

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 10, 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 for crew change.

F/V Alaska Knight: Today (9/9) we completed a standard bottom trawl and beam trawl at CH30-O02 and a bottom trawl at CH30-N01. Station CH30-O01 was abandoned due to the ice. We were not able to get within 12 miles of the station due to the ice. However, it is amazing what calm weather and a few icebergs in the area can do for our marine mammal sightings. On our track from abandoning CH30-O01 to CH30-N01, we sighted 31 walrus. Nearly all of them were in pairs. We also spotted a polar bear resting on a large iceberg. That was a sight that will be tough to top during our remaining days on this survey. CH30-N01 produced our most interesting catch of the day. We caught a large quantity of Arctic cod (*Boreogadus saida*) and many of them were very large...for an Arctic cod. Some of the specimens were over 20 cm. We also caught a large volume of molted shells from snow crabs (*Chionoecetes opilio*) that were quite a bit bigger than most of the snow crab we have seen (> 70 mm carapace width). However, we only caught a couple of live snow crabs. Maybe this is a site that the snow crabs come to for molting?

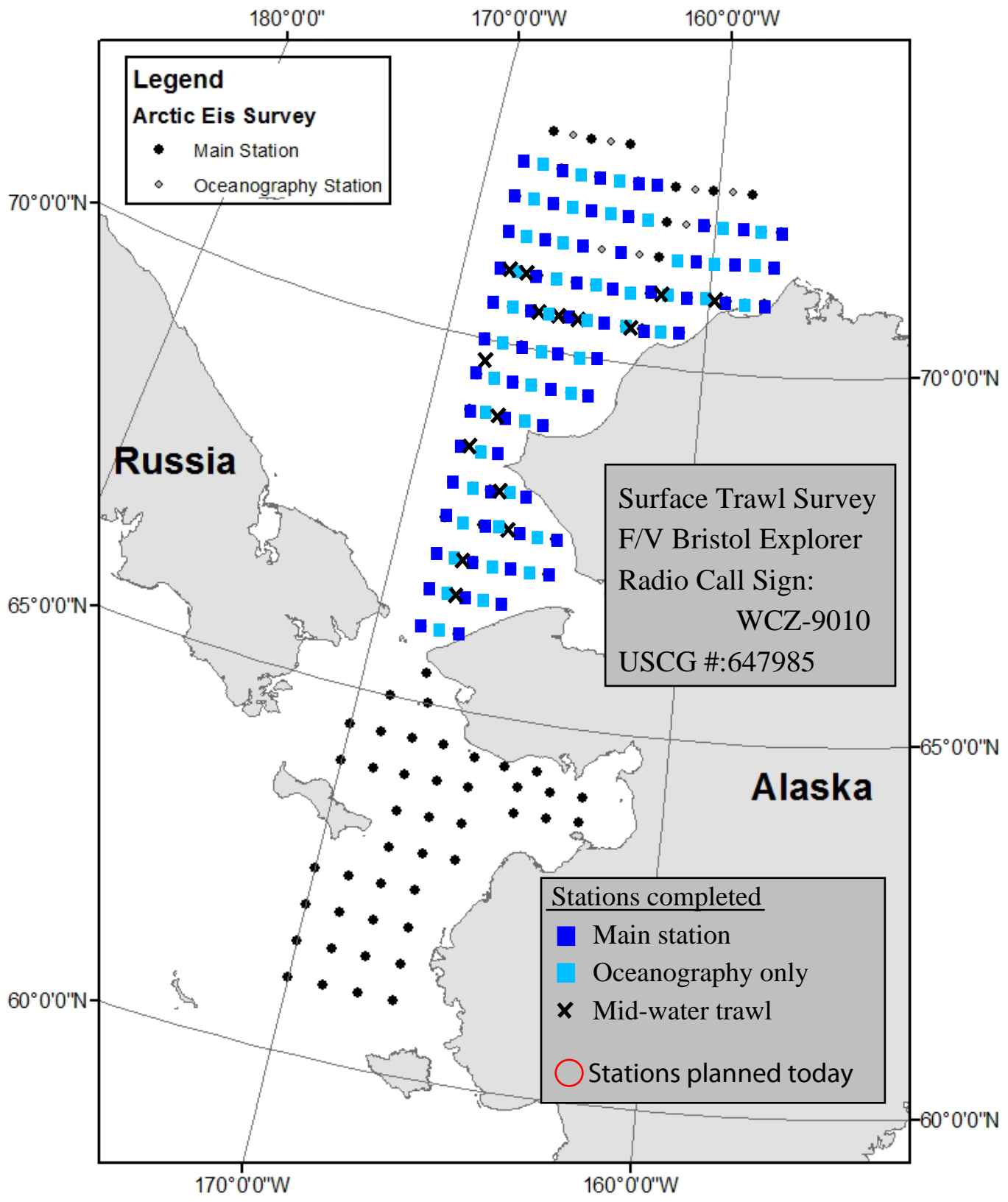
On 9/10, we plan to conduct standard bottom trawls at CH30-N02, CH30-N03, and CH30-M03. We will also use the beam trawl at CH30-N02.

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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