

ASAMM-Chukchi – Flight 222 – 21 August 2017

Area flown: Transects 9 and 11, complete; partial coastal transect from Wainwright to Utqiagvik

Total hours flown: 3.9

Total transect hours: 2.8

Number of bowhead whales seen: 0 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Skies were overcast to partly cloudy. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 2 to 5. Visibility ranged from 0 km to unlimited, with low ceilings, fog, haze and glare. There was no sea ice in the area surveyed.

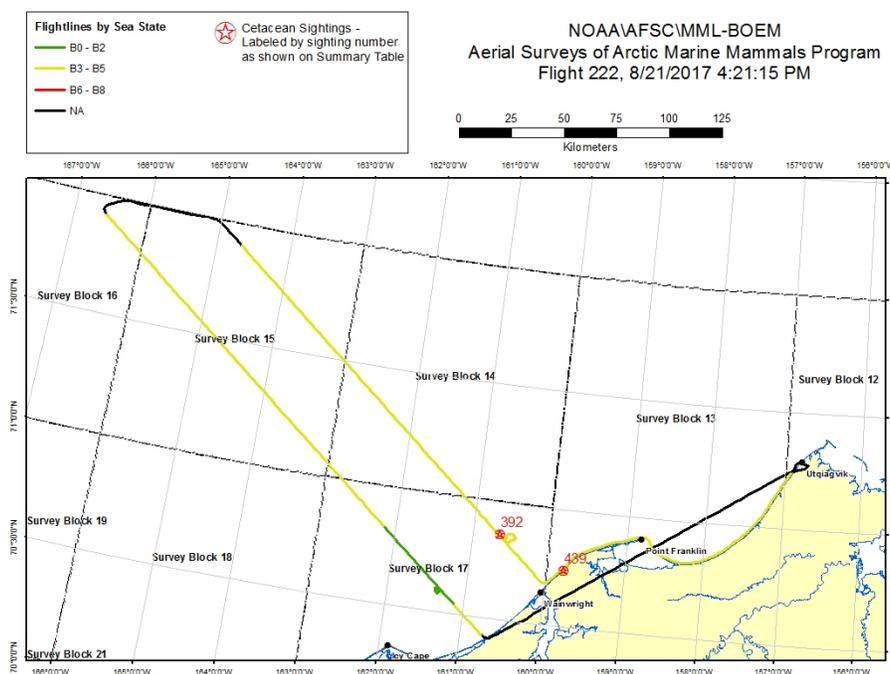
Sightings: Gray whales (including one carcass), one unidentified marine mammal, walrus, and small unidentified pinnipeds. The dead gray whale was a repeat sighting of a carcass first sighted on 11 August 2017, ASAMM-Chukchi Flight 219.

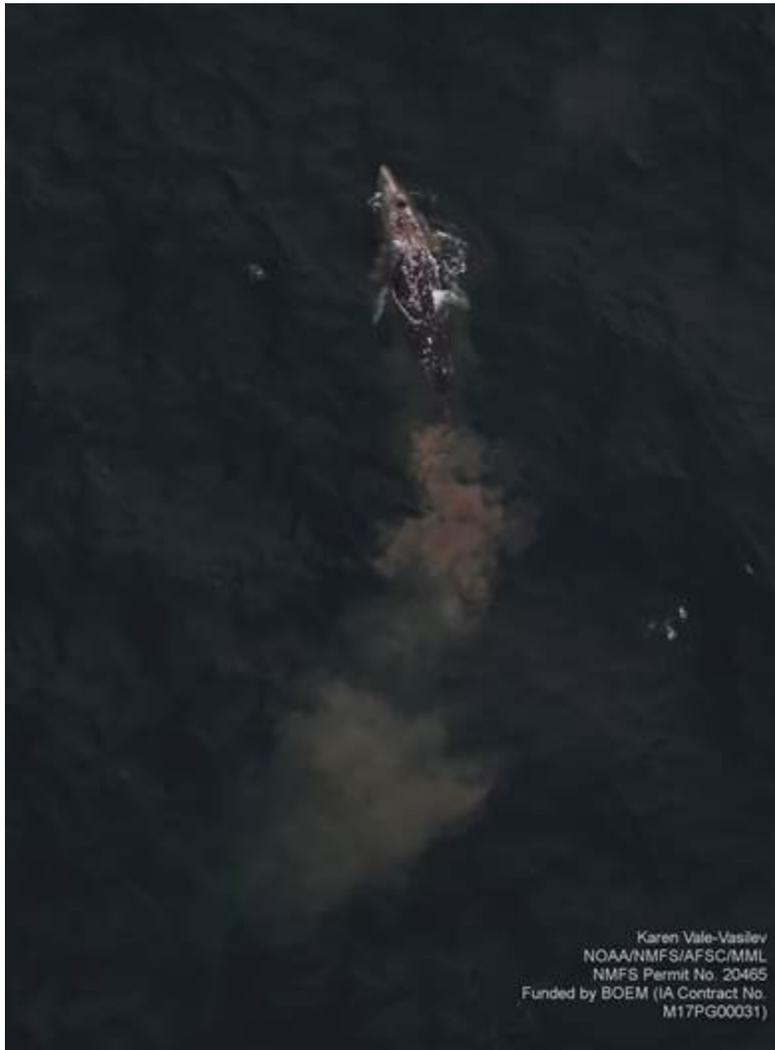
Preliminary Summary, Flight 222 Date: Monday, August 21, 2017

Total bowhead whales: 0	Start time: 8/21/2017 4:21:15 PM	End time: 8/21/2017 8:17:15 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 0	Transect minutes: 170	Transect km: 629.3
Bowhead whales on transect: 0	Circling minutes: 14	Circling km: 42.8
Bowhead whale calves: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 185	Trans+Circ km: 672.1
Bowhead whale calves on transect: 0	Search minutes: 0	Search km: 0.8
Bowhead whale repeats: 0	Total minutes: 236	Total km: 935.1
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 51	Deadhead km: 262.2
Total gray whales: 5	Search blocks: 12,16,17	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 13,14,15,16,17	
Other whale sightings: 0		
walrus: yes		
Total polar bears: 0		

Cetacean sightings:

Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Calves	Behavior	Swim Direction	On Effort
392	70.86	-160.66	17	gray whale	4	0	feed	-1	True
439	70.75	-159.79	13	gray whale	1	0	dead	-1	True





Karen Vale-Vasilev
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Pointed rostrum. Check. Mottled gray back. Check. Mud plume rising to the surface, sometimes preceding the whale. Check. Yep, it's a feeding gray whale, one of four observed approximately 35 km northwest of Wainwright, Alaska (Event 392), ASAMM-Flight 222, 21 August 2017.