**PINNIPED RESEARCH CONT**

### Ice-Associated Seal Vessel-based Studies
- **Location**: Central and western Aleutian Islands
- **Timing**: June – July
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC
- **Project**: Ribbound and spotted seals will be instrumented with satellite-linked tags to study their seasonal movements, foraging ecology and dive behavior. Seals will also be sampled for genetics to assess their health and condition. Small boats based off the NOAA Vessel Oscar Dyson will provide access to the seal’s ice floes.
- **Contact**: Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

### Harbor Seal Studies – Glacial Fjords
- **Location**: Chukchi Sea
- **Timing**: April – June
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC, NOAA/OAR, USFWS
- **Project**: Aerial surveys will be conducted to determine the distributions and abundances of bearded seals, ringed seals and polar bears. Manned aircraft, based from Barrow and Kaktovik, will utilize high-resolution visual cameras and thermal sensors to survey the ice (a of the U.S. Chukchi Sea. Similar surveys will be conducted in Russian waters to provide for comprehensive estimates.
- **Contact**: Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

### Ice-Assoc. Seal & Polar Bear Aerial Survey
- **Location**: Eastern Chukchi and Western Beaufort Seas
- **Timing**: July – October
- **Funding**: NOAA, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
- **Project**: The BOEM-funded Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals (ASAMM) project conducts aerial surveys for marine mammals in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. Data from these surveys are used to provide real-time data on marine mammal distribution, relative abundance, habitat use, and behavior.
- **Contact**: Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

### Marine Mammal Passive Acoustic Recorders
- **Location**: Unimak Pass to Point Barrow, Alaska
- **Timing**: September – October
- **Funding**: NOAA, BOEM
- **Project**: This BOEM-funded field work combines the Arctic Whales Ecology Study (ARCWEST) and the Chukchi Acoustics, Oceanography, and Zooplankton Study (HANOI). Data collected include measurements of marine mammal acoustics, oceanography, and zooplankton. ARCWEST investigates the transport of cetaceans prey from the Bering Strait as well as current distribution and abundance. CHAOZ-X investigates the circulation of water and the abundance of copepods in the area. Collaborators: NOAA’s Pacific Marine Environmental Lab and Cornell University (CHAOZ-X only).
- **Contacts**: Phillip.Dolphin@noaa.gov
  Catherine.Bentzen@noaa.gov

### Cook Inlet Beluga Aerial Surveys
- **Location**: Cook Inlet
- **Timing**: Late May-Early June
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC
- **Project**: Aerial surveys will be conducted to estimate distribution and abundance of belugas in Cook Inlet. Surveys occurred annually from 1993 through 2012, after which biennial surveys began in 2014. Tracklines are flown along the entire coast, including islands, and sawtooth tracklines cross the inlet. Observer counts and video records of counting passers are fundamental to documenting the trend in abundance for this endangered population.
- **Contact**: Phillip.Dolphin@noaa.gov

### Steller Sea Lion Land-based Studies
- **Location**: Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands
- **Timing**: May – July
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC
- **Project**: Sea lions will be observed at a cove in the southeast Alaskan mainland, and the number of observed individuals, the age class, and sex of each individual will be recorded. The data collected will be used to estimate the population size and demographic trends of the Steller sea lion population in the Gulf of Alaska.
- **Contact**: Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Steller Sea Lion Vessel-based Studies
- **Location**: Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands
- **Timing**: June – July
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC
- **Project**: A high-resolution aerial photographic survey will be conducted using manned and unmanned aircraft. The data collected will be used to estimate the population size and demographic trends of the Steller sea lion population in the Gulf of Alaska.
- **Contact**: Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Steller Sea Lion Aerial Survey
- **Location**: Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands
- **Timing**: June – September
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC
- **Project**: Aerial photographic surveys will be conducted to estimate the distribution and abundance of Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska.
- **Contact**: Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Alaska Fisheries Sciences Center
**2016 Alaska Marine Mammal Field Work**

### Introduction
The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), conducts research on marine mammals off the coasts of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Research focuses project on ecology and behavior, population dynamics, life history, and status and trends. Research results assist NOAA and other agencies in making science-informed decisions for sound management of marine resources.

## PINNIPED RESEARCH

### Northern Fur Seal Studies
- **Location**: Pribilof Islands
- **Timing**: June – October
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC
- **Project**: This project focuses on the Pribilof Islands, which is the only area where the northern fur seal is currently found in the world. Surveys will be conducted to estimate the distribution and abundance of fur seals in this area.
- **Contact**: Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Killer Whale Predation Studies
- **Location**: Central and western Aleutian Islands
- **Timing**: June – July
- **Funding**: NOAA/AFSC, Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center (PCRC), North Pacific Fisheries Foundation (NPFF)
- **Project**: This field work will deploy LNFMPT SPLASH satellite tags to track killer whale movements and diving behavior. Biopsy samples from killer whales and samples from potential prey will be analyzed for stable isotopes to evaluate killer whale prey.
- **Contact**: Phillip.Dolphin@noaa.gov

### Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals
- **Location**: Chukchi Sea
- **Timing**: July – October
- **Funding**: BOEM
- **Project**: The BOEM-funded Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals (ASAMM) project conducts aerial surveys for marine mammals in the Chukchi Sea. Data from these surveys are used to provide real-time data on marine mammal distribution, relative abundance, habitat use, and behavior.
- **Contact**: Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

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- **Contact**: Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

For more information on marine mammal research conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center please visit the Center's National Marine Mammal Laboratory website at: [http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/nmml/](http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/nmml/)