ASAMM-Beaufort – Flight 41 – 2 October 2015

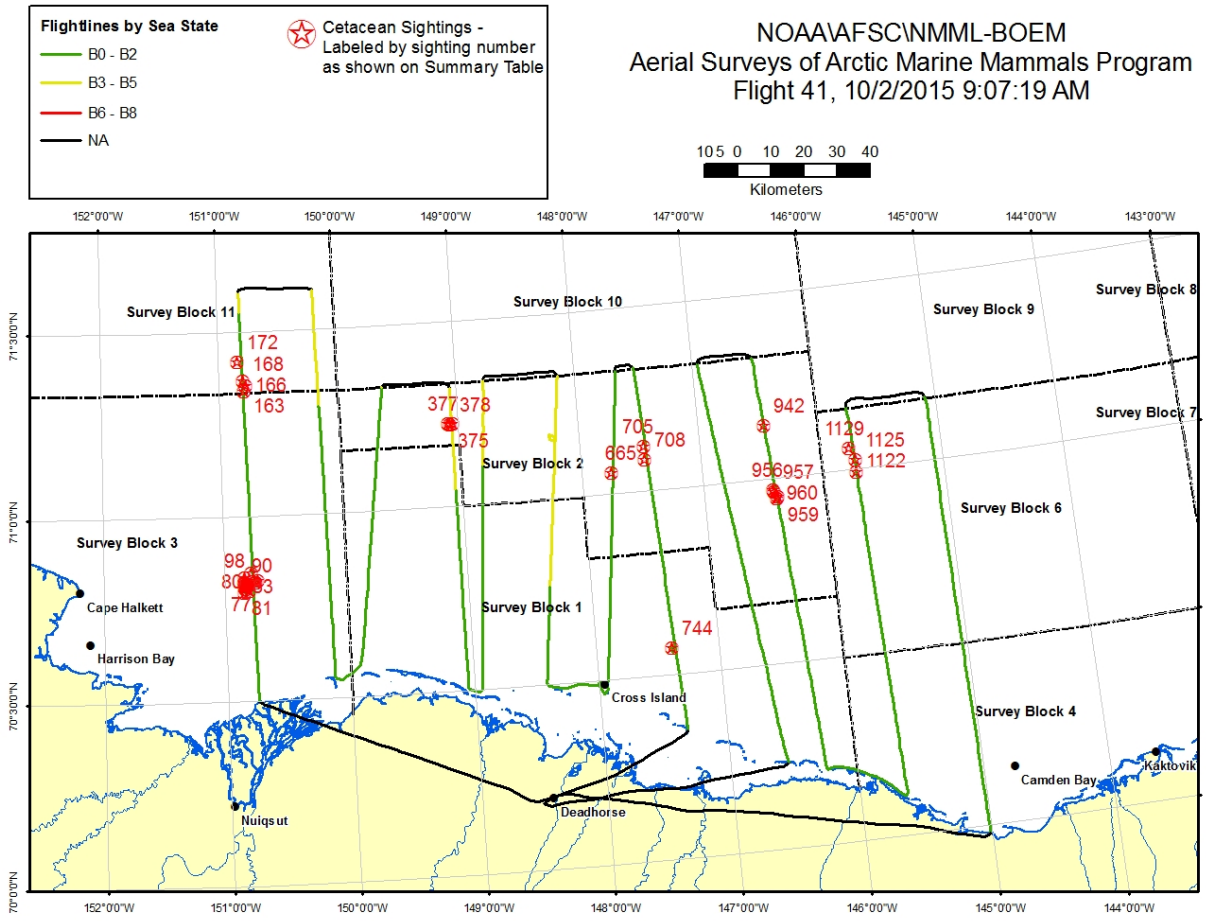
Area flown: Block 1, 8 complete transects; block 2, 8 complete transects; block 3, 2 complete transects; block 4, 2 complete transects; block 6, 2 complete transects; block 11, 2 partial transects.
Total hours flown: 8.5 (2 flights)
Total transect hours: 6.2
Number of bowhead whales seen: 19 (2 calves)
Weather and visibility: Skies were partly cloudy to overcast. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 1-3. Visibility varied from 1 km to unlimited; with visual impediments including glare, haze, and precipitation. Sea ice cover ranged from 0–90% grease/new and broken floe ice in the area surveyed.
Sightings: Bowhead whales, belugas (including two calves), 1 unidentified cetacean, 1 unidentified pinniped, small unidentified pinnipeds, and polar bears. All of the polar bears were on Cross Island. Post-flight review of aerial photographs confirmed that there were 44 polar bears (including 5 cubs), walking and resting.

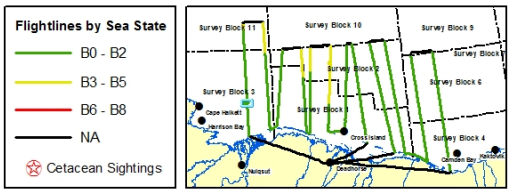
Preliminary Summary, Flight 41 Date: 10/2/2015

Total bowhead whales: 19	Start time: 10/2/2015 9:16:32 AM	End time: 10/2/2015 6:40:05 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 15	Transect minutes: 369	Transect km:1302.5
Bowhead whales on transect: 3	Circling minutes: 25	Circling km: 60.3
Bowhead whale cow-calf pairs: 2	Trans+Circ minutes: 394	Trans+Circ km: 1362.8
Bowhead whale cow-calf pairs on transect: 0	Search minutes: 17	Search km: 64.7
Bowhead whale repeats: 0	Total minutes: 510	Total km: 1898
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 99	Deadhead km: 470.5
Total gray whales: 0	Search blocks: 11, 1, 3, 10, 2, 4, 9	
Total belugas: 94	Transect blocks: 3, 11, 1, 2, 10, 4, 6, 9	
Other whale sightings: 1		
Walruses: No		
Total polar bears: 44		

Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Calves	Behavior	Swim Direction	On Effort
70	70.81	-150.77	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	True
74	70.82	-150.83	3	bowhead whale	2	1	rest	-1	False
75	70.81	-150.83	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
77	70.81	-150.82	3	bowhead whale	2	0	mill	-1	False
80	70.8	-150.8	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
81	70.79	-150.84	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
83	70.8	-150.83	3	bowhead whale	2	0	mill	-1	False
90	70.82	-150.84	3	bowhead whale	1	0	feed	-1	False
98	70.83	-150.84	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
102	70.82	-150.81	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
104	70.82	-150.84	3	bowhead whale	2	1	mill	-1	False
109	70.82	-150.77	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	True
112	70.83	-150.73	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
115	70.82	-150.75	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	False
120	70.85	-150.77	3	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	85	True
163	71.34	-150.8	11	beluga	1	0	rest	-1	True
166	71.35	-150.8	11	beluga	1	0	swim	208	True
168	71.37	-150.8	11	beluga	1	0	rest	-1	True
172	71.42	-150.8	11	beluga	16	0	swim	269	True
375	71.22	-149.06	2	beluga	1	0	swim	268	True
377	71.22	-149.06	2	beluga	53	0	swim	-1	True
378	71.22	-149.06	2	beluga	1	0	swim	267	True
665	71.06	-147.74	2	beluga	2	1	swim	278	True

705	71.12	-147.45	2	beluga	2	1	rest	-1	True
708	71.08	-147.45	2	beluga	1	0	rest	-1	True
744	70.57	-147.36	1	unid cetacean	1	0	feed	-1	True
942	71.14	-146.45	2	beluga	1	0	swim	296	True
956	70.97	-146.41	2	beluga	1	0	swim	266	True
957	70.96	-146.41	2	beluga	1	0	swim	266	True
959	70.95	-146.41	2	beluga	4	0	swim	267	True
960	70.94	-146.41	2	beluga	5	0	swim	268	True
1122	70.99	-145.73	6	beluga	1	0	rest	-1	True
1125	71.02	-145.73	6	beluga	1	0	rest	-1	True
1129	71.06	-145.74	6	beluga	1	0	swim	358	True





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Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
Flight 41, High Density Cluster 1, 10/2/2015 9:07:19 AM

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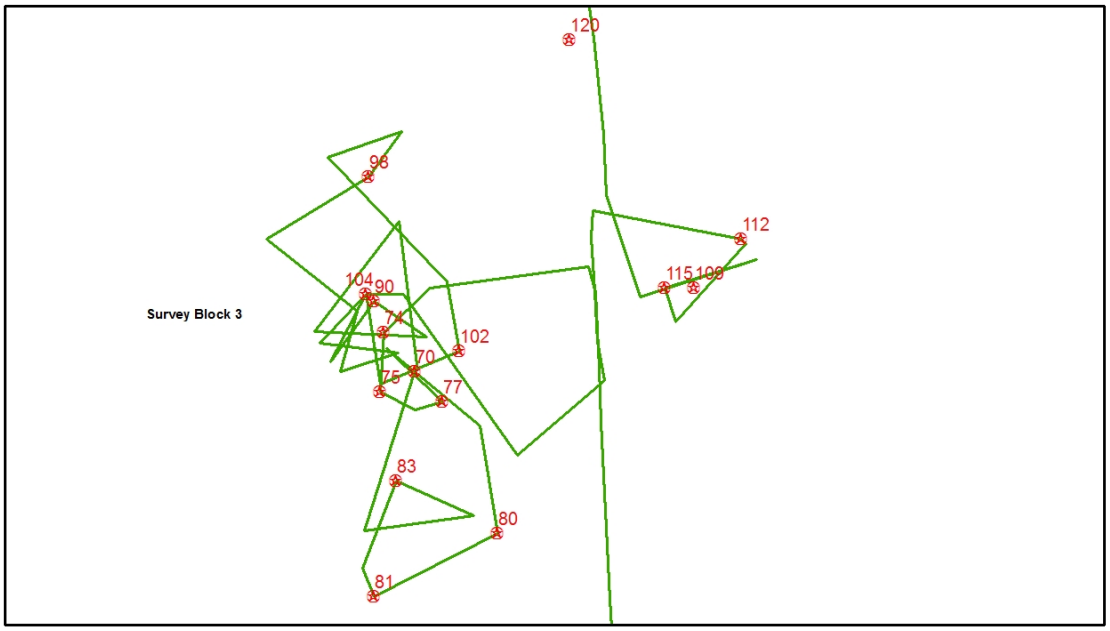
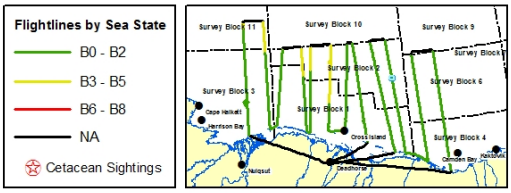
Kilometers





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Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
Flight 41, High Density Cluster 2, 10/2/2015 9:07:19 AM

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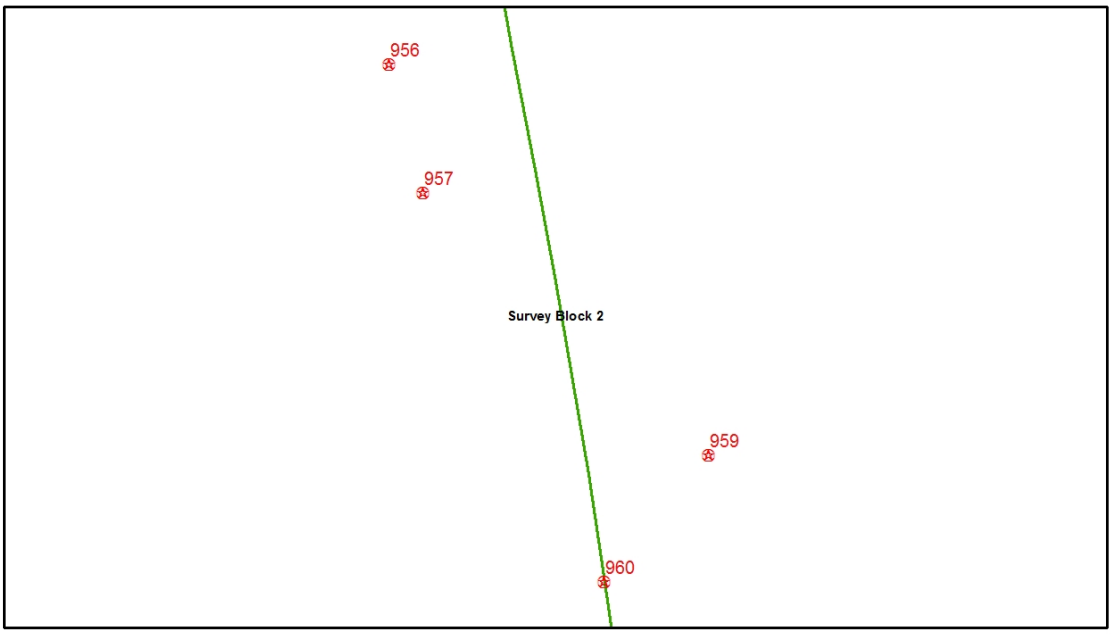
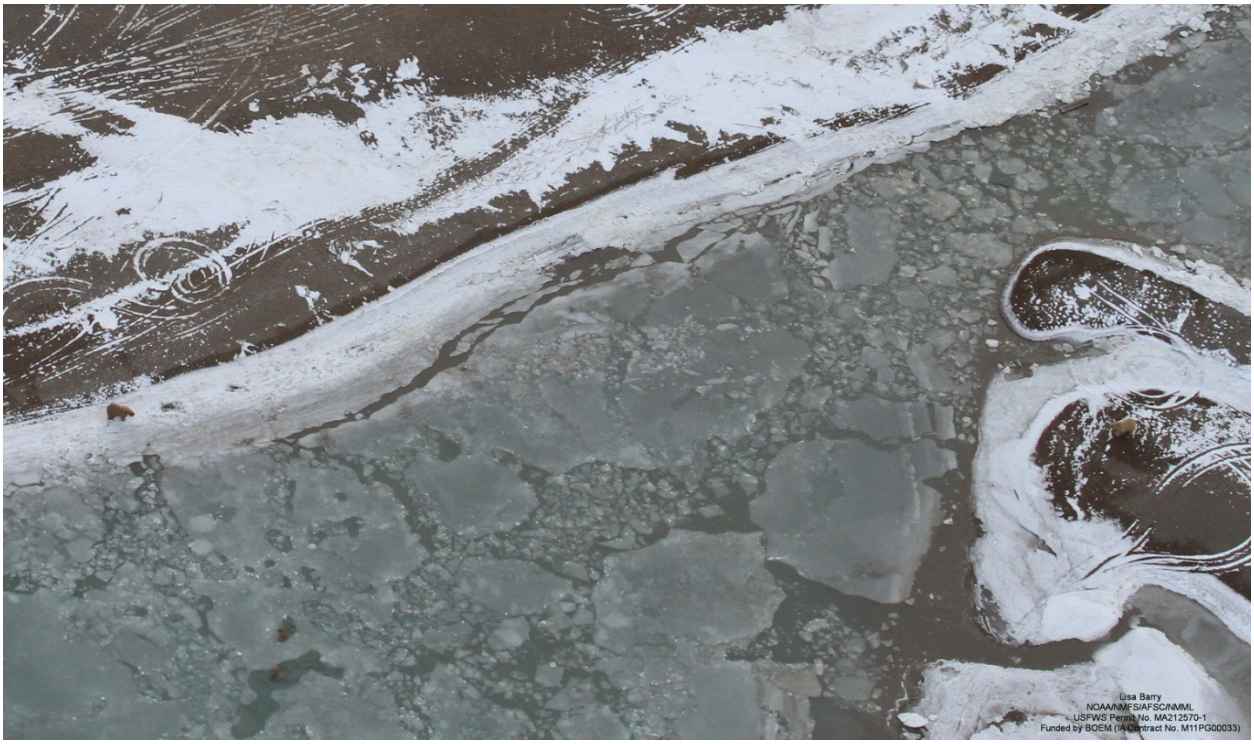


Bowhead whale flexing just prior to a dive, sighted in Harrison Bay in the western Alaskan Beaufort Sea (Event 74), ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 41, 2 October 2015.

Bowhead whale, with mud visible on its head from feeding near the ocean bottom, sighted in Harrison Bay in the western Alaskan Beaufort Sea (Event 90), ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 41, 2 October 2015.

Polar bears resting and walking on Cross Island, ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 41, 2 October 2015.



Polar bears in and around one of the quickly freezing lagoons on Cross Island,
ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 41, 2 October 2015.