

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 6, 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: Strong winds did not diminish until this evening, slowing our progress. As we move east, the ice edge has moved north and now we are able to move along our survey line unobstructed by ice bergs. A consistent lack of acoustic sign in the water column has kept us from conducting mid-water trawls for almost a week. Of special note was another vessel in our vicinity, the icebreaker Fennica. This is a Finnish ship conducting ice management for Shell oil drilling rig which should be on site tomorrow. Few birds were observed today and no marine mammals. Summary of today's (9/5) catches: Arctic cod – 5, Arctic cod (age0) – 3, Capelin (Age0) – 6, Sand lance – 1, Sand lance (age0) – 3, Saffron cod – 1, Amphipods – 2, Jellyfish – 193 kg.

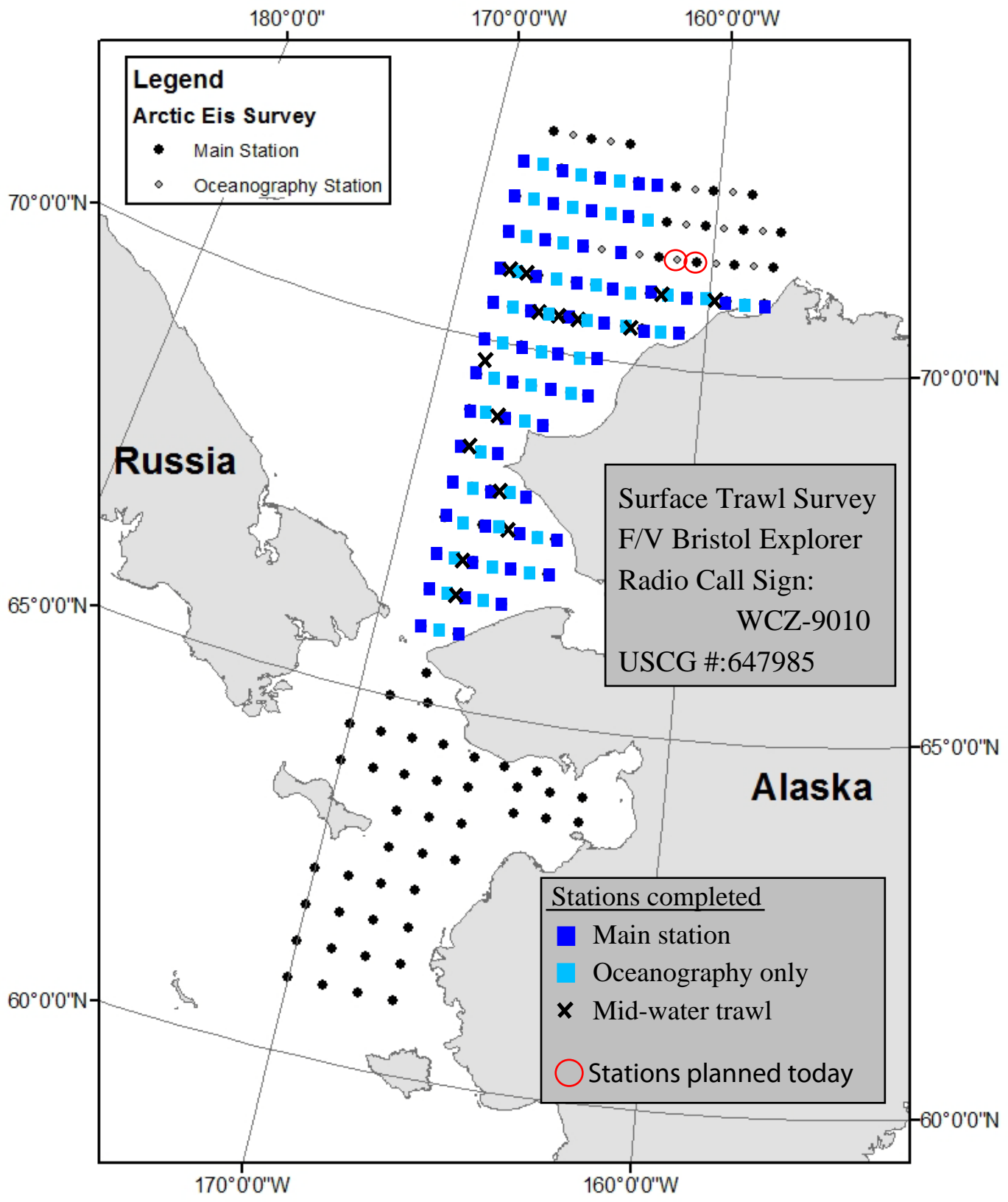
F/V Alaska Knight: A full day! We still have a cold wind blowing out of the northeast, but we were still able to check CH30-L05, CH30-L06, and CH30-L07 off the list of stations with the bottom trawl and do a comparison tow with the beam trawl at CH30-L07. The wind and waves have come down some this evening along with the temperature. It even snowed on us for a bit as we finished working up the catch from the beam trawl. Our plan for tomorrow (9/6) is to complete stations CH30-M08, CH30-M07, and CH30-N07[6?]. That is assuming they are ice-free. We also plan to use the beam trawl at CH30-N07. As for interesting news about the catch, all of the tows today were over areas with very soft bottom, so each tow came up with a little bit of mud/sediment. With the sediment we caught a very large number of mud stars (*Ctenodiscus crispatus*) and large isopods (*Saduria entomon*). We also caught our first gelatinous seasnail (*Liparis fabricii*) of the trip. Its a fish...really!! Overall, we did not catch many fish today, but Arctic cod was in greatest abundance.

F/V Other Surveys: No other 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 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

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