

3-2. Food Production and Salmon Growth (Oral-13)

Spatial and Interannual Variability in Nutrients, Phytoplankton and Zooplankton in the Eastern Bering Sea: Results from U.S. BASIS Surveys for 2002-2007

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Physical and biological oceanographic data were collected during late summer / early fall in the eastern Bering Sea on U.S. BASIS cruises during 2002-2007. We compare variations in nutrient and chlorophyll a concentrations, and zooplankton taxonomic composition in relation to physical oceanographic features for warm and cold years. Our analysis will include comparisons of spatial variations across frontal regions and between physical sub domains (e.g. Inner, Middle and Outer Domains), and across large latitudinal gradients (southern compared to northern Bering Sea) for nutrients and plankton. This analysis will provide habitat information that relates to growth, abundance and distribution of juvenile salmon and their prey, and allow us to gain an understanding of the underlying oceanographic processes affecting the eastern Bering Sea ecosystem and potential response to climate fluctuations.