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**United States Cruise Plan for GOAIERP on the
F/V *Northwest Explorer*, July 2 – 24 2010**

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Introduction

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Marine Ecosystem and Stock Assessment (MESA) Program, BASIS group will conduct a survey during Summer 2010 within the southeastern Gulf of Alaska to provide key ecological data on the pelagic ecosystem. 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 region of the southeastern Gulf of Alaska.

Survey

A survey of epi-pelagic fish species, zooplankton, ichthyoplankton, and oceanographic measurements will be conducted at stations within the southeastern region of the Gulf of Alaska aboard the commercial fishing vessel *Northwest Explorer*. The survey will begin 2 July 2010 in Juneau, Alaska and end on 24 July 2010 in Juneau, Alaska, for a total of 23 sea days (Fig. 1; Table 1).

The cruise will be conducted aboard the commercial fishing vessel *Northwest Explorer*. 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 3.0 and 3.5 kts.

All fish species will be counted and standard biological measurements including length and weight will be taken from subsamples of each species. Diets of subsamples of marine fish will not be examined.

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 GOAIERP research cruise – F/V *Northwest Explorer*, July 2-24, 2010.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1	
July 2	Embark scientific party/Load Gear
July 3	Depart Juneau, AK 7:00am; transit to 58.5N, 137.0W
July 4-13	Complete Station grid working between 58.5N to 56.8N (Fig. 1)
July 14	Inport Sitka 9:00am, crew change
LEG 2	
July 14	Depart Sitka 9:00am, transit to 56.8N, 135.8W
July 14-21	Complete Station grid working between 56.8N to 56.0N (Fig. 1)
July 22	Inport Juneau 9:00am

Fig. 1. Proposed survey stations for the GOA IERP research cruise along the southeastern Gulf of Alaska, July 2 to July 24, 2010 on board the F/V *Northwest Explorer*.

