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Gulf of Alaska Assessment Survey Plan for 2015

by

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ABSTRACT

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will conduct a fisheries oceanographic survey within the southeastern region of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) during summer of 2015 to provide key ecological data on the pelagic ecosystem, examine oceanographic transport mechanisms, lower trophic level production, age-0 marine fish distribution and energetic status, and juvenile salmon distribution and energetic status. 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.

SECM sampling planned for 2015

A primary objective of this research is to survey epi-pelagic fish populations, zooplankton, ichthyoplankton, and physical and biological oceanographic conditions. Sampling will be conducted at predetermined survey stations within the southeastern GOA aboard a contracted stern ramp trawling vessel. The survey will begin 5 July 2015 in Juneau, Alaska and end 25 July 2015 in Juneau, Alaska with a total duration of 21 survey days (Table 1). Fish samples will be collected using a midwater rope trawl towed at or near the surface for 30 minutes at speeds between 3.5 and 5 kts. All fish will be sorted according to species and life stage. Standard biological measurements including length and weight will be taken from subsamples of each species. Marine fish and juvenile salmon will be collected and preserved for food habits

and laboratory analyses. Biological and physical oceanographic data will be collected at each survey station.

Table 1.— Tentative cruise itinerary for the Gulf of Alaska research cruise; July 5 - 25, 2015.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1a	
Jul 5	Embark scientific party/load gear/depart Juneau, AK
Jul 6-15	Sample southern block of grid stations working from south to north (Fig. 1)
Jul 16	Inport Sitka, crew change
LEG 1b	
Jul 17-23	Sample northern block of grid stations working from south to north (Fig. 1)
Jul 25	Inport Juneau, off-load

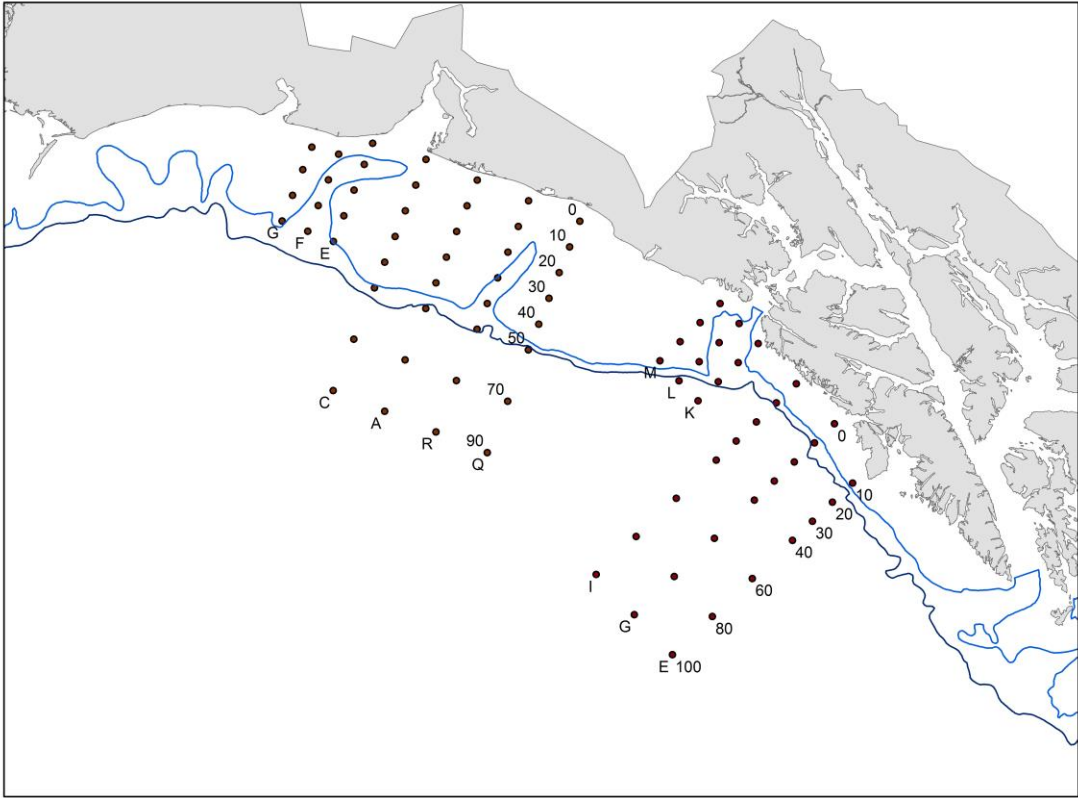


Figure 1.—Stations scheduled for sampling in July 2015 by the Gulf of Alaska Assessment survey.