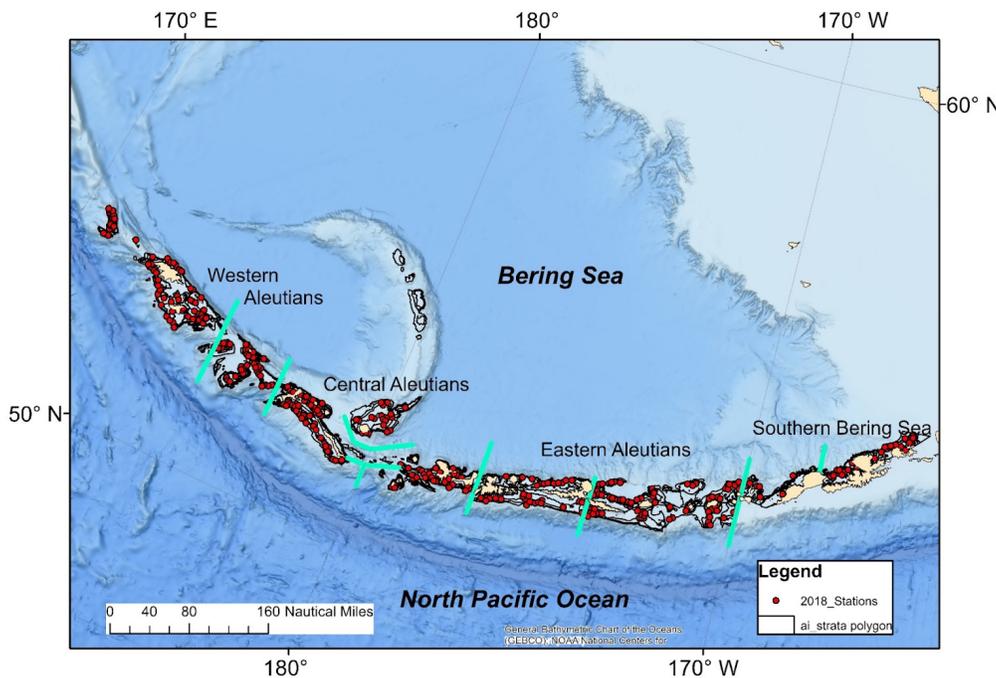


Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl Survey

June 6th – August 18th 2022

Aleutian Islands Biennial Bottom Trawl Survey



Caption: Map showing typical distribution of 420 bottom trawl stations in the Aleutian Islands along a distance of 1,700 km from Unimak Pass to Stalemate Bank west of Attu Island. Index stations are selected among strata based upon region, sub-region, and depth. The survey is conducted every other year during even-numbered years. Data collected include species abundance, length and age composition, and environmental observations.

Who is conducting the research?

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center of NOAA Fisheries conducts biennial bottom trawl surveys aboard contracted commercial fishing vessels. Survey teams consist of commercial fishers and survey scientists including NOAA staff, contractors, and fishery observers.

The Gulf of Alaska-Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl Survey group is currently chartering the FV Alaska Provider and the FV Ocean Explorer.

What is the objective?

The overall objective of the survey is to characterize the ecologically and economically important fishes, crabs, and other resources that live on or near the seafloor. The survey provides observations of species, their densities, and their biological characteristics such as length, gender, age, and food habits. These observations are turned into abundance time series used in stock assessments and ecological models.

Where is the research being conducted?

The survey is conducted in the Aleutian Islands from Unimak Pass to Stalemate Bank over the continental shelf to a depth of 500 m on both the north and south sides of the archipelago.

Why are the data important?

This fishery-independent survey provides a measure of relative abundance for economically important groundfish and crab species managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Density estimates, abundance indices, and other biological data such as size and age composition and growth are integrated into stock assessments conducted by NOAA Fisheries scientists, providing a comprehensive picture of the health of managed species. Bottom trawl survey results also provide early warnings of unusual increases or declines in key species and can assure the correct actions are taken to maintain sustainable fisheries.

Other data collected on the survey, such as water column temperatures, fish condition, and the relative abundances of prey and ecologically important species, provide ecosystem scientists information to characterize the overall health of the Aleutian Islands.

See timetable and station map on back



Gina M. Raimondo
U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

APRIL 2022
www.fisheries.noaa.gov
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**Alaska Fisheries
Science Center**
7600 Sand Point Way
Seattle, WA 98115

Timetable.

Schedule for the 2022 Aleutian Islands Bottom Trawl Survey

Survey preparation in Seattle	April 1–30th
Team Shelter In Place begins	May 23rd
Mobilize Survey in Dutch Harbor	August 6–7th
Survey operations begin	August 23rd
Leg Break and Crew Exchange in Adak Leg 1 (Shelter in Place and testing/boarding)	August 25th
Leg Break and Crew Exchange in Adak Leg 2 (Shelter in Place and testing/boarding)	August 28th
Survey operations end in Dutch Harbor	
Demobilization in Seattle	

What steps are you taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- General and Vessel Specific AFSC SOPs for Fieldwork for FY 22.
- 10-day reduced contact period prior to travel.
- Testing 3 days prior to travel with negative result.
- Masks, hand-washing, and social distancing as possible during travel.
- 5-day contact reduction period for unvaccinated science crew members in port, 3-day contact reduction period in port for vaccinated science crew members.
- Pre-boarding negative COVID test for all seagoing staff or as needed.
- Continual daily monitoring of symptoms, rapid testing as needed.

How do you plan to communicate research results?

- Initial results will be communicated to the Bering Sea-Aleutian Islands Plan Team during their September 2022 meeting.
- Survey data and estimates are made available to stock assessment scientists on September 30th.
- Data are included in each Aleutian Islands Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation published by NOAA Fisheries.
- Station catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) data are made available on the NOAA FOSS website.



Edward "Ned" Laman, Survey team lead
Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering (RACE) Division,
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Email: ned.laman@noaa.gov