The effect of oceanographic structure on juvenile pollock and capelin distribution in the Gulf of Alaska

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#### mammals, birds, fishes



### walleye pollock capelin



### Outline

- Distribution and abundance of juvenile pollock and capelin relative to water mass properties
- Intra-annual variability (temporal scale: weeks)
- Interannual variability
- Community reorganization, interspecific competition and decadal-scale climate forcing

# Study site



### Study site

![](_page_4_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Methods

- Summer 2000-2002, 2004 NOAA Vessel Miller Freeman
- Echo integration-trawl (EIT)
  - Acoustics (38kHz) to assess distribution and abundance of fish
  - Trawls to confirm species, size and age
- Physical oceanography
  - CTD, XBT, MBT
  - Moorings
  - Drifters
- Multiple surveys ("passes")
  - Pass 1 : Aug 16-19, 2002
  - Pass 2 : Aug 22-24
  - Pass 3 : Aug 30-Sep 2

- Pass 1 : Aug 15-17, 2004
- Pass 2 : Aug 21-24
- Pass 3 : Aug 26-30
- Pass 4 : Sep 2-4

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# 2000, 2001

![](_page_7_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### Hollowed, et al. in revision

### Pass 1

![](_page_8_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_8_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Summer Currents

![](_page_9_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Wind and transport

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

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- Distribution and abundance of juvenile pollock and capelin relative to water mass properties
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### Pass 1, 2004

### Pass 3, 2004

![](_page_12_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Wind

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 1, 2002 Pass 3, 2002

#### 2004

![](_page_14_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### What's so special about inshore (ACC) water?

# Pass 1, 2002

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Pass 1, 2002

![](_page_17_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Summary

- In 2002, juvenile pollock (age 1 and 2) were most abundant in warm, fresh water nearshore whereas capelin were most abundant in cool, salty water offshore
- Over a two-week period juvenile pollock distribution expanded with offshore expansion of warm, fresh waters. Capelin abundance decreased.
- Hypothesize that a wind-driven event resulted in increased transport of warm, fresh ACC water through the study area
- In 2004, juvenile pollock were not present and capelin (mixed with age-0 pollock) were most abundant in warm, fresh water nearshore
- Hypothesize that nearshore (ACC) waters are enriched feeding areas

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# Community reorganization

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

Anderson & Piatt, 1999

### Pass 1, 2002 Pass 3, 2002

#### 2004

![](_page_21_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### Looks like competition

# Community reorganization

- Links between decadal-scale climate and wind "events"
- Competition
  - Common, limiting prey resource(s)?
  - Zooplankton assemblages similar or different among water masses?
  - Future work with Wilson and Duffy-Anderson (NPRB funded)
    - Zooplankton distribution and abundance
    - Fish diet
- Interannual variability in age-1+ pollock distribution and abundance

### Acknowledgements

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Steller Sea Lion Research Initiative (SSLRI)
- GLOBEC-NEP
- NOAA Ship Miller Freeman

![](_page_23_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_6.jpeg)

### GOA stock assessment

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

Dorn, et al. 2004. NPFMC Gulf of Alaska SAFE

### Pass 1, 2004

![](_page_26_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 2, 2004

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 3, 2004

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 1, 2004

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 2, 2004

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 3, 2004

![](_page_31_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 4, 2004

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Moorings

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Winter Currents

![](_page_34_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 3, 2004

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Pass 2, 2004

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 1, 2002

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 2, 2002

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Pass 3, 2002

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 2, 2004

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 3, 2004

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Pass 4, 2004

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)