Bering Sea Forage Fish: Do They Use the Shallow Nearshore?

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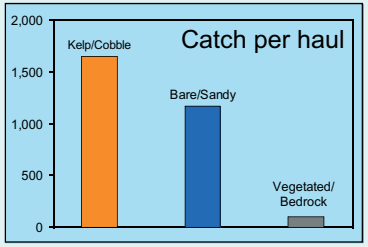
Habitats

Kelp/ Cobble

Vegetated/ Bedrock

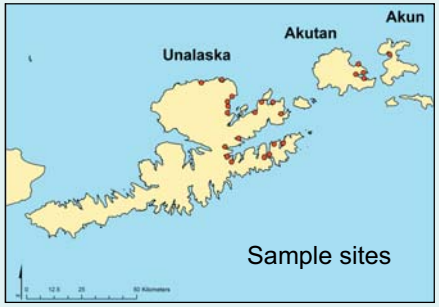
Bare/ Sandy



- Total catch for all species greatest in vegetated cobble habitat
- Over 95% of YOY gadids and sandfish caught in vegetated cobble habitats
- 98% of Pacific sand lance caught in non-vegetated sandy habitats

June 2005 Sampling

- 70 beach seine hauls
- 27 fish species caught
- 84,456 total fish catch

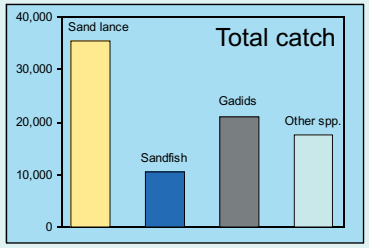


Fish Species

Sand lance

Sandfish

Gadids



- Pacific sand lance: dominant forage fish (FL: mean = 106 mm; range = 35-190 mm)
- Gadids and Pacific sandfish: mainly YOY (mean FL = 23; 36 mm)
- Other common fish: pink salmon, flatfish, sculpins, and greenlings

Pacific sand lance, gadids, and sandfish were abundant in the shallow nearshore