



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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RESEARCH PERIOD

1994-2017, 2017-2021

FUNDING

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
Trustee Council

This project is part of the Herring Research and Monitoring program. The purpose of this study is to improve predictive models of herring stocks in Prince William Sound through observations and research.



PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND
**SCIENCE
CENTER**

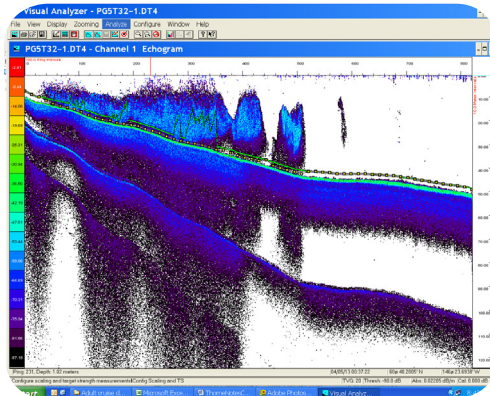
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ADULT BIOMASS SURVEYS

BACKGROUND

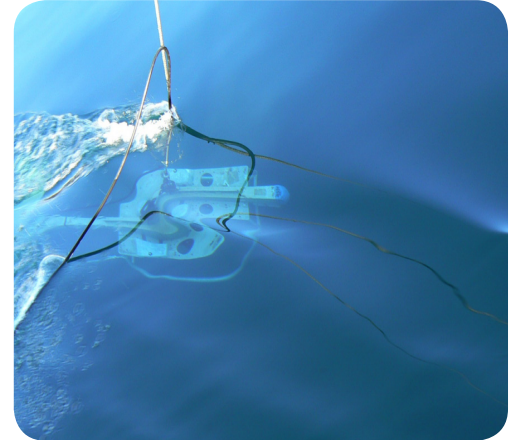
Herring schools can extend for miles and be deep enough that they cannot be seen from the air. By using acoustics, we can estimate the biomass of these schools. The acoustic estimate is then provided to the age-structure-analysis model to help constrain the model output. The Prince William Sound Science Center has annually conducted surveys of the spawning biomass using hydroacoustic techniques.



Echogram showing schools of herring.

WHAT WE WILL LEARN

This project provides the data required to estimate the herring population in Prince William Sound. The observations are provided to all of the other projects for use in their analysis. It is only by collecting the information included in this project that we can determine the status of herring recovery.



Hydroacoustic sensor being towed through the water.

METHODS

Surveys are conducted using a towed hydroacoustic sensor. Schools are located during the day, often by using the presence of whales. The surveys are conducted at night when the school is further off the bottom. The acoustic return is analyzed to determine the biomass of fish observed.



Aerial view of a herring school in PWS.