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**United States Cruise Plan for BASIS-Northern Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea, August –
October 2012**

by

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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 northern Bering Sea and Chukchi 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 a to be determined charter vessel. The survey will begin 1 August 2012 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska and end on 30 September 2012 in Dutch Harbor Alaska, for a total of 60 sea days (Fig. 1; Table 1).

The cruise will be conducted aboard a to-be-determined charter vessel. 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 northern Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea research cruise – August 1 to September 30, 2012.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1	
Aug 1	Embark scientific party/Load Gear (Dutch Harbor, AK)
Aug 3	Depart Kodiak, AK 3:00pm; transit to Bering Strait
Aug 6-22	Complete Station grid working east to west, along transects between 65 N to 70 N (Fig. 1)
Aug 23	Inport Nome, AK 9:00am, crew change
LEG 2	
Aug 24	Depart Nome, AK 3:00pm, transit to 70 N
Aug 25-Sep 9	Complete Station grid working east to west, along transects 70 N to 73 N (Fig. 1)
Sep 11	Inport Nome 9:00am, crew change
LEG 3	
Sep 12	Depart Nome 3:00pm, transit to 64 N
Sep 12-27	Complete Station grid working east to west, along transects 64 N to 61 N (Fig. 1)
Sep 29	Inport Dutch Harbor, AK 9:00am, unload gear
Sep 30	Scientists depart Dutch Harbor, AK

Fig. 1. Proposed survey stations for the BASIS northern Bering Sea and Chukchi Sea research cruise, August 1 to September 30, 2012.

