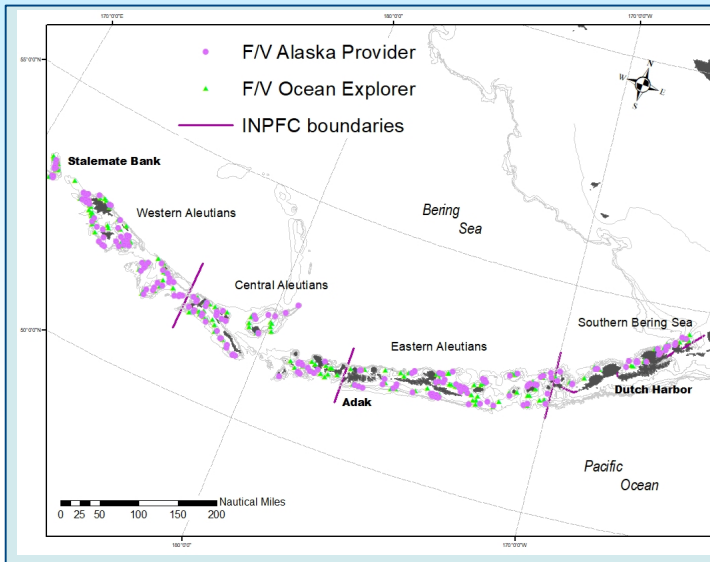




Aleutian Islands Biennial Summer Bottom Trawl Survey

4 June to 13 August, 2024



Survey area and station map for 2024 Aleutian Islands bottom trawl survey. There are 400 stations allocated to 2 chartered fishing vessels across the ~1,700 km from Unimak Pass to Stalemate Bank

What is the research objective?

To characterize the ecologically and economically important fish, crab, and other species that live on or near the seafloor. The standardized survey fishing methods of the provide observations of species, their densities, and biological characteristics such as length, gender, age, and feeding habits. These observations become abundance time series used in stock assessments and ecological models.

Who is conducting the research?

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center of NOAA Fisheries conducts the biennial bottom trawl surveys aboard chartered commercial fishing vessels. Survey teams consist of commercial fishers and survey scientists including NOAA staff, contractors, and fishery observers.

Where is the research being conducted?

The survey is conducted in the Aleutian Islands between Unimak Pass in the east and Stalemate Bank in the west. The survey covers the continental shelf from nearshore to a depth of 500 m on both the north and south sides of the archipelago.

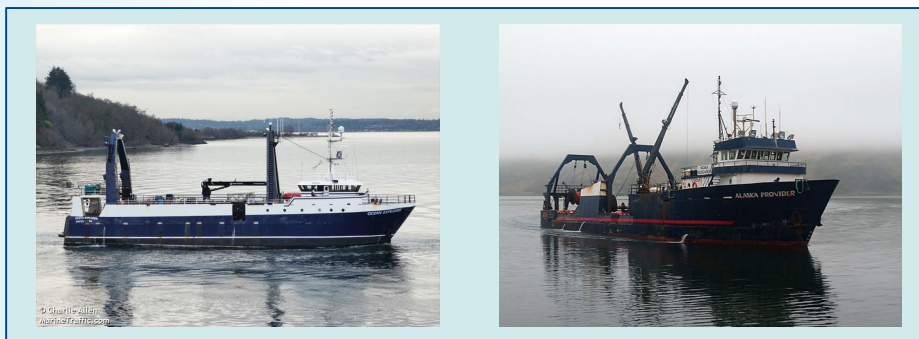
Why are the data important? How will data be used?

This fishery-independent survey provides abundance and biomass estimates to monitor population trends of ecologically and economically important groundfishes and invertebrates. Other information, such as length and age composition or growth rates are integrated into stock assessments conducted by NMFS scientists to assess 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. Bottom trawl survey results can provide early indications of population and ecosystem changes, helping to inform management decisions that assure sustainable fisheries.

Environmental data collected on the survey, such as water temperature, light level, and salinity, provide scientists additional information to characterize the overall health of the Aleutian Islands ecosystem.

Research Schedule

Science Teams fly to Dutch Harbor, AK	3-5 June
Vessel setup and mobilization in Dutch Harbor, AK	4-7 June
Leg 1: Bottom trawling begins	6-7 June
Crew change in Dutch Harbor, AK	27 June
Leg 2: Bottom trawling begins	28 June
Crew change in Adak, AK	20 July
Leg 3: Bottom trawling begins	21 July
Survey ends, demobilization in Dutch Harbor, AK	12-13 August



How do you plan to communicate research results? (e.g., outreach document, webstory, radio interview, community meeting, etc.)

- Initial results will be communicated to the Joint Groundfish Plan Team during their September 2024 meeting
- Survey data products will be made available to stock assessment scientists by October 1, 2024
- NOAA Tech Memo summarizing survey results will be published in 2025
- Haul-level catch data will be made available to the public on the Fisheries One Stop Shop: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foss>

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