

Annual Report: Bering Sea temperatures and their relationship to walleye pollock fisheries: a feasibility study of year-round near-real time data acquisition.

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The Polar Profiling Floats, free-drifting floats that measure the temperature of the water column, are now being built and tested at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution based on the general design of the ARGO float. The PPFs are being programmed, after initial release, to acquire vertical profiles of ocean temperature from the surface to the bottom. On the bottom, they will remain stationary and acquire temperature data every hour for one week. This phase in the float cycle thus mimics a fixed bottom-anchored mooring. After one week the floats will change their buoyancy and rise to the surface while taking continuous temperature measurements. At the surface, the floats obtain a GPS reading to document their current position and all stored temperature data are transmitted by Iridium phone to the PIs. After data transmission the floats sink to repeat the one-week cycle.

We have contacted several fishermen out of Dutch Harbor with an interest in these data and continue to develop a dialog with them to ensure proper data delivery via the AOOS data management group.

Since the funding award, Dr. Peter Winsor successfully applied for and accepted a faculty position at UAF. He has moved from WHOI and the bureaucratic overhead to make this transition has also been completed, including bringing Dr. Winsor's salary to UAF but leaving the PPF subcontract in place.