

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 9, 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: In transit to Nome. [No report received. Assumed the planned stations were completed at 71.5N]

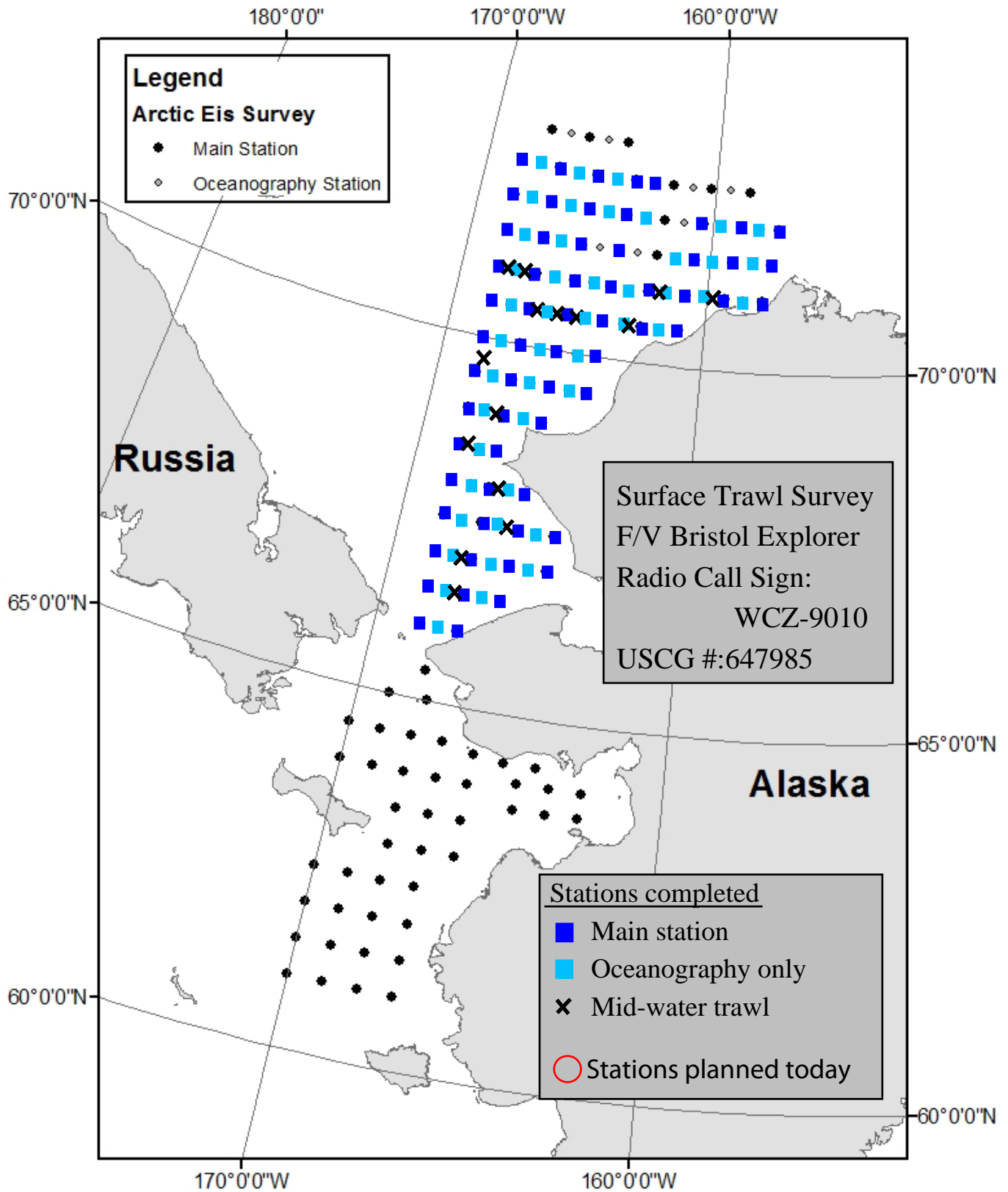
F/V Alaska Knight: Our plans for today had to be changed before we even got started. We ran into the ice pack well before reaching station CH30-M05, so we set our sights north and instead started our day at CH30-N05, where we successfully conducted a standard bottom trawl and beam trawl comparison tow. We also successfully completed bottom trawls at CH30-N04 and CH30-O03. Our most interesting tow of the day was at CH30-O03. It took over 2 hours of searching to find enough towable ground for a short-duration bottom trawl near this station due to the irregular bottom and large rocks. Even with all the searching for a good spot to tow, we still got a "Charlie Brown Special" (a bag of rocks). In addition to the larger rocks and boulders were hundreds of smaller, very unique rocks. They were all uniformly round (~8-12cm dia) and flat (~1-2cm thick). They almost appear to be a liquid that cooled on the seafloor into these formations. Given that none of us are geologists, the best we could do with this unique find was apply the techniques available to us as biologists. As such, several specimens have been placed into bags and vouchered with the provisional name of "Chukchi Sea flatrocks (*Geodepressa chukchiensis*). Fish catches today were dominated by Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*), Bering flounder (*Hippoglossoides robustus*), and polar eelpouts (*Lycodes polaris*). Our planned stations for 9/9 are CH30-O02, CH30-O01, and CH30-N01. The beam trawl will be used on CH30-O02.

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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