

Form Rev. 10.3.14

**1. Program Number:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (1).

13120114-N

**2. Project Title:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (2).

Long-term Monitoring: Pelagic Monitoring Component - Long-term monitoring of humpback whale predation on Pacific herring in Prince William Sound.

**3. Principal Investigator(s) Names:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (3).

John R. Moran (NOAA) and Janice M. Straley (UAS)

**4. Time Period Covered by the Report:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (4).

Feb. 2014-Jan. 2015

**5. Date of Report:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (5).

Feb 17, 2014

**6. Project Website (if applicable):** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (6).

www.gulfwatchalaska.org

**7. Summary of Work Performed:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (7).

All work during 2014 proceeded as planned. During the reporting period four whale surveys of Prince William Sound were completed (April 2014, Sept. /Oct. 2014, July 2014 and Dec. 2014). In addition to our three scheduled surveys, a July survey was conducted using NOAA funds. These same funds allowed for a second vessel on the Sept. survey (see Coordination/Collaboration).

All obligations to the Synthesis Report and Trustee meetings were met.

Deliverable/Milestone	Status
April 2014 Survey	completed
Sept. 2014 Survey	completed
Dec. 2014 Survey	completed
Data entry	Data entry completed, QA/QC in progress.

**8. Coordination/Collaboration:** *See*, Reporting Policy at III (C) (8).

**8A.** Killer whale and humpback whale photos were exchanged with Craig Matkin. This collaboration expands the temporal and spatial scope of both projects.

- Winter Seabird Survey observers were present on whale surveys.
- The Gulf Watch Alaska pelagic team PIs (Moran, Straley, Arimitsu, Piatt and Bishop) collaborated to facilitate a broader understanding of humpback whale and seabird foraging dynamics and forage fish availability in Prince William Sound.

**8B.** There was no collaboration with other Trustee funded projects.

**8C.** Forage fish are being collected during a February 2015 acoustic survey of PWS by the NOAA vessel Oscar Dyson. These samples will provide mid-winter energetics data for whale prey.

- Pollock were collected during whale surveys for the AFSC recruitment energetics project.
- Brand resights and haulout photos of Steller sea lions were provided to ADF&G.
- Data on whale locations and prey quality was given to the review Steller Sea Lions Critical Habitat Workshop held in Seattle, January 2015.

<p><b>9. Information and Data Transfer:</b> See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (9).</p>
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Outreach

PWSSC Community Lecture Series, Field Notes radio program, Gulf Watch Alaska Virtual Field Trip, Gulf Watch Project brochure, and a KCAW Public Radio Interview.

Presentations

Moran. *Living in a Humpback World*. Lecture at University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland.

Moran. *Challenges of Photo ID during the Alaskan Winter*. Photo ID Workshop, Joensuu, Finland.

Moran, Straley, and Arimitsu. *Humpback Whales as indicators of Herring Movements in PWS*.

AMSS, Anchorage Alaska.

Data

The PWS humpback whale catalog has been made available to public via GWA workspace..

<p><b>10. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:</b> See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (10).</p>
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N/A

<p><b>11. Budget:</b> See, Reporting Policy at III (C) (11).</p>
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At this time we are 6% under budget for this reporting period. Travel was 22% higher than proposed due to addition surveys made possible by non-EVOSTC funds. Commodities are 28% under budget because we have yet to replace supplies used during FY14.