

**United States Cruise Plan for the Eastern Bering Sea Surface and Pelagic  
Trawl Survey, August–September 2020**

by

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## **Abstract**

This cruise plan outlines the dates, locations, and activities of a fisheries oceanographic survey conducted in the eastern Bering Sea during late summer and fall 2020. 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 2020 within the eastern Bering Sea to collect 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 eastern 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 16 August 2020 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska and end on 13 September 2020 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, for a total of 27 sea days (Fig. 1; Table 1).

Fish samples will be collected using a midwater rope trawl (Can Trawl 400/601) fished at the surface and a pelagic trawl (NETS 156) fished obliquely. At selected trawl stations, an oblique tow will be performed to 10 m depth off bottom or 200 m headrope depth (whichever is greater) and a surface tow will be performed for 30 minutes.

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 itinerary for southeastern Bering Sea research cruise aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson*, 16 August to 13 September 2020.

Date	Location/Activity
<b>LEG 1</b>	
Aug 14–15	Embark scientific party/load gear, Dutch Harbor, AK
Aug 16	Depart Dutch Harbor, AK 1:00 pm, transit to first station
Aug 16–28	Occupy station grid, working north and south along transects 161W to 176W (Fig. 1)
Aug 28	Inport Dutch Harbor, AK 9:00 am, crew change
<b>LEG 2</b>	
Aug 28–30	Disembark/Embark scientific party/load gear, Dutch Harbor, AK
Aug 31	Depart Dutch Harbor, AK 1:00 pm, transit to station
Aug 31–Sep 13	Occupy station grid working north and south, along transects 161W to 176W (Fig. 1)
Sep 13	Inport Dutch Harbor, AK. Disembark scientific party/off load gear

**Fig. 1.** Proposed survey stations for the eastern Bering Sea research cruise aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson*, 16 August to 13 September 2020.

