

# 2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 1, 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: 8/30 update** (this one was late due to a poor connection): We completed one main station and an oceanography station before the seas got too big to deploy the oceanographic instruments. In an attempt to gain some lee from the sea ice, we transited due north of our main station at 71.50 N, 166.93 W. upon reaching latitude 72.0 N, the seas had subsided and we resumed sampling at main station 72.0 N, 166.88 W and proceeded east. No sign of ice yet. Over the course of the day, surface water has cooled slightly (5.6 to 5.3 C) and freshened (31.0 to 30.4 psu). Air temperature is 41 F. Catches: Arctic cod (age0) – 426; Sand lance – 10; Capelin -718; Capelin (age0) – 245; Slender eelblenny – 1; Arctic shanny – 1; Spatulate sculpin – 1; Walleye pollock – 1; Jellyfish - 0.54 kg

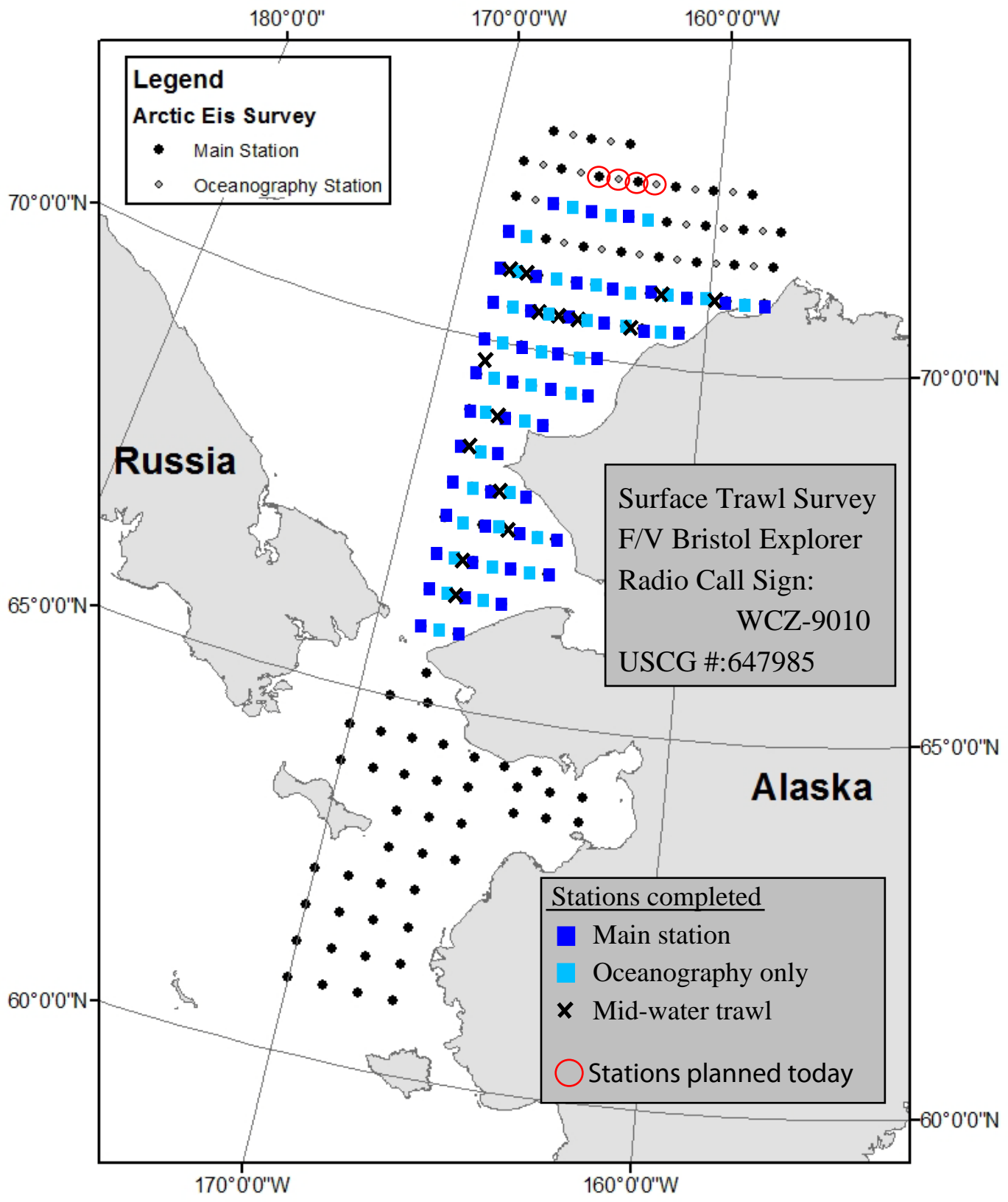
**8/31 update:** Today we moved east along latitude 72.0 N and completed 5 stations before we ran into dense ice flows. We spent a fair amount of time dodging icebergs as we worked our way north along the ice edge to the next transect along 72.5 N. It makes for an interesting trackline. After a couple of snow flurries earlier today, we ended the day with a gorgeous sunset reflecting on calm seas on the top of the world. Air temperature is still hanging around 40 F, but the SST dropped to -0.3 C by the ice. Salinity is 28.7. Catch of the day (2 stations): Capelin – 32; Capelin (age-0) – 15; Arctic cod (age-0) – 6; saffron cod (age-0) – 1; sand lance – 1; Shorthorn sculpin – 1; crested sculpin – 1  
Very few bird sightings. Most interesting bird sighting was a parasitic jaeger, which we haven't seen for a few days.  
Marine mammals: 2 unidentified whales surfaced once by the edge of the ice pack today.

**F/V Alaska Knight:** Leg 2 on the Alaska Knight is underway. We got all of our people in and out of Nome today and reprovisioned with food, fuel, and water. We are now heading north, back to the Chukchi Sea for our second round of sampling. Depending on weather conditions (its rough out right now), it may take up to two days to reach our first station. We will update later with our planned arrival and stations, which both could be impacted by the weather.

**Other surveys: No updates**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you do NOT wish to receive these daily updates, or if you are receiving both an e-mail and a fax and wish to opt out of one communication, please send us an e-mail at [arctic.eis@alaska.edu](mailto:arctic.eis@alaska.edu) with your preference. If you know of anyone else who might want to receive these notifications, please send us their contact information (fax and/or e-mail). For general information or comments about the survey, please e-mail [fmuetter@alaska.edu](mailto:fmuetter@alaska.edu)

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