

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 18, 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: We completed three surface trawls in Norton Sound all of which were in water depths less than 22 m. The water temperature ranged from 8.2 – 8.8 C. The acoustic backscatter was mixed and scattered; nondescript overall. Our sorting table was alive with a variety of fishes and invertebrates many of which were saved for Arctic Eis projects (e.g. aging, energetics, diets, and genetics). Our freezers are filling up.

Summary of yesterday's catches: j. Chinook – 1; saffron cod (age0) – 739; saffron cod – 217; herring – 2765; Arctic cod – 464; P. sand lance – 8; rainbow smelt – 1257; Arctic lamprey – 5; walleye pollock – 8; 9-spine stickleback – 264; starry flounder – 5; antlered sculpin – 7; jellyfish (combined) – 7 kg; slender eelblenny – 286; blacklined pickleback – 12; shorthorn sculpin – 5; Arctic staghorn sculpin – 1; unid sculpin – 2; Bering poacher – 1; sturgeon poacher – 1; whitespotted greenling – 1; variegated snailfish – 1; polar eelpout – 9; wattled eelpout – 8; yellowfin sole – 73; crangonidae unid. – 202; isopod inid. – 15; crab (*Telemessus cheiragonus*) – 5; pandalus sp. 8 kg.

Interesting birds of the day: Several spectacled eiders.

Marine mammals: None observed.

F/V Alaska Knight: We went 2 for 3 today in sampling stations with the beam trawl. We successfully completed tows at CH30-D02 and CH30-C02 before the weather came up again with 40 knt winds and 10+ ft seas, causing us to abandon sampling at CH30-B02.

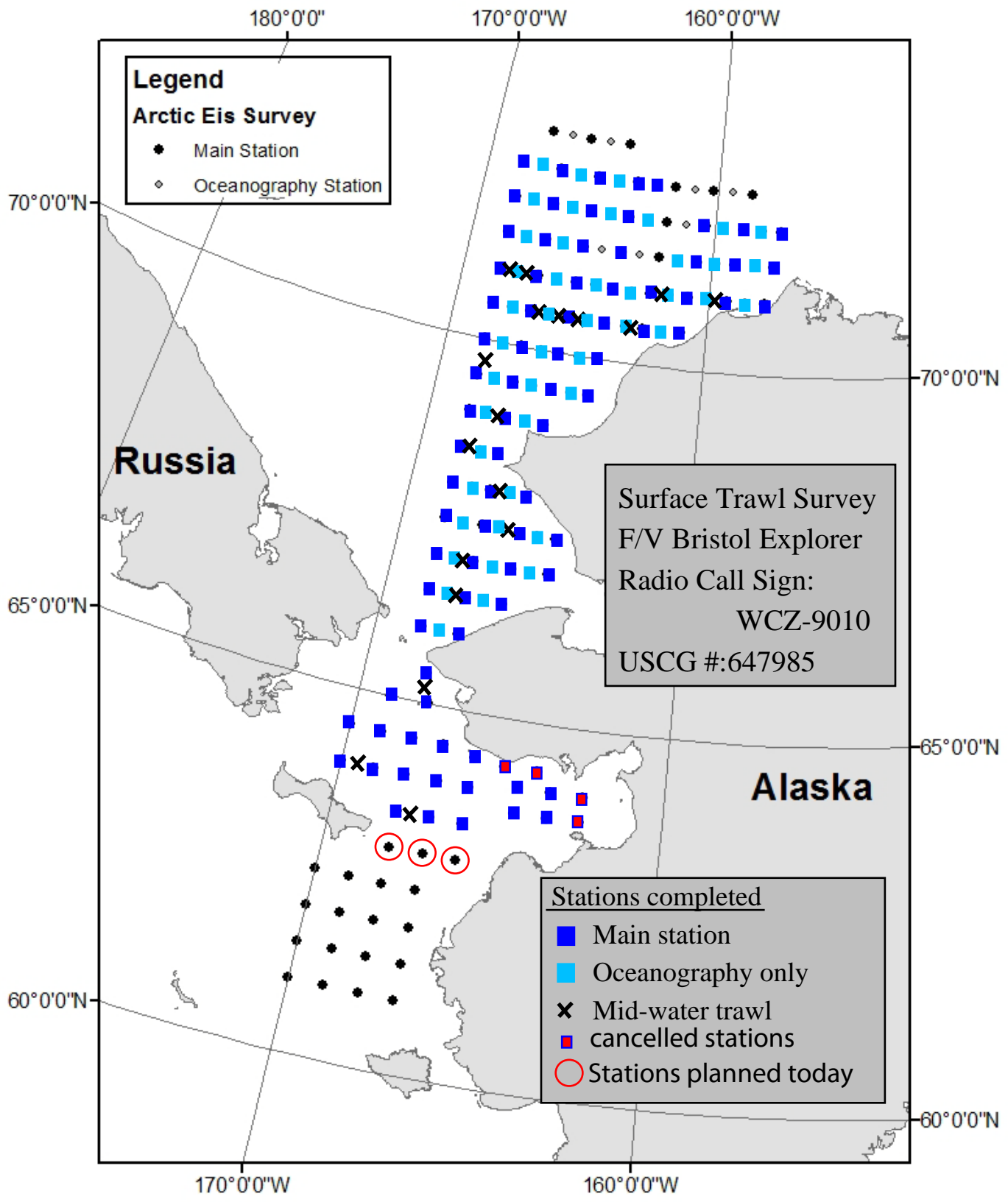
Tomorrow will be our last day of sampling before we start our transit to Dutch Harbor. Our plan is to sample CH30-B01 and CH30-A01 with the beam trawl if the weather comes down on our way south.

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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