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United States Cruise Plan for The Gulf of Alaska Project, July – August 2014

by

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Abstract

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will conduct a fisheries oceanographic survey during summer of 2014 within the southeastern region of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to provide key ecological data on the pelagic ecosystem, examine oceanographic transport mechanisms, lower trophic level production, and age-0 marine fish and juvenile salmon distribution and condition. Primary objectives of the survey will be to: 1) collect biological information on ecologically important marine fish and salmon and 2) describe the physical and biological conditions of the GOA

Introduction

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will conduct a fisheries oceanographic survey during summer of 2014 within the southeastern region of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to provide key ecological data on the pelagic ecosystem, examine oceanographic transport mechanisms, lower trophic level production, and age-0 marine fish and juvenile salmon distribution and condition. Primary objectives of the survey will be to: 1) collect biological information on ecologically important marine fish and salmon and 2) describe the physical and biological conditions of the GOA.

Survey

A survey of epi-pelagic fish species, zooplankton, ichthyoplankton, and oceanographic measurements will be conducted at predetermined survey stations within the southeastern GOA during summer aboard a contracted stern ramp trawling vessel. The survey will begin 5 July 2014 in Juneau, Alaska and end on 27 August 2014 in Juneau, Alaska with a total duration of 43 survey days (Table 1).

Fish samples will be collected using a midwater rope trawl and the trawl will be towed at or near the surface for 30 minutes at speeds between 3.5 and 5 kts at each station.

All fish species will be counted and standard biological measurements including length and weight will be taken from subsamples of each species. Marine fish and juvenile salmon will be collected for food habits and laboratory analyses. Biological and physical oceanographic data will be collected at each trawl station.

Table 1. Tentative cruise itinerary for the Gulf of Alaska research cruise, July 5 - August 27, 2014.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1a	
Jul 5	Embark scientific party / load gear / depart Juneau, AK
Jul 6-14	Sample southeastern grid stations working from south to north (Fig. 1)

Jul 15 Inport Sitka, crew change

LEG 1b

Jul 16-24 Sample southeastern grid stations working from south to north (Fig. 1)

Jul 25 Inport Juneau

LEG 2a

Aug 4 Embark scientific party / load gear / depart Juneau, AK

Aug 5-14 Sample southeastern grid stations working from south to north (Fig. 1)

Aug 15 Inport, Yakutat, crew change

LEG 2b

Aug 16-25 Sample southeastern grid stations working from south to north (Fig. 1)

Aug 26 Transit to Juneau, AK

Aug 27 Inport Juneau, AK

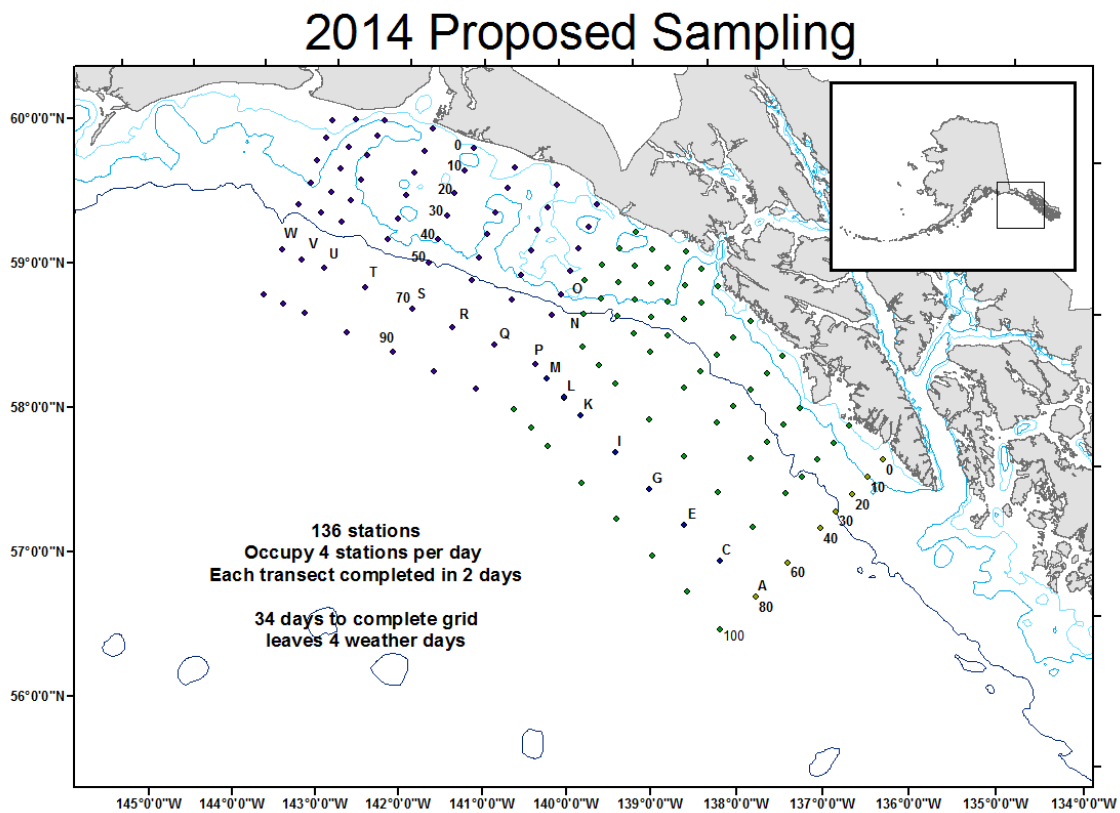


Fig. 1. Proposed southeastern GOA survey stations for the Gulf of Alaska Project.