

BEST-BSIERP Lead PI teleconference

Agenda and Meeting Notes

Tuesday, 12 August 2008, 0900-1030 Alaska time

Agenda

- Healy summer cruise (Hillgruber or Duffy-Anderson, Stabeno, Van Pelt)
- NOAA summer cruises (Hollowed)
- Intervessel calibration of acoustic survey vessels, RV Oscar Dyson and Miller Freeman; mechanical breakdown of Miller Freeman (Ressler)
- Seabird and whale observations (Friday, Byrd)
- Patch Dynamics (Trites, Byrd or Eischens)
- Modeling update (Aydin, Bond)
- Continuity problem in ROMS model (Coyle)
- PI meeting, draft schedule

<http://bsierp.nprb.org/meetings/index.html>

- Government rate available for PI meeting (\$99); transportation from airport to Girdwood will be arranged by NPRB

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Ken Coyle, Carrie Eischens, Tom Van Pelt, Francis Wiese, Nora Deans, Anne Hollowed, Patrick Ressler, Janet Duffy-Anderson, Nancy Friday, Vernon Byrd, Heather Renner, Mike Sigler, Ed Farley, Ron Heintz, Sarah Kruse, Carin Ashjian, Andrew Trites, Kerim Aydin, Gordon Kruse

- Healy summer cruise

Janet Duffy-Anderson: Post-larval cod and pollock sampling with MOCNESS, but fairly light catches until up near Pribilof Islands; drifters were released on May cruise, then drifter locations revisited in July (not much found at these locations), most found at Pribilof Islands; Alexei Pinchuk (euphausiids) also collected specimens for nutritional energy sampling for Heintz; juvenile beam trawl sampling planned for September in the same region (good sampling expected for cod and possibly arrowtooth flounder and good sampling for pollock expected from BASIS). Tom Van Pelt: Seabird sampling went well, also saw

an area of abundant fin whales, a few short-tailed albatross, a lot of mottled petrels (a little bit new); see BEST-BSIERP web site for other projects:

<http://bsierp.nprb.org/cruises/healy/hly0803/0803logbook.html>

Carin Ashjian noted that copepod grazing rates were not measured on the summer Healy cruise

- **Melville summer cruise (Stabeno):** Sailing 8/24, will complete oceanographic sampling of the eastern Bering Sea shelf, cold pool is extensive and persistent this year; minor vent erupting nearby Dutch Harbor this year

- **NOAA bottom trawl survey (Hollowed):** Temperature plots indicate that this year is "cold", similar to 1999 (coldest in historical record); 2-year old cod year class (2006) remains strong; pollock 2-year old year class not so strong; not much seen for age-1 of cod of pollock (2007); Arrowtooth flounder is too early to say about recruitment strength (needs more analysis of current survey data); neither cod or pollock adult biomass appear particularly strong (as expected); seachest worked well on first 2 legs, but failed on leg 3; obtained most planned zooplankton tows; stomach collections - many samples, successful effort this year to collect stomach samples at same time zooplankton collection was made; also collected forage fishes for nutritional energy analysis

- **NOAA Acoustic survey (Ressler):** most pollock encountered to the west; extensive physical oceanography information collected, both vertical and underway; analysis of multifrequency data for euphausiid abundance underway (~20 target tows), collected some age-1 pollock and Arctic cod for nutritional analysis; virtually no age-0 pollock encountered (as usual when they are not greatly abundant); 2-year pollock encountered but abundance not computed yet

- **Intervessel calibration of acoustic survey vessels, RV Oscar Dyson and Miller Freeman; mechanical breakdown of Miller Freeman (Ressler):** Two comparisons now have been completed: no consistent difference in 2006; results from 2008 now being analyzed. All BSIERP data collections planned for the Oscar Dyson; Miller Freeman suffered mechanical problems, back on line now

- **BASIS (Farley):** fisheries oceanography cruise coming up

- **Seabird and whale observations (Friday, Byrd):** Friday: marine mammal observers of each leg of the acoustics survey (2500 km surveyed); good numbers of fin and humpback whales, sufficient for good abundance estimates; Byrd: seabird observers went well; at-sea diet collections pretty successful; a little hard to do off the charter vessel FV Frosti, ended up with 30-50 samples of each target species; at the colonies, things have gone well for black-legged kittiwakes, though chick mortality has increased on the colonies (which affects telemetry): 15-20 tracks for each island, got good stomach and blood samples; murre work has just begun, telemetry not going as well (devices a bit large for the birds) and birds seem to be having trouble finding food; telemetry has been suspended until can figure out what to do; however accelerometers are being deployed; considered using just one or the other tag on the birds; testing dummies with both; will reach decision by week end

- **Patch Dynamics (Trites):** fur seal numbers appear to be down; only have tagged 5 animals so far; rookery structure now breaking down, plan to tag 20 animals by the end of September; Frosti cruise now done, very successful with excellent weather, 110 transects completed, found both patches of both prey and predators, patches were dependent on time of day, primarily noted age-0 and 1 pollock, juvenile

halibut; reconnaissance trip to Bogoslof went well; coordinated sampling between predator tagging and prey samplers - didn't actually occur, prey sampling primarily covered kittiwake work, but mostly missed murre and fur seal, as expected; something to examine for next year

- **LTK update (Kruse)** - working on finalizing the household and LTK surveys, planning to meet as a group prior to the PI meeting to finalize;

- **Modeling update (Aydin)** - primarily programming now, good progress on linking FEAST and NPZ

- **Continuity problem in ROMS model (Coyle)** - Ken found some discrepancies between predictions and typical observations; Ken is recommending that the biological and physical quantities be modeled in the same fashion, Mike will follow up with modelers

- **Anne Hollowed:** Student intern working with Steve Barbeaux on the distribution of larval pollock in a cold vs. a warm year.

PI meeting related (Sigler)

- PI meeting, draft schedule: agenda and other information available at:

<http://bsierp.nprb.org/meetings/index.html>

Send comments to Science Advisory Board members before their August 29 meeting.

- Government rate available for PI meeting (\$99); transportation from airport to Girdwood will be arranged by NPRB

Closer to the meeting, NPRB will poll people on their flights and schedule this transportation

Upcoming Lead PI meetings (Sigler)

- Make sure people fill out survey doodle for Sep - Dec meetings (Tom will send survey reminder)