

Forage Fish in Nearshore Waters of Prince William Sound, Alaska



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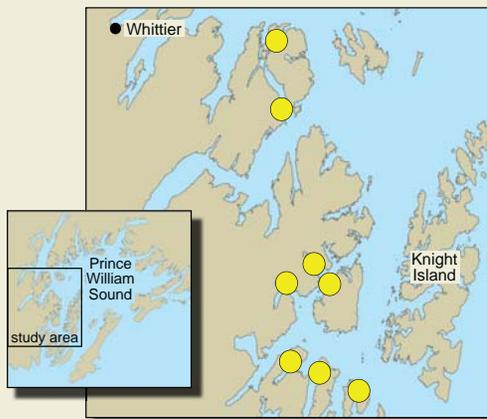
Forage fish are an important prey resource for marine mammals, seabirds, and other fish

Problem: Limited information on forage fish species in shallow, nearshore habitats of Prince William Sound

Objective: Identify seasonal distribution, habitat use, and relative abundance of forage fish in nearshore waters

What we did

- Sampled 3 habitat types



- Sampled 8 locations

- Sampled in spring, summer, and fall

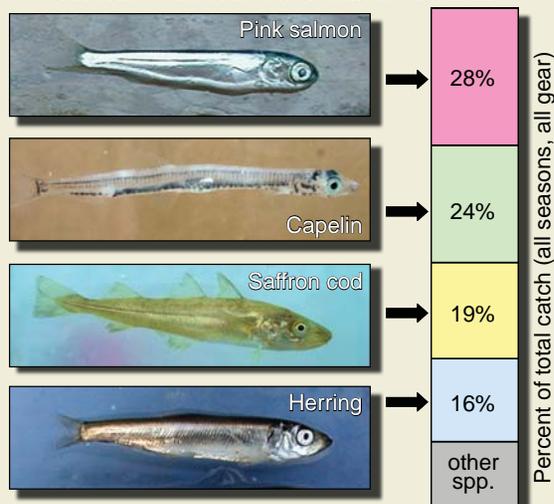


- Used 2 gear types



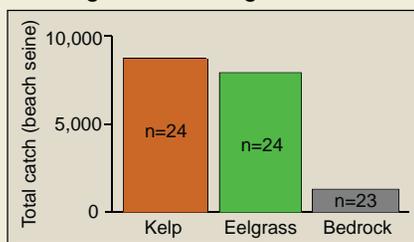
What we found

- Juveniles and larvae dominated catch

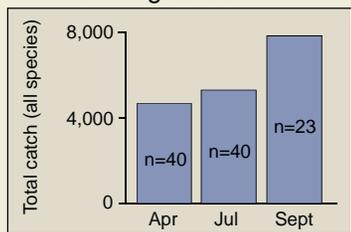


- 4 species accounted for 87% of catch

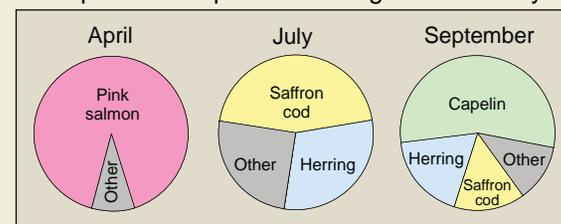
- Catch greatest in vegetated habitats



- Catch greatest in fall



- Species composition changed seasonally



What we learned

- ★ Fish abundance & composition changed seasonally
- ★ Nearshore habitats used for several months a year
- ★ Vegetated habitats used by capelin and herring

Future plans

- Diel study and resample sites in 2007