

COMIDA – Flight 243 – 5 September 2011

Area flown: Transect 4, partial; coastal completed from Point Lay to Barrow.

Total hours flown: 5.2 hrs (2 flights)

Total transect hours: 2.2 hrs

Number of bowheads seen: 0 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were partly cloudy to overcast with low ceilings, precipitation, and glare. Visibility ranged from 0 to 10 km. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 1 to 7. There was no ice present within the area surveyed. High seas states prevented completion of transects in the southern part of the study area, while low ceilings prevented survey effort in the northern part of the study area.

Sightings: Gray whales, walrus (including one dead), small unidentified pinnipeds, and one brown bear. Approximately 5,000 walrus were observed hauled out on land slightly north of Point Lay (photo included) with an additional 300 or so in the water slightly south of the haulout.

Bowhead Preliminary Summary, Flight 243 Date: 09/05/2011

Total bowheads: 0	Start time: 9/5/2011 9:25:21 AM	End time: 9/5/2011 4:26:53 PM
Bowhead sightings: 0	Transect minutes: 129	Transect km: 438.7
Bowheads on transect: 0	Circling minutes: 15	Circling km: 48.8
Bowhead Cow-calf pairs: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 144	Trans+Circ km: 487.5
Bowhead Cow-calf Pairs on transect: 0	Search minutes: 19	Search km: 71.4
Bowhead repeats: 0	Total minutes: 314	Total km: 1404.5
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 151	Deadhead km: 845.6
Total gray whales: 12	Search blocks: 20, 12, 13	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 22, 20, 13, 17, 0	
Other whale sightings: 0		
Total walrus: 5306		
Total bear: 0		

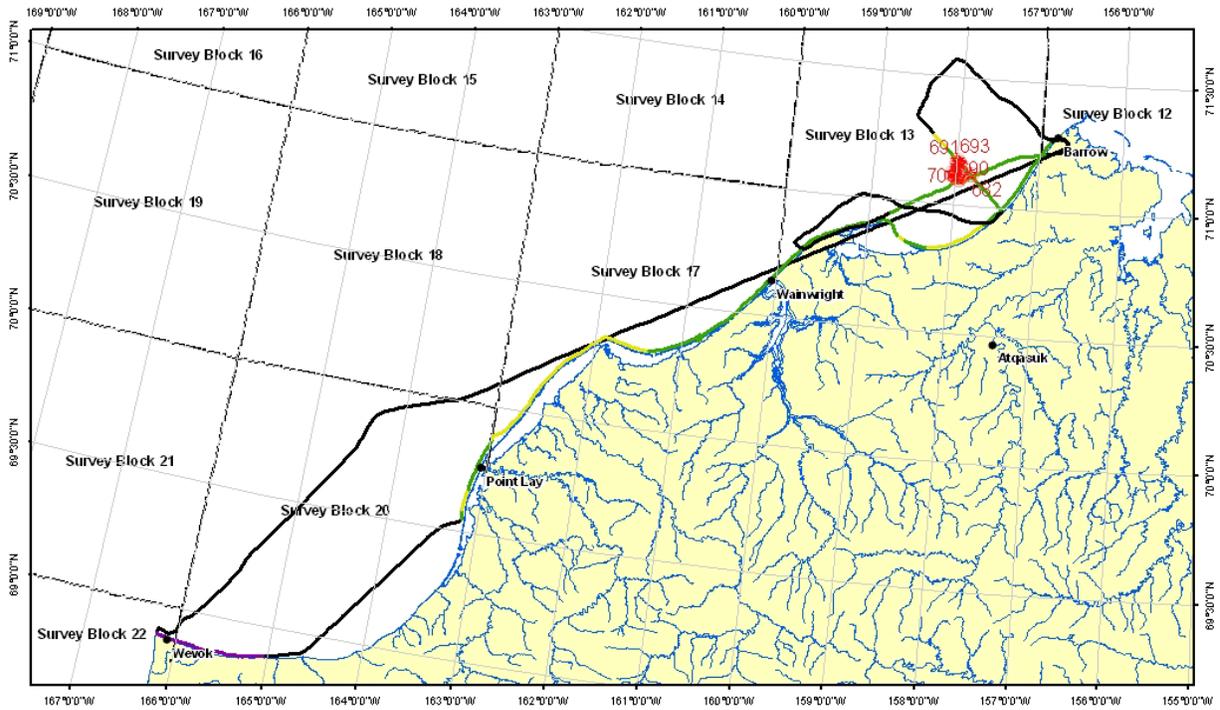
Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Repeat	Calves	Swim direction	Swim Speed	Behavior	On effort
548	71.09	-157.94	13	gray whale	2	.	0	-1	.	feed	False
562	71.12	-158.04	13	gray whale	2	.	0	-1	.	swim	False
565	71.11	-157.99	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	rest	False
568	71.13	-158.01	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	rest	False
555	71.11	-157.94	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	feed	False
682	71.12	-157.82	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	dive	True
700	71.17	-157.99	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	swim	True
690	71.16	-157.95	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	feed	True
691	71.16	-157.95	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	feed	True
693	71.17	-157.96	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	dive	False

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

NMML/MMS
COMIDA Aerial Survey Program
Flight 243, 9/5/2011





Walrus haulout (estimated size 5000 animals) sighted during COMIDA flight 243. 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 the coastal transect two km offshore, with the aircraft at 1564', and no reaction by the walrus was noted.