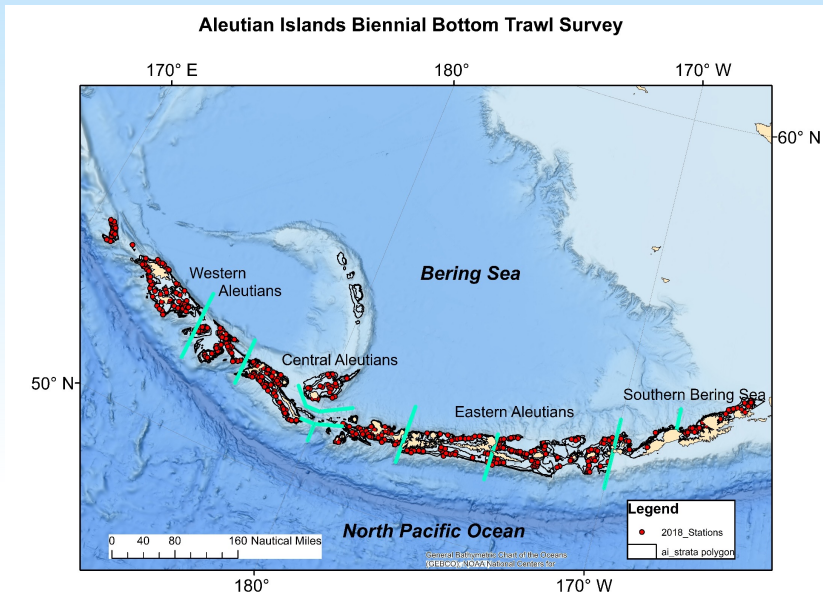




Aleutian Islands Biennial Bottom Trawl Survey

June 6 to August 15, 2022



Who is conducting the research?

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center of NOAA Fisheries conducts the 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.

What is the research objective?

The overall objective to characterize the ecologically and economically important fish, crab, and other resources that live on or near the seafloor. The precise fishing methods of the survey yields observations of species, their densities, and 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. The survey includes the continental shelf to a depth of 500 m on both the north and south sides of the archipelago.

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. Collected data include species abundance, length and age composition, and environmental observations.

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

The fishery-independent survey provides a measure of relative or absolute abundance for economically important groundfishes managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Abundance estimates and indices and other biological data such as size and age composition and growth are integrated into stock assessments conducted by NMFS scientists that provide 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 that assure the correct actions are taken to assure sustainable fisheries.

Environmental data 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



U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Gina M. Raimondo

NOAA Administrator and
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere
Rick Spinrad

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
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1315 East-West Highway
SSMC 3, F/SF, Room 13362
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Schedule for the 2022 Aleutian Islands Biennial Bottom Trawl Survey

Survey preparation in Seattle	April 1 st -30 th
Team Shelter In Place beings	May 30 th
Mobilize Survey in Dutch Harbor	June 6 th
Survey operations begin	June 10 th
Leg Break and Crew Exchange in Adak Leg 1 (Shelter in Place and testing/boarding)	Jun 22 nd /Jul 1 st
Leg Break and Crew Exchange in Adak Leg 2 (Shelter in Place and testing/boarding)	July 15 nd /July 22 st
Survey operations end	August 15 th
Demobilization in Seattle	After Aug 28 th

*The dates and COVID SOP protocols have not been firmly established for this survey.

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

- General and Vessel Specific AFSC SOPs for Fieldwork for FY 22.
- 2 week reduced contact period prior to travel.
- Testing 2 days prior to travel with negative result.
- Masks, hand-washing, and social distancing as possible during travel.
- 14 Day SIP for unvaccinated staff, 7 or reduced SIP for vaccinated staff going to a highly vaccinated vessel.
- Pre-boarding testing for unvaccinated 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 AI Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation published by NOAA Fisheries.
- Station density data are made available on the NOAA website.



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