

## Summary of Glacier Bay Harbor Seal Captures April 26 - May 1, 2006

Harbor seal captures were conducted in Glacier Bay National Park by the Alaska Department of Fish Game on board the MV *Steller* with assistance from individuals from the Alaska Sealife Center, Univ. of Alaska, Univ. of Wyoming, Univ. of Michigan, and the National Park Service from April 26-May 1, 2006. Harbor seals were captured to attach VHF headmount transmitters and time depth recorders (TDRs). Seals with VHF headmounts will be tracked to determine foraging areas using telemetry from May-August 2006. Headmounts fall off during the late summer molt. TDR's are archival tags that measure dive depth, light, and temperature and will be shed during the annual molt and retrieved throughout the summer during boat and aerial surveys. Locations of harbor seal foraging areas will be integrated with data from TDRs and hydro acoustic surveys to provide fine-scale foraging ecology information for harbor seals in Glacier Bay.

Nineteen harbor seals were captured in Johns Hopkins Inlet (JHI) and 10 seals were captured in the Beardslee Islands (BI) for a total of 29 harbor seals captured during the spring trip. Two seals captured in BI were recaptures from 2005: PV05GB11 was captured on 4/24/05 at Spider Reef as a yearling male and recaptured on 5/1/06 at Kidney Reef as a subadult male and given the new animal ID PV06GB21 (each seal receives an ID number relative to the year of capture to differentiate among multiple biological samples collected over a period of years for the same animal). PV05GB55, an adult female was captured at Spider Reef on 5/1/05 and recaptured on 5/1/06 at Kidney Reef and given the new animal ID PV06GB24. Both seals were in good health, PV05GB11 had a VHF implant but that fact was not obvious from external appearances (i.e., no wounds or noticeable scars from the surgery).

Twenty four VHF headmounts (JHI, n = 14; BI, n = 10) and 10 TDRs (JHI, n = 5; BI, n = 5) were deployed. VHF headmounts were deployed on 9 males (1 yearling, 5 subadults, and 3 adults) and 5 females (1 yearling, 2 subadults, and 2 adults) in JHI, and on 5 males (1 yearling, 2 subadults, and 2 adults) in JHI and on 5 females (3 yearlings, 1 subadult, and 1 adult) in BI.

During the trip data loggers at JHI, BI, and Flapjack Island were downloaded, serviced, and reprogrammed. In addition, we also observed a predation event by an adult male Steller sea lion on a subadult harbor seal in Johns Hopkins Inlet (58°51.42 N, 137°05.41 W) on April 29, 2006. The event occurred near the observation site in Johns Hopkins Inlet at ~1300 and lasted approximately 1 hour.