

COMIDA - Flight 212 – July 25 2009

Area flown: Transect 18, partial; Transects 2 and 3, complete; Coastal Transect from Icy Cape to Point Barrow.

Total hours flown: 5.9

Total transect hours: 2.4

Number of bowheads seen: 4 (0 calves)

Weather and visibility: Relatively good survey conditions from Barrow west to 166°W. Thick cloud layer precluded surveying most of the offshore half of Transect 18; survey effort conducted on Transect 18 was Beaufort 3 – 5, with limited visibility due to low ceiling, fog, and precipitation. Good visibility and sea state (mostly Beaufort 2 – 3) for the majority of the coastal transect. There were excellent survey conditions on Transects 2 and 3, with clear skies, Beaufort 2 – 3, and minimal impediments due to fog and low ceilings. Ice varied from 0-90% throughout the area surveyed.

Sightings: Bowheads, gray whales (including three cow-calf pairs), humpback whale (feeding close to gray whales south of Wainwright), unidentified cetaceans, walrus, bearded seals, unidentified pinnipeds, and polar bear (swimming).

Bowhead Preliminary Summary, Flight 212 Date: 7/25/2009

Total bowheads: 4	Start time: 7/25/2009 12:15:00 PM	End time: 7/25/2009 6:08:36 PM
Bowhead sightings: 1	Transect minutes: 146	Transect km: 518.4
Bowheads on transect: 4	Circling minutes: 24	Circling km: 15.8
Bowhead Cow-calf pairs: 0	Trans+Circ minutes: 170	Trans+Circ km: 534.2
Bowhead Cow-calf Pairs on transect: 0	Search minutes: 138	Search km: 544.9
Bowhead repeats: 0	Total minutes: 353	Total km: 1214.4
Possible repeats: 0	Deadhead minutes: 45	Deadhead km: 135.3
Total gray whales: 18	Search blocks: 12, 13, 0, 14, 15, 16, 19, 18, 17	
Total belugas: 0	Transect blocks: 19, 18, 0, 20, 17, 13, 12	
Other whale sightings: 7		
Total walrus: 30		
Total bear: 1		

Event	Lat	Long	Block	Species	Total	Repeat	Calves	Swim direction	Swim Speed	Behavior	On effort
362	70.38	-160.84	17	humpback	1	.	0	-1	.	feed	True
364	70.38	-160.85	17	gray whale	4	.	0	-1	.	feed	False
427	70.84	-158.39	13	gray whale	6	.	0	-1	.	feed	False
429	70.84	-158.36	13	gray whale	3	.	1	-1	.	feed	False
430	70.85	-158.37	13	gray whale	2	.	1	-1	.	feed	False
425	70.84	-158.41	13	gray whale	1	.	0	-1	.	feed	True
435	70.83	-158.18	13	gray whale	2	.	1	74	.	swim	True
490	71.37	-157.26	13	bowhead	4	.	0	164	.	swim	True
622	71.29	-157.11	13	unknown cetacean	5	.	0	-1	.	feed	False
623	71.29	-156.99	12	unknown cetacean	1	.	0	-1	.	.	False

Flightlines by Sea State

- B0 - B2
- B3, B4
- B5, B6
- B7 - B12
- n/a

**NMML/MMS
COMIDA Aerial Survey Program
Flight 212, 7/25/2009**

