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**United States Cruise Plan for BASIS on the R/V OSCAR DYSON, August – October
2012**

by

AUKE BAY LABORATORIES
Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
17109 Pt. Lena Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801-8626, U.S.A
Phone: (907) 789-6005

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Introduction

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program, will conduct a survey during late summer and fall 2012 within the southeastern Bering Sea to provide key ecological data on the pelagic ecosystem. The survey is conducted as part of the Bering Aleutian Salmon International Survey (BASIS) phase 2 research plan. Primary objectives of the survey will be to: 1) collect biological information on ecologically important fish species and to 2) describe the physical and biological oceanographic conditions of the southeastern Bering Sea waters.

Survey

A survey of epi-pelagic fish species, zooplankton, ichthyoplankton, and oceanographic measurements will be conducted at stations within the eastern Bering Sea aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson*. The survey will begin 24 August 2012 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska and end on 14 October 2012 in Kodiak, Alaska, for a total of 52 sea days (Fig. 1; Table 1).

The cruise will be conducted aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson*. Fish samples will be collected using a midwater rope trawl. At each station, the net will be towed at or near the surface for 30 minutes at speeds between 3.5 and 5 kts.

All fish species will be counted and standard biological measurements including length and weight will be taken from subsamples of each species.

Biological and physical oceanographic data will be collected at each trawl station as well as opportunistically during the survey.

Table 1. Tentative cruise itinerary for BASIS research cruise – R/V *Oscar Dyson*, August 24 to October 14, 2012.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1	
Aug 23	Embark scientific party/Load Gear (Dutch Harbor, AK)
Aug 24	Depart Kodiak, AK 3:00pm; transit to Bering Sea
Aug 25-Sep 7	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects between 160W to 166W (Fig. 1)
Sep 8	Inport Dutch Harbor 9:00am, crew change
LEG 2	
Sep 13	Depart Dutch Harbor 3:00pm, transit to 166W
Sep 14-25	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects 166W to 170W (Fig. 1)
Sep 26	Inport Dutch Harbor 9:00am, crew change
LEG 3	
Oct 1	Depart Dutch Harbor 3:00pm, transit to 170W
Oct 2-12	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects 170W to 172W (Fig. 1)
Oct 14	Inport Kodiak, AK 9:00am, unload gear
Oct 15	Scientists depart Kodiak, AK

Fig. 1. Proposed survey stations (east of black line) for the BASIS research cruise along the eastern Bering Sea, August 24 to October 14, 2012 on board the R/V *Oscar Dyson*.

