

ASAMM-Chukchi – Flight 254 – 24 October 2017

Area flown: Block 1, 5 complete transects; block 2, 5 complete transects; block 4, 2 complete transects; block 6, 2 complete transects.

Total hours flown: 6.8 (2 flights)

Total transect hours: 3.7

Number of bowhead whales seen: 0 (0 calves)

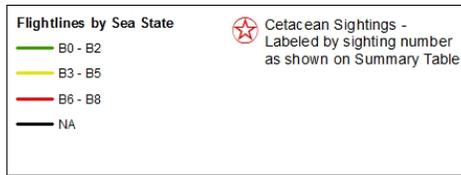
Weather and visibility: Skies were partly cloudy to overcast. Sea state ranged from Beaufort 0 to 4. Visibility was unlimited, with glare. Sea ice ranged from 0 to 100 percent grease and new ice in the area surveyed.

Sightings: Polar bears (including 5 cubs), one bearded seal, and small unidentified pinnipeds. Two polar bears were sighted on new/grease ice approximately 60 km east of Cross Island. One polar bear was sighted swimming in the vicinity of Cross Island and the remaining polar bears were sighted on Cross Island.

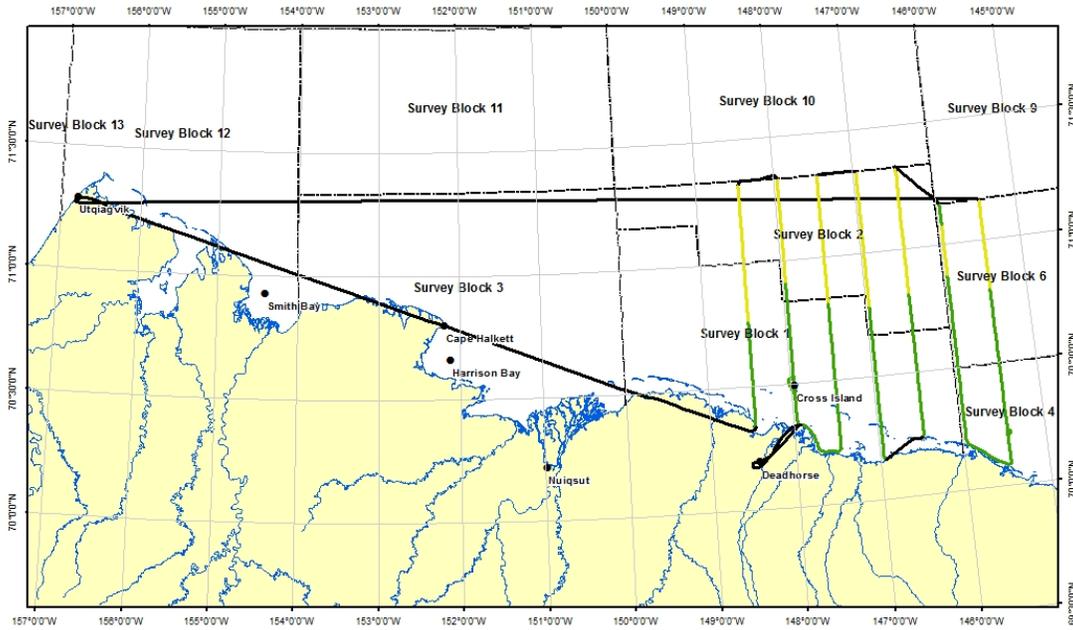
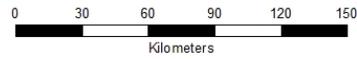
Preliminary Summary, Flight 254 Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Total bowhead whales: 0	Start time: 10/24/2017 10:18:54 AM	End time: 10/24/2017 5:54:00 PM
Bowhead whale sightings: 0	Transect minutes: 221	Transect km: 820.3
Bowhead whales on transect: 0	Circling minutes: 9	Circling km: 28.9
Bowhead whale calves: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 230	Trans+Circ km: 849.2
Bowhead whale calves on transect: 0	Search minutes: 13	Search km: 51
Bowhead whale repeats: 0	Total minutes: 407	Total km: 1785.8
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 164	Deadhead km: 885.6
Total gray whales: 0	Search blocks: 1,2,4,6,10	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 1,2,4,6	
Other whale sightings: 0		
walrus: no		
Total polar bears: 23		

Cetacean Sightings: None.



NOAA/AFSC/IMML-BOEM
 Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals Program
 Flight 254, 10/24/2017 10:18:54 AM



As temperatures drop and new ice forms in the Beaufort Sea, polar bear hunting (and perhaps teaching?) opportunities rise. This polar bear sow and two cubs were observed venturing off Cross Island, Alaska, to check out a seal breathing hole, ASAMM-Chukchi Flight 254, 24 October 2017.



Kill site on pancake ice near Cross Island, Alaska, ASAMM-Chukchi Flight 254, 24 October 2017.