

# 2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: **September 3, 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 & northern Bering Sea. Attached maps show planned sampling locations, stations completed to date, and stations planned for today. Survey schedules for the two vessels:

## **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**

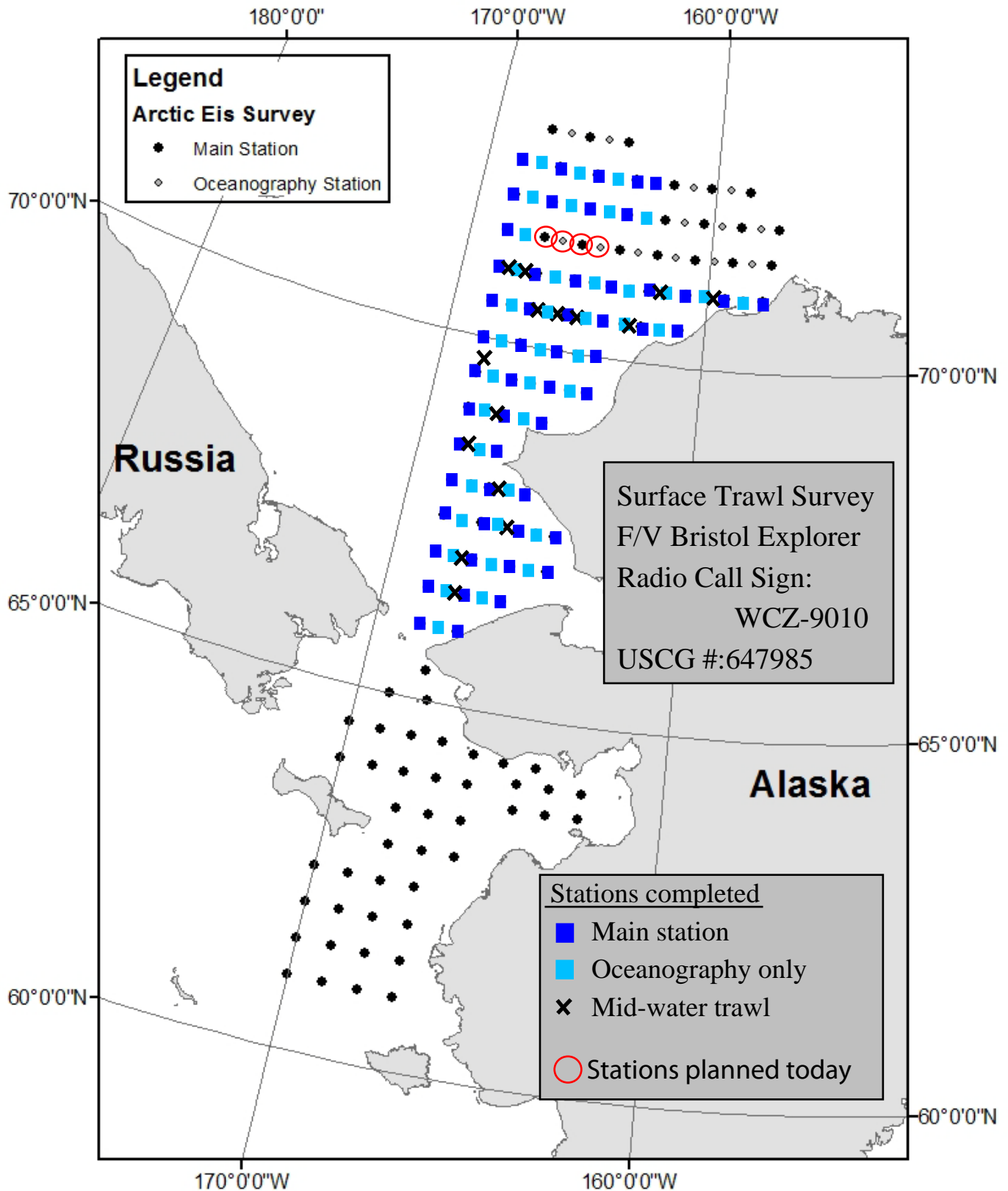
**F/V Bristol Explorer:** Today we completed the last of the ice-free stations along latitudes 72.5 and 72 N. That means we have completed the 8 most westerly stations (out of 13) along latitude 72.5 N and the 8 most westerly stations (out of 15) along latitude 72.0 N. The northern-most survey line at latitude 73.0 N was unattainable - no stations were occupied along that latitude. Visible ice bergs on the horizon and a high density on the radar indicated that the ice was impenetrable. Furthermore, the seas are building with a forecast of 35 kts and gusts to 45 tomorrow. We turned to the south to be clear of ice as the seas increase. Tomorrow morning we will resume where we left off several days ago at 71.5 N, 166.9 W. We have 13 more stations along this latitude to the east to complete, though ice may preclude sampling as we approach Barrow. **Fish catches** (3 stations): Arctic cod – 7; Arctic cod (age-0) – 17; capelin – 12; saffron cod – 2; walleye pollock – 1; Bering wolfish – 1; Pandalus sp. – 33; jellyfish – 21 kg. **Bird and mammal activity:** the bird activity picked up over the course of the day. Up north by the ice the interesting bird species were pomarine and parasitic jaegers. Once we turned south, auklet numbers increased. An unidentified seal surfaced once briefly in the vicinity of the ice.

**F/V Alaska Knight:** It appears we were a little optimistic regarding the weather yesterday. Winds picked up significantly and greatly slowed our progress north. Ultimately, we didn't make it to our first station until after 1pm. We performed test tow and completed a standard bottom trawl tow (CH30-I02). However, given the run time in the poor conditions, we were not able to make it to CH30-J02 as we had originally hoped. We also did not use the beam trawl today since the seas were over 10ft when we were on station. The completed station was dominated by crabs. Mainly by snow crabs (*C. opilio*), Arctic Lyre crabs (*Hyas coarctatus*), and hermits (mostly fuzzy hermits, *Pagurus trigonocheirus*). We also got several species of tunicates that came up attached to small flat stones, giving evidence to the harder bottom signal we were seeing on the ES60 echosounder. The fish catch was small (<1kg in total), but dominated by Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*) and variegated snailfish (*Liparis gibbus*).

### **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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