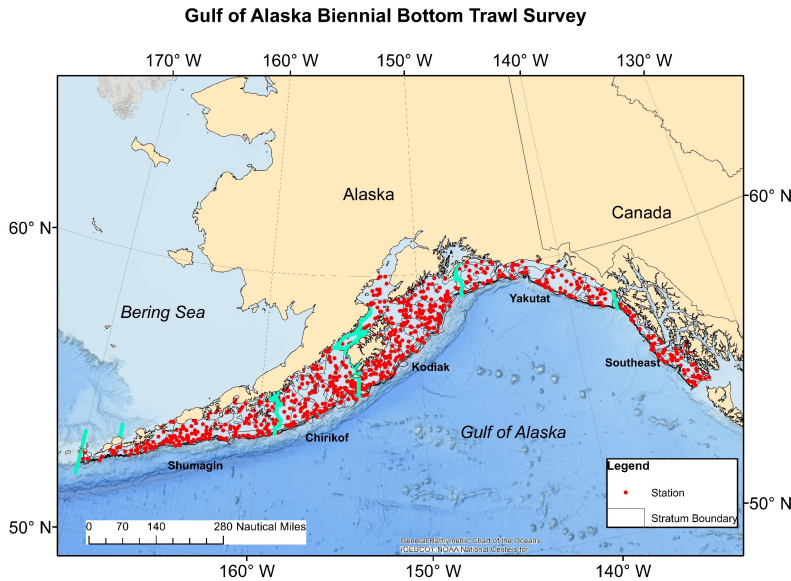




Gulf of Alaska Biennial Bottom Trawl Survey

May 17 to August 16, 2021



Map showing typical distribution of 550 bottom trawl stations in the Gulf of Alaska along a distance of 2,300 km from the Island of Four Mountains to Dixon Entrance. Stations are selected at random among strata based upon region, sub-region, and depth. The survey is conducted every other year during odd-numbered years. Collected data include species abundance, length and age composition, and environmental observations.

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 Gulf of Alaska from the Islands of Four Mountains (Samalga Pass) east to Dixon Entrance including the Shumagin Islands, Kodiak Island, lower Cook Inlet, and Southeast Alaska. The survey includes the wide and extensive continental shelf and upper slope to a depth of 700 m.

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 Gulf of Alaska.

See timetable and station map on back



U.S. Secretary of Commerce
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March 2021
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Schedule for the 2021 Gulf of Alaska Biennial Bottom Trawl Survey

Survey preparation in Seattle	April 1 st -30 th
Team Shelter In Place beings	May 10 th & 26 th
Mobilize Survey in Dutch Harbor	May 17 th & June 3 rd
Survey operations begin	May 22 nd & June 7 th
Leg Break and Crew Exchange in Kodiak (Shelter in Place and testing)	June 22 nd & July 9 th
Survey operations end	July 30 th & August 16 th
Demobilization in Seattle	After Aug 15 th

*The two chartered vessels are offset in time by 17 days.

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

- General and Vessel Specific AFSC SOPs for Fieldwork for FY 21.
- 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 Gulf of Alaska Plan team during their September 2021 meeting.
- Survey data and estimates are made available to stock assessment scientists on September 30th.
- Data are included in each GOA Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation published by NOAA Fisheries.
- Station density data are made available on the NOAA website.



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