

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 4, 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:

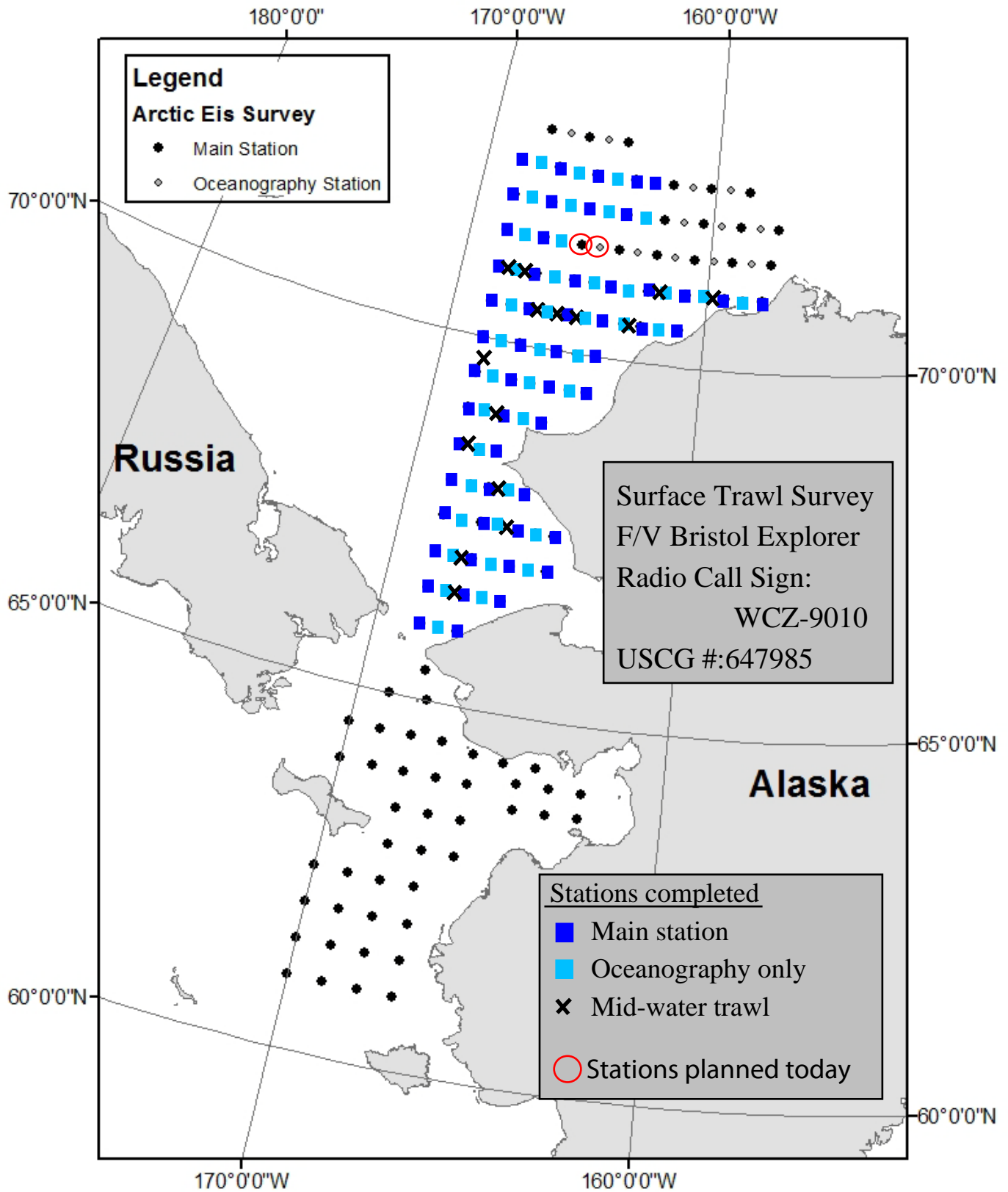
Arctic EIS updates: F/V Bristol Explorer: Today's operations were significantly impacted by inclement weather. Our acoustic surveying speed dropped in half and deployment of equipment was suspended. As we head east along latitude 71.5 N, we are skirting the ice edge once again. Under these conditions, we needed a wider berth from the ice since distinguishing white caps from ice bergs becomes a tricky proposition. Tomorrow we will resume where we left off today and continue heading east. We have not made any mid-water tows for the past several days due to lack of acoustic sign in the water column. Summary of today's (Sept 3) catches: Capelin – 34, Capelin (age0) – 6, Arctic cod (Age0) – 3, crested sculpin – 1, Jellyfish – 48. Birds and mammals: Bird activity consisted primarily of shearwaters today. No marine mammals.

F/V Alaska Knight: Ahhh...today was a day to feel the wind in your hair...and the Chukchi Sea on your face. We managed to slowly make our way and complete tows at CH30-J02 and CH30-J03, but the winds increased and the seas built until it was no longer feasible to attempt tows at CH30-K03 as originally planned. Winds are currently 35-40knts with 12 ft waves (and a few 15 ft waves thrown in for good measure). We are currently making our way to CH30-K04, where we hope to start tomorrow morning. It would be followed by stations at CH30-L04 and CH30-L05. However, that is all predicated on conditions improving since the sea state is now high enough that it will be difficult to get good performance tows accomplished. Also, it sounds like the storm may be pushing the ice down towards us. If this happens, we may have to abandon this plan and head west to avoid the ice. As for today's catch...the species of the day is basket stars (*Gorgonocephalus sp. cf. arcticus*). About 90% of the weight of the catch from our first tow of the day was from basket stars. It was one of the higher densities of basket stars I have observed.

F/V Other Surveys:R/V Aquila (NOAA Chaoz Survey) Thank you very much! If you happen to get any fluke photographs, you can contact me at Brenda.Rone@noaa.gov. We are down in the Bering now and our survey ends this week. Good luck out there!

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 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 fmueter@alaska.edu

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