Nearshore Fishes of Alaska: an Atlas at your Fingertips

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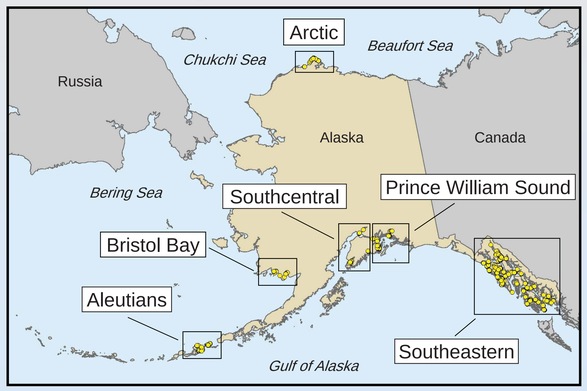
Shallow, nearshore waters of Alaska support a diverse and abundant assemblage of fishes

We developed a website on nearshore fish distribution and habitat use

Methods and Results

From 1998-2011, 555 unique sites were beach seined, yielding 122 fish species and 714,523 fish.

Study areas in Alaska



Sampled 4 habitat types

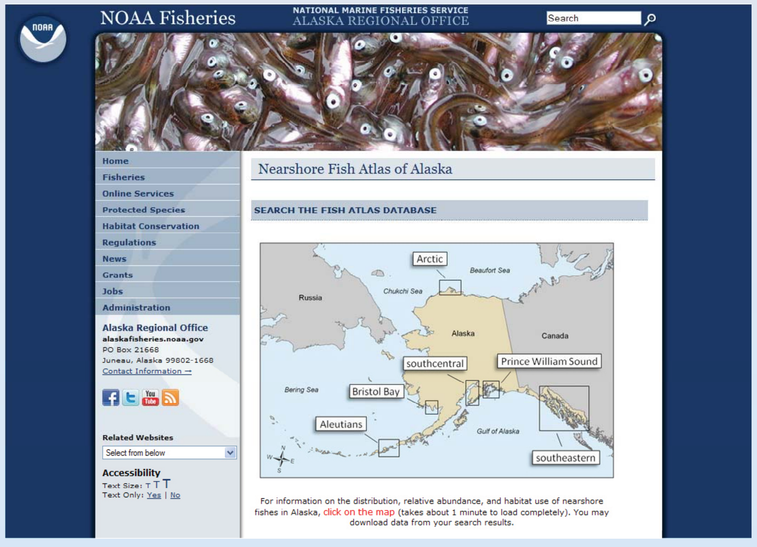
Fish caught with a beach seine

ID, count, & measure fish

What's in the Atlas

- Spatially-explicit information on the distribution, size, and habitat use of 122 fish species in nearshore waters of Alaska
- Site photos & GPS coordinates, fish photos, publication list
- For some sites, maps of eelgrass beds and thermograph data

Atlas website: *http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/habitat/fishatlas/*



Database can be queried by region, site, species & habitat

Above is a sample query: region = Arctic, locale = Beaufort Sea, site = B09, habitat = sand/gravel beach, catch summary of all dates sampled

Fast facts

- Abundant spp. included Pacific herring, Pacific sand lance & walleye pollock.
- Species richness ranged from 93 in southeast Alaska to 17 in Bristol Bay.
- Catch and species richness were greatest in eelgrass and kelp habitats.

Importance

- Quick access to data for managers and researchers (e.g., oil spill response)
- Archive datasets from long-term monitoring sites (e.g., Arctic)
- Track changes in species distribution, composition, and habitat over time
- Identify areas that may need protection from human disturbance

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