

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 11, 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: As we wrapped up our operations yesterday and turned south towards Nome, the weather dropped to a dead calm and has been like that for our entire transit. We also did not encounter the strong southerly currents in the Bering Strait we had expected, so we arrived in the vicinity of Nome earlier than predicted. With the extra time on our hands, we completed the 3 main stations in the Bering Strait. The composition of catch in the Bering Strait is markedly different than that of the northern Chukchi sea. We caught immature chum salmon, several capelin, sand lance, mature herring, flathead sole larvae, mixed jellyfish, and *Pandalus* shrimp.

While we were conducting acoustics between stations, we encountered the largest fish school we have seen during all of leg 2. Luckily the crew is still enthusiastic and game for adventure, so we made a late night mid-water tow. The catch consisted of primarily of juvenile pollock with some capelin.

We are once again en route to Nome and plan to rendezvous with the relief crew tomorrow morning. The boat will spend the day tomorrow reprovisioning in Nome. No update will be sent tomorrow.

Completed stations today: 65 N, 168.5 W – main; 65 N, 167.885 W – main; 65.4 N, 168 W – main; 65.02 N, 168.05 W - midwater

F/V Alaska Knight: We actually accomplished our planned stations in full today. Seems like it has been a while since we have been able to do that without changes due to weather, ice, or mud. We completed standard bottom trawls at CH30-N02, CH30-N03, and CH30-M03 and a beam trawl at CH30-N02. Not much else to report. Catches were light, but we have been getting a lot more Arctic cod the last few days.

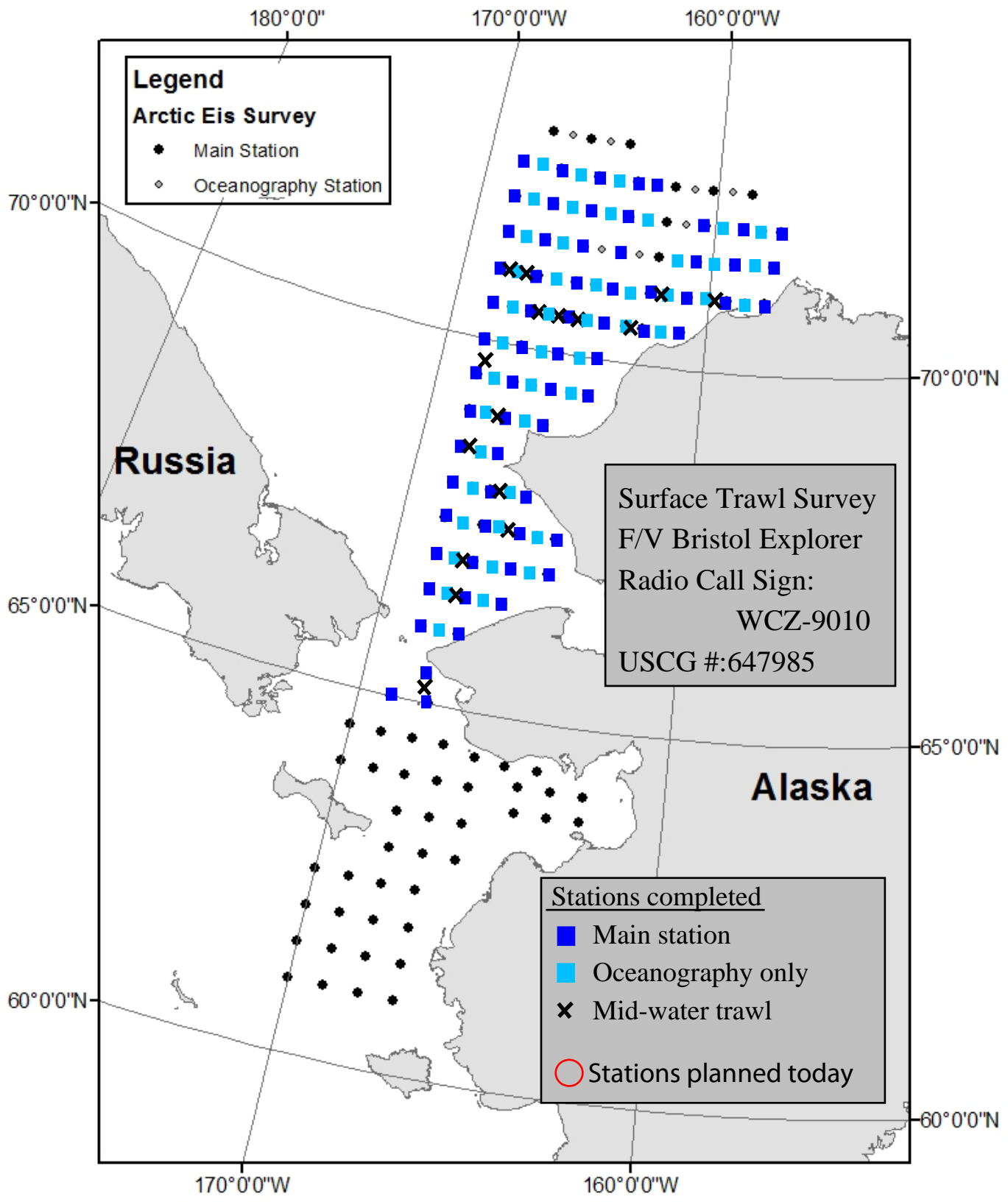
We only have two stations planned for 9/11, CH30-M04 and CH30-M05. However we will attempt to use both trawls at each station. CH30-M05 was under ice 4 days ago, so we are hoping that has cleared out. Also, there is some rough bottom near that station on the charts that may require us to search for a while to find a suitable site to sample.

F/V Other Surveys: No other updates

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For general information or comments about the survey, please e-mail fmuetter@alaska.edu

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