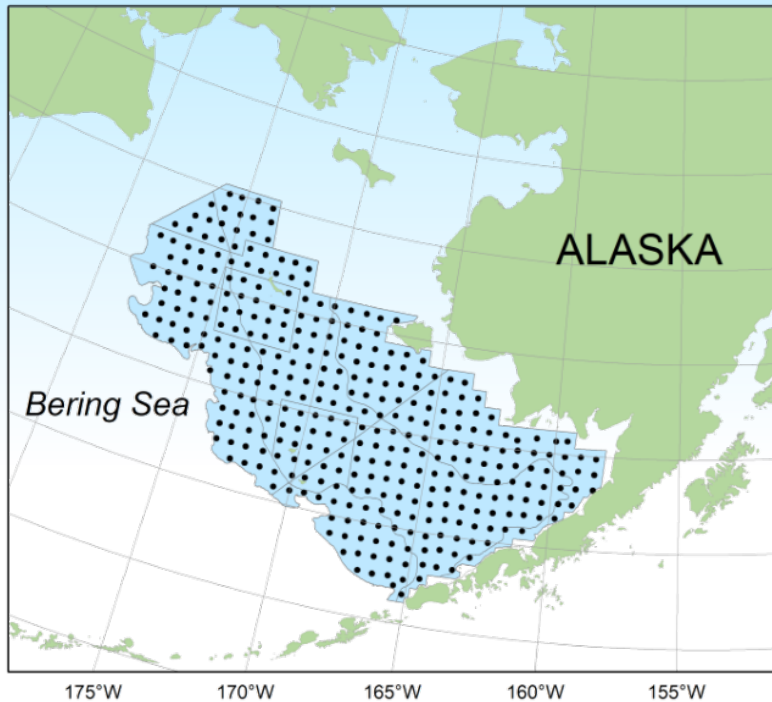




Annual Bottom Trawl Survey of the Eastern Bering Sea May 24th - July 31st 2025



Who is conducting the research?

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center will be leading the survey effort with participation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G), International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), and regional universities.

What is the research objective?

The objectives of this survey are to monitor the marine ecosystem of the eastern Bering Sea, produce fishery-independent biomass and abundance estimates for commercially important fish and crab species, and collect other biological and environmental data for use in ecosystem-based fishery management.

What are you sampling and where?

We plan to sample bottom-dwelling fish, crab and other marine life on two chartered fishing vessels, *FV Alaska Knight* and *FV Northwest Explorer*, in the eastern Bering Sea from May through July 2025 (see map and Table). In total, we plan to sample 350 survey stations, conducting one 30-minute bottom trawl at each station. We also plan to conduct research on new survey gear and methodology, as part of a survey modernization effort.

What kind of gear will be used?

Sampling will be done using the 83/112 Eastern bottom trawl, which is much smaller and lighter weight than commercial fisheries trawls. The survey is based on sampling a systematic 20 × 20 nm grid using standardized techniques that have been consistently used since 1982. Scientists will sample 350 stations during daylight hours. All organisms caught will be identified to species and weighed. Fishes and crabs will be measured, sexed, and sampled for stomach contents and age structure. We also plan to take measurements of water column profiles at each trawl location using a trawl-mounted temperature and salinity probe.

How will the information be used?

The data will be used by scientists to track abundance and distribution trends of fish, crab, and other bottom-dwelling marine species over time. Biological and oceanographic data will also be used in ecosystem modeling efforts conducted by AFSC and other scientists. All data will be made available to the public.

Schedule for the 2025 Eastern Bering Sea Shelf Survey

Begin survey mobilization in Dutch Harbor, AK	May 24th
Survey vessels depart Dutch Harbor, AK	May 27th
Survey operations begin	June 1st
Survey operations end	July 31st
Transition to NBS survey area	August 1st

*Tentative schedule as of Feb 21, 2025.

What steps are you taking to ensure that your research does not impact subsistence hunting?

- Once finalized, survey lead will communicate general survey schedule to subsistence hunters in the region.
- Survey lead will maintain regular contact with tribal liaisons in the Bering Sea region.
- During the survey, daily sampling plans will be available real-time through the program's web site: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/science-data/near-real-time-temperatures-eastern-bering-sea-bottom-trawl-survey-2024#survey-progress-and-bottom-temperatures>

How do you plan to communicate research results?

- Initial results will be communicated to the BSAI Plan Team during their September 2025 meeting
- Survey data products will be made available to stock assessment scientists by October 1, 2025
- NOAA Tech Memo summarizing survey results will be published in early 2026
- Haul-level catch data will be made available to the public on the Fisheries One Stop Shop: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foss>
- AFSC scientists will participate in various local and regional communication activities



Howard Lutnick
Secretary of Commerce

Vice Admiral Nancy Hann
Deputy Under Secretary for
Operations and performing the
duties of Under Secretary of
Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere and NOAA
Administrator

Emily Menashes
Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Operations for NOAA
Fisheries, performing the duties
of Acting Assistant Secretary for
Oceans and Atmosphere and
Acting

February 2025
www.fisheries.noaa.gov

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way
Seattle, WA 98115



FV Alaska Knight



FV Northwest Explorer

Photo: International Year of the Salmon



Duane Stevenson, Survey team lead
Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering (RACE) Division,
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115
Email: duane.stevenson@noaa.gov