3-2. Food Production and Salmon Growth (Oral-14)

Effects of Diet Changes on the Energy Content of Juvenile Pink Salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* in the Eastern Bering Sea from 2003 to 2007

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Interannual variation in juvenile pink salmon *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* energy density was examined to assess the influence of a diet shift in the southeastern Bering Sea from 2003 to 2007. Juvenile pink salmon were collected during the United States BASIS surveys in the eastern Bering Sea to determine how ocean conditions affect the condition of these fish. Warmer spring and summer sea temperatures prevailed from 2003 to 2005 on the eastern Bering Sea shelf, whereas cooler spring and summer sea temperatures occurred from 2006 to 2007. During the same time period in the southeastern Bering Sea, a marked change in juvenile pink salmon diet occurred between the warm years and cool years; walleye pollock *Theragra chalcogramma* dominated the diet (60-75% wet mass) in warm years while euphausiids dominated the diet (45-75% wet mass) in cool years. Juvenile pink salmon energy densities were examined to determine if significant differences existed between warm years and cool years in the southeastern Bering Sea. These results can provide insights into how climate change and diet affect pink salmon survival in the subarctic.