Metadata for Nearshore Fish Atlas of Alaska

Definitions of field names

 # Hauls: number of beach seine hauls
 # Locales: number of locales
 # Measured: number of fish measured for length; fork length or total length depending on species
 # Sites: number of sampling sites
 # Species: number of species captured; see caveats concerning unidentified fish
% Occurrence: frequency of occurrence (i.e., number of seine hauls where a species was captured/total number of seine hauls)
Average Length: fork length = average length (millimeters) of fish from tip of nose to fork of tail; total length = average length (millimeters) of fish from tip of nose to end of tail
Bedrock: steep rock cliffs in exposed locations outside of bays; kelps (e.g., *Saccharina latissima*, *Alaria marginata*) often attached to bedrock faces
Catch: number of fish captured
Dates Sampled: mo/dy/year
Eelgrass: *Zostera marina*; occupies lower intertidal and shallow subtidal zones in soft substrates
Habitat: bedrock, eelgrass, kelp, sand-gravel
Kelp: mostly understory kelps growing as dense, low-lying mats on rocky substrates; dominant kelps (e.g., *Saccharina latissima*, *Cymathere triplicata*, *Alaria* spp.)
Latitude: decimal degrees, WGS84 datum, northern hemisphere
Locales: general sampling area
Locale Photo: photo(s) of general sampling area
Longitude: decimal degrees, WGS84 datum, western hemisphere
Mean Catch/Haul: mean number of fish captured per beach seine haul (i.e., catch/total number of seine hauls)
Sand-Gravel: mostly sand or gravel beaches with no rooted vegetation; some algae may be present
Seine Data: year(s) site sampled
Site: specific sampling site within locale
Site Photo: photo(s) of site
Species: common name of species
SubLocale: specific sampling area within locale

Temperature data

At select locations in Alaska, TidbiT® thermographs attached to a mooring were placed for extended time periods at approximately -3.0 m depth relative to MLLW to continuously record water temperature at 2 hour intervals.

Eelgrass maps

Select eelgrass meadows were mapped by walking and boating the perimeter of the meadow with a backpack GPS (global positioning system). The GPS collected real-time, differentially corrected positions once each second while we circumnavigated eelgrass meadows; accuracy of positions was usually ±0.5m.

Caveats concerning unidentified fish

Larval and juvenile fish smaller than 50 mm length were sometimes difficult to identify to species in the field. Unidentifiable fish were classified to family groups and are referred to as "juvenile family group name" (e.g., juvenile smelt). Some larval fish, however, were unidentifiable to family groups; these fish are referred to as "unidentified larvae". "Unidentified larvae" and "juvenile family group name" are accounted for in **Catch** totals and **#Species**; **#Species** may not represent the exact number of unique species. For example, if 10 black rockfish and 1 juvenile rockfish were captured in a seine haul, **Catch** would be 11 fish and **#Species** would be reported as 2 in the online atlas. In reality, if the juvenile rockfish was a black rockfish, **#Species** would be only 1. Users should take this into account when interpreting **#Species**.

Beach seine description

Most sampling was done with a 37-m variable-mesh beach seine that tapered from 5-m wide at the center to 1-m wide at the ends. Outer panels were each 10 m of 32-mm mesh, intermediate panels were each 4 m of 6-mm mesh, and the bunt was 9 m of 3.2 mm mesh. The seine had a lead line and float line so that the bottom contacted the substrate and the top floated. The seine was set as a "round haul" by holding one end of the seine on the beach and backing around in a skiff in a semi-circle with the other end of the seine.