**Introduction paragraph:** Tagging studies (e.g., Shimada and Kimura 1994) have demonstrated significant migration both within and between the EBS, AI, and GOA outside of spawning season. There appears to be substantial migration between the southern Bering Sea and the western GOA based on tagging data, however little movement has been observed from the Central GOA to the Western GOA. In March 2021, a cooperative tagging study between the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) and the Aleutian East Borough (AEB) was initiated to examine the seasonal movements of Pacific cod captured in the western GOA during the spawning season (P.I.s McDermott, Palsson, and Barbeaux, AFSC, and Levy, AEB). The goal of this study is to better understand the relationship of these fish to Pacific cod in the wider GOA and eastern Bering Sea (EBS) during the summer when the AFSC bottom trawl surveys are conducted. Twenty-five satellite-tagged and 957 conventionally-tagged Pacific cod were released in 8 subareas of the Western GOA near the Shumagin and Sanak Islands. Locations of tags recovered in within three months of release were largely in the vicinity of release area but fish with tags recovered June through September had moved west toward the Aleutian Islands region and north into the EBS, Northern Bering Sea (NBS), Russia, and the Chukchi Sea. More than half of the tag recoveries (10 of 17) between the beginning of June and the end of September had moved northward out of the GOA, indicating substantial seasonal connectivity between the GOA and other management regions. Work is in progress to reconstruct movement paths of fish tagged with satellite tags which will provide valuable information on migration timing and pathways. Additional satellite and conventional tag releases are planned for March 2022.

Map

Description automatically generated

Figure 2.4 Release and monthly satellite and conventional tag recovery locations through September 2021 by region (NBS = Northern Bering Sea, EBS = Eastern Bering Sea, AI = Aleutian Islands, and GOA = Gulf of Alaska, CS = Chukchi Sea). Conventional tag recaptures are indicated by a white square around the symbol.