

ASAMM-Chukchi – Flight 249 – 10 October 2016

Area flown: Transects 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11, complete; transects 6 and 7, partial; coastal transect between Wainwright and Peard Bay.

Total hours flown: 8.9 (2 flights)

Total transect hours: 6.7

Number of bowhead whales seen: 5 (2 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were clear to partly cloudy. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 2-5.

Visibility was 3 km to unlimited, with haze and glare. There was no sea ice in the area surveyed.

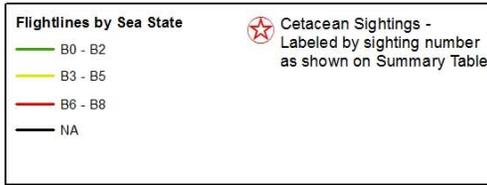
Sightings: Bowhead whales, gray whales, unidentified cetaceans, walrus, unidentified pinnipeds, and small unidentified pinnipeds. One walrus carcass was seen ~75 km northwest of Pt. Franklin.

Preliminary Summary, Flight 249 Date: Monday, October 10, 2016

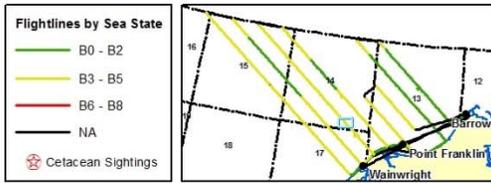
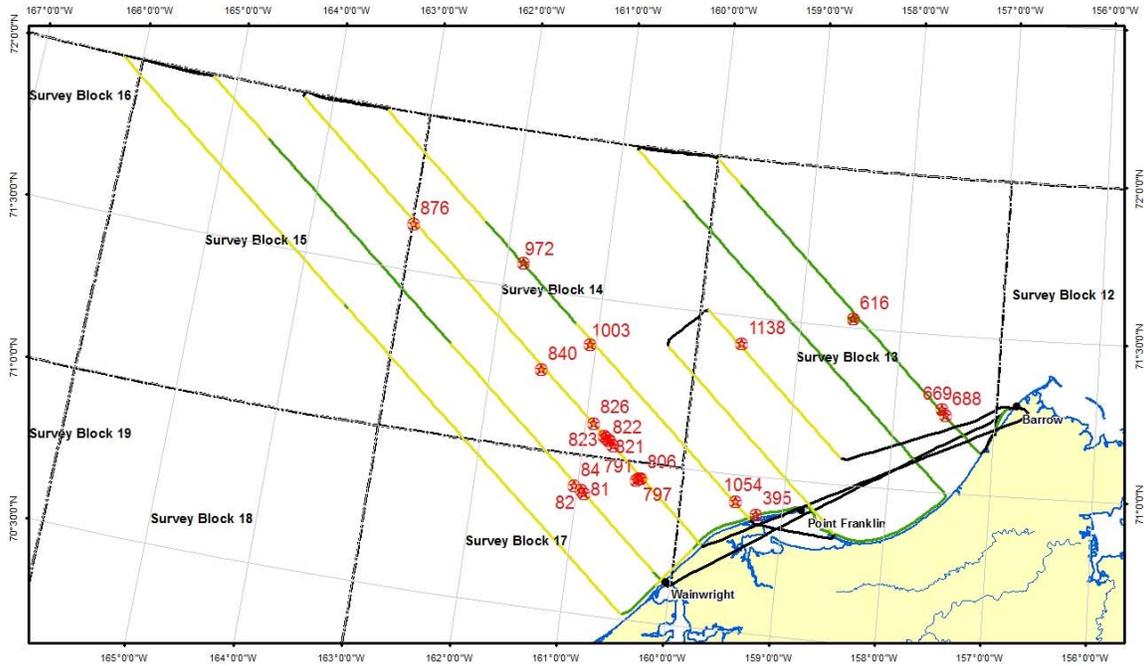
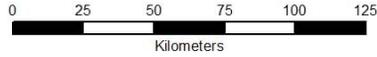
Total bowhead whales: 5	Start time: 10/10/2016 9:43:09 AM	End time: 10/10/2016 7:20:41 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 3	Transect minutes: 395	Transect km: 1502.7
Bowhead whales on transect: 5	Circling minutes: 37	Circling km: 107.7
Bowhead whale cow-calf pairs: 2	Trans+Circ minutes: 432	Trans+Circ km: 1610.4
Bowhead whale cow-calf pairs on transect: 2	Search minutes: 5	Search km: 19.7
Bowhead whale repeats: 0	Total minutes: 535	Total km: 2123.2
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 98	Deadhead km: 493.1
Total gray whales: 25	Search blocks: 12,13,14,15,17	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 13,14,15,16,17	
Other whale sightings: 2		
walrus: yes		
Total polar bears: 0		

Cetacean Sightings:

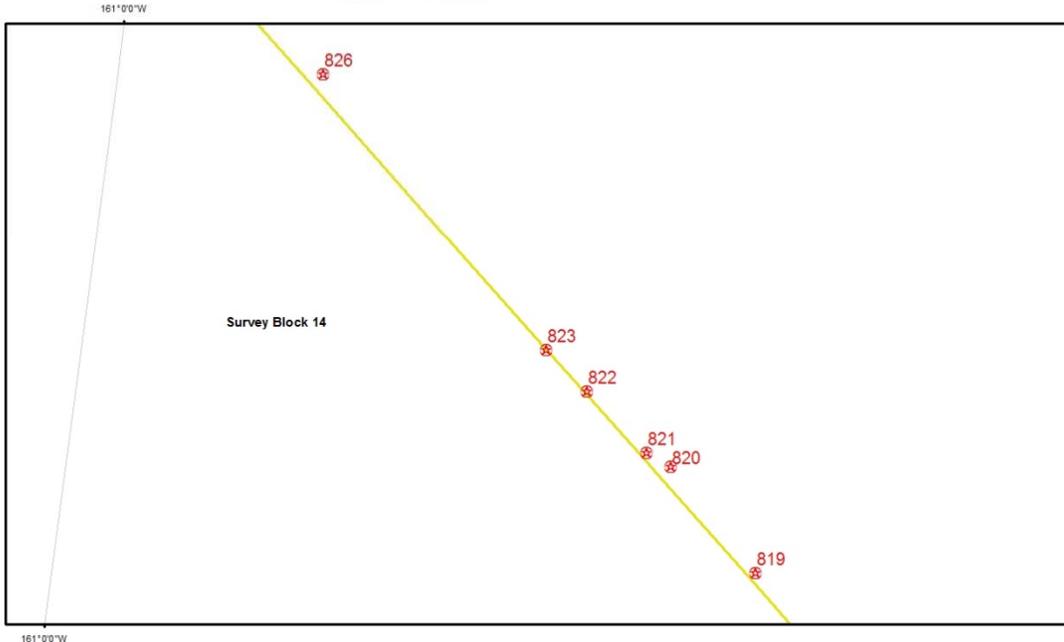
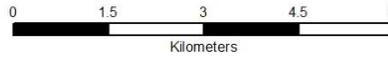
Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Calves	Behavior	Swim Direction	On Effort
81	70.88	-160.92	17	gray whale	1	0	swim	221	True
82	70.89	-160.95	17	gray whale	1	0	feed	-1	True
84	70.91	-161.01	17	gray whale	1	0	feed	-1	True
395	70.88	-159.24	13	gray whale	1	0	swim	242	True
616	71.54	-158.44	13	bowhead whale	2	1	swim	-1	True
669	71.26	-157.53	13	gray whale	8	0	feed	-1	True
688	71.24	-157.49	13	gray whale	1	0	swim	345	True
791	70.96	-160.4	17	gray whale	1	0	feed	-1	True
797	70.94	-160.43	17	gray whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
806	70.95	-160.4	17	gray whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
819	71.04	-160.7	14	gray whale	1	0	rest	-1	True
820	71.06	-160.74	14	gray whale	1	0	rest	-1	True
821	71.06	-160.75	14	gray whale	1	0	feed	-1	True
822	71.07	-160.78	14	gray whale	1	0	rest	-1	True
823	71.07	-160.8	14	gray whale	2	0	swim	-1	True
826	71.1	-160.92	14	gray whale	1	0	swim	-1	True
840	71.26	-161.47	14	gray whale	1	0	feed	-1	True
876	71.65	-162.95	14	bowhead whale	2	1	swim	99	True
972	71.58	-161.82	14	unid cetacean	1	0	swim	310	True
1003	71.36	-161.03	14	unid cetacean	1	0	swim	161	True
1054	70.91	-159.46	13	gray whale	1	0	swim	222	True
1138	71.41	-159.57	13	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	312	True



NOAA\FSC\NMML-BOEM
Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
Flight 249, 10/10/2016 9:39:23 AM



NOAA\FSC\NMML-BOEM
Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
Flight 249, High Density Cluster 1, 10/10/2016





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Breaching gray whale seen ~25 km west of Barrow, Alaska (Event 669), ASAMM-Chukchi Flight 249, 10 October 2016. Most of the gray whales in this loose group of 8 were feeding, but this whale breached repeatedly. During a transit that occurred 1 hour after this sighting, several consecutive large splashes were observed in the same area, presumably from more breaching.

Breaching by gray whales is not observed often during ASAMM surveys but, on this day at least, 1 gray whale was highly motivated!