

ASAMM-Beaufort – Flight 29 – 13 September 2017

Area flown: Block 3, 4 complete transects; block 5, 4 complete transects; block 7, 4 complete transects; block 11, 2 partial and 2 complete transects; coastal transect from Cape Halkett to Cross Island.

Total hours flown: 9.5 (2 flights)

Total transect hours: 5.7

Number of bowhead whales seen: 8 (0 calves)

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

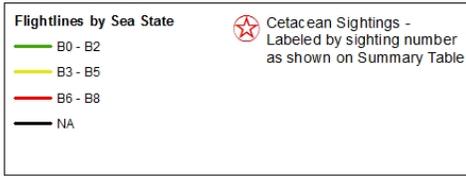
Sightings: Bowhead whales, belugas (including one calf), one unidentified cetacean, bearded seals, small unidentified pinnipeds, and polar bears. The polar bears were primarily resting and feeding on barrier islands; all but one of the bears were on Cross Island.

Preliminary Summary, Flight 29 Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2017

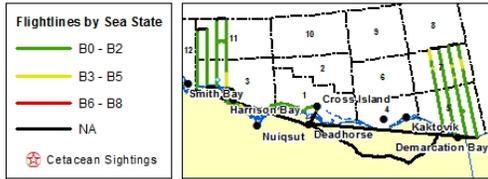
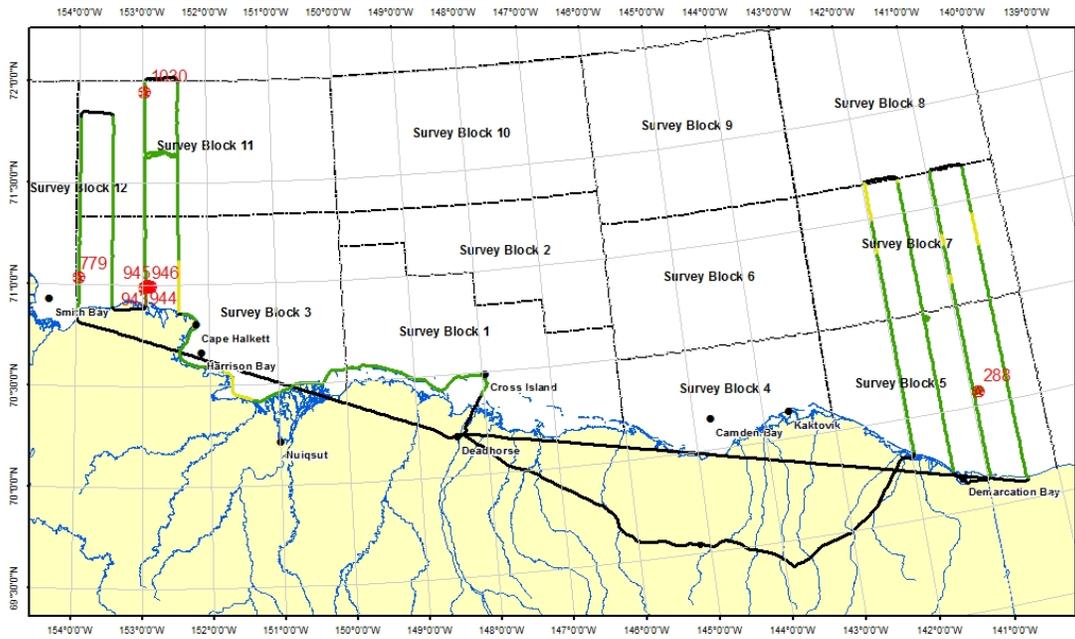
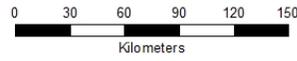
Total bowhead whales: 8	Start time: 9/13/2017 9:04:13 AM	End time: 9/13/2017 7:19:37 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 7	Transect minutes: 343	Transect km: 1339
Bowhead whales on transect: 3	Circling minutes: 38	Circling km: 132.7
Bowhead whale calves: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 381	Trans+Circ km: 1471.7
Bowhead whale calves on transect: 0	Search minutes: 1	Search km: 3.5
Bowhead whale repeats: 0	Total minutes: 571	Total km: 2481.1
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 189	Deadhead km: 1005.9
Total gray whales: 0	Search blocks: 1,3,5,8,11	
Total belugas: 2	Transect blocks: 1,3,5,7,8,11	
Other whale sightings: 1		
walrus: no		
Total polar bears: 82		

Cetacean Sightings:

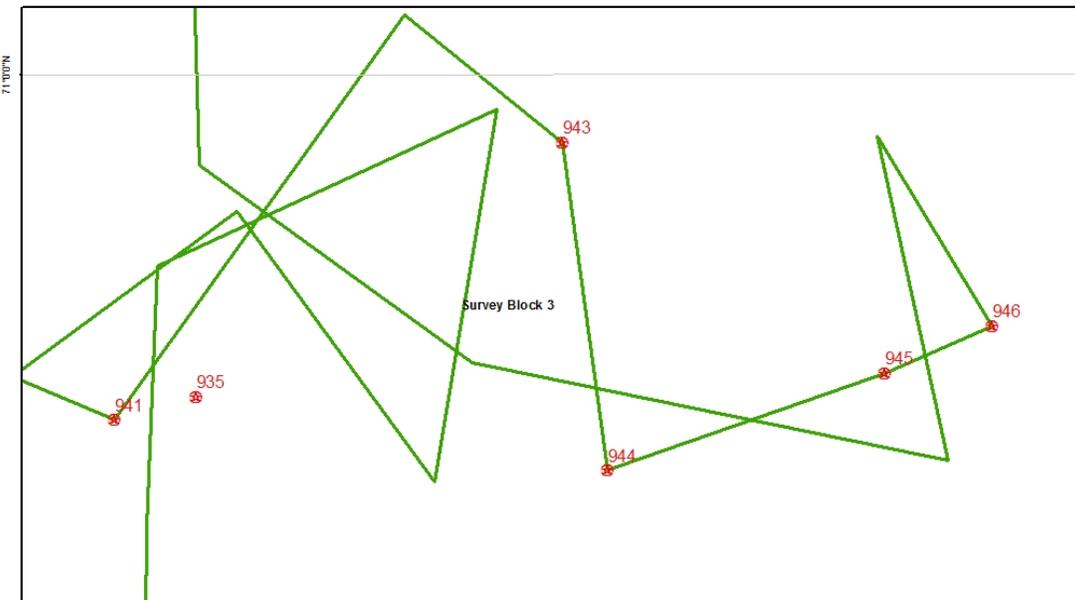
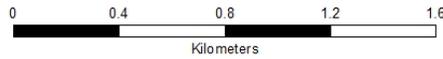
Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Calves	Behavior	Swim Direction	On Effort
288	70.07	-140.96	5	unid cetacean	1	0	swim	270	True
779	71.03	-153.96	3	bowhead whale	1	0	rest	-1	True
935	70.99	-152.95	3	bowhead whale	2	0	rest	-1	True
941	70.99	-152.96	3	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
943	71	-152.91	3	bowhead whale	1	0	swim	-1	False
944	70.99	-152.91	3	bowhead whale	1	0	feed	-1	False
945	70.99	-152.88	3	bowhead whale	1	0	feed	-1	False
946	70.99	-152.87	3	bowhead whale	1	0	feed	-1	False
1030	71.95	-152.95	11	beluga	2	1	swim	119	True



NOAA\AFSC\MML-BOEM
 Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
 Flight 29, 9/13/2017 9:04:13 AM



NOAA\AFSC\MML-BOEM
 Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
 Flight 29, High Density Cluster 1, 9/13/2017





Amy Willoughby
NOAA/NMFS/AFSC/MML
NMFS Permit No. 20465
Funded by BOEM (IA Contract No. M17PG00031)

The only two belugas currently in the entire ASAMM study area (or so it seems). This cow-calf pair was sighted approximately 120 km NNW of Cape Halkett, Alaska (Event 1030), during ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 29, 13 September 2017.



Amy Willoughby
NOAA/NMFS/AFSC/MML
USFWS Permit No. MA24257
Funded by BOEM (IA Contract No. M17PG00031)

Polar bears feeding and resting among the bone piles on Cross Island, Alaska, during ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 29, 13 September 2017.



The R/V Sikuliaq, sighted approximately 90 km north of Cape Halkett, Alaska, during ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 29, 13 September 2017.



The photographer becomes the photographee? Observe the sleek stylings of the ASAMM-Beaufort survey aircraft, Commander N690AX, photographed as it circled above the R/V Sikuliaq, ASAMM-Beaufort Flight 29, 13 September 2017.