The Fishery Interaction Team: Aleutian Islands pollock and Steller sea lion research

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Status of Stocks and Multispecies Assessment
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2008 Aleutian Islands Cooperative Acoustic Survey Study

- L. Logerwell, S. Barbeaux, L. Fritz
- Funded by NPRB (Project #730)
- Goal:
  - Whether cooperative biomass assessments and surveys could be an effective way to manage fisheries at the local scales that are important to predators such as Steller sea lions.
- Methods:
  - Aerial survey of Steller sea lion rookery and haulouts from 173°-179° W longitude, Mar. 23 - 29
  - SSL scat sampling of haulouts and rookeries from 173°-179° W longitude, Mar. 30 – Apr. 9
  - Nighttime cooperative acoustic survey 174°-178° W Longitude using F/V Muir Milach, Mar. 23-27, same transects as R/V Oscar Dyson survey
F/V Muir Milach

- 32 meter stern trawler
- ES 60 echosounder with a 38kHz transducer
Kasatochi Is.

Atka mackerel

Atka mackerel

Pollock

179°W 178°W 177°W 176°W 175°W 174°W 173°W

SSL counts (Mar 24-25)

Tanaga Is.

Head Rock

Kasatochi Is.

Kagalaska

Cape Korovin

North Cape

Amlia Is.

Seguam Is.

Delarof Is.

Kanaga Is.

Lake Point

Adak Is.

Agligadak

179°W 178°W 177°W 176°W 175°W 174°W 173°W

SSL diet (Apr 2-12)

Frequency of occurrence

Pollock

Atka mackerel

Rockfish

Pacific cod

Kanaga Is.

Kasatochi Is.

Atka Is.

Amlia Is.

Seguam Is.

c. Pollock - R/V Oscar Dyson (Feb 16-29)

Pollock - F/V Muir Milach (Mar 23-27)
Conclusions

• Results from the *F/V Muir Milach*, although more variable, closely match the *R/V Oscar Dyson* survey.

• Pollock abundance in the Central Aleutian Islands remains low.

• The diets of Steller sea lions on haul-outs near areas where high densities of pollock were observed showed high frequency of occurrence of pollock.

• Local pollock aggregations are important for sea lions in the central Aleutians during winter.

• Paper (Logerwell et al.) approved to be submitted to Marine Ecology Progress Series
Contact information

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