

COMIDA – Flight 253 – 23 September 2011

Area flown: Search effort between Icy Cape and Point Lay to relocate walrus haulout. Transects 28 and 30, partial; transect 32, complete.

Total hours flown: 4.9

Total transect hours: 1.0

Number of bowheads seen: 0 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were partly cloudy to overcast. Visibility ranged from 1-10 km.

Sea state ranged from Beaufort 2-7, with high sea states between Point Lay and Cape Lisburne and lower sea states south of Cape Lisburne. No sea ice was present in the area surveyed.

High sea states prevented complete coverage of transects 28 and 30.

Sightings: One gray whale and approximately 12,000 walrus hauled out 3 nmi north of Point Lay (see photo below).

Bowhead Preliminary Summary, Flight 253 Date: 9/23/2011

Total bowheads: 0	Start time: 9/23/2011 2:41:41 PM	End time: 9/23/2011 7:16:59 PM
Bowhead sightings: 0	Transect minutes: 63	Transect km: 217.2
Bowheads on transect: 0	Circling minutes: 12	Circling km: 38.3
Bowhead Cow-calf pairs: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 75	Trans+Circ km: 255.5
Bowhead Cow-calf Pairs on transect: 0	Search minutes: 43	Search km: 171.3
Bowhead repeats: 0	Total minutes: 275	Total km: 1338.6
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 157	Deadhead km: 911.8
Total gray whales: 1	Search blocks: 17, 20, 22	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 22	
Other whale sightings: 0		
Total walrus: 12000		
Total bear: 0		

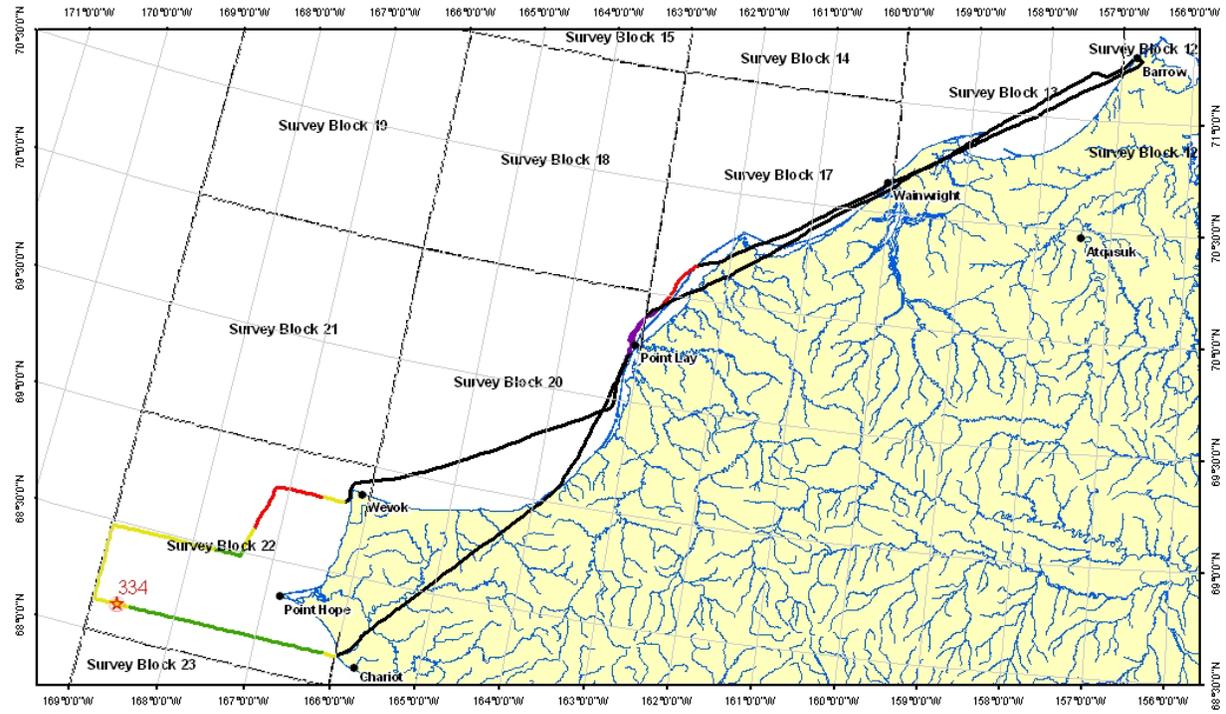
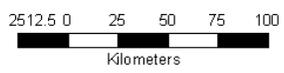
Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Repeat	Calves	Swim direction	Swim Speed	Behavior	On effort
334	68.14	-168.7	22	gray whale	1	.	0	359	.	swim	True

NMML/MMS
 COMIDA Aerial Survey Program
 Flight 253, 9/23/2011

Flightlines by Sea State

- B0 - B2
- B3, B4
- B5, B6
- B7 - B12
- n/a

Cetacean Sightings - Labeled by sighting number as shown on Summary Table





Walrus haulout (estimated size 12,000 animals) sighted during COMIDA flight 253. The haulout was located slightly north of Pt. Lay in the same area as haulouts observed on previous flights in 2011. In the vicinity of the sighting, the COMIDA team was flying approximately one km offshore, with the aircraft at 1376', and no reaction by the walrus was noted.