

**United States Cruise Plan for BASIS on the R/V OSCAR DYSON, August – October
2014**

by

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ABSTRACT

This cruise plan outlines the dates, locations, and activities of a fisheries oceanographic survey conducted in the southeastern Bering Sea during late summer and fall 2014. This survey is in part a continuation of the Bering Aleutian Salmon International Survey (BASIS). The primary objectives are to collect biological information on important fish species and describe the physical and biological oceanographic conditions in the southeastern Bering Sea.

Introduction

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) will conduct a survey during late summer and fall 2014 within the southeastern Bering 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 the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson*. The survey will begin 17 August 2014 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska and end on 14 October 2014 in Kodiak, Alaska, for a total of 53 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.

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 17 to October 14, 2014.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1	
Aug 15-16	Embark scientific party/Load Gear (Dutch Harbor, AK)
Aug 17	Depart Dutch Harbor, AK 3:00pm; transit to Bering Sea
Aug 18-Aug 30	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects between 160W to 165W (Fig. 1)
Aug 31	Inport Dutch Harbor, AK 9:00am, crew change
LEG 2	
Sep 3	Embark scientific party/Load Gear (Dutch Harbor, AK)
Sep 4	Depart Dutch Harbor, AK 3:00pm, transit to 165W
Sep 5-17	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects 165W to 170W (Fig. 1)
Sep 18	Inport Dutch Harbor, AK 9:00am, crew change
LEG 3	
Sep 21	Embark scientific party/Load Gear (Dutch Harbor, AK)
Sep 22	Depart Dutch Harbor, AK 3:00pm, transit to 170W
Sep 23-Oct 12	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects 170W to 172W (Fig. 1)
Oct 14	Inport Kodiak, AK 9:00am, unload gear
Oct 15	Scientists depart Kodiak, AK

Fig. 1. Proposed survey stations for the BASIS research cruise along the eastern Bering Sea, August 17 to October 14, 2014 on board the R/V *Oscar Dyson*.

