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National Marine Fisheries Service

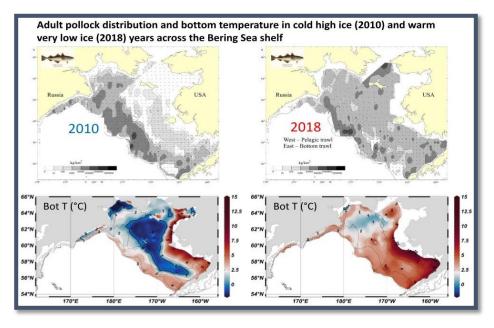
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

2021 AFSC Seminar Series

Lisa Eisner, AFSC EMA

Tuesday, March 2nd @ 10 am Pacific

Environmental impacts on Walleye Pollock distribution across the Eastern and Western Bering Sea shelf



Adult and juvenile (age-1) walleye pollock were sampled by the US NOAA AFSC summer bottom trawl survey in 2010, 2017, 2018, and 2019 in the northeastern and southeastern Bering Sea, with profiles of temperature collected concurrently. Similarly, the Russian Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography collected adult and juvenile pollock and temperature profiles on summer bottom trawl surveys in the northwestern Bering Sea.

Results from these surveys show that adult pollock abundance in recent years (2017, 2018, 2019) has increased in northern regions of the Bering Sea shelf in both the US and Russian sectors. Lower abundances, compared to historic means, were observed in southern regions of the shelf, suggesting the pollock moved directionally from the south to the north. Changes in sea-ice and bottom temperature (e.g., reductions in ice extent and shrinking of the cold pool), and changes in circulation led to changes in distributions of adult and age-1 pollock. Size structure comparisons between NW, NE and SE sections of the Bering Sea shelf suggest that movement of fish between US and Russian waters may have been highest in 2019, one of the two warmest years, and lowest in 2010, the coldest year.

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