Essential Fish Habitat project status report

Reporting date: 9/12/11

Project number: 2009-04

Title: Nearshore Fish Assemblages in the Arctic: Establishment of Monitoring Sites in a Rapidly Changing Environment from Energy Development and Climate Change

PIs: Johnson and Thedinga

Funding year: FY09

Funding amount: $65K

Status: ☒ Complete ☐ Incomplete, on schedule ☐ Incomplete, behind schedule

Planned completion date if incomplete:

Reporting: Have the project results been reported? If yes, state where the results were reported and attach an electronic copy of the report.

NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-AFSC-210 (attached)

Results: What is the most important result of the study?

Species occupying coastal waters of the Beaufort Sea have remained relatively unchanged the last 25 years; Arctic cod remain a dominant species, whereas capelin appear to be more widespread and abundant. Continued warming conditions in the Arctic Ocean will likely result in a reorganization of nearshore community structure–new fish species are expected to migrate to the Arctic with unknown consequences to existing stocks and food webs.