

# 2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: **September 2, 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:** This morning we ran into thick ice flows again along latitude 72.5, forcing us to abandon the 5 most easterly stations at this latitude. We started our first station at 72.5 N, 162.68 W, which was categorized as an oceanography station, but we did the full suite of sampling as it may be the most northeasterly station we get to. We have had to modify the trackline slightly to dodge high densities of bergs.

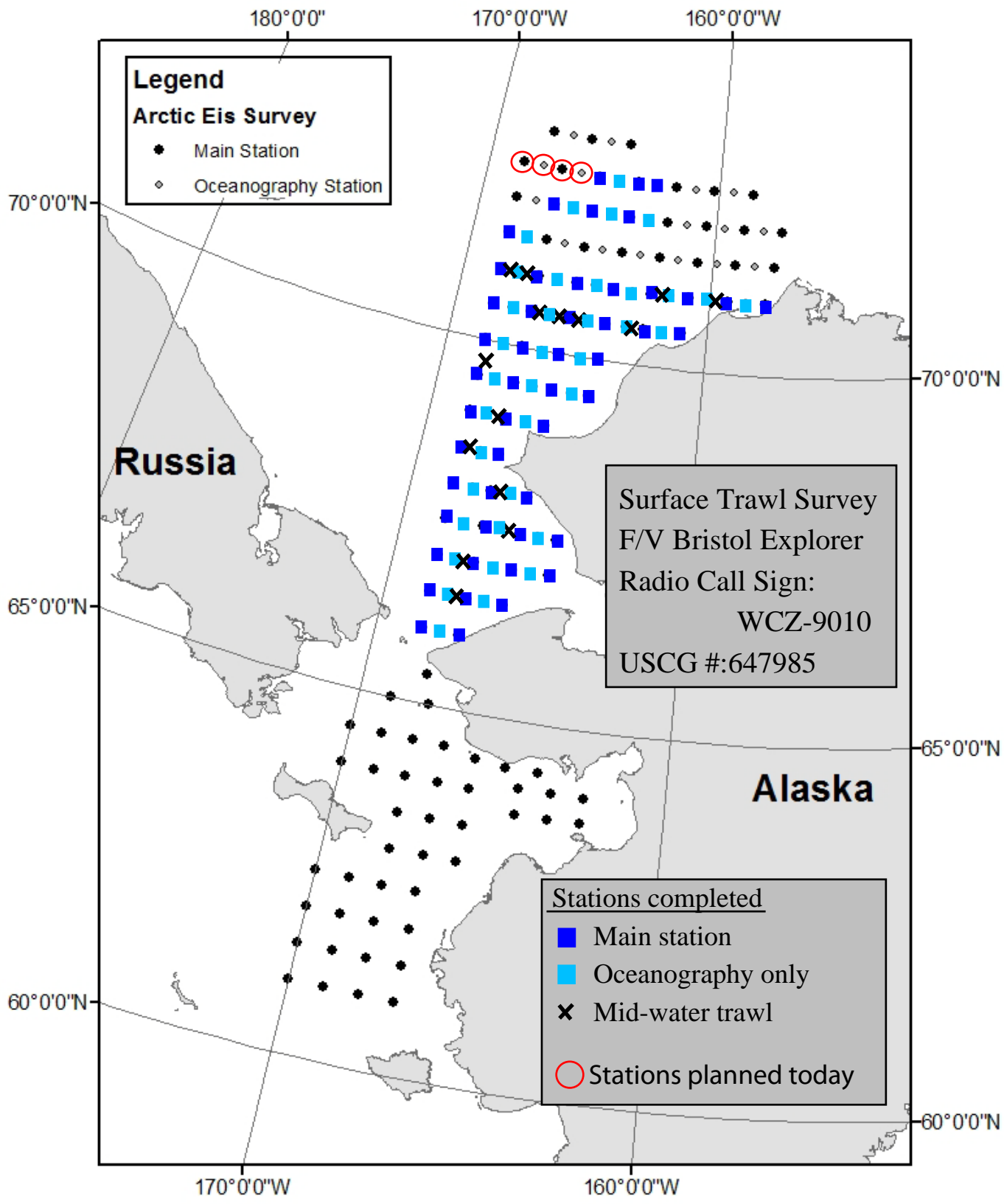
**Catches:** Arctic cod – 15; Arctic cod (age-0) – 8; capelin – 12; capelin (age-0) – 12; *Pandalus* sp. – 11; jellyfish – 321 kg. It appears that we can finish all the stations to our west tomorrow (along latitude 72.5 N) without significant obstruction from ice. Upon completion of those 3 stations, we will assess the ice to see if we can head north to the northernmost survey line. Strong winds are in the forecast for Monday and Tuesday, and we want to be clear of the ice pack when/if that rolls in. **Birds and marine mammals:** the bird activity has been conspicuously low for the past 4 days, with approximately 25 birds seen today. No marine mammals were observed, though we would love to see some ice seals or a polar bear on one of the ice flows.

**F/V Alaska Knight:** As the evening has progressed, the weather has improved. We are hoping for more of the same tomorrow since we should be arriving on our first planned station sometime after 8am. Our plan for Sept 2 is to perform a test tow near station CH30-I02 to familiarize the new crew with the gear and then perform a standard bottom trawl tow at CH30-I02 and CH30-J02. We will also perform a beam trawl comparison tow at CH30-J02. Due to the poor weather conditions and limited visibility, we have not seen any birds near enough to identify or marine mammals. Although we did come across a large log in the water that had everyone speculating as to what it was for a while. Everyone is in great spirits and eager for the start of sampling tomorrow morning.

**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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