An Annotated Checklist of the Marine Macroinvertebrates of Alaska

David T. Drumm1 and James W. Orr2

1School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; 2 Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Seattle, WA

Objectives: Purpose: Content and area coverage: Progress to date:

1) To produce a comprehensive annotated checklist of Alaskan marine macroinvertebrates.
2) To examine the identifications of invertebrates in the AFSC bottom-trawl survey database and establish a confidence level for each taxon identified in the catch for each survey year.

A comprehensive species list of marine invertebrates of Alaska is currently lacking.

The checklist includes the currently accepted scientific name and its significant synonyms, common names, type localities, geographic and depth distributions, a general statement of abundance (e.g., rare, uncommon, common), significance for fish habitat, and general remarks. The area covered includes all of Alaska: Arctic Alaska (Beaufort and eastern Chukchi sea), eastern Bering Sea Shelf, western Aleutian Islands east through the Gulf of Alaska to Southeast Alaska at the Dixon Entrance.

The checklist is complete and contains over 3,500 species (Table 1). We have also discovered northern range extensions of several caridean shrimps such as the oplophorid Systellaspis braueri paucispinosa (Fig 1). The northward range expansion of boreal species into Arctic waters is expected to happen as a result of the warming climate (Vermeij and Roopnarine, 2008), so it is imperative to have accurate baseline information for comparison to future changes to marine biodiversity.