

## Thomas Van Pelt

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**From:** Thomas Van Pelt  
**To:** 'best\_bsierp@list.arcus.org'  
**Cc:** Thomas Van Pelt  
**Subject:** Meeting notes: August Bering Sea Project monthly call

### **Agenda, Thursday August 20, 900-1030 am Alaska time**

1. Describe recent or upcoming news from your project
2. FYI: Spring 2010 cruises

### **Meeting notes, Thursday August 20, 900-1030 am Alaska time**

*In attendance:* Bill Wiseman, Alison York, Phyllis Stabeno, Rodger Harvey, Jeff Napp, Kate Hedstrom, Kathy Kuletz, Andrew Trites, Ray Sambrotto, Jennifer Sepez, Sarah Kruse, Nancy Friday, Anne Hollowed, Lorenzo Ciannelli, Doug Reese, Will Satterthwaite, Marc Mangel, Tom Van Pelt

**Bill Wiseman:** Spring 2010 cruise is scheduled on Polar Sea 20 March – 15 April; long spring cruise will happen but ship and timing not secured yet UNOLS council meeting in October; Weingartner moorings cruise will happen

**Ray Sambrotto:** Knorr cruise went well. Some extra work with logistics. As long as no ice around, Knorr is a good ship. Very experienced crew. Stopped in Pribis halfway through for brief exchange, but mostly out running the lines. Four different periods- initial, coming out of Dutch, spent in SE way up into Bristol Bay- shelf is 600-700km wide there- doing larval fish survey (didn't find many); then worked up to Pribis. Part 2- central shelf lines, from Pribis out to deep water-- did sediment trap array each time they stuck their nose out to deep water. Part 3- got up into Zemchug Canyon; past summer conditions seem to consistently be productive, lots of energy; unsure of drivers; bottom structure trapping eddy? At this point of cruise got into an enormous eddy- holding position since first seen on satellite image in early june, by early july a lot of the chlorophyll showing up on satellite image had fallen out. Saw lots of Phaeocystis in surface arms of the eddy- down below, subsurface maximum with lots of diatoms still present. Up on shelf saw lots of crab larvae and other particles seeming to be entrained into the eddy. Interesting story that will help in understanding summer dynamics. Part 4, did SL line in northern part, then came down the 70 m isobath line. Another snapshot to build on a nice time series of the 70 m line.

Cruise report will come out soon. Will be posted on EOL site.

**Anne Hollowed:** Fish component and modelers held 3-d workshop last week. Oceanography to nutrients to zoops. First day, spent afternoon on fish, distributions both juvenile and adults. Next day looked at foraging responses of fish: Kerim Aydin and Troy Buckley. Also got into Ron's work re. energy content. Got into winter distributions; Kevin Bailey gave an overview of the retrospective work that Lorenzo et al. have been doing. Last day spent looking at structure of

model that is being put together; primarily FEAST but also other components, e.g. Will Satterthwaite.

The group identified gaps and started thinking about ways to overcome those. Also had recommendations for workshops that might be useful at PI meeting.

Anne verbally presented some highlights of outcomes and questions raised by the workshop. Anne is working on an 'executive summary' of the key outcomes of the workshop. This should be distributed to the whole BEST-BSIERP group via listserv within 10 days. That summary will then be followed by a full report from the workshop, which should be available well in advance of the October PI meeting, so that it can be used to guide or inform some of the discussions at the PI meeting.

Kate and Enrique couldn't connect to meeting via WebEx, b/c Mac platform... Anne responded that they're working on a solution for the next meeting.

Nancy Friday wanted to have more notice-- also Andrew-- Anne noted that these are bi-annual meetings for the fish group but that all BEST-BSIERP people are welcome to participate; she'll try to get earlier notice out to the whole BEST-BSIERP group next time.

Anne's report, aside from the preceding Fish Group – Modelers Workshop report: Ned was having some trouble with ruggedized CTDs, but fixed it- Sandy and John have delivered 08 acoustic data to data managers. Ed Farley and James Murphy - BASIS has funds to do N. part of Bering Sea survey, started on August 16.

**Kate Hedstrom:** finished 2 decade, now doing 5 decade simulation

**Kathy Kuletz:** bird side- Kittiwakes pretty much done for the summer. Murres seems to be asynchronous; seem to be struggling. Bringing mostly squid at St. G and Bogoslof. With Kittiwakes, got 53 really good tracks; got 28 overwinter tags back. TBMU so far about 30 good tracks, another 30 ctd tags, also got ca. 20 overwinter tags back.

BLKIs had a really bad nesting season on the Pribis this year (< 1% nesting success), while they had an OK year at Bogoslof. This makes the collection of a total of 36 BLKI foraging tracks from the Pribilofs all the more valuable (and amazing that the field crews were able to obtain them).

Murre tracks appear focused mostly on shelf; almost no overlap between st p and st g; mostly short trips, longer trips appear to be very directional.

At-sea component- two boats had lots of gear probs; completed randomly-selected tx but did few adaptive tx b/c the boats needed to work in tandem. Did ca. 20 transit tx; did ca. 20 night tx. Prey sampling found lots more squid, fewer myctophids, more age-1 pollock and smoothtongues.

Broad-scale distribution: surveyors from last of MACE cruise; birds seem to be hanging around canyons; saw 12 STAL, highest number ever seen on a single cruise. Upcoming: will have observers on *Tiglox* Aleutian cruise, on Basis cruise, and on mooring cruise.

**Andrew Trites:** fish component- saw same species composition but big diff in abundance. Also recorded finding lower numbers of age-0 pollock but broader distribution.

Fur seals: combination of tags out - have about 15 animals tagged at each island; long loops, not travelling to fixed spots-- while at Bog, shorter trips, destinations seem to be targeted.

**Tracy Smart:** spring and summer samples for ich; high numbers of eggs especially around pribs. pretty much done sorting 08 ich samples. Rodger: any feedback on how Knorr worked out for sampling? A: took a few days to figure out how to deploy mocness, not ideal. but got easier and worked out.

**Phyllis Stabeno:** cold year again, may not be as cold

getting ready for final cruise on *Miller Freeman* in late September. On Friday M4 broke loose; it was caught by ice earlier... Dyson happened to be there and grabbed it. Will be put back in late Spet

**Lorenzo Ciannelli:** Nate Bacheler has moved on to faculty position; introduced Doug Reese as new post-doc. He'll start on 1 Sept. Team has a new paper accepted in MEPS: "Density-dependent, landscape, and climate effects on spawning distribution of walleye pollock *Theragra chalcogramma*"; article was just selected as the feature article for the October issue. (program mgmt note: see <http://bsierp.nprb.org/results/publications.html> for a current list of BEST-BSIERP pubs and for instructions on getting publication numbers). Team has a new ms [title?] provisionally accepted to Fisheries Oceanography.

**Jennifer Sepez:** just back from Emmonak last month. Ted Hamilton wants to talk about squid at PI meeting in Sept; looking to Kerim for guidance on squid. Setting up a trip to St. Paul in January. Working on trophic-level analysis of subsistence harvest surveys- still waiting to receive last year's harvest survey data. Working with Kerim Aydin and Sarah Gaichas. Working on hypotheses to see if more northern communities are eating higher on trophic scale...

**Will Satterthwaite:** participated in Fish-Model conference; working on moving toward state-dependent model that can account for biology of individual species-- looking for more data sources, e.g. prey fields; will contact Kelly and Scott when they're back.

After the call, **Ken Coyle** sent the following update: "I would like to remind all PIs that we would appreciate their input on data management tools that we might provide to aid in synthesis. We hope to get their input at the PI meeting in October. We would like to prioritize the requests by order of importance to the PIs and post the requests with estimated completion dates on our website. I hope PIs will be thinking about their data needs so we can use our resources optimally for providing the PIs with their data requirements in the format they need when they require it."

**THANKS to all who participated in the call**

**Reminder!! Next call: Wednesday 9 Sept 0900-1030**

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1 - Dial the toll-free On-Demand Plus Number: 888-387-8686

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