Arctic is vulnerable to climate change and increased demand for oil and gas exploration

**Problem:** Limited and outdated information on use of nearshore habitats by fish in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

**Objective:** Identify distribution and relative abundance of fish in nearshore waters

**Methods**
- **Beach seine**
- **Bottom trawl**

**Results**
- **Total catch**
  - Capelin: 95%
  - Pacific sand lance: 1%
  - Arctic cod: 1%
  - Other spp.: 3%
  - 3 spp. accounted for 97% of catch
  - Juveniles dominated catch

- **Catch by gear**
  - Beach seine: Capelin most abundant in seine
  - Bottom trawl: Arctic cod most abundant in trawl

- **Species distribution**
  - Capelin most abundant in Chukchi
  - Arctic cod most abundant in Beaufort

- **Catch by area**
  - Catch greatest in Chukchi Sea
  - Catch greatest with beach seine

**Conclusions**
- Arctic nearshore waters used by forage fish, especially capelin
- Catch & composition differed with gear type/water depth
- Catch & composition differed between Chukchi and Beaufort Seas

**Future plans**
- Resample sites in 2008 and 2009 to establish a baseline for long-term monitoring of nearshore fish in the Arctic