Problem: Limited and outdated information on use of nearshore habitats by fish in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

Objective: Identify distribution and relative abundance of fish in nearshore waters

Methods

- **Beach seine**
  - Image of beach seine deployment
  - Capelin most abundant in seine
  - Arctic cod most abundant in trawl

- **Bottom trawl**
  - Image of bottom trawl deployment
  - Deploy trawl
  - Sort & Count
  - Identify

- Check cod-end

Results

**Total catch**

- Capelin - 95%
- Pacific sand lance - 1%
- Arctic cod - 1%
- Other spp. - 3%

- 3 spp. accounted for 97% of catch
- Juveniles dominated catch

**Catch by gear**

- Beach seine
  - Capelin most abundant in seine
  - Arctic cod most abundant in trawl

- Bottom trawl
  - 8 other spp.
  - Pacific sand lance
  - Arctic cod
  - Capelin

**Species distribution**

- Capelin most abundant in Chukchi
- Arctic cod most abundant in Beaufort

- % Total catch

**Catch by area**

- Catch greatest in Beaufort Sea
- Catch greatest with beach seine

Conclusions

- Arctic nearshore waters used by forage fish, especially capelin
- Catch & composition differed with gear type/water depth
- Catch & composition differed between Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

Future plans

- Resample sites in 2008 and 2009 to establish a baseline for long-term monitoring of nearshore fish in the Arctic