# Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring Project

JC-04-11 July Cruise Report

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Scientists from the Marine Salmon Investigations Program at Auke Bay Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA Fisheries, a contractor, and University student conducted a 9-day cruise aboard the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* in the marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska 23-31 July 2004. This cruise took place in the third of five sampling periods scheduled for 2004, and was part of the Southeast Alaska Coastal Monitoring (SECM) Project. The SECM project was initiated in 1997 to study the habitat use and early marine ecology of juvenile Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp) in inshore, strait, and coastal habitats along a primary seaward migration corridor used by juvenile salmon. These habitats span 250 km from near Juneau westward through Icy Strait to 65 km offshore in the Gulf of Alaska. Objectives for these monitoring cruises are to: 1) collect biological data on juvenile Pacific salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) and other pelagic fish species from surface rope trawl samples; 2) monitor physical and biological oceanographic indices seasonally at sampling stations in inside, strait, and offshore habitats of juvenile salmon; and 3) conduct process studies focusing on bioenergetics of juvenile salmon.

Sampling in 2004 marks the eighth year of the SECM long-term study on how the intra- and inter-annual variability of physical and biological oceanographic indices relate to the distribution, abundance, growth, and survival of salmon and other fish populations at the same localities. The information collected will also provide insight into potential effects of climate change on stock-specific growth and recruitment of salmonids, and the utilization of marine habitat by key fish species.

### **METHODS**

Thirteen stations were scheduled for sampling during the July 2004 cruise (Table 1, Figure 1). Stations were located in Auke Bay and along three transects with four stations each in Upper Chatham Strait, Icy Strait, and off Icy Point. Oceanographic measurements were to be taken at all stations and trawling was to occur at all stations except Auke Bay and two of the outermost stations on the Icy Point transect (IPC and IPD). Rope trawl samples were to be replicated in strait habitats without taking the full suite of oceanographic samples.

# Oceanographic sampling:

The oceanographic sampling included physical and biological monitoring at each station. To examine horizontal water structure, temperature and salinity readings were continuously logged at one-minute intervals from 2-m depth using a SeaBird SBE-21<sup>1</sup> thermosalinograph. To examine vertical water structure, a Seabird SBE-19 conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) profiler was deployed at each station to 200 m or within 10 m of the bottom, dependent on depth. Surface water samples were taken at each station for later determination of chlorophyll and nutrient content.

Zooplankton was sampled at each station with conical nets hauled vertically and a bongo net system towed obliquely. At each station, vertical plankton hauls were retrieved from a depth of 20 m using a 50-cm frame, 243-micron mesh (Norpac) net. At Auke Bay, and in the Icy Strait and Icy Point transects, vertical hauls were retrieved from a depth of 200 m or within 20 m of the bottom using a 57-cm frame, 202-micron mesh (WP-2) net. A Rigosha flow meter was used inside the vertical net frames to determine the amount of water volume sampled. Also most stations, one double oblique bongo tow was done to 200 m or within 20 m of the bottom using a 60-cm frame with 505 and 333 micron mesh nets. General Oceanics flow meters were placed inside each of the bongo nets to determine the amount of water volume sampled. A SeaBird SBE-39 depth and temperature recorder was used with the bongo nets to validate the maximum deployment depth of each tow. During replicate trawls, only the Norpac sample was collected; however, at the Icy Strait stations, a second double oblique bongo tow was done to 20 meters (28 m wire out at 45 degrees) to compare quantity and composition of zooplankton from the zone typically inhabited by juvenile salmon to that in deeper waters.

## **Trawl Sampling:**

Sampling for fish was accomplished with Nordic 264 rope trawl fished directly astern the *John N. Cobb* at the surface. The mouth opening of the trawl was approximately 20 m deep and 26 m wide, spread by a pair of 3.0 m Lite trawl doors. The trawl was fished fully open with 150 m of main warp out for a duration of 20 min at a speed of about 1.0-1.5 m/sec (2-3 knots). To fish the headrope of the trawl at the surface, a cluster of three meshed A-4 Polyform buoys was tethered to each wing tip of the headrope and one A-3 Polyform float was clipped onto the center of the headrope. Mesh sizes ranged from 162.6 cm in the throat of the trawl near the jib lines to 8.9 cm in the cod end. A 6.1 m long, 0.8 cm knotless liner was sewn into the codend. Along the jib lines on the top panel of the trawl, between the head rope and the first 162.6 cm mesh, a small mesh panel of 10.2 cm mesh was incorporated to minimize the loss of fish aft of the headrope.

After each haul, the fish caught were anaesthetized with tricaine methanesulfonate, identified, enumerated, measured, and stomachs sampled (if appropriate). Fish were measured to the nearest mm fork length (FL) with a Limnoterra FMB IV electronic measuring board. The heads of all chinook (*O. tshawytscha*) and coho (*O. kisutch*) salmon lacking adipose fins were retained for the possible recovery of a coded-wire tag (CWT). Stomachs from potential predators of juvenile salmon were excised, weighed, and classified by fullness. The weight of the stomach contents was determined as the difference between the weight of the stomach and contents minus

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Reference to trade names does not imply endorsement by the NOAA Fisheries.

the weight of the empty stomach. Stomach contents were removed and prey were generally identified to the family level and estimated to the nearest 10% of total volume.

## <u>Laboratory processing</u>:

Data on settled volumes (SVs) of zooplankton in the 20-m vertical hauls and from decoded CWTs of fish lacking adipose fins are included in this report. Laboratory processing in progress includes 1) measurement of weight and condition of juvenile salmon; 2) determination of energetic content from frozen samples of juvenile pink (O. gorbuscha), chum (O. keta), and coho salmon; 3) examination for otolith thermal marks in frozen samples of juvenile chum, sockeye (O. nerka), coho, and chinook salmon; 4) scale samples of each species of juvenile salmon; 5) measurement of plankton displacement volumes of all Bongo net samples; 6) zooplankton species composition and abundance from all Norpac hauls and from Bongo net samples taken in Icy Strait stations; and 7) determination of the stomach contents of juvenile chum salmon.

#### **RESULTS and DISCUSSION**

All thirteen stations scheduled for sampling in the northern region of southeastern Alaska were sampled (Table 1). Standard oceanographic sampling and surface trawling were conducted according to the following schedule:

<u>Day 1</u>: Auke Bay (1 station); <u>Day 2</u>: Icy Point transect (6 stations); <u>Day 3</u>: Icy Strait transect (4 stations); <u>Day 4</u>: Icy Strait transect (4 stations); <u>Day 5</u>: Upper Chatham Strait transect (4 stations); <u>Day 6</u>: Icy Strait transect (2 stations); <u>Day 7</u>: Icy Strait transect (2 stations); <u>Day 8</u>: Icy Strait transect (7 stations); and <u>Day 9</u>: transit to Juneau NMFS Subport.

Oceanographic sampling was accomplished at each station. A total of 30 CTD casts, 33 Norpac tows, 15 bongo tows (30 net samples), and 9 WP-2 tows were made during the cruise (Table 2). Water samples were also taken at all 13 stations for later analysis of chlorophyll and nutrients. In addition, shallow bongo samples were taken at the Icy Strait transect over 25-26 July and during the nocturnal haul at the ISC on 30 July.

Surface (2-m) temperatures and salinities ranged from 12.9 to 15.7EC and from 14.6 to 31.4 PSU (Table 3). Salinity followed the typical spatial pattern, lowest at the ABM station and increasing toward the Gulf of Alaska. Temperatures were lowest at station UCA on the Upper Chatham transect and highest at two stations (IPB and IPD) offshore in the Gulf of Alaska.

Zooplankton biomass, as determined from the SVs of the 20-m vertical tow samples, ranged from <1 to 200 ml (Table 3). No measurable phytoplankton was present at any station, indicating low primary production at this time. Zooplankton SVs were consistently highest at the furthest offshore station (IPD) in the Gulf of Alaska where salps predominated.

Juvenile salmon were caught at all strait stations and the two coastal stations sampled inside the continental shelf break, within 25 km of shore. A total of 1,368 fish was collected from 29 rope trawl hauls (Tables 3, 4, and 5). Juvenile salmon were the most frequently occurring taxon, with coho, pink, and chum salmon having the highest frequency of occurrence (79-86% of hauls). Among the juvenile salmon species, pink and chum salmon were most abundant, with total

catches of 585 and 237 (Tables 3 and 4); catches of juvenile coho and sockeye salmon were lower, whereas catches of juvenile chinook salmon were lowest. The 19 immature chinook salmon and 9 adult pink and caught were the most abundant of the larger salmon (Tables 3 and 5). Unlike most years of the SECM research, the catches in July (the traditional high month) were substantially lower than in June, and suggest a rapid seaward migration of juveniles in 2004.

A total of 342 non-salmonids were caught in the trawl (Tables 4 and 5). By species, the largest catches were 270 walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) and 35 crested sculpin (*Blepsias bilobus*) and 14 squid (Gonatidae). Of the non-salmoninds captured, crested sculpin (*Blepsias bilobus*) occurred the most frequently (48% of hauls), but only were found in the strait habitats. Two salmon sharks were caught in the trawl and were tagged and released. One was a female 195 cm fork length and tagged (# 98145) on 24 July at station IPB and the other was a male 200 cm fork length tagged (# 98132) on 26 July at station ISB.

Stock identification was readily available for salmon lacking the adipose fin that contained CWTs. Of the eight salmon lacking the adipose fin, five of the three chinook and two of the three coho contained CWTs (Table 6). All but two of the CWTs were from juveniles; the older fish were age 1.1 (one-ocean, stream-type) chinook salmon. All CWT fish were recovered in the strait habitat and all but one originated from localities within southeastern Alaska. The exception was a juvenile, stream-type chinook salmon from the Clackamas River, Oregon. In all eight years of SECM research, this is the first recovery of a juvenile chinook salmon from the Columbia River Basin in the inside waters of southeastern Alaska; all others in previous years have been recovered along the outside coast, typically in June.

Stomach analysis was done on potential predators of juvenile salmon while onboard the vessel. These predator species included: adult walleye pollock (45), immature and juvenile chinook salmon (20), adult pink salmon (7), adult coho salmon (2), and adult spiny dogfish (2) (*Squalus acanthias*). Of the 76 predators examined, 91% contained prey items (69) and 9% were empty (3 immature chinook salmon, 2 spiny dogfish, and 2 walleye pollock). The only fish that preyed on juvenile salmon was one of the adult coho salmon.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We acknowledge and compliment the command and crew of the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* for their cooperation and performance during the cruise. Minor modifications in the sampling schedule to account for weather allowed us to achieve our scientific objectives.

Table 1. —Localities and coordinates of stations scheduled for oceanographic sampling in the marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb*, 23-31 July 2004. Distance between stations within a transect is indicated in the "between km" column.

				Dist	ance	
				offshore	between	Depth
Locality	Station	North	West	km	km	m
Auke Bay	ABM	58E 22.00'	134E 40.00'	1.5	_	60
Upper Chatham Strait	UCA	58E 04.57'	135E 00.08'	3.2	_	400
	UCB	58E 06.22'	135E 00.91'	6.4	3.2	100
	UCC	58E 07.95'	135E 01.69'	6.4	3.2	100
	UCD	58E 09.64'	135E 02.52'	3.2	3.2	200
Icy Strait	ISA ISB ISC ISD	58E 13.25' 58E 14.22' 58E 15.28' 58E 16.38'	135E 31.76' 135E 29.26' 135E 26.65' 135E 23.98'	3.2 6.4 6.4 3.2	3.2 3.2 3.2	128 200 200 234
Icy Point	IPA IPB IPC	58E 20.12' 58E 12.71' 58E 05.28'	137E 07.16' 137E 16.96' 137E 26.75'	6.9 23.4 40.2	16.8 16.8	160 130 150
	IPD	57E 53.50'	137E 42.60'	65.0	24.8	1,300

Table 2. —Oceanographic and biological samples collected in the marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb*, 23-31 July 2004.

					Plank	ton net san	nples	Water samples chlorophyll	Rope
Date	Time	Haul#	Station	CTD	Norpac	Bongo	WP-2	& nutrients	trawl
23 July	1030	8054	ABM	1	3	2	1	1	0
24 July	0740	8055	IPA	1	1	2	1	1	1
24 July	0950	8056	IPA	0	0	0	0	0	1
24 July	1130	8057	IPB	1	1	2	1	1	1
24 July	1330	8058	IPB	0	0	0	0	0	1
24 July	1530	8059	IPC	1	1	2	1	1	0
24 July	1750	8060	IPD	1	1	2	1	1	0
25 July	1000	8061	ISA	1	1	4 <sup>shallow</sup>		1	1
25 July	1205	8062	ISB	1	1	4 <sup>shallow</sup>	<sup>20 m</sup> 1	1	1
25 July	1645	8063	ISC	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	0	1
25 July	1830	8064	ISD	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	0	1
26 July	0720	8065	ISA	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	0	1
26 July	0900	8066	ISB	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	0	1
26 July	0945	8067	ISC	1	1	4 <sup>shallow</sup>		1	1
26 July	1400	8068	ISD	1	1	4 <sup>shallow</sup>	<sup>20 m</sup> 1	1	1
27 July	0720	8069	UCD	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	1	1
27 July	0900	8070	UCC	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	1	1
27 July	1045	8071	UCB	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	1	1
27 July	1330	8072	UCA	1 shallo	w 1	0	0	1	1
28 July	0814	8073	ISA	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
28 July	0940	8074	ISB	1 shallo	ow 1	0	0	0	1
28 July	1200	8075	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
28 July	1450	8076	ISD	1 shallo	ow 1	0	0	0	1
29 July	0740	8077	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
29 July	1050	8078	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
29 July	1220	8079	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
29 July	1355	8080	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
29 July	1530	8081	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
29 July	1700	8082	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	0	1
30 July	0830	8083	ISC	1 shallo		Ŏ	Ö	$\overset{\circ}{0}$	i
30 July	1020	8084	ISC	1 shallo		0	0	Ö	1
30 July	2359	8085	ISC	1	1	4 <sup>shallow</sup>	<sup>20 m</sup> 0	Ö	1
Total				30	33	30	9	13	29

Table 3. —Two meter depth temperatures and salinities, settled volumes (SVs) of plankton from 20-m vertical Norpac hauls, and catches of salmon with a rope trawl at stations sampled using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* in marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska, 23-31 July 2004. All hauls except 8085 were made during daylight hours.

Total catch		Date 1
h	8055 8055 8055 8065 8066 8066 8066 8066	Haul# S
	ABM PPA ISON ISON ISON ISON ISON ISON ISON ISON	Station
	14.6 15.7 15.7 15.7 15.7 15.7 15.7 15.7 15.7	Temp. (EC)
	14.6 31.2 31.3 31.3 31.3 31.3 31.3 31.3 31.3	Temp. Salinity (PSU)
	2000 122 123 123 124 125 126 127 127 127 127 127 127 127 127 127 127	SVs p
	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	SVs plankton (ml Zoop- Phyto- To
	12 200 12 3 3 1 2 2 3 4 4 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 1 2 3 3 3 3	ml) Total P
585	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	Pink C
237		Juv Juv
73		uvenile salmo Sockeye Co
94		ho C
7	200000-000-000-000000000000000000000000	inook
19	0000     1000000000000000000000000000	Immature
9	-000000000000000000000000000000000000	Pink
2	0-0000000000000000000000000000000000000	fult Coho
I I	I	

Table 4. —Catches other than salmon from rope trawl hauls at stations in the marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb*, 23-31 July 2004. All hauls except 8085 were made during daylight hours.

000000	(													
00000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	2	29	ISC	8085	30 July
0000	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	ISC	8084	30 July
0000	0	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISC	8083	30 July
000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISC	8082	29 July
00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	ISC	8081	29July
C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISC	8080	29 July
•	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISC	8079	29 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	ISC	8078	29 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	ISC	8077	29 July
0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISD	8076	28 July
0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISC	8075	28 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	74	ISB	8074	28 July
0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	37	ISA	8073	28 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	UCA	8072	27 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	UCB	8071	27 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	သ	0	UCC	8070	27 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	UCD	8069	27 July
0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	ISD	8068	26 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	ISC	8067	26 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	ISB	8066	
_	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	ISA	8065	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	သ	0	ISD	8064	25 July
0	0	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	0	ISC	8063	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	ISB	8062	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	124	ISA	8061	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	_	IPB	8058	24 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	_	0	0	0	0	0	IPB	8057	24 July
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	IPA	8056	24 July
0	0	<u>-</u>	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	4	0	0	IPA	8055	24 July
p. lump.	lump.	Prowfish	sandfish	dogfish	eel	shark	herring	Lampfish	Squid	sculpin Squid	pollock	Station	Haul#	Date
oth P. spiny	Smooth		Pacific		Wolf-	Salmon	Pacific			Crested	Walleye			

Table 5—Length, percent frequency of occurrence, and life history stage of fish caught in 29 rope trawl hauls using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* in the marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska, 23-31 July 2004. Portions of certain species were sampled for length; total numbers caught for these species were: 565 pink salmon, 270 walleye pollock, and 35 crested sculpins. Life history stage abbreviations are: L = larval fish, J = juvenile or post larvae in first year at sea (i.e. age -.0), I = immature age -.1 or older in prespawn condition, and A = mature adult or near age of maturity.

Common name	Species or family	n			h (mm) mean	Frequency of occurrence	Life history stage
Pink salmon	Oncorhynchus gorbuscha	507	91	168	129.1	79%	J
Chum salmon	O. keta	237	103	197	139.4	83%	J
Coho salmon	O. kisutch	94	157	249	203.1	86%	J
Sockeye salmon	O. nerka	73	95	180	137.4	62%	J
Chinook salmon	O. tshawytscha	7	188	305	228.4	21%	J
Chinook salmon	O. tshawytscha	19	320	480	410.5	24%	Ι
Pink salmon	O. gorbuscha	9	339	562	496.1	21%	A
Coho salmon	O. kisutch	2	599	810	704.5	7%	A
Total salmonids me	asured	948		_			_
Walleye pollock	Theragra chalcogramma	128	312	464	37.3.	0 21%	I-A
Crested sculpin	Blepsias bilobus	33	80	137	108.5	48%	I-A
Walleye pollock	Theragra chalcogramma	2	47	60	53.5	7%	L
Pacific sandfish	Trichodon trichodon	2	80	89	84.5	7%	J
Wolf- Eel	Anarrhichthys ocellatus	2	250	360	305.0	7%	A
Salmon shark	Lamna ditropis	2	1950	2000	1975.0	7%	A
Spiny dogfish	Squalus acanthias	2	570	790	680.0	3%	A
Prowfish	Zaprora silenus	2	91	99	95.0	7%	J
Smooth lumpsucker	Aptocyclus ventricosus	2	139	210	174.5	7%	A
P. Spiny lumpsucker	Eumicrotremus orbis	1	51	51	51.0	3%	I
Pacific herring	Clupea pallasi	1	145	145	145.0	3%	I
Lampfish	Myctophidae	9	40	69	50.8	3%	I-A
Squid	Gonatidae	14	23	230	91.9	7%	I
Total non-salmonid	s measured	200					
Total fish and squid r	neasured 1	,148	_		_		

Table 6.—Release and recovery information for salmon lacking the adipose fin or contain coded-wire tags that were caught in rope trawl hauls using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* in the northern region of southeastern Alaska, 23-31 July 2004. Agency acronym freshwater winters and the numeral following the decimal denoting marine winters. Pink and Chum Corporation, and NSRA = Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and ODFW = Oregon definitions are: ADFG = Alaska Department of Fish and Game, ARMK = Armstrong Keta Hatchery, DIPAC = Douglas Island Department of Fish and Wildlife. Age notations are European, with the numeral before the decimal denoting the number of

			Rele	Release information				R	ecover	Recovery information	nation		
		Brood					Locality (station code)	2004				Days since	Distance traveled
Species	Tag code	year	Agency	Locality	Date	αÞ	haul# - fish#	date	mm	æ	Age	release	km
Chinook	04:04/53	2001	ADFG	Chilkat River, AK	04/11/03	35.4	Icy Strait (ISC)	07/29	460	1,150	1.1	475	150
Chinook	04:07/23	2001	DIPAC	Gastineau Ch., AK	06/12/03	24.7	Icy Strait (ISC) 8080 - 31	07/29	403	800	1.1	413	95
Chinook	04:08/56	2002	NSRA	Hidden Falls, AK	06/06/04	35.4	Icy Strait (ISC) 8063 - 71	07/25	227	167.8	1.0	49	130
Chinook	04:08/56	2002	NSRA	Hidden Falls, AK	06/06/04	35.4	Icy Strait (ISC) 8075 - 56	07/28	228	168.9	1.0	52	130
Chinook	09: 38/43	2002	ODFW	Clackamas R., OR	03/18/04	44.9	Icy Strait (ISC) 8063 - 127	07/25	305	390	1.0	129	1,500
Coho	04:09/54	2002	ARMK	Port Armstrong, AK	06/03/04	28.7	Icy Strait (ISC) 8075 - 7	07/28	217	116.5	1.0	55	235
Coho	04:48/43	2002	ARMK	Port Armstrong, AK	2004	1	Icy Strait (ISC) 8063 - 69	07/25	213	107.6	1.0		235
Coho	No Tag		1	1	1		Icy Strait (ISA) 8073 - 1	07/28	207	105.4		1	

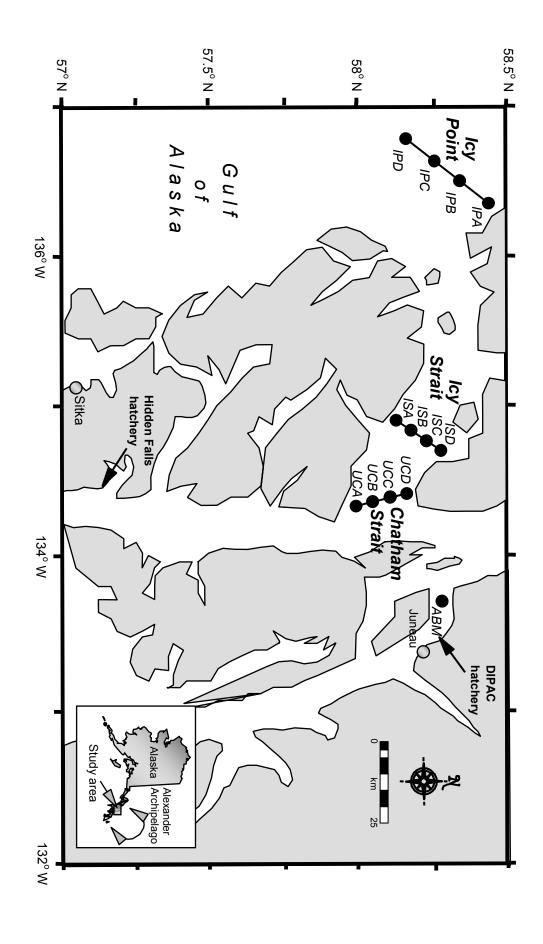


Figure 1. —Thirteen stations sampled in the marine waters of the northern region of southeastern Alaska using the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb*, 23-31 July 2004.