

Thomas Van Pelt

From: best_bsierp@list.arcus.org on behalf of Mike Sigler [Mike.Sigler@noaa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 11:30
To: Bering BEST BSIERP PI list
Subject: MEETING NOTES: Bering Sea Study, monthly call
Attachments: Mike_Sigler.vcf

Agenda, Thursday July 23, 900-1030 am Alaska time

1. Describe recent or upcoming news from your project
2. FYI: Spring (April 2010) Healy cruise
3. FYI: NSF synthesis money (possibility of a second year of synthesis funding is being explored)
4. PICES Annual Science Meeting, participation of a BEST-BSIERP observer

Meeting notes, Thursday July 23, 900-1030 am Alaska time

In attendance: Kathy Kuletz, Ken Coyle, Tom van Pelt, Will Satterwaithe, Kerim Aydin, Andrew Trites, Anne Hollowed, Elizabeth Siddon, Carin Ashjian, Jennifer Sepez, Mike Sigler, Francis Wiese, Nancy Friday, Ron Heintz, Kate Hedstrom, Mike Sigler

Andrew Trites, Anne Hollowed, Enrique Curchitser and one NPRB staff plan to attend the PICES Annual Science Meeting in Jeju, South Korea in October 2009

Kathy Kuletz: Seabird observers remain on the acoustics survey; finished on the Knorr; preparing for the surface trawl survey; looks like kittiwakes are a little sparse this year with fewer birds to the northwest (but need to run the numbers); St George, St Paul and Bogoslof seabird camps are all active; Kittiwakes are failing at St George and St Paul; can't get the needed diet samples; kittiwakes seem to be doing better at Bogoslof but hard to access; plan to collect diet samples for kittiwakes at sea instead; Goldrush and Frosti at sea collecting prey data (started July 18) and also deploying drifters; have a total of 10 tracks so far from Pribilofs and 6 tracks from Bogoslof, have retrieved 25 geolocators deployed last year which will describe winter distribution. Stress blood sampling going well. Proximate analysis of seabirds not done yet (Kathy will check with Dan Roby).

Andrew Trites: 2 prey sampling boats (Frosti and Goldrush) started July 18; not much to report yet; bad weather so far; fur seal sampling going well, tagging started on July 11 (before prey sampling began), one tag recovered so far: shows Bogoslof animal closer to shore than Pribilof animals (like seabirds); goal is to have 12 tags out at each island group; as an aside, Andrew saw unusual numbers of black legged kittiwakes on a recent BC sea lion cruise.

Ken Coyle: more data delivered, due some data from Kathy Kuletz and Kerim Aydin (May due dates). Kathy and Kerim responded: will send by next week. Requested some time at the PI meeting to discuss what tools will be needed for synthesis.

Will Satterwaithe: Met with Andrew Trites on fur seal biology which led to model modification to better match life history and fur seal data that is being collected

Kerim Aydin: Working on the vertical model together with Georgina; used 1-D model to compare warm and cold years that suggest nutritional stress as a factor; Georgina has implemented a 3-D NPZ model which will be matched with the 3-D FEAST model

Anne Hollowed: Steve Barbeaux has been examining depth and temperature effects on spawning timing of pollock and developing a model which has decent predictive power for predicting location of pollock spawning locations; acoustic survey has completed 2 legs, the cold pool extends well into the southern Bering Sea; don't have information about bottom trawl survey; current plan is to release information on acoustic survey at FISH-model meeting scheduled for August 11-13

Elizabeth Siddon: Knorr cruise went great (91 ichthyoplankton stations, significant improvement in spatial distribution and double the sample size compared to 2008); preliminary examination of the drogue net shows catches of the 3 target species (pollock, cod and ATF); examination of the 2008 data nearly complete (horizontal and vertical distribution)

Jennifer Sepez: Completed harvest surveys in each of the participating communities (second data point) to compare to historical data; Jennifer is working with Kerim and Sarah Gaichas to conduct a trophic level analysis of the harvest surveys; Jennifer traveled to Emmonak to meet community participants

Tom van Pelt: Traveled with Henry Huntington and Chad Jay to Savoonga for LTK work.

Nancy Friday: Work quiet so far, working to bring on post-doc (Alex Zerbin)

Ron Heintz: Redesign of assays is complete

Kate Hedstrom: Modeling ongoing and will be reported at PI meeting.

Elizabeth Siddon: Knorr cruise otherwise went very well. Lots of work done. Crew efficient.

Tom van Pelt: Will contact Ray Sambrotto to post Knorr cruise messages on NPRB web site

Phyllis Stabeno: El nino underway (declared 3 weeks ago [predicted moderate to strong], may see some Bering Sea effects by September, requested people document unusual observations (e.g. repeat "lines" in Bering Sea in September); unloading Knorr on Monday in Seattle; very big cold pool this year, extending into coastal domain, 20-m mixed layer, winds weak); found all of the moorings; nutrient load on NE shelf appears very low (not quite sure what that means)

Post-meeting discussion with Anne, Kathy, Andrew, Tom and Francis regarding prey sampling around the Pribilofs

Kathy requested that acoustics survey complete patch dynamics circles; Kathy will discuss with seabird Pis whether a delayed sample is worthwhile; if yes, Kathy will send information on circle locations to Chris Wilson

Prey sampling information: Vessels currently not working due to high seas (12-16 ft); e-mail on

Frosti not working but can relay by radio to Goldrush; requested prey information from Chris Wilson

Mike Sigler wrote:

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