The SHELFZ survey was the first nearshore (< 20 m) to offshore (> 20 m) comprehensive sampling effort in the northeast Chukchi sea (fish, zooplankton, oceanography, and invertebrates).

Bottom sampling offshore used an 83-112 otter trawl net (34 m footrope). Bottom sampling nearshore used a plumb staff beam trawl (5 m footrope) (beach seine data not shown). CTD casts were taken at all stations. Data exploration: ArcGIS was used for species composition, correspondence analysis on pre/abs, cluster analysis, and basic site oceanography.

Offshore: 17 species of invertebrates made up 90% of the biomass (kg/ha) and was dominated by sea stars (Gorgonocephalus arcticus) and sea cucumbers (Psolus peroni) (Fig A). Clustering was done on the first 2 comp from the CA analysis for pre/abs of inverts reveals some species (or groups) were not present in Barrow Canyon (Figs B and C). The 3 species furthest on the axis in the CA analysis were plotted by CPUE (Fig D). In general, the greatest portion of biomass for all 3 species occurs less than 80 m (Psolus doesn’t occur >6m). The spatial distribution of all 3 species does not overlap in space (Figs B and E). The temperature and salinity profiles for the western most transect shows a stable bottom temp and salinity during this time period (Fig F). The nearshore invertebrates were dominated by shrimps and sea stars (Fig G).

Continuing to explore the offshore invertebrate community (CPUE) and begin analysis on the nearshore community (distribution, CPUE?) along with oceanographic variables.

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