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**RESEARCH PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES RESEARCH VESSEL
GREAT PACIFIC IN THE EASTERN NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN
APRIL-MAY 1998**

by

Ocean Carrying Capacity Program
Auke Bay Laboratory
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
11305 Glacier Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801-8626 USA

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RESEARCH PLAN FOR U.S. CRUISE OF THE F/V GREAT PACIFIC APRIL-MAY, 1998

ABSTRACT

Plans for a research cruise to examine distribution of salmon in coastal and oceanic waters of the North Pacific Ocean during April-May, 1998 are described.

The F/V GREAT PACIFIC, a 38-m Bering Sea stern trawler, chartered by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Auke Bay, Alaska Laboratory, will conduct a survey of salmon in the North Pacific Ocean during April-May, 1998.

Primary objectives of the cruise are: to locate and assess the distribution of young and maturing salmon during spring in the North Pacific and obtain information on identity of stocks, growth and condition, maturation levels, incidence of thermal (hatchery) marks, food and feeding habits, and physical and biological environment of salmon and other co-occurring species.

Cruise times are: Departure from Dutch Harbor, Alaska on April 27 and Arrival in Seattle to end the cruise on May 26, 1998.

Geographical area of coverage: the survey will begin off Cape Prominence, South Unalaska Is. and work seaward to 50° N, west to Adak Island and then east to Unimak Pass, continuing east along 50° N to 150° W, mid-cruise port call in Kodiak to exchange scientists, then seaward from Cape Chiniak, east to Cape St. Elias, then south along 145° W to 48° N, and east to Seattle to end the cruise.

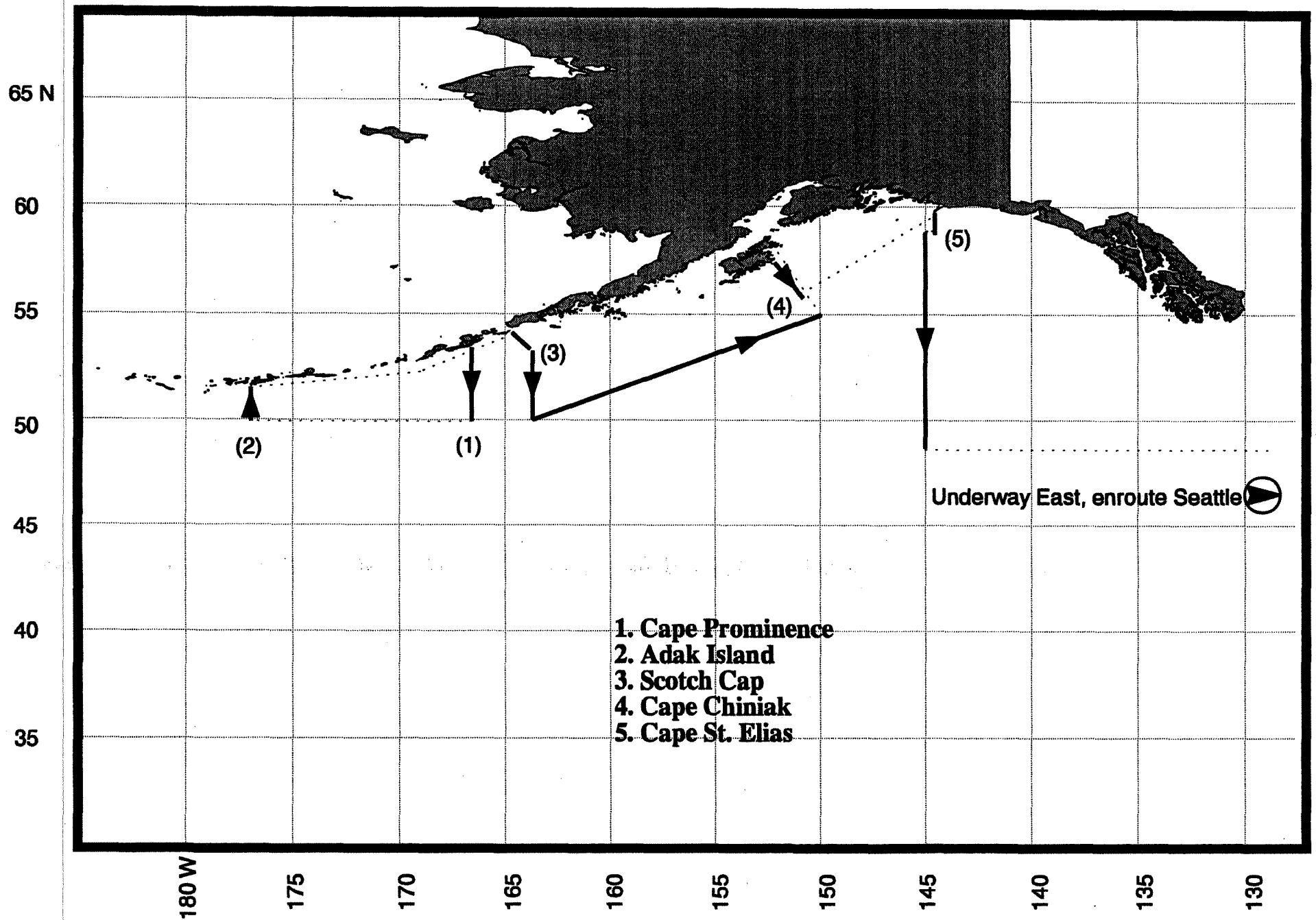
Methodology: Salmon and other fishes and marine life will be sampled in near-surface waters by towing at 5 kts a 400/580 midwater rope trawl, which is 198 m in length and fishes with a 13 m vertical by 44 m horizontal opening, and has a 1.2 cm mesh liner in the codend. Catches will be sorted to species and salmon will be processed and samples preserved for growth, condition, and biological data, otolith marks, tissue samples for genetic analyses, and stomach contents for food analyses. Oceanographic observations will include CTD casts to 300-500 m at preselected stations on coastal transects off Scotch Cap (Unimak Pass), S. Adak Island, Cape Chiniak, and Cape St. Elias, as well as oceanic stations on the high seas. Zooplankton will be sampled by vertical tows to 200 m, using a 0.6 m bongo net with 253 and 505 mesh nets at preselected stations along coastal transects and on the high seas.

Chief scientist for the cruise will be Richard Carlson, NOAA, NMFS Laboratory, 11305 Glacier Hwy, Juneau AK 99801 USA, Phone (907) 789-6050, Fax (907) 789-6094, contact for further information.

Attached :

- 1) Map of area of coverage
- 2) Cruise Itinerary

Planned cruise track for the F/V GREAT PACIFIC April-May 1998 cruise.



APRIL-MAY 1998 PROPOSED CRUISE ITINERARY: F/V GREAT PACIFIC

Date	Location/activity
M 27 April	Dutch Harbor--board scientists, gear, underway to Cape Prominence (40 nm)
Tu 28 April	Arrive Cape Prominence, begin ocnog, fishing transect nearshore-seaward
W 29 April	Continue transect out to 200 nmi (50 N)
Th 30 April	Underway W enroute Adak Is. (370 nm)
F 01 May	Underway W to arrive Adak I. transect
Sa 02 May	Begin Adak transect, ocnog, fishing N from 50 N to nearshore (100 nm)
Su 03 May	Complete Adak transect, underway East
M 04 May	Underway E enroute Scotch Cap (480 nm)
Tu 05 May	Underway E to arrive Scotch Cap begin fishing, ocnog. nearshore-out
W 06 May	Complete ocnog to 60 nm, continue fishing on course 150 T to 50 N (240 nm)
Th 07 May	Continue fishing on course 050 T to 55 N 150 W (510 nm)
F 08 May	Continue fishing on course 050 T
Sa 09 May	Continue fishing on course 050 T
Su 10 May	Complete oceanic transect to 55 N 150 W, Underway enroute Kodiak (230 nm)
M 11 May	Arrive Kodiak, exchange scientists
Tu 12 May	Run to Cape Chiniak, begin ocnog, fishing South
W 13 May	Continue transect to 90 nm out
Th 14 May	Underway East enroute Cape St. Elias (280 nm)
F 15 May	Arrive Cape St. Elias, begin ocnog, fishing South
Sa 16 May	Complete transect to 60 nm out, run to position 58 N, 145 W (50 nm)
Su 17 May	From 58 N 145 W, begin fishing, ocnog, South
M 18 May	Continue fishing, ocnog South, along 145 W parallel
Tu 19 May	Continue working south along 145 W
W 20 May	Continue working South along 145 W
Th 21 May	Continue working South along 145 W
F 22 May	Work South to 48 N 145 W, end operations
Sa 23 May	Underway East, enroute Seattle (900 nm)
Su 24 May	Underway E
M 25 May	Underway E
Tu 26 May	Arrive Seattle, end cruise