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United States Cruise Plan for BASIS, September, 2009

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Introduction

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Marine Ecosystem and Stock Assessment (MESA) Program, BASIS group will conduct a survey during Fall 2009 within the eastern Bering Sea to provide key ecological data on the pelagic ecosystem. Primary objectives of the survey will be to: 1) collect biological information on ecologically important fish species and to 2) describe the physical and biological oceanographic conditions of the eastern Bering Sea waters.

Survey

A survey of epi-pelagic fish species, zooplankton, ichthyoplankton, and oceanographic measurements will be conducted at stations within the eastern Bering Sea aboard the NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson. The survey will begin 2 September 2009 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska and end on 30 September 2009 in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, for a total of 27 sea days (Fig. 1; Table 1).

The cruise will be conducted aboard the NOAA ship *Oscar Dyson*. Fish samples will be collected using a midwater rope trawl. At each station, the net will be towed at or near the surface for 30 minutes at speeds between 3.5 and 5 kts.

All fish species will be counted and standard biological measurements including length and weight will be taken from subsamples of each species. Diets of subsamples of marine fish will be examined onboard.

Biological and physical oceanographic data will be collected at each trawl station as well as opportunistically during the survey.

Table 1. Tentative cruise itinerary for BASIS research cruise – R/V *Oscar Dyson*, September 1 – 30, 2009.

Date	Location/Activity
LEG 1	
Sep 1	Embark scientific party/Load Gear
Sep 2	Depart Dutch Harbor; transit to 55.00N, 165W
Sep 3-15	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects between 161W to 167W (Fig. 1)
Sep 16, 17	Leg change in Dutch Harbor
LEG 2	
Sep 18	Depart Dutch Harbor, transit to 56.30N, 169W
Sep 19-29	Complete Station grid working north and south, along transects (Fig. 1)
Sep 30	Inport Dutch Harbor, Alaska

Fig. 1. Proposed survey stations for the BASIS research cruise along the eastern Bering Sea, September 1 to 30, 2009 on board the R/V *Oscar Dyson*.

