

ASAMM-Chukchi – Flight 205 – 12 July 2017

Area flown: Coastal transect from Cape Lisburne to Point Barrow.

Total hours flown: 4.6

Total transect hours: 2.3

Number of bowhead whales seen: 1 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were clear to partly cloudy. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 2 to 4. Visibility ranged from 0 km to unlimited, with fog and glare. Sea ice ranged from 0 to 1 percent broken floe in the area surveyed. Fog precluded surveys of offshore transects.

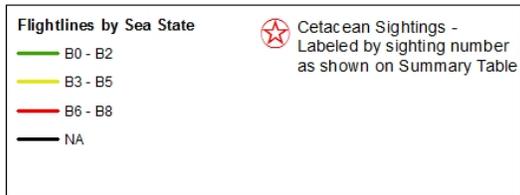
Sightings: One bowhead whale carcass, gray whales (including 4 calves), belugas, walrus (including 2 carcasses), one bearded seal carcass, and small unidentified pinnipeds. The bowhead whale carcass was sighted approximately 35 km east of Point Franklin, Alaska, and is likely a resight of a bowhead whale carcass originally documented by ASAMM on 13 July 2016 and again on 10 September 2016.

Preliminary Summary, Flight 205 Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017

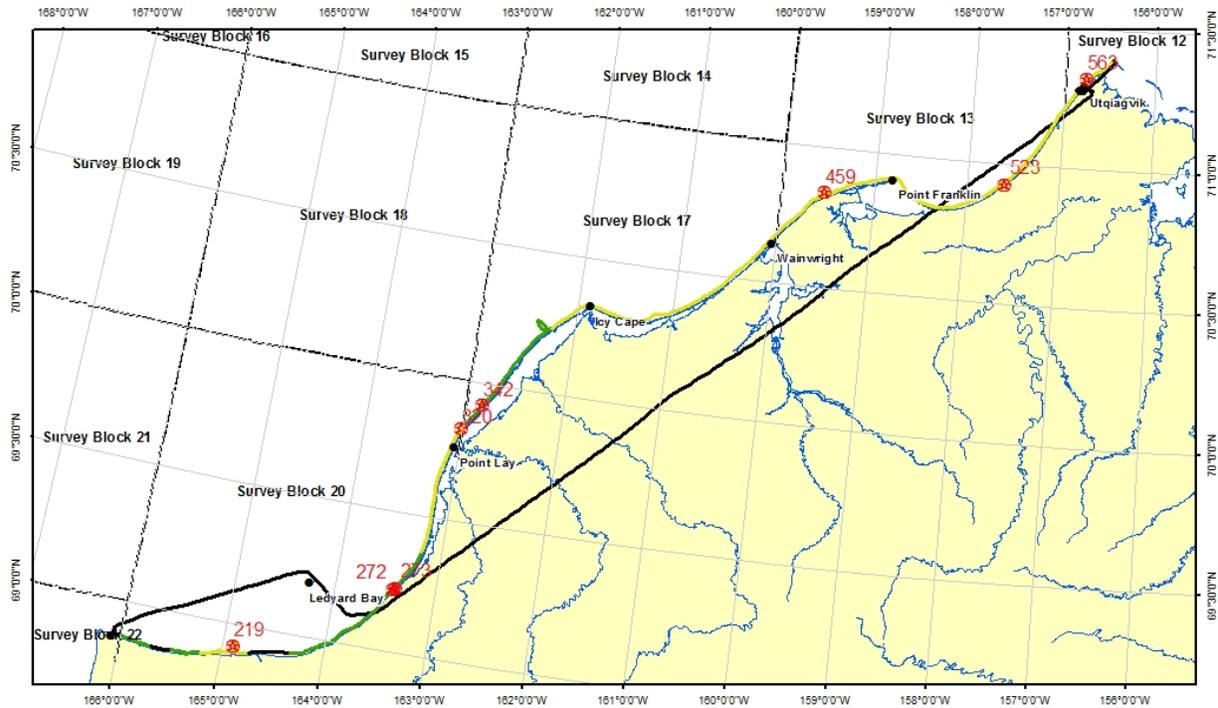
Total bowhead whales: 1	Start time: 7/12/2017 11:47:58 AM	End time: 7/12/2017 4:21:01 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 1	Transect minutes: 139	Transect km: 484.2
Bowhead whales on transect: 1	Circling minutes: 33	Circling km: 83.7
Bowhead whale calves: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 172	Trans+Circ km: 567.9
Bowhead whale calves on transect: 0	Search minutes: 0	Search km: 1.4
Bowhead whale repeats: 1	Total minutes: 273	Total km: 1096.8
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 101	Deadhead km: 527.5
Total gray whales: 8	Search blocks: 12,20	
Total belugas: 16	Transect blocks: 12,13,17,20	
Other whale sightings: 0		
walrus: yes		
Total polar bears: 0		

Cetacean Sightings:

Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Calves	Behavior	Swim Direction	On Effort
219	68.9	-164.87	20	gray whale	1	1	rest	-1	True
272	69.22	-163.42	20	beluga	1	0	mill	-1	True
273	69.23	-163.41	20	beluga	15	0	mill	-1	True
320	69.83	-163	20	gray whale	2	1	feed	-1	False
342	69.92	-162.83	17	gray whale	1	1	swim	-1	False
459	70.83	-159.52	13	gray whale	2	0	swim	64	True
523	70.93	-157.61	13	bowhead whale	1	0	dead	-1	True
563	71.32	-156.75	12	gray whale	2	1	feed	-1	True



NOAA\AFSC\MML-BOEM
 Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
 Flight 205, 7/12/2017 11:47:58 AM



The bowhead whale carcass in the left image was photographed by ASAMM on 10 September 2016 and the carcass in the right image was photographed today (event 523, ASAMM-Chukchi flight 205, 12 July 2017) in the same location. Despite the change in body orientation between last September and now, the carcasses are presumed to be the same whale based on location and decomposition.



Bait ball (and unidentified gull-like creatures) sighted approximately 37 km southwest of Utqiagvik, Alaska, ASAMM-Chukchi flight 205, 12 July 2017. About 20 additional bait balls were seen between this location and Utqiagvik.