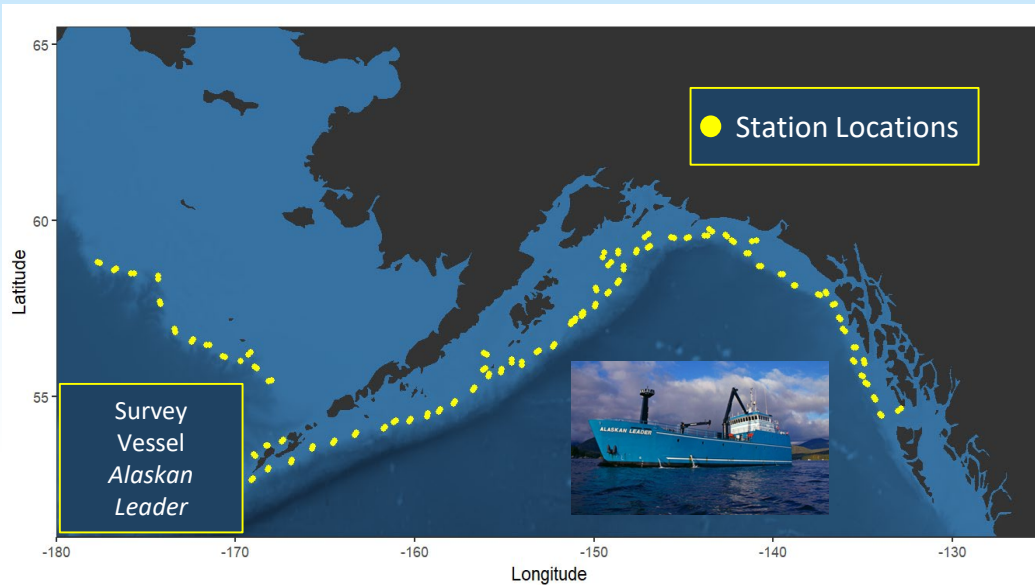




Alaska Fisheries Science Center Longline Survey

May 28 – August 28, 2021



Map showing station locations in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska of the 2021 AFSC Longline Survey. The survey samples groundfish populations in depths from 150-1000 m along the continental shelf and upper slope.

Who is conducting the research?

This project is supported by NOAA Fisheries through the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Cooperative Research Program. The Cooperative Research Program provides financial support and the Center provides scientists to oversee the collection and analyses of survey data and contracts with an industry fishing vessel (F/V *Alaskan Leader*) to execute this 3-month groundfish survey. The survey utilizes a cost-recovery model, whereby the catch is sold by the vessel contractor to offset operational expenses, including crew wages, fuel, and fixed vessel costs.

What is the research objective?

The overall research objective is to conduct a fisheries-independent survey of groundfish resources throughout Alaskan waters. The Longline Survey is specifically designed to provide a relative population index for assessing sablefish, or black cod, but its data is also useful for several other groundfish species. The survey occurs in habitats that are not well sampled by trawl surveys due to the deep depths and rough bottoms where the gear is deployed.

Where is the research being conducted?

The Longline Survey is conducted throughout Alaska. It samples in the Gulf of Alaska every year and alternates between the Bering Sea (odd-numbered years) and the Aleutian Islands (even-numbered years) every other year.

Why is the data important? How will data be used?

The data collected by the survey is the primary index used in the Alaska sablefish stock assessment. The data is also used to assess other groundfish species, including Greenland turbot, Pacific cod, shortspine thornyhead, rockfish (including roughey, blackspotted, and shortraker rockfish), sharks, and grenadiers. The stock assessments determine population estimates and trends and ultimately are used for producing harvest recommendations presented to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for setting annual fishery quotas.

Schedule for the 2021 Alaska Fisheries Science Center Longline Survey

Leg 1 (Bering Sea), Dutch Harbor to Dutch Harbor	May 28 – June 15
Leg 2 (Western GOA), Dutch Harbor to Ketchikan	June 15 – July 4
Leg 3 (Southeastern GOA), Ketchikan to Yakutat	July 4 – July 20
Leg 4 (Northeastern GOA), Yakutat to Cordova	July 20 – August 4
Leg 5 (Central GOA), Cordova to Kodiak	August 4 – August 16
Leg 6 (Central GOA) Kodiak to Dutch Harbor	August 16 – August 28
Survey data analysis	August 28 – September
Stock assessments presented to NPFMC	November
Survey data available online and via cruise report	December

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

- Scientists shelter-in-place for 7 days upon arrival in port of departure.
- Two negative COVID-19 PCR tests are received prior to boarding the survey vessel.
- Crew and scientists self-monitor for COVID symptoms during the survey and follow rules regarding personal infection controls (masking, hygiene, distance where possible, etc.) and disinfection of surfaces while aboard.
- To all practical extent, all hands aboard the vessel maintain a 'bubble' of isolation from outside contact until the survey is completed.
- Scientists restrict activities 7 days after survey travel and before resuming work and community activities.

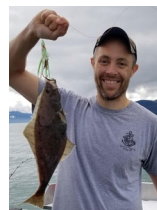
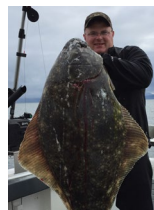
How do you plan to communicate research results?

Data from the 2021 survey will be provided to stock assessment scientists in September and stock assessments will be presented to the Council in November. Raw survey data will be made available to the general public online (see below) and via a cruise report that will be available as an Alaska Fisheries Science Center Processed Report in December.

Longline survey data can be found here:

<https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/maps/longline/Map.php>

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/publication-database/alaska-fisheries-science-center-processed-reports>



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