

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: **August 29, 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: We had all types of weather today. We started sorting our first catch in a light snow flurry, which progressed to bits of sun before the rain and clouds descended this evening. Closer to shore we encountered denser backscatter and caught primarily a mixture of age-0 arctic cod and jellyfish. As we move west from the shoreline, the acoustic sign has diminished. The surface water temperature has remained relatively steady throughout the day at around 6 C. Summary of today's catches (Aug 28): Arctic cod (age0) - 8548, Arctic cod (age1) - 3, Slender eelblenny - 1, Capelin - 23, Capelin (age0) - 2, Jellyfish (combined) - 76, Sandlance (age0) - 118, Arctic alligatorfish - 1, Arctic shanny - 2, Bering wolf fish - 1, Daubed shany - 10, Spatulate sculpin - 6. Interesting birds of the day: crested auklets were by far the most abundant species today, a kittlitz's murrelet was sighted. Marine mammals: 5 humpback whales, ~10 grey whales, an unidentified, pinniped that was either a bearded seal or walrus.

F/V Alaska Knight: We did our 4 tows on Tuesday and now we are "headin' for the barn." The catch compositions for the tows made today were very similar to those done on Monday but with lower overall numbers. In our last tow, we caught nine *Urasterias linkii*, the red sea star that we thought yesterday might be uncommon in the SE Chukchi.....guess not! To recap the first leg for all bottom and beam trawls combined, we caught 65 different fish taxa and 270 invertebrate taxa. We took 44 fish voucher specimens, 60 invertebrate voucher specimens, and too many special collections to count. In terms of fishes, the top four by weight were Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*), Saffron cod (*Eleginus gracilis*), Pacific Herring (*Clupea pallasii*), and Yellowfin Sole (*Limanda aspera*), and by number it was Arctic Cod, Slender Eelblenny (*Lumpenus fabricii*), Saffron Cod, and Arctic Staghorn Sculpin (*Gymnocanthus tricuspis*). For invertebrates, the top four by weight were the Green Sea Urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*), the Purple Sea Star (*Asterias amurensis*), Snow Crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*), and Basket Star (*Gorgonocephalus sp. cf. articus*), and by number it was the Snow crab, Green Sea Urchin, Purple Sea Star, and Humpy Shrimp (*Pandalus goniurus*). We can't wait to see what we'll catch next leg!

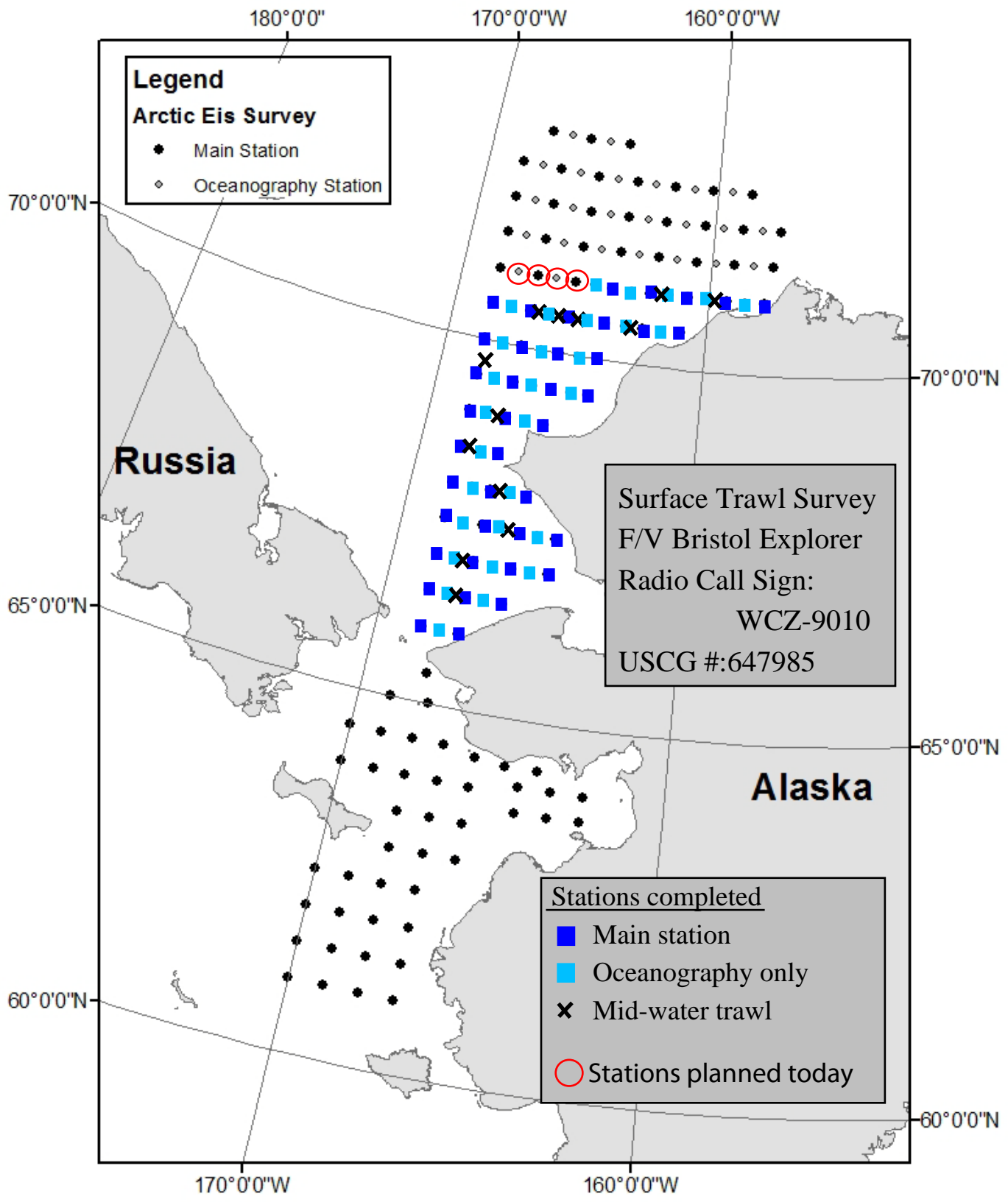
Other surveys:

Data currently being collected as part of a satellite-tracked drifter study in the Northeast Chukchi Sea (T. Weingartner, S. Danielson, L. DeSousa) can be accessed via a Google Maps interface (<http://dm.sfos.uaf.edu/chukchi-beaufort/data/drifters/>) or as static maps and animations (both updated daily) at: <http://mather.sfos.uaf.edu/drifters/Chukchi2012/>

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

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