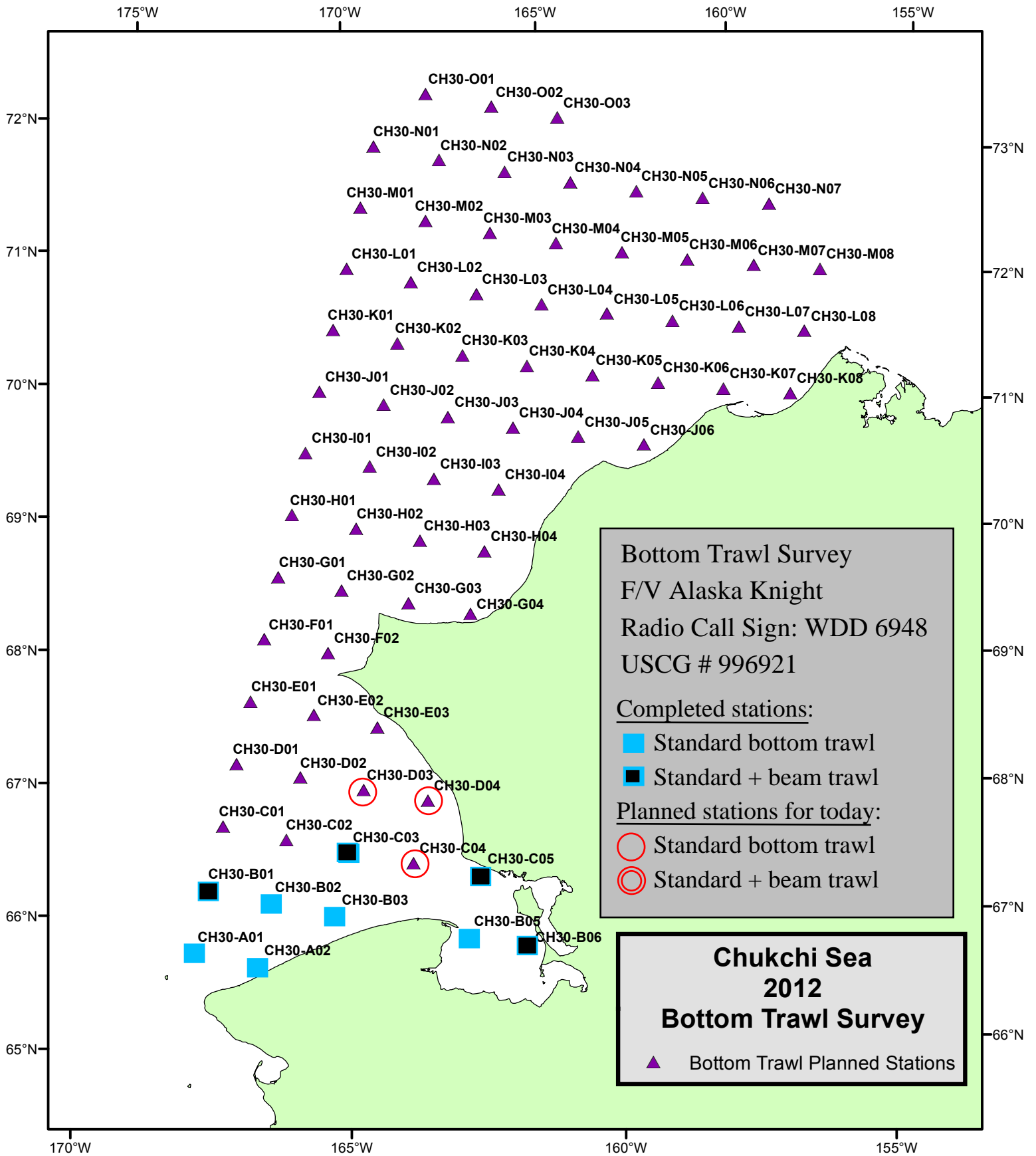
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For general information or comments about the survey, please e-mail fmueter@alaska.edu

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Arctic Coastal Ecosystem Survey (ACES)

of the nearshore and lagoon habitats of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

Itinerary

Wed Aug 15	arrive in Barrow at 7:40 pm
Thurs Aug 16	Meet with Leandra de Sousa and North Slope staff to review sampling protocols, stage for field sampling and seminar presentation by Dr. Ron Heintz describing the project and relevance.
Fri Aug 17	Initiate beach seining and sample processing
Saturday and Sunday (Aug 18-19)	are reserved weather days
Mon Aug 20	Continue beach seining and sample processing
Tue Aug 21	Complete any remaining sampling and review with NSB to report on initial results and share data. Depart Barrow at 8:20 pm.

Map showing Arctic monitoring sites sampled by beach seine during the summers of 2004-2009.

