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**United States Cruise Plan for BASIS on the R/V *OSCAR DYSON*, August – September  
2011**

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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 Fall 2011 within the southeastern Bering Sea 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 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 18 August 2011 in Kodiak, Alaska and end on 15 September 2011 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, for a total of 27 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. Diets of subsamples of marine fish will be examined onboard.

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 18 to September 15, 2011.

Date	Location/Activity
<b>LEG 1</b>	
Aug 17	Embark scientific party/Load Gear (Kodiak, AK)
Aug 19	Depart Kodiak, AK 3:00pm; transit to Bering Sea
Aug 20-30	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects between 160W to 165W (Fig. 1)
Aug 31	Inport Dutch Harbor 9:00am, crew change
<b>LEG 2</b>	
Sep 3	Depart Dutch Harbor 3:00pm, transit to 166W
Sep 4-14	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects 166W to 169W (Fig. 1)
Sep 15	Inport Dutch Harbor 9:00am

**Fig. 1.** Proposed survey stations (east of black line) for the BASIS research cruise along the eastern Bering Sea, August 18 to September 15, 2011 on board the R/V *Oscar Dyson*. Stations west of the black line will be sampled by the F/V *Bristol Explorer*.

