

COMIDA – Flight 258 – 30 September 2011

Area flown: Transects 14 and 16, complete; coastal transect from Point Lay to just north of Icy Cape. Search effort between Point Franklin and Barrow.

Total hours flown: 5.0

Total transect hours: 3.2

Number of bowheads seen: 0 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were partly cloudy to overcast, with scattered snow showers throughout the study area. Visibility ranged from 0-10 km. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 2-6, with higher sea states between Point Franklin and Barrow. No sea ice was present in the area surveyed.

Sightings: Walruses and unidentified pinnipeds. Approximately 13,000 walruses were hauled out 5 nmi northeast of Point Lay (see photograph below).

Bowhead Preliminary Summary, Flight 258 Date: 9/30/2011

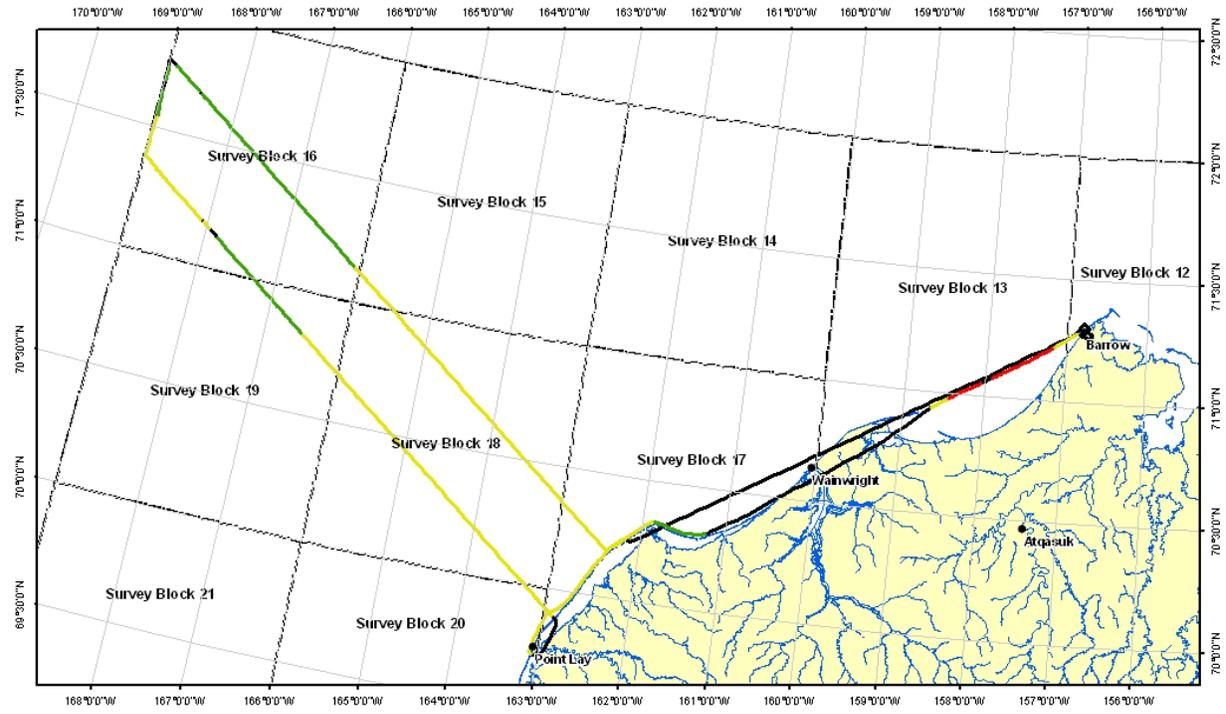
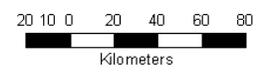
Total bowheads: 0	Start time: 9/30/2011 10:46:39 AM	End time: 9/30/2011 3:43:10 PM
Bowhead sightings: 0	Transect minutes: 191	Transect km: 673.6
Bowheads on transect: 0	Circling minutes: 0	Circling km: 0
Bowhead Cow-calf pairs: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 191	Trans+Circ km: 673.6
Bowhead Cow-calf Pairs on transect: 0	Search minutes: 34	Search km: 128.2
Bowhead repeats: 0	Total minutes: 297	Total km: 1211.1
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 72	Deadhead km: 409.3
Total gray whales: 0	Search blocks: 17, 16, 20, 13, 12	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 17, 18, 15, 16, 19, 20	
Other whale sightings: 0		
Total walrus: 13108		
Total bear: 0		

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 258, 9/30/2011





Walrus hauled out approximately 5 nmi northeast of Point Lay, Alaska. Group size was estimated at 13,000 animals. The aircraft was surveying 1 nmi offshore at 1,541 ft altitude and no reaction was observed.