

BEST-BSIERP monthly PI teleconference

Agenda and Meeting Notes

April 14, 2009, 900-1030 am Alaska time

Agenda

- 1) PIs attending will be asked to briefly describe current BEST-BSIERP activities (last month, upcoming month).
- 2) PI meeting dates: Week of October 13-15 in Girdwood, AK
- 3) BSIERP Progress Reports

In attendance: Kerim Aydin, Ron Heintz, Bill Wiseman, Tom Van Pelt, Kathy Kuletz, Patrick Ressler, Lorenzo Ciannelli, Marc Mangel, Nick Bond, Nicola Hillgruber, Nancy Friday, Andrew Trites, Kate Hedstrom, Jennifer Sepez, Janet Duffy-Anderson

Notes

- 1) PIs attending will be asked to briefly describe current BEST-BSIERP activities (last month, upcoming month).

Lorenzo Ciannelli: Examining historical collections of pollock eggs and larvae, about 20 years of data. 3 clusters of eggs, one centered around Unimak Pass, another centered farther to the north along the Alaska Peninsula, the third around the Pribilof Islands. Examined timing of egg production: an early peak near Unimak Pass around March 15 (Unimak), a second peak around May 1 (Alaskan Peninsula), third peak in May-June time frame (Pribilof Islands). Submitted to Fish Oceanography. Plan for coming month: doing similar analysis with the pollock catch data to look at the distribution of adult animals.

Kathy Kuletz: Healy 1 cruise. 1400 km of transects, 900 in ice. Different suite of birds between ice and open water. Thick billed murre were most abundant in open water, kittletz's murrelets, spectacled eiders and one other species were the most abundant in ice. Walrus was dominant marine mammal in ice. Fewer birds and greater mammals during this cruise.

Tom van Pelt: Very successful cruise. Over 17 walrus tags deployed. Most animals tagged on west side of polynya. 8 ice stations. Spectacled eiders concentration was located. Collected a huge number of clams

for isotope experiments. Ice was quite far north initially, but later a north wind blew the ice south and also stretched the polynya out. Lots of press on board (e.g., ABC camera crew, NPR, print media). Tom wrote several stories on the web site and the second cruise also is well covered.

Andrew Trites: 69 walrus scats. Well organized cruise. Next week Vern Byrd and Andrew will go to Pribilof Islands for Bering Sea days and report on BEST-BSIERP. Preparing for last year of field work for patch dynamics.

Kate Hedstrom: Finished first 2-decade run; setting up for the 5-decade run (all hindcasts). Seth Danielson is reviewing 20-year run.

Ron Heintz: Processing energy content and energy partitioning samples; just finished acoustic surveys, holding off on FOCI samples to work out methods with these tiny individuals.

Nicola Hillgruber: Working up BEST summer cruise samples; preparing for summer Knorr cruise.

Patrick Ressler: Sitting in for Anne Hollowed. BASIS draft cruise plan is being distributed (Mike will distribute to BEST-BSIERP PI list); requested a reallocation of funds from acoustic survey to an extension of forage species work and also to extend functional response work. Lining up a post-doc for analyzing acoustic data. Two presentations coming up in May, the first at the acoustic survey meeting and then an ICES meeting (on euphausiid target strength); Preparing for acoustic survey. Will provide acoustic line transects to Kelly Benoit-Bird for patch dynamics work.

Nancy Friday: Submitted data and metadata to NPRB. In process selecting a post-doc for data analysis.

Jennifer Sepez: Back to work. Welcome back!

Janet Duffy-Anderson: Post-doc has analyzed historical distribution data for pollock and cod. Added 2008, another cold year data. Working with both biotic and abiotic data. February cruise occurred which collected additional samples in support of BEST-BSIERP. Again used genetic method to separate Kamchatka and arrowtooth flounders with possible extension to using microscopic methods to

distinguish the 2 species (which could be applied to historic collections). Preparing for May NPCREP cruise. Will try to sample both geographic regions planned for summer cruise.

Nick Bond: Revised physical ROMS model which incorporates tides accounts for shelf hydrographic structure better than old ROMS model.

Kerim Aydin: Just finished up pollock and arrowtooth flounder diet samples from last summer, cod still left to do. On the modeling side, programming the vertical model. Have new computing cluster now.

Marc Mangel: Just starting. Now have a practice model running with two forage fish species, two piscivorous species, and one predator species. Asking the question of how important is it to account for the predator more than just it's biomass. Beginning to fit parameters. Going beyond a biomass dynamics model to incorporate more detail such as animal size. In contact with bird and mammal folks. Terms of reference for modelers and biologists on what the models can and cannot do.

2) PI meeting dates: Week of October 13-15 in Girdwood, AK

3) BSIERP Progress Reports: currently due, almost all in, looking for a few updates, but in general a great response; soon will post to the web site

4) ESSAS meeting in Seattle 18-19 June, and the beginning of the planning process for the ESSAS Open Science Meeting planned for June 2011. In particular, as part of ESSAS, it would be interesting to know what BEST and BSIERP would like to get out of the ESSAS OSM. It would seem possible that we could plan a day or so of talks on the Bering, or alternatively, we could structure the meeting more by "trophic level" and develop comparisons between the Bering and other sub-arctic or even Antarctic regions. Some feedback would be appreciated. George

Next monthly meeting: May 12, 9:00-10:30 Alaska time