

COMIDA – Flight 255 – 25 September 2011

Area flown: Transects 29 and 31, complete; transects 23 and 25, partial; coastal transect just south of Cape Lisburne and between Cape Lisburne and Point Lay. Search effort near Point Lay to relocate walrus haulout.

Total hours flown: 4.8

Total transect hours: 1.7

Number of bowheads seen: 0 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were clear to overcast. Visibility ranged from <1-10 km. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 1-8. No sea ice was present in the area surveyed. High sea states limited survey effort.

Sightings: Belugas, walruses and unidentified pinnipeds. Approximately 8,000 walruses were hauled out 3 nmi north of Point Lay; the haulout was split into two aggregations that were in close proximity to one another (see photo below).

Bowhead Preliminary Summary, Flight 255 Date: 9/25/2011

Total bowheads: 0	Start time: 9/25/2011 10:04:22 AM	End time: 9/25/2011 2:51:43 PM
Bowhead sightings: 0	Transect minutes: 102	Transect km:368.1
Bowheads on transect: 0	Circling minutes: 0	Circling km: 0
Bowhead Cow-calf pairs: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 102	Trans+Circ km: 368.1
Bowhead Cow-calf Pairs on transect: 0	Search minutes: 54	Search km: 189.6
Bowhead repeats: 0	Total minutes: 287	Total km: 1314.1
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 131	Deadhead km: 756.4
Total gray whales: 0	Search blocks: 0, 22, 21, 20, 13, 17	
Total belugas: 4	Transect blocks: 22, 20, 0	
Other whale sightings: 0		
Total walrus: 8002		
Total bear: 0		

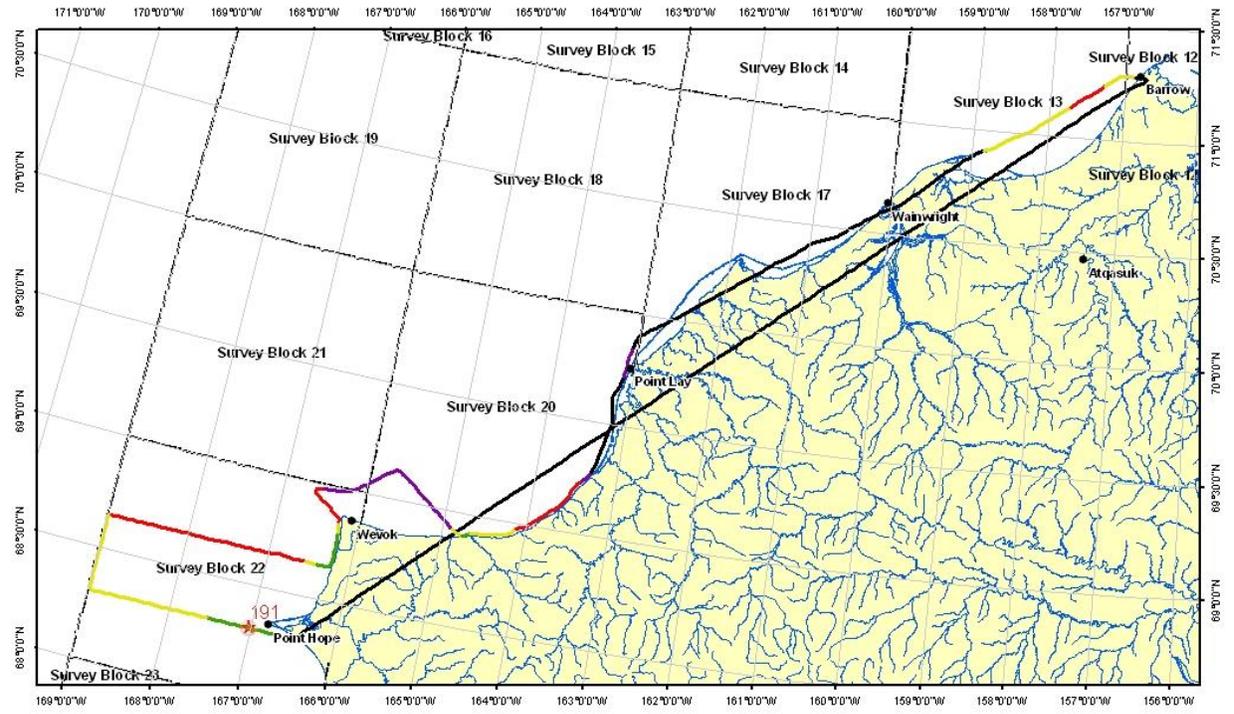
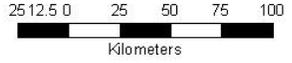
Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Repeat	Calves	Swim direction	Swim Speed	Behavior	On effort
191	68.31	-167.02	22	beluga	4	.	0	-1	.	rest	True

NMML/MMS
 COMIDA Aerial Survey Program
 Flight 255, 9/25/2011

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





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Walrus haulouts located 3 nm north of Point Lay observed on 25 September 2011 during COMIDA flight 255. Approximately 8,000 walrus were hauled out; the haulout was split into two aggregations that were in close proximity to one another. The photograph was taken from 1.5 nm offshore at an altitude of 1,311 ft; no reaction to the aircraft was observed.