

Geographic patterns in the demersal ichthyofauna of the Aleutian Islands shelf

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We examined geographic patterns in the Aleutian Islands ichthy- and invertebrate fauna from the individual to the community level of organization. At the highest level of organization, we found depth- and longitudinally-related trends in fish and invertebrate community composition. We also found geographic patterns in the diet composition of a complex of demersal fish predators. At a somewhat lower level of organization, cluster analysis indicated spatially-defined groups of rockfish and other similar species (such as Atka mackerel). Many of these species clusters showed unique geographic distributions within the Aleutian Islands region. At the individual level, we document longitudinal changes in Northern rockfish and Atka mackerel growth. We also examined geographic patterns in proximate composition and caloric density of several different demersal fish species. Many of the geographic patterns that we describe are coherent with the spatial changes observed by other authors in this issue.