

BEST-BSIERP monthly PI teleconference

Agenda and Meeting Notes

Tuesday May 12, 2009, 900-1000 am Alaska time

In attendance: Kerim Aydin, Jeff Napp, Tom Van Pelt, Marc Mangel, Lorenzo Ciannelli, Sarah Kruse, Nancy Friday, Elizabeth Siddon, Bill Wiseman, Jennifer Sepez, Kathy Kuletz, Phyllis Stabeno, Nate Bachelor, Ken Coyle

Agenda

1. Progress Reports provide good information and are useful to read
2. Highlight NOAA cruises on web site going beyond cruise summaries to provide more frequent news items during the cruise
3. New round of sub-award (contract) agreements to fund FY 2010-2011. Any lurking budget issues that would impact the new agreement? None noted. Let Tom know because plan to finalize by end of month.
4. PIs attending will be asked to briefly describe current BEST-BSIERP activities (last month, upcoming month).

Notes

1. Mike reminded everyone that latest round of biannual progress reports are in and posted on the web: <http://bsierp.nprb.org/results/progress.html>
2. We encourage NOAA cruise participants to provide news items during cruises; any kind of color commentary would be great. Nora, Carolyn, and Tom at NPRB can help turn your material (stories, photos) into web postings. Just get in touch if you (or colleagues or students) are interested.
3. Alerted everyone that new round of sub-award agreements (aka contracts) to fund FY2010-2011 are currently being prepared. Do PIs have any budget issues that would impact the new agreement? None were noted during the call. Let Tom know asap if you do have issues; planning to send out new agreements by the end of May.
4. Current activities:

Ken Coyle: Quite a bit of data coming in now; some delays but are being addressed. For example, zooplankton, Pribilof prey, Cokelet oceanographic data sets have arrived. Talked about implementing AMIS changes to help with data management.

Kathy Kuletz: Prep for colony work occurring, especially Bogoslof which will be challenging. New seabird tags coming and testing will occur. Training planned for tag and other data sampling protocols. Work on St. George Island will begin May 16. New component through general NPRB RFP is funding placement of geolocators on thick billed murres and black legged kittiwakes that will be recovered next year to determine where these birds are overwintering (project 911). For patch dynamics, there are two boats (Frosti and Gold Rush) planned for the Pribilof and Bogoslof Islands. One challenge is the need to do more night sampling for prey and predators- looking into using night vision equipment for bird surveys, or increasing sampling around crepuscular hours. Requested collection of stomachs from thick-billed murres (will get black-legged kittiwake diet information at colony). Healy seabird observations complete; similar results to last year. Some large concentrations. Someone also on FOCI cruises. Again lots of birds especially near Aleutian passes. Also will have observers on USFWS vessel.

Ebett Siddon: Continuing to work on samples. Nearly complete on some of last year's cruises. Otherwise preparing for Knorr cruise.

Jeff Napp: Cruise out right now. Two grids, one near Alaska Peninsula and another near Pribilof Islands. Intended to be replicated during Knorr summer cruise. Finding late stage pollock eggs. Good success identifying larval arrowtooth flounder both morphologically and genetically. Retrospective analysis of cod, pollock, arrowtooth flounder data complete (from FOCI data sets).

Phyllis Stabeno: Healy cruise just finished today. First mooring cruise also complete; made it to M2 and M4 because of substantial ice retreat just prior to cruise. Found one of two missing moorings. Very cold (e.g., -0.5 C at M2) but stratification is beginning as winds are dying down (earlier than last year). Expectation is that by Saturday, St. Matthew and south will be ice free (another big ice retreat expected). Plan to buy an ice sensor to measure ice thickness, either M4 or M8. Let Phyllis know if you have an opinion on where to locate this instrument.

Nancy Friday: Pretty quiet here. Data in. Analyses will start at the end of the summer.

Jennifer Sepez: deferred to Sarah Kruse.

Sarah Kruse: Early June Regional Advisory Board meeting anticipated.

Kerim Aydin: Vertical modelers working away. Milestones coming up in June. Some of the modelers will get together in June. Globec meeting in June will show some early model results.

Lorenzo Ciannelli and Nate Bacheler: Analyzing catch data for cod, pollock and arrowtooth flounder (40 year history). Intent is to combine spatial patterns of catch, maturity data and ichthyoplankton data to get an idea of spawning sites of these species and see if spatial locations have changed over time. Working on a post-doc replacement for Nate.

Marc Mangel: Working away. Have a complete first version of a model that has 5 fish species in it and up to 3 upper trophic level predators. Cod, arrowtooth flounder and pollock as piscivores. Pollock and herring are the forage species selected. Chosen based on what species could be parameterized based on literature values. Once you get outside pollock, the remaining species are season and area specific (herring, sand lance, capelin). Will lengthen list to include capelin, myctophids, euphausiids, shrimp, squid in the model. In the meantime Kerim will provide guidance from diet data on a shorter list using a common threshold for inclusion.

Bill Wiseman: Healy unloading now. Knorr on schedule. No icebreaker determined yet for next spring. Phyllis noted possible availability of new Korean icebreaker.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 900-1030 am Alaska time