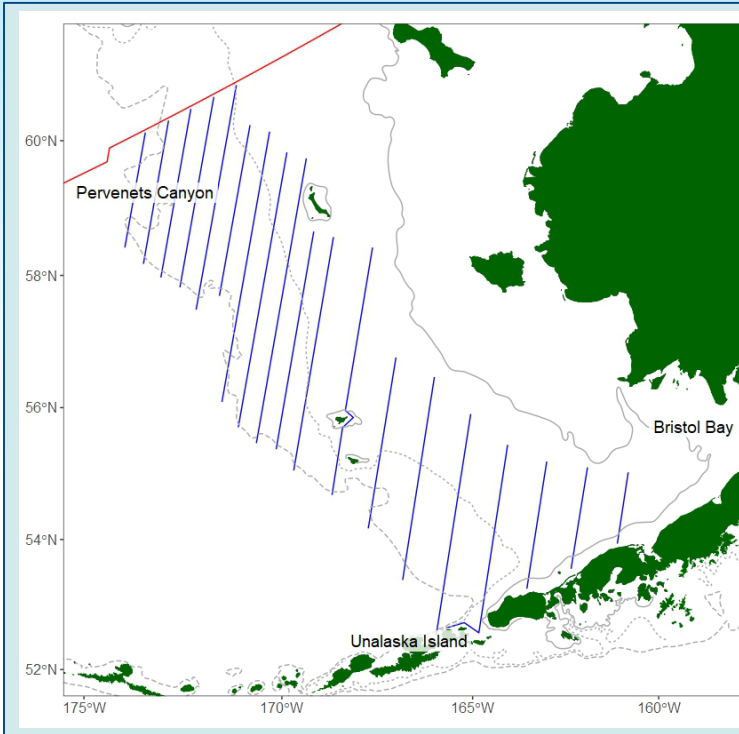




## 2024 Summer Acoustic-Trawl Survey of Walleye Pollock in the Bering Sea

June 5 - July 20, 2024



*Survey area and planned transects for the 2024 summer acoustic-trawl survey of walleye pollock in the Bering Sea. 70 opportunistic trawls are planned across the ~4500 nm of acoustic sampling from Bristol Bay to the U.S.-Russia convention line (red).*

### What is the research objective?

The objective is to estimate the abundance and distribution of age-1+ walleye pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) across the eastern Bering Sea shelf to inform stock assessment modeling and resource management. Scientists will use acoustic backscatter and targeted trawling to achieve this objective. In addition, data on forage species (e.g., krill) will be collected, and related research on small camera systems and the feasibility of nighttime acoustic survey sampling will be done.

### Who is conducting the research?

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Midwater Assessment and Conservation Engineering (MACE) Program will work aboard the NOAA Ship *Oscar Dyson*. A visiting scientist from Korea will be on Leg 1, and a teacher will be on Leg 2 as part of NOAA's Teacher-At-Sea program.

### Where is the research being conducted?

This survey covers the eastern Bering Sea (EBS) shelf from Bristol Bay in the east to the U.S.-Russia convention line in the west. Previous surveys have typically covered the same area, including part of the Russian EEZ in some years. Midwater acoustic-trawl surveys of the eastern Bering Sea have been conducted since 1979: triennially through 1994, and either annually or biennially since 1994.

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

Data from the Bering Sea acoustic-trawl surveys provide estimates of pollock numbers and biomass by length and age, environmental observations, and observations on other species in the water column. These are key inputs to the eastern Bering Sea Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation and Ecosystem reports provided by the Groundfish Plan Teams to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for science-based management of the pollock fishery.

## Schedule for the 2024 EBS Summer Walleye Pollock Survey

Embark Leg 1 scientific party, survey vessel departs Dutch Harbor, AK, calibration of shipboard acoustics	June 5
Transit to start of survey in Bristol Bay	June 5 - 6
Acoustic-trawl survey of the EBS shelf and shelf break- Leg 1	June 6 - 24
Dyson in-port Dutch Harbor, AK, Science party personnel change	June 25 - 28
Acoustic-trawl survey of the EBS shelf and shelf break- Leg 2	June 29 - July 18
Calibration of shipboard acoustics	July 19
End survey operations	July 20

### How will this research benefit Alaska communities and stakeholders?

This fishery-independent survey is a crucial part of the pollock stock assessment and ecosystem indicators that ensure the stability and continued health of the fishery in the eastern Bering Sea.



NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson

### How do you plan to communicate research results?

A short written summary of preliminary results will be available to the public after the survey end. Final results will be presented at the September 2024 Bering Sea and Aleutian Island Plan Team meeting hosted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and AFSC, and in an AFSC Processed Report.



**Gina Raimondo**  
Secretary of Commerce

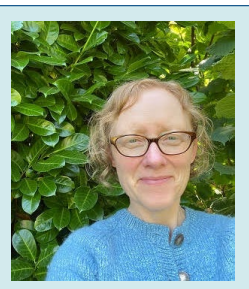
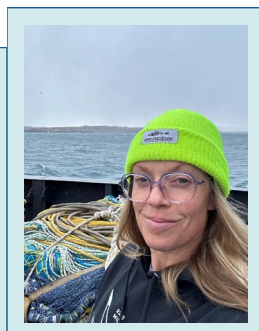
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**December 2024**

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