

ASAMM-Beaufort – Flight 15 – 19 August 2017

Area flown: Block 12, 6 partial transects

Total hours flown: 4.9

Total transect hours: 1.5

Number of bowhead whales seen: 36 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were overcast to partly cloudy. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 1 to 3. Visibility ranged from 0 km to 10 km; with low ceilings, glare, and precipitation. There was no sea ice in the area surveyed.

Sightings: Bowhead whales, belugas (including 13 calves), one walrus, bearded seals, unidentified pinnipeds, and small unidentified pinnipeds.

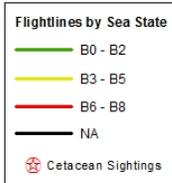
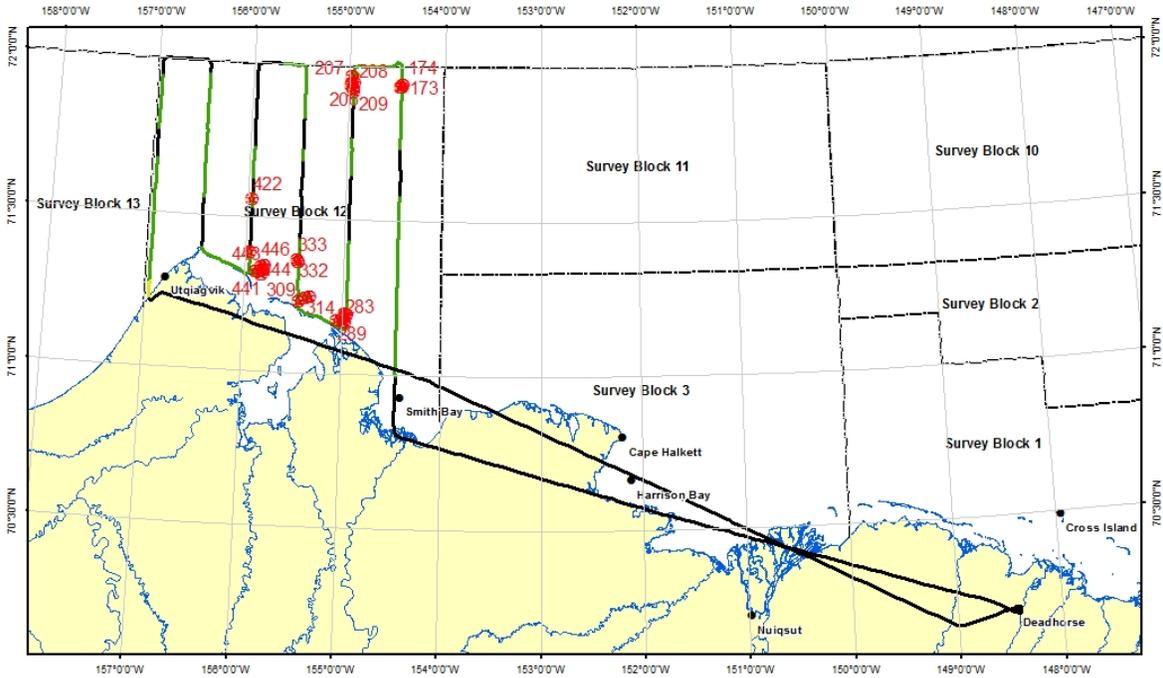
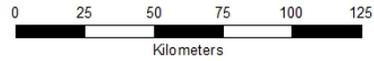
Preliminary Summary, Flight 15 Date: Saturday, August 19, 2017

Total bowhead whales: 36	Start time: 8/19/2017 2:50:50 PM	End time: 8/19/2017 7:44:03 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 20	Transect minutes: 91	Transect km: 339.1
Bowhead whales on transect: 20	Circling minutes: 23	Circling km: 60.8
Bowhead whale calves: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 114	Trans+Circ km: 399.9
Bowhead whale calves on transect: 0	Search minutes: 21	Search km: 75.4
Bowhead whale repeats: 0	Total minutes: 293	Total km: 1279.3
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 158	Deadhead km: 804
Total gray whales: 0	Search blocks: 12	
Total belugas: 61	Transect blocks: 12	
Other whale sightings: 0		
walrus: yes		
Total polar bears: 0		

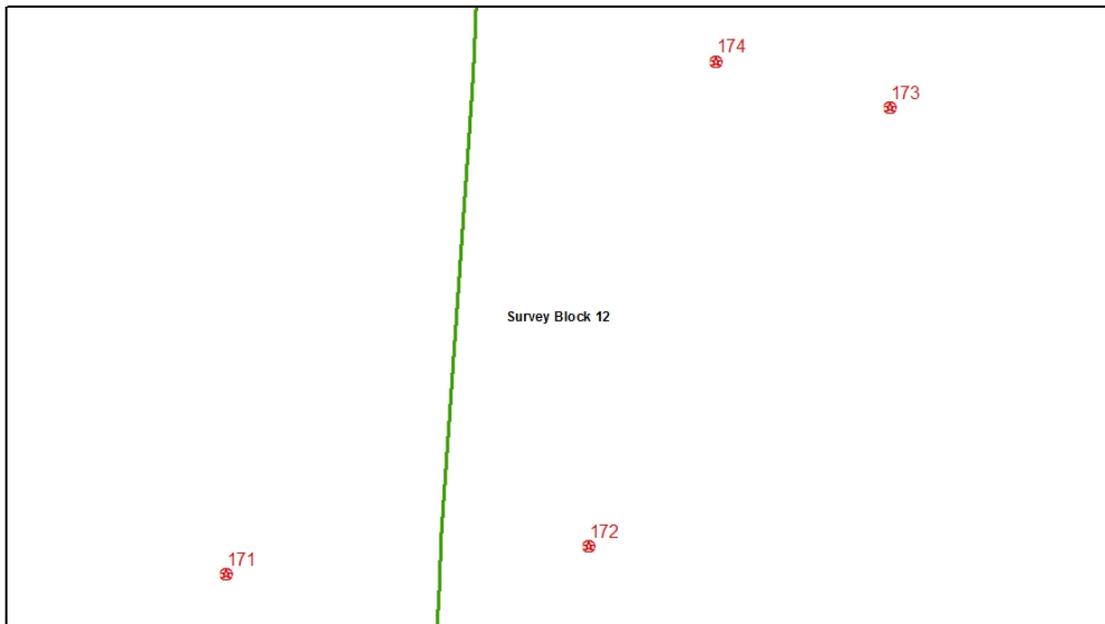
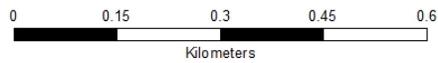
Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Calves	Behavior	Swim Direction	On Effort
171	71.94	-154.45	12	beluga	1	0	swim	182	True
172	71.94	-154.45	12	beluga	1	0	swim	212	True
173	71.94	-154.45	12	beluga	19	2	swim	-1	True
174	71.94	-154.45	12	beluga	2	0	swim	182	True
198	71.97	-154.95	12	beluga	1	0	swim	-1	True
205	71.95	-154.95	12	beluga	8	2	swim	213	True
206	71.94	-154.95	12	beluga	3	0	swim	273	True
207	71.94	-154.95	12	beluga	2	1	swim	215	True
208	71.93	-154.96	12	beluga	22	7	swim	213	True
209	71.92	-154.96	12	beluga	2	1	rest	-1	True
263	71.2	-154.95	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	True
264	71.19	-154.95	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	211	True
272	71.2	-154.97	12	bowhead whale	1	0	dive	-1	False
276	71.17	-154.96	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	True
281	71.18	-154.99	12	bowhead whale	1	0	dive	-1	False
283	71.17	-154.97	12	bowhead whale	5	0	feed	-1	False
289	71.18	-155.05	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
309	71.23	-155.45	12	bowhead whale	1	0	dive	-1	True
311	71.25	-155.45	12	bowhead whale	10	0	feed	-1	True
314	71.24	-155.38	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
332	71.36	-155.45	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	True
333	71.37	-155.45	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	True
422	71.56	-155.96	12	bowhead whale	2	0	mill	-1	True
432	71.38	-155.96	12	bowhead whale	1	0	feed	-1	True
437	71.32	-155.96	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	True
441	71.31	-155.83	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
442	71.33	-155.81	12	bowhead whale	3	0	feed	-1	False
443	71.33	-155.83	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
444	71.34	-155.83	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
446	71.35	-155.8	12	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False

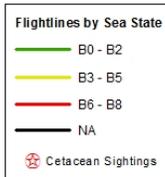


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 Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
 Flight 15, 8/19/2017 2:50:50 PM

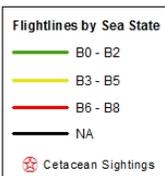
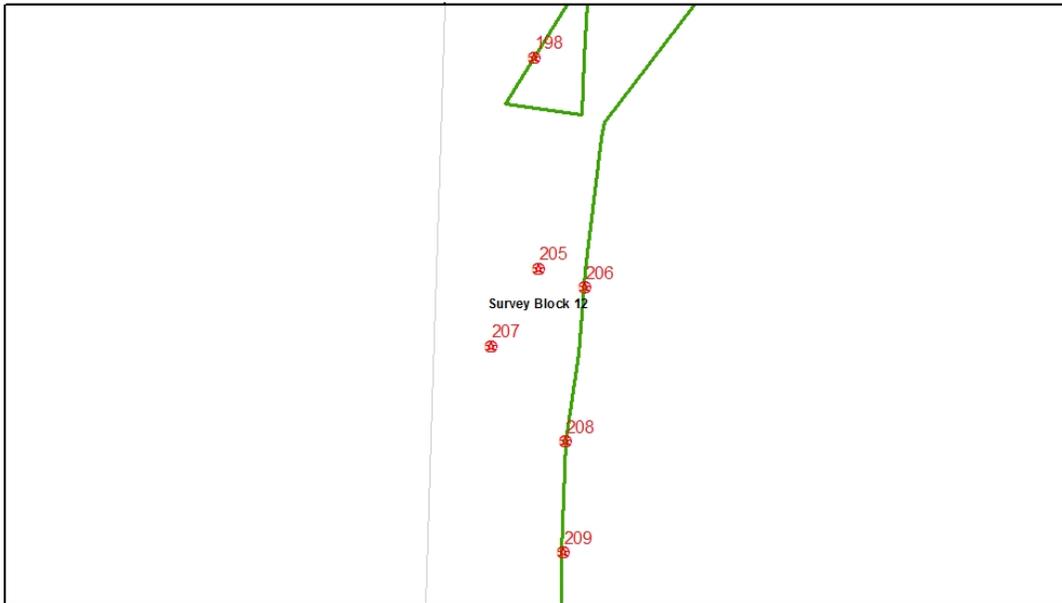
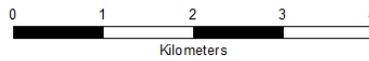


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 Flight 15, High Density Cluster 1, 8/19/2017

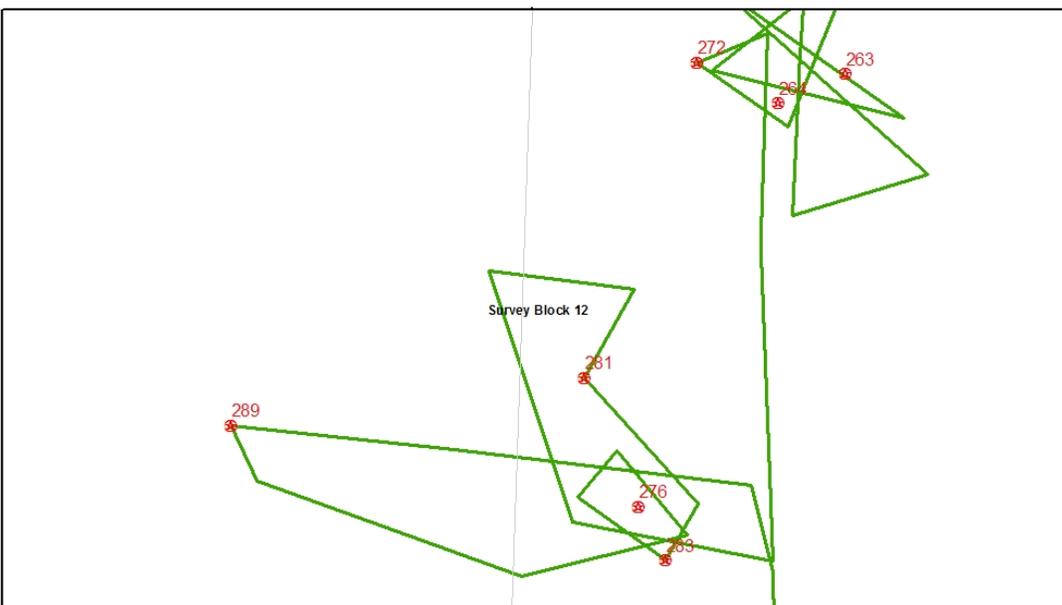
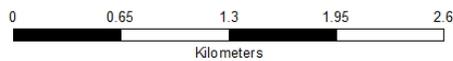


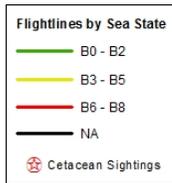


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Flight 15, High Density Cluster 2, 8/19/2017

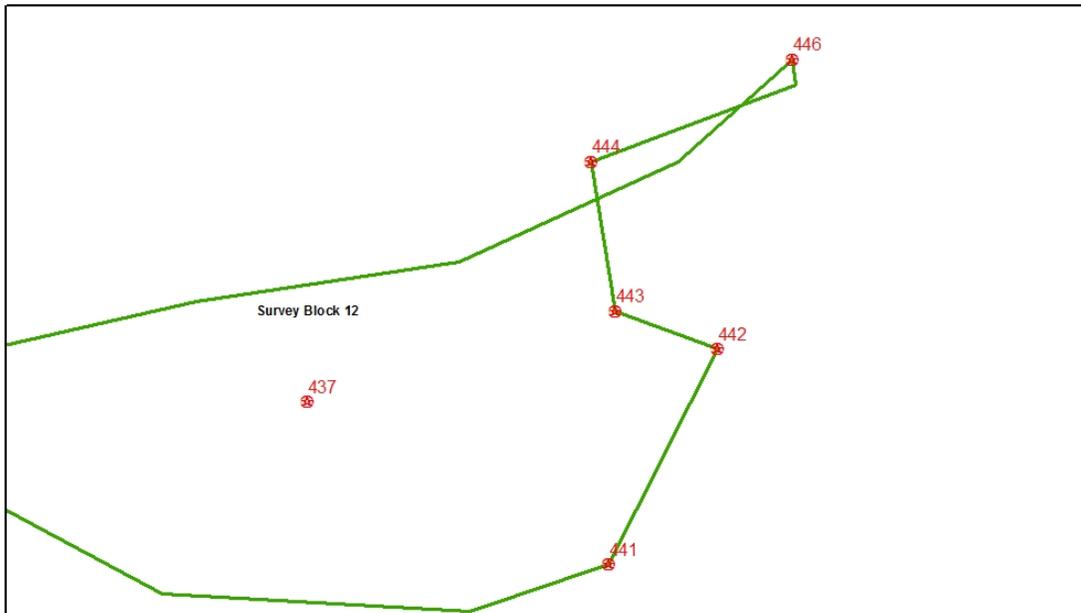
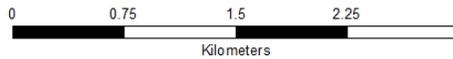


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Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
Flight 15, High Density Cluster 3, 8/19/2017





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 Flight 15, High Density Cluster 4, 8/19/2017



Several behaviors are visible in this wide angle view of a bowhead whale feeding aggregation, observed approximately 45 km ESE of Pt. Barrow, Alaska (Event 311), during ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 15, 19 August 2017. Two whales are echelon skim feeding (right), one whale has its mouth wide open as it feeds on its side at the surface (top), one whale appears to be preparing to dive (middle left), and one whale has exhaled underwater (left).



Zooming in: two bowhead whales, with their plates of baleen clearly visible, are rostrum to rostrum side feeding through murky (food filled) waters approximately 45 km ESE of Pt. Barrow, Alaska (Event 311) during ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 15, 19 August 2017. Side note: the gulls are playing fast and loose with their personal safety.



Each of these bowhead whales is in a different stage of diving below the surface. From left to right: just the fluke tips of one whale are visible above the surface, the peduncle and fluke are visible on the middle whale as it arches its flukes high into the air to help propel itself down, and the whale on the right has its mouth cracked open slightly as it prepares to follow its companions below. This group (Event 442) was one of several feeding groups observed between Smith Bay and Pt. Barrow during ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 15, 19 August 2017.