

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: **August 18, 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:

Arctic EIS updates:

F/V Bristol Explorer: Completed all planned stations for the day. Our catches continue to be a mixed bag of species. However, capelin and arctic cod remain dominant. In the evening we were excited to see an albatross and even more excited when we confirmed it to be a juvenile short-tailed albatross.

Summary of today's catches (8/17/12): Saffron cod (age0) – 2, Arctic cod (age0) – 2291, Arctic cod – 6, shorthorn sculpin – 4, sand lance – 43, slender eelbenny – 24, Bering wolfish – 5, jellyfish (combined) – 267.5 kg, 1190, Greenland turbot – 1, Arctic staghorn – 4, herring – 9, longhead dab – 1.

Interesting birds of the day: Large flocks of shearwaters, a female king eider, an unidentified female eider (king or spectacled), and a short-tailed albatross. Marine mammals: None observed.

F/V Alaska Knight: A beautiful Friday evening in the southeastern Chukchi Sea..... calm, foggy, drizzling gray-on-gray and 42°F. As the Alaska Knight approached our last station this evening, we crossed some sort of boundary that meandered in a north-south direction between two different water masses. A large flock of shearwaters was also present.

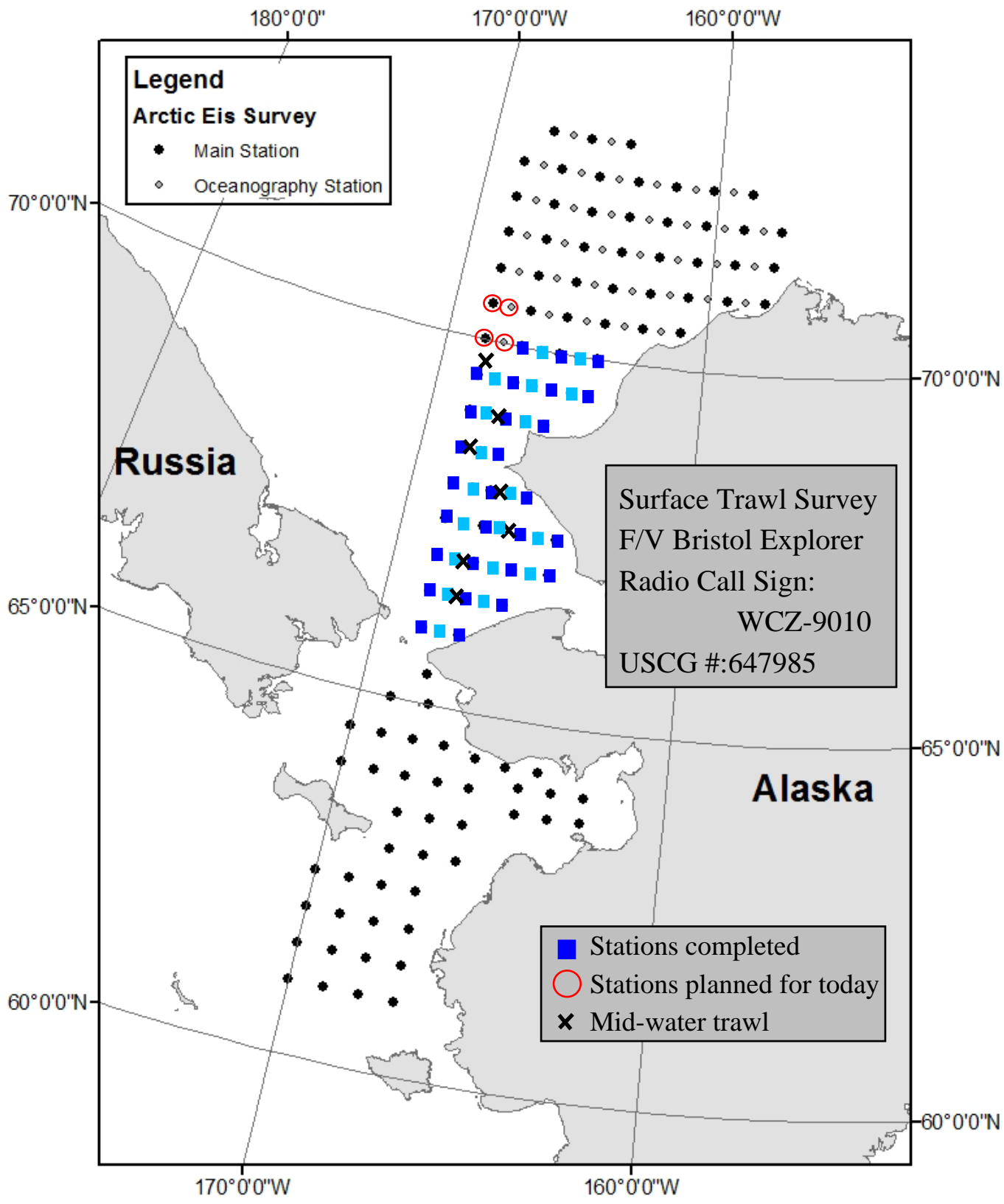
The two most abundant invertebrates, by both weight and number, were the Green Sea Urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*) and Purple Sea Star (*Asterias amurensis*) with the third and fourth most abundant being Snow Crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) and the Arctic Armored Sea Cucumber (*Psolus fabricii*). Although relatively few, we also caught some Red King (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*) and Blue King Crabs (*P. platypus*). Also caught were a huge variety of snails. The four most abundant fishes in the combined trawl catches were the Saffron Cod (*Eleginus gracilis*), the Arctic Cod (*Boreogadus saida*), Yellowfin Sole (*Limanda aspera*), and Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*). We've found 11 wayward juvenile Walleye Pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) hanging out among the nearly 4000 Arctic cod caught by the trawl. Fish sizes have been generally small (<40 cm). Among the largest fishes sampled were an errant Alaska Skate (*Bathyraja parmifera*; 95 cm), a very large Canadian Eelpout (*Lycodes polaris*; 78 cm...Godzilla!), and Starry Flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*). Among the largest fishes were also numerous long but rather skinny Polar Eelpouts (*L. tuneri*) and Slender Eelblennys (*L. fabricii*).

Other surveys:

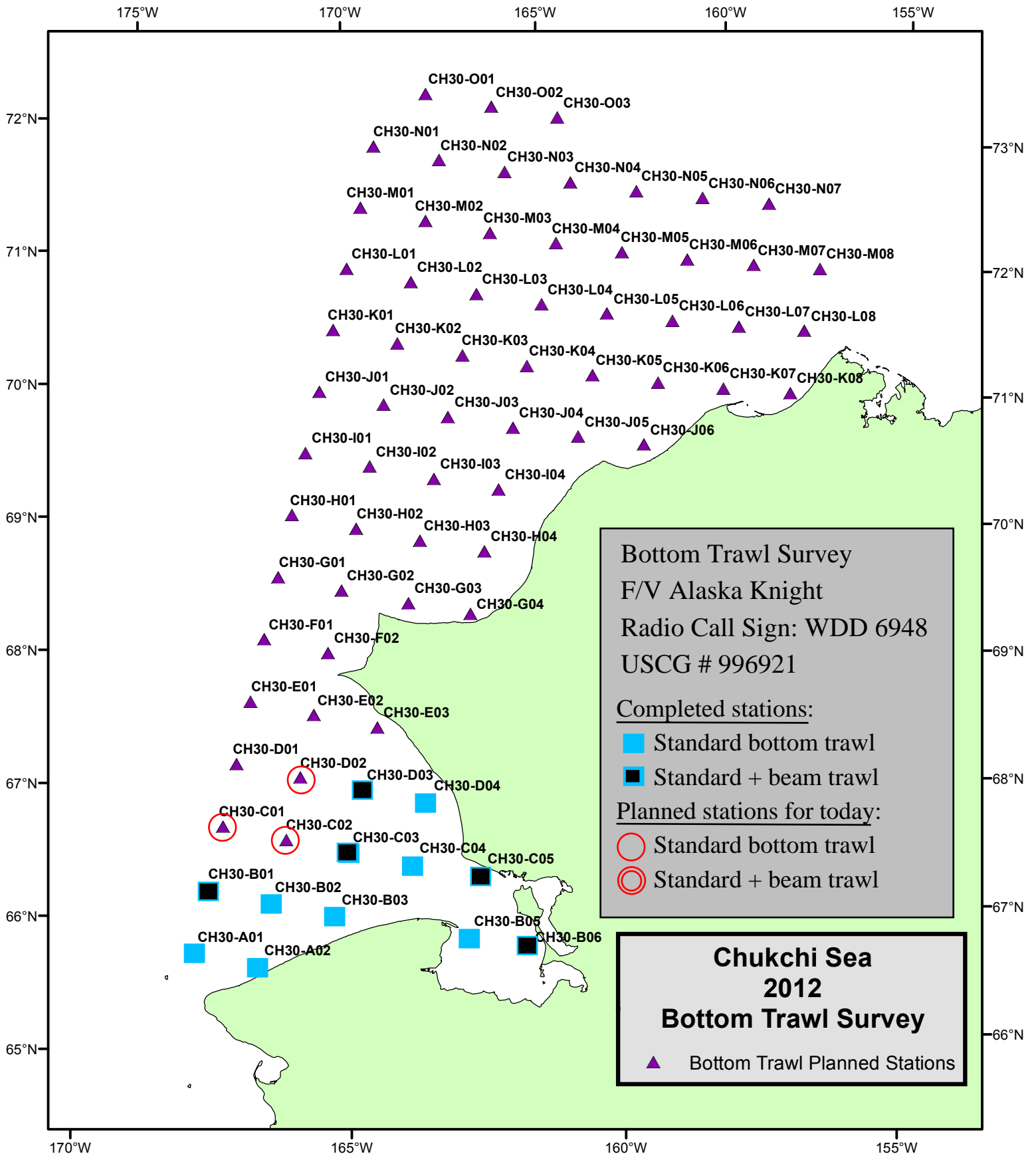
Arctic Coastal Ecosystem Survey (ACES): Today we beach seined in North Salt Lagoon near Barrow and checked out the ARIS sonar. We caught starry flounder, capelin, sticklebacks, rainbow smelt, herring, sand lance, juvenile sculpins, least and Bering ciscoes. Most fish were juveniles. We were also able to observe foraging and schooling behaviors with the ARIS Sonar.

R/V Aquila (NOAA Chaoz Survey): We have completed our 2 sampling stations in the Bering Strait and are heading north to the outer station on our Point Hope line: 67.670N x 168.877W which we will start at 08h00 on 8/18/12. We will stop along the way to deploy an argos drifter and also a passive acoustics mooring.

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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.

