Pacific Arctic Group (PAG) Meeting US Ship operations-JG part

Jacqueline M. Grebmeier

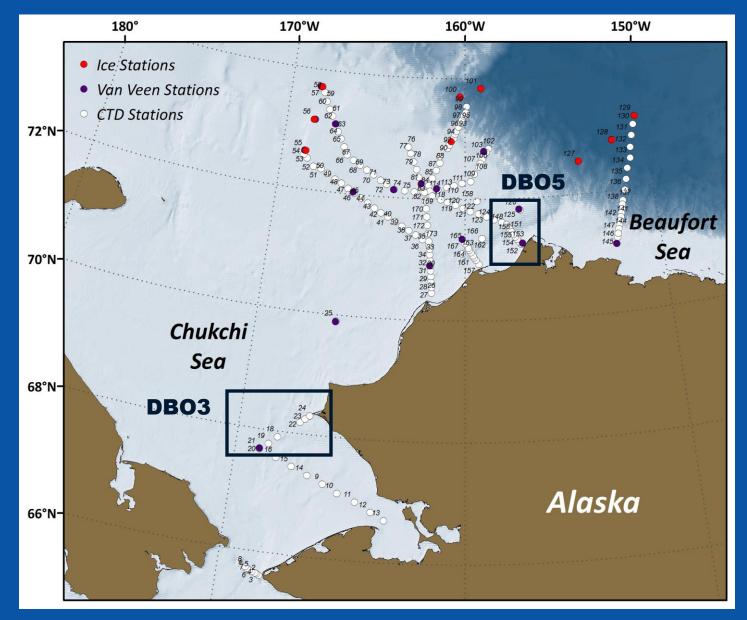
Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Solomons, Maryland, USA

> 16 November 2011 PAG Meeting IOS Sidney, BC, Canada

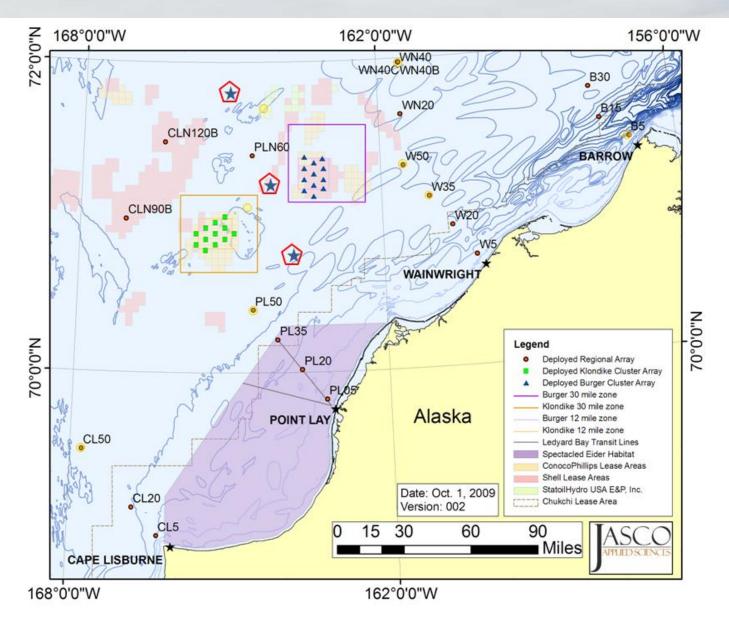


HLY1101 ICESCAPE (Impacts of climate on ecosystems and chemistry

of the Arctic Pacific environment) USCGS Healy 2011 cruise



CHAOZ 2011 and 2012: Chukchi Sea Acoustics, Oceanography, and Zooplankton cruise (Napp, Berchok, Moore, et al., NOAA/BOEMRE (August-Sept)



The Bowhead Whale Feeding Ecology Study (BOWFEST)

David Rugh • NMML, AFSC, NOAA Fisheries Carin Ashjian • Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Mark Baumgartner · Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Catherine Berchok • NMML, AFSC, NOAA Fisheries Bob Campbell . University of Rhode Island Craig George • North Slope Borough Dept. Wildlife Management Kimberly Goetz • NMML, AFSC, NOAA Fisheries David Mellinger • Oregon State University Julie Mocklin • NMML, AFSC, NOAA Fisheries Steve Okkonen • University of Alaska Fairbanks Gay Sheffield • ADFG/NSB Dept. Wildlife Management Mari Smultea • Smultea Environmental Sciences Kate Stafford . University of Washington/ Applied Physics Lab



Aerial Surveys



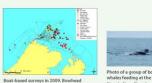
Aerial surveys were conducted on 5 days between 29 Aug and 18 Sept 2009. Totals of aerial sightings of bowheads were 16 in 2007, 56 in 2008, and 25 in 2009.



Aerial photography provides images of bowheads used to identify individuals and are their length

Boat-based Surveys

sightings are indicated with red marks.



mill to Photo of a group of bowhead ales feeding at the sea surfac Photo by Henry Elavaak

The Bowhead Whale Feeding Ecology Study (BOWFEST) was initiated in May 2007 through an Interagency Agreement between the Minerals Management Service (MMS) and the National Marine Mammal Lab (NMML, NOAA Fisheries Service). The study is being conducted through grants and contracts to scientists at eight institutions. Fieldwork is being coordinated with the North Slope Borough, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Barrow Whaling Captains' Association, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Minerals Management Service.

BOWFEST focuses on late summer oceanography and prey densities relative to bowhead whale (Balaena mysticetus) distribution north and east of Point Barrow between the Alaska coast and 72°N and between 152° and 157.5° west longitudes. Aerial surveys, boat-based surveys, and acoustic monitoring provide information on the spatial and temporal distribution of bowhead whales in the study area. Oceanographic sampling helps:

- 1. identify off-shelf sources of zooplankton prev available to whales on the continental shelf
- 2. describe how oceanographic fronts and currents influence zooplankton aggregation
- 3. provide a context for interpreting whale feeding behavior.

Results of this research program show that in late summer (mid-August to mid-September), bowheads are generally on a westward feeding migration through the study area predominately along the 20-m isobath, and that most of the whales near Barrow are feeding on krill. Prey densities increase on the shelf after upwelling-favorable east winds are followed by weak and/or southerly winds. This "krill trap" likely contributes to the high proportion of feeding whales seen in this area. A good understanding of bowhead behavior and distribution, as exemplified by this study, is needed to minimize potential impacts from petroleum development activities, possible commercial fishing in the future, and anticipated increased vessel traffic associated with diminishing arctic sea ice.

Passive Acoustics



Passive acoustic recorders.

Stomach Content Analyses

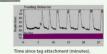


This stomach contained fresh undigested euphausiid-like prey with very little fluid.

Tagging and Fine Scale Oceanography



Launched tag immediately prior to attaching to a bowhead.



- The National Marine Mammal Lab, AFSC, NOAA Fisheries, was the conduit of research funds to eight institutions (see the author list).
 Studies of bowhead whales were conducted under MMPA Research Permits 782-1719 and 369-1757-01.
- Fieldwork has been coordinated with the North Stope Borough, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Barrow Whaling Captains Association, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.





symbols are locations of stations with krill, and the green asterisks are locations of bowhead whales seen from the Annika Marie.

















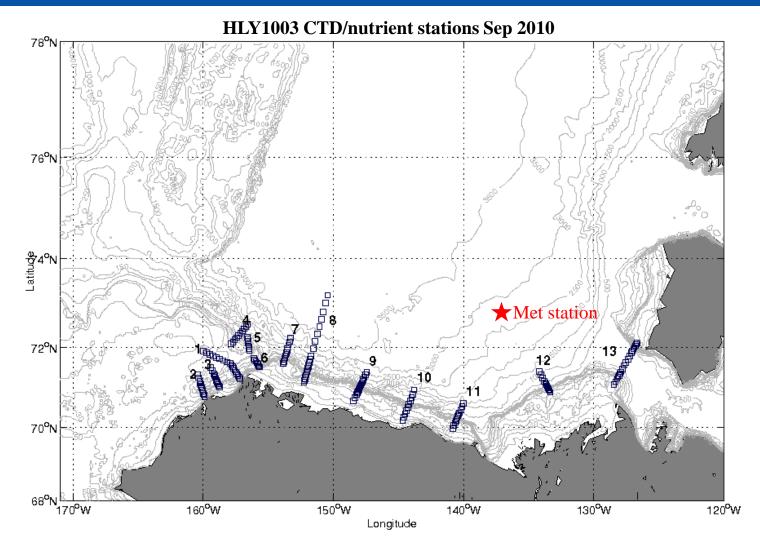




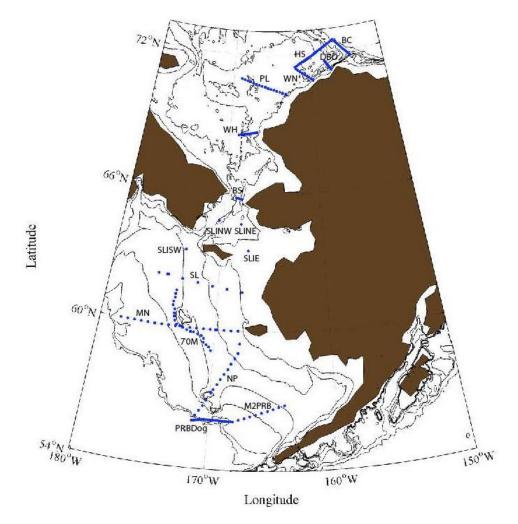
Mooring and Broadscale Oceanography

The blue symbols are locations of stations with few krill, the red





Nov 7 – Dec 2011, Seward AK to Dutch Harbor AK. "Early Winter Oceanography in the Bering and Chukchi Seas" Chief Scientist Carin Ashjian (cashjian@whoi.edu)



- This cruise will collect some of the first information on early winter biology and physics of these seas. The cruise will work along a set of key cross-shelf-slope transects and will conduct physical (water temperature, salinity, circulation), chemical (nutrients), and biological (phytoplankton, zooplankton) sampling.
- primarily in the Bering and Chukchi Seas but hope to sample the western Beaufort as well, ice depending

BOEM COMIDA Hanna Shoal: 2011-2016

Project Objectives:

- Conduct open-water baseline measurements of biological and chemical parameters, with specific focus on trophic structure and the potential for bio-accumulation of anthropogenic chemicals into food webs in the Hanna Shoal region
- Examine the current spatial structure of the ecosystem to better understand the seasonal, inter-annual, and long-term climate change impacts on the ecosystem.

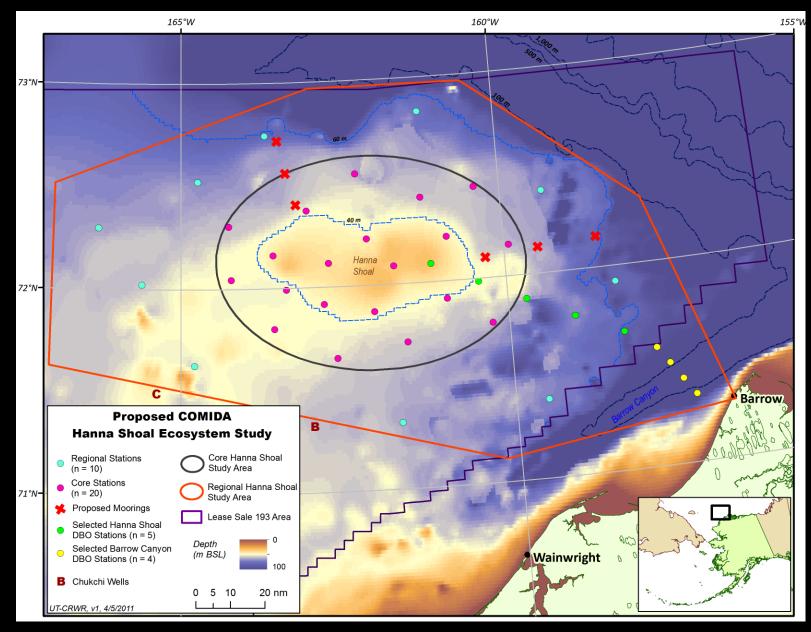
Project Tasks:

- Physical oceanography and moorings, focus Hanna Shoal and surrounding areas
- Collect hydrographic, plankton, benthos, sediment chemistry and hydrocarbon data
- Develop a conceptual food web model
- Examine the spatial variability in biolic and abiotic parameters
- Conduct geostatistical modeling
- Sampling along Chukchi Sea DBO lines

BOEM Cruises: August 7-30, 2012 USCGS Healy and August 2012, USCGC Healy; Chief Scientist: JM Grebmeier, CBL/UMCES

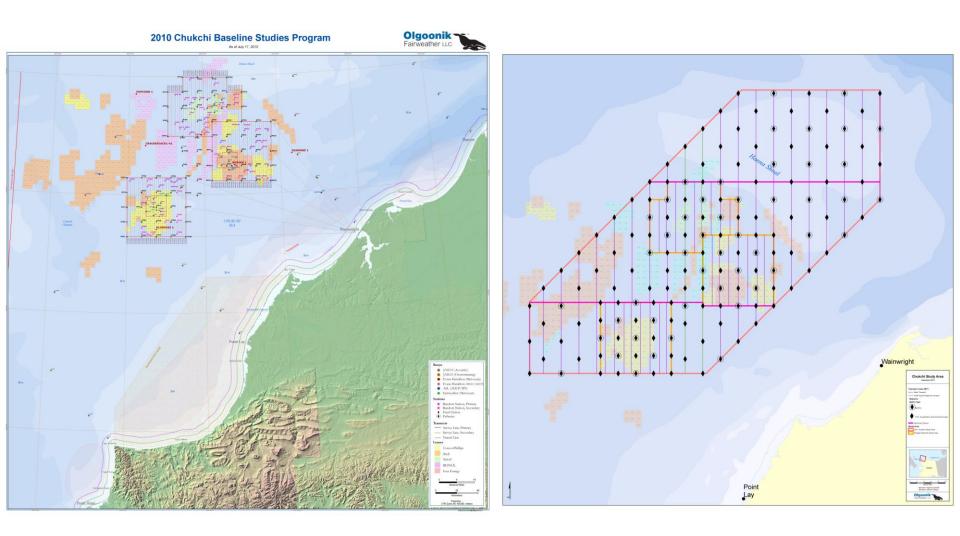
PIS: Ken Dunton, Carin Ashjian, Lee Cooper, Jackie Grebmeier, Rodger Harvey, Brenda Konar, John Trefry, and Tom Weingartner

Proposed sampling sites COMIDA HS August 7-30, 2012 (USCGC Healy)



Moorings will be deployed on roughly the 35, 50, and 60 m isobaths

Shell-Conoco Phillips-StatOil 2010 (left panel) and 2011 (right panel cruises



USCGC Healy 2012 DRAFT Underway schedule

Dep/Arr Start Port/End Port PI/Project Cruise code

17 Jul/06 Aug Barrow/ Barrow Pickart/NSF HLY1201

07 Aug/30 Aug Barrow/ Dutch Harbor Grebmeier/BOEMRE HLY1202

11 Sep/14 Sep Seward/ Dutch Harbor Transit HLY12TC

15 Sep/26 Oct Dutch/ Dutch Harbor Mayer/UNH HLY1203