Rescue and Retrieval of Historical Bering Sea Crab Data

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Photo by Rich MacIntosh, retired
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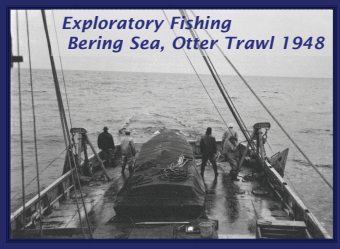

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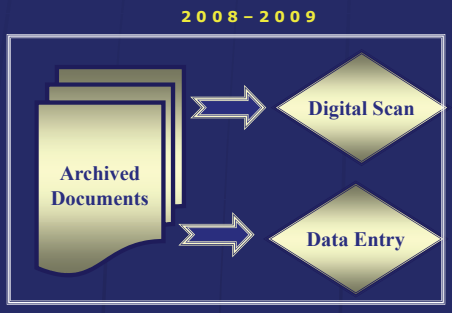
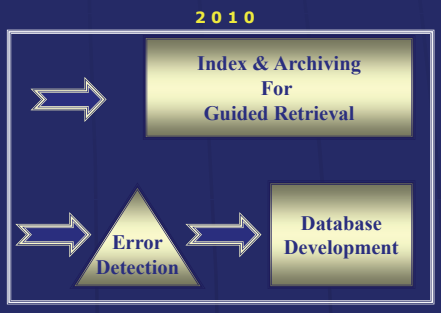
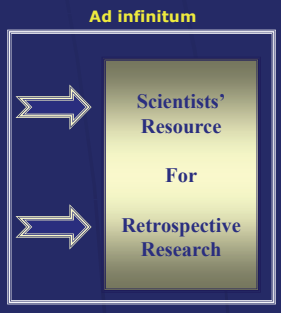
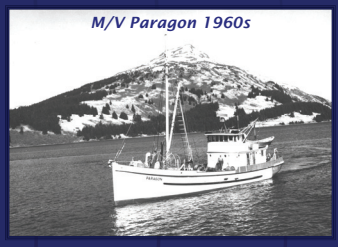






Introduction/Rationale

- Research concerning the biology, stock abundance, and distribution of shellfish in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea has been the primary focus of programs at the NOAA NMFS AFSC Kodiak Laboratory.
- Accurate time series of data related to the eastern Bering Sea king and Tanner crab stocks are necessary to adequately assess these commercially important and fluctuating crab stocks.
- Pre-1975 archived records exist that include crab survey data, pilot house logs, and research records from the Bering Sea that have not been made available electronically. These historic eastern Bering Sea survey records include embedded environmental data on bottom temperatures and on-site weather observations.
- Currently considerable controversy exists as to the effect of changing climate on valuable eastern Bering Sea crab resources, as well as other species in the region. It is through the identification of embedded environmental data and its integration with other sources that researchers will be in a position to increase our long-term knowledge of the effects of climatic change.



NMFS AFSC Kodiak Lab Collection

NMFS AFSC Kodiak Lab Collection

Photo by Charles F. Connelley, Jr., BCF, Juneau
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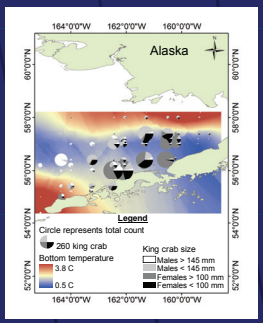
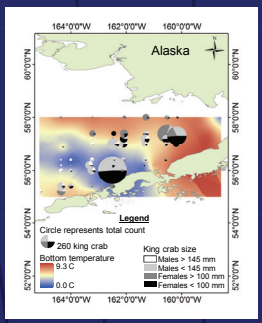
Objective/Method

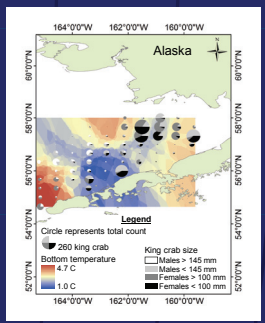
- Kodiak Lab archive data is currently being scanned and digitized under a grant from NOAA NESDIS NCDC CDMP (Climate Data Modernization Program).
- Thus far, over 71,000 records (4,000 images) of 1966-1974 eastern Bering Sea survey data from the both the U.S. Dept of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service have been scanned, archived, and entered into CSV file formats.



John R. Manning May 1968



Miller Freeman Sept. 1968



Sonny Boy July 1966

Summary

- Once the designated archive data has been scanned, digitized, and reviewed, a relational database will be created that integrates archived survey records with the existing 1975-present Oracle-based survey data.
- This database will serve research and modeling efforts concerning population dynamics, fishery management, and ecology and will be integrated with the Kodiak Laboratory's internet homepage for dissemination.

The recommendations and general content presented in this poster do not necessarily represent the views or official position of the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the National Marine Fisheries Service.