

# Ocean Views

August 2019

Volume 2 Issue 1



## Activities Report from Chairman

A brief overview of IPCoMM activities during the past year includes the following:

- ◆ IPCoMM convened a grant writers training, covering all expenses for each member organization to send staff for the training in October 2018.
- ◆ The IPCoMM Board of Directors Fall Meeting was held in Anchorage at the Egan Convention Center on December 11-12, 2018. Eleven members attended in person, three attended via teleconference. An earthquake and illness prevented some from attending.
- ◆ Presentations were made to IPCoMM Board Members by Udall Foundation and Native Nations Institute to help focus on potential shared services and find deficiencies in funding structures.
- ◆ IPCoMM is actively working with Udall Foundation and Native Nations Institute to provide a detailed professional Gap Analysis of present capacity vs optimal funding for each individual member organization, to use in outreach for increasing funding from Agencies and other potential funders. The first six-member organization gap analyses were completed on June 30, 2019, and we are working to secure funding to continue the project with remaining members.
- ◆ There was a presentation by Aaron Poe and Lauren Divine on Geofencing—Large Vessel Tracking in Subsistence Areas. They

focused on a need for active monitoring of large vessels in the Arctic to determine if vessels are impeding subsistence marine hunting activities.

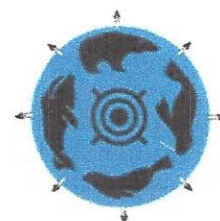


**IPCoMM Members on May 9, 2019**

- ◆ IPCoMM Board Members adopted a new Conflict of Interest Policy in compliance with Federal regulations in 200 CFRs.
- ◆ At the last IPCoMM meeting potential MMPA Amendment language was presented for discussion. The language that was provided had been previously drafted by Alaska leaders and legal professionals back in 2006 and 2007, in concert with the Alaska Delegation at that time. After sending the language back with each member, for local consideration, we found that there was not consensus to proceed at this time. While we received many positive comments, there were a couple who felt the previous language was not compatible with the direction they would like to see the MMPA applied in regards to Co-Management.

For an issue as complex and potentially dangerous as opening the MMPA for amendment, IPCoMM will not proceed unless there is unanimous consent among the voting members.

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**Chairman Mike Miller**

## Activities from the Chairman (continued from page 1)

- ◆ Fish and Wildlife Polar Bear contract extension ended January 21, after a bridge agreement with IPCoMM. A new Polar Bear contract between FWS and IPCoMM was awarded for period of performance 02/01/2019—01/31/2020 regarding Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council Base Operations and Development. The addition of this will bring the total of funds, passed through IPCoMM for the development of ANCC, to over \$1,130,000 since October 1, 2016. ANCC is expecting to complete its processes to become a stand-alone Co-Management entity, and will transition to a pass-through structure, similar to TASSC and BBNA, for receiving the remaining funds in the IPCoMM/USFWS contract which ends on January 31, 2020.
- ◆ IPCoMM submitted its FY2019 proposal to NOAA, along with sub-recipient proposals from BBNA and TASSC. Although we did not receive the requested funding directed at training youth, we did receive operational funding for another year, and will continue to provide pass-through funding to BBNA and TASSC.
- ◆ IPCoMM has secured funding to add an Organizational Specialist position and will expect to fill that position in September.
- ◆ IPCoMM has spent considerable resources assisting the Board of the now dissolved Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission, in understanding and navigating through the many financial and legal obligations that potentially arise when Federal funds are incorrectly spent.
- ◆ Finally, we are still waiting for several members to respond to Carol's poll on meeting dates this fall. October is essentially out of the running but please look for new poll from Carol and respond as soon as possible, to set a November or early December date for our Full Board meeting.
- ◆ I hope everyone has a productive summer season and look forward to seeing you this fall!

Mike Miller, Chairman

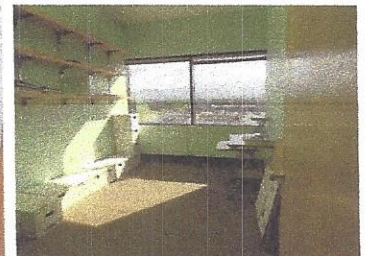
## Note from the Executive Director

Just a word about the administration of the IPCoMM office. We have been preparing to hire a new staff person, which will be entitled "Organizational Specialist." Our office, which is in the Dimond Center, located at 800 E. Dimond Blvd., Suite 3-615, Anchorage, Alaska, has been undergoing remodeling and expansion in size. We were previously 650 square feet in total size, but now are 1,344 square feet in total size. This allows enough room for an office for the new staff person, a file room, and a conference room. The rooms can be rearranged in any way IPCoMM management chooses. The Dimond Center painted most of the area in a color of our choosing. All of this remodeling and expansion in size was done at no extra cost to IPCoMM. We will still pay the same rent as before. Included are photos to give you an idea of what the IPCoMM offices look like after the remodeling, expansion in size.

We hope you will be able to stop by the IPCoMM office sometime just to visit, or to use a laptop.

We hope you will enjoy the rest of the summer and are able to put up all your subsistence foods for the winter.

Carol Torsen, ED



## **Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM)**

**"Indigenous Peoples for Wise Use of Renewable Natural Resources"**

**Our mission is to identify and address marine mammal issues of common concern.**

Contact us for more information  
800 E. Dimond Blvd.  
Suite 3-615  
Phone: 907-349-8066  
Fax: 907-349-8068

We're on the web!

[www.ipcommalaska.com](http://www.ipcommalaska.com)

Or follow us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/ipcommalaska](https://facebook.com/ipcommalaska)

## **IPCoMM Board of Directors (as of May 2019)**

Mike Miller of SMMC, Chairman  
Taquilik Hepa of NSB, Vice-Chair  
Peggy Osterback of AMMC, Secretary/Treasurer  
Vera Metcalf of EWC, Exec Comm Member  
Jennifer Hooper of AVCP, Exec Comm Member  
Ralph Wolfe of CCTHITA, Exec Comm Member  
Tom Gray of ABWC, Board Member  
Arnold Brower of AEWG, Board Member (Observer)  
Ben Payenna of ANCC, Board Member  
Helen Aderman of BBNA, Board Member  
Robert Henrichs of CRRC, Board Member  
Kelly Eningowuk of ICC, Board Member  
Billy Adams of ISC, Board Member  
Percy Ballot of Maniilaq, Board Member  
Dennis Lekanof of St. George, Board Member  
Amos Philemonoff of St Paul, Board Member  
Lianna Jack of TASSC, Board Member  
Art Standifer of Tyonek, Board Member

## **Senator Dan Sullivan Reports to Board of Directors**

On May 10, 2019 Senator Dan Sullivan reported the following to the IPCoMM Board of Directors:

"We want to make sure our relationship with IPCoMM is strong on the issues being worked on. From our perspective it is. Staff Kate Wolgemuth is also present. Other staff are: Renee Reed, State Director; Quinton Carroll, staff in DC."

The Senator wanted to get IPCoMM members' thoughts and ideas for things they are doing for members and some they could be doing better. He spoke with Senator Murkowski when he was first elected and wondered how he could be a help to cover all bases from the State's perspective, without duplication. He wanted to focus on Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, but particularly related to all fish and wildlife services issues, and oversight costs of marine mammal issues and other wildlife issues. He is also interested in the Environmental Public Works committee and Commerce committees

such as enhancing the MMPA, ivory sales to sustain culture and heritage of Alaska Natives, Polar Bear Summit in 2016 and Subsistence whaling quota.



**Senator Dan Sullivan**

## NOAA Focus Species

IPCoMM members began to focus on Section 119 of the MMPA when it was added by amendment in 1994, which allows the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations to conserve marine mammals and provide co-management of subsistence use by Alaska Natives.

Our species of focus in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service are: bearded ice seals, beluga whales, bowhead whales, fur seals, harbor seals, ringed ice seals, sea lions, ribbon ice seals, and spotted ice seals.

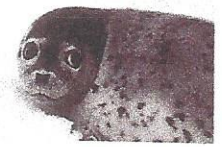
**"To conserve marine mammals and provide co-management of subsistence use by Alaska Natives"**



*Harbor Seal*



*Ringed Ice Seal*



*Spotted Ice Seal*



*Fur Seal*



*Sea Lion*



*Beluga Whale*



*Ribbon Ice Seal*



*Bearded Ice Seal*



*Bowhead Whale*

## United States Fish and Wildlife Service Focus Species



*Walrus*



*Polar Bear*



*Sea Otter*

IPCoMM also works toward capacity building of its member organizations through education of co-management agreements with federal agencies. For several years IPCoMM members negotiated with National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish & Wildlife Service on a Memorandum of Agreement for Negotiation of marine Mammal Protection Act Section 119 Agreements – otherwise known as the "Umbrella Agreement."

Our species of focus in conjunction with the US Fish and Wildlife Service are: polar bears, sea otters, and walrus.

## GAP Analysis Project—continued from Page 5

six IPCoMM member organizations to complete their gap estimates and create supporting budget narratives. Stephanie Gutierrez (Oglala Lakota), the CEO of Hope Nation, was the primary contact in this work; she was supported by Miriam Jorgensen, NNI research director.

The six member organizations for which gap analysis was completed are:

- Alaska Nannut Co-Management Council
- Aleut Marine Mammal Commission
- Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Eskimo Walrus Commission
- Ice Seal Committee
- Sitka Marine Mammal Commission



**Stephanie Gutierrez, Hope Nation**

Across these six organizations, the total estimated shortfall between current funding levels and the levels appropriate for fulfilling all necessary base operations components of ANO marine mammals co-management is \$1,555,377. (To reiterate, this is the total shortfall across six organizations, not the amount any one would require.)

The process for calculating each organization's budget gap was for the consultants to work through the base operations worksheet, developed by the IPCoMM board, with staff from each ANO. Typically, this financial data-gathering required several hour-long telephone calls with each organization. As a result of these discussions, ANO leaders were able to see not only the full scale of their current funding needs but also their organizations' potential to have an even stronger positive impact on co-management.

This wider view is made possible through the detail provided in the individual ANO budget justifications created through the gap analysis project. For example, they provide:

- Pro-rated annual cost estimates for depreciating assets that must be re-purchased every three to five years
- Estimates of the costs of next generation leadership development in order to continue to fulfill the tasks of co-management over the long term
- Budget narrative language that clarifies what is and what is not allowable under usual federal grant funding guidelines for each organization (for example, administrative costs are excluded for those organizations with approved federal indirect cost rate agreements)
- Estimates of start-up and other non-base operations costs for which one-time funding might be secured outside the IPCoMM members' usual funding sources

After completing the gap analysis, one ANO leader spoke to the impact the data can have on how their organization approaches federal partners and other potential funders:

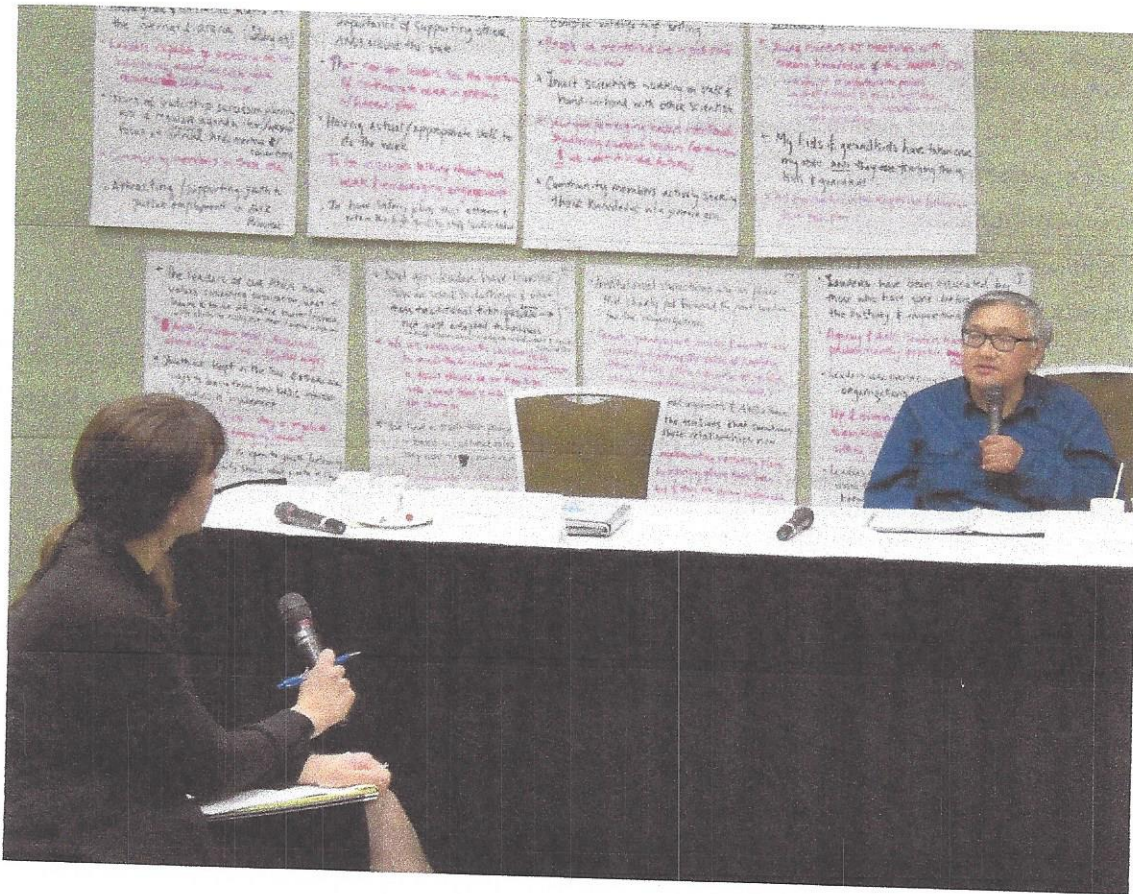
"The federal agencies need more of an understanding of our world view, (and) a better understanding of the fundamental basis of our right to harvest marine mammals. There is a reason it is in federal Indian law. They don't always understand and accept it, but they need to understand our rights and the basis for it, legally and morally. Through these (federal) processes, it's not always conveyed properly or the system doesn't provide an opportunity for us to show a true understanding from our perspective. We need a different approach. That's what we're trying to do here. Improve our communication."

The first six organizations varied in size, funding base, capacity, and co-management histories and practices. While the gap analysis effort was tailored to each ANO's current needs and future direction, these differences provided Hope Native and NNI with a broad range of examples and experience that will help streamline the gap analysis process for the next organizations in the queue. IPCoMM hopes to complete gap analysis for the other 13 member organizations, and for IPCoMM itself, by year end. Completion depends on securing funding for the analysis.

*Written by: Miriam Jorgensen, NNI research director, and Stephanie Gutierrez, CEO of Hope Nation.*

# GAP Analysis Project

This article includes key points and photos from the Gap Analysis session that was conducted at the May 9-10, 2019 IPCoMM Board of Directors meeting.



**Dana Goodson of Udall Foundation elaborating key points with IPCoMM Board Member Percy Ballot who represented Maniilaq Association.**

At its December 2018 meeting, the IPCoMM Board decided to develop an ideal base operations funding request that can be taken to Congress, agencies, and other funders. IPCoMM believes that working to secure such base funding will help establish member ANOs in a better and more sustainable position to carry out their missions.

In order to develop this funding request, the plan is for as many IPCoMM member organizations as possible to work with a financial consultant to 1) estimate the difference (the gap) between current funding levels and appropriate funding levels to satisfy the needs of base operations (as determined by IPCoMM member organizations), and 2) develop a budget narrative that justifies each line item of spending with sufficient detail to satisfy usual federal funding requirements.

Earlier this year, the National Marine Fisheries Service provided funding to begin the gap analysis process. Throughout the spring and summer of 2019, the Native Nations Institute (NNI) at the University of Arizona and its partner, Hope Nation, a Native woman-owned community development consulting firm, worked with (Continued on Page 6)



**Several other IPCoMM members discussing the gap analysis process.**



# NOAA Fisheries AFSC Marine Mammal Field Work in 2019



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

**Alaska Fisheries Science Center  
2019 Alaska Marine Mammal Field Work**

## Introduction

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), conducts research on marine mammals off the coasts of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Research projects focus 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

### Harbor Seal Aerial Surveys

**Location:** Iliamna Lake and Aleutian Islands  
**Timing:** July – September  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** Aerial photographic surveys will be conducted using manned aircraft to estimate the distribution and abundance of harbor seals in Alaska. Survey effort will focus on at-risk harbor seal populations that represent especially small or reduced stocks with very limited data (e.g., Iliamna Lake and the central and western Aleutian Islands).  
**Contact:** Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

### Steller Sea Lion Vessel-based Studies

**Location:** Eastern Aleutian Islands and Western and Central Gulf of Alaska  
**Timing:** July  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** To estimate survival, reproductive rates, and movements of Steller sea lions, direct observations of sea lions will be made in the eastern Aleutian Islands and western and central Gulf of Alaska.  
**Contact:** Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Testing Equipment for Surveying Ice-associated Seals and Polar Bears

**Location:** Chukchi Sea (based out of Kotzebue)  
**Timing:** April  
**Funding:** NOAA, USFWS  
**Project:** Test flights of a new multispectral (i.e., infrared, visual, ultraviolet) image collection system to determine how well the system can detect and record ice-associated seals and polar bears on sea ice. These flights are in preparation for large scale aerial surveys of the Beaufort Sea planned for 2020 in cooperation with Canadian researchers.  
**Contact:** Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

### Testing Equipment for Surveying Harbor Seals in Glacial Fjords

**Location:** Various sites in Prince William Sound, Icy Bay and Disenchantment Bay where harbor seals utilize glacial ice for hauling out (based out of Yakutat)  
**Timing:** August  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** Test flights of a new multispectral (i.e., infrared, visual, ultraviolet) image collection system to determine how well the system can detect and record harbor seals hauled out on glacial ice. If the system performs well, it will replace our current method that utilizes only visual imagery.  
**Contact:** Peter.Boveng@noaa.gov

### Steller Sea Lion Vessel-based Studies

**Location:** Western and Central Aleutian Islands  
**Timing:** June – July  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** To estimate survival, reproductive rates, and movements of Steller sea lions, direct and indirect (from remote camera installations) observations of sea lions will be made in the western and central Aleutian Islands west of Adak, Alaska. An unmanned aerial system will be used to supplement manned aircraft aerial surveys to obtain sea lion counts for determining abundance and distribution. Steller sea lion pups will be captured, marked for the vital rates study, and sampled for studies of condition and contaminants burden.  
**Contact:** Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Steller Sea Lion Aerial Surveys

**Location:** Southeast Alaska and Eastern Gulf of Alaska  
**Timing:** June – July  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** High-resolution aerial photographic surveys of Steller sea lions will be conducted using manned and unmanned aircraft during the peak of the breeding season. Sea lion pups, juveniles, and adults hauled out on terrestrial sites will be surveyed throughout the eastern Gulf of Alaska and Southeast Alaska using manned aircraft, while unmanned aircraft will be used in the central-western Aleutian Islands. Time series of counts dating from the mid-1970s are used to track overall and regional trends in population abundance to monitor recovery of the endangered western population.  
**Contact:** Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

### Northern Fur Seal Demographic and Foraging Studies

**Location:** Pribilof Islands and Bogoslof Island  
**Timing:** June – August  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** On the Pribilof Islands, counts of adult male fur seals will be conducted to assess status and trends of the Eastern Pacific stock. Fur seals will be observed to determine demographic mechanisms underlying ongoing population declines. Some fur seals will be outfitted with satellite-linked instruments to collect movement and diving behavior data in conjunction with Sallidrone at-sea surveys. Pup production will be estimated on Bogoslof Island with operations based off a research vessel, the first study to be conducted since the 2016-2017 volcanic eruption event that completely changed the island topography.  
**Contact:** Tom.Gelatt@noaa.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service | Alaska Fisheries Science Center

# NOAA Fisheries AFSC Marine Mammal Field Work in 2019—continued

## CETACEAN RESEARCH

### Marine Mammal Passive Acoustic Recorders

**Location:** Bering and Chukchi Seas  
**Timing:** May, August, September  
**Funding:** NOAA, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)  
**Project:** This continues over a decade a passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals in the Bering Arctic and Bering Seas. Long term passive acoustic monitoring systems have been distributed throughout the main migratory pathways and in wintering and summering grounds of many Arctic and subarctic marine mammals, and also monitor noise levels from anthropogenic sources. Most moorings are co-located with long-term oceanographic moorings. Collaborators include NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, NOAA Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering, Cornell University, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.  
**Contact:** Catherine Bertr@noaa.gov

### Cook Inlet Beluga Aerial Surveys

**Location:** Cook Inlet  
**Timing:** November 2018, March 2019  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** Aerial surveys will be conducted to estimate winter distribution of belugas in November 2018 and March 2019. Tracklines are flown along the entire coast north of Augustine Island and south of Iroquois Pass in the inlet. Observations will be compared to passive acoustic recordings obtained year round at set locations within the inlet.  
**Contact:** Kim.Steffen@noaa.gov

### Cook Inlet Beluga Aerial Photogrammetry

**Location:** Cook Inlet  
**Timing:** August – September  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** Photogrammetry surveys will be conducted to estimate age classes and an index of beluga sea production in late August/early September. A helicopter will be equipped with high-resolution cameras will be used to photograph beluga groups. Individuals will be measured to provide blowhole to dorsal fin lengths, and whales will be assigned to sex, breeding, and adult age classes based on relative lengths.  
**Contact:** Paul.Wade@noaa.gov

### Cook Inlet Beluga Biopsy Study

**Location:** Cook Inlet  
**Timing:** August – September  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** A boat-based biopsy survey will be conducted to provide information on the sex, maturity, diet, and health status (via stress, pregnancy, sexual maturity, etc.) of individual beluga whales. In collaboration with GREMM scientists, blubber samples will be collected using a darting gun. Photographs of each captured whale, and associated whale, will be taken and analyzed to identify individuals, which will be recorded to the existing U.S. photo-identification catalogue.  
**Contact:** Paul.Wade@noaa.gov

For more information on marine mammal research conducted by the Alaska Fisheries Science Center please visit the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Marine Mammal Laboratory website at <https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/central/marine-mammal-laboratory>

### Cook Inlet Beluga Acoustic Monitoring

**Location:** Cook Inlet  
**Timing:** May – June, September – October  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** Passive acoustic recorders will be used in Cook Inlet to identify feeding grounds for the endangered beluga whale population and to characterize potential noise related disturbance. Recordings will also identify year-round special habitat used by other cetaceans including harbor and finless porpoises, and killer whales. This project will maintain eleven acoustic mooring packages at a cost of \$3000 per year.  
**Contact:** Paul.Wade@noaa.gov

### Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals

**Location:** Eastern Chukchi and Western Bering Seas  
**Timing:** July – October  
**Funding:** NOAA, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)  
**Project:** The Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals (ASAMM) project conducts aerial surveys for marine mammals in the Bering 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:** Megan.Pergande@noaa.gov

### Bowhead Whale Abundance Aerial Survey

**Location:** North-eastern Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea, and Alaskan EEZ  
**Timing:** August  
**Funding:** NOAA, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management  
**Project:** The objective of this aerial survey project is to collect data to derive a new estimate of abundance for the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort (BCB) stock of bowhead whales. The primary study area represents known core habitat for this stock of bowhead whales, and will be the primary exploratory survey effort in 2019 focus. BCB bowhead whales are known to occur in the secondary study area, although they are lower densities than in the primary study area and, therefore, the secondary area will be a lower survey priority.  
**Contact:** Megan.Pergande@noaa.gov

### Ship-based Survey for Harbor Porpoise in Southeast Alaska

**Location:** Inshore waters of Southeast Alaska from Dixon Entrance to Kodiak Bay  
**Timing:** July  
**Funding:** NOAA  
**Project:** The survey is aimed at estimating abundance of harbor porpoise in Southeast Alaska, and to collect whale samples in the vicinity of harbor porpoise for environmental DNA analysis to address population structure.  
**Contact:** Philip.Stephens@noaa.gov

### IWC Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research Survey

**Location:** Northern Gulf of Alaska  
**Timing:** July 17 – Sept 15  
**Funding:** International Whaling Commission, Government of Japan  
**Project:** The International Whaling Commission (IWC), with the Government of Japan and NOAA, is conducting a collaborative marine mammal survey, the Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research (POWER) survey of the northern Gulf of Alaska, from 170°W to 130°W, within the US EEZ, using standard line transect surveys to obtain abundance estimates. Passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) surveys will also be conducted to monitor for vocalizing marine mammals, with a focus on the detection and localization of the critically endangered North Pacific humpback whale. This survey may be deferred until 2020, depending on permit issues.  
**Contact:** Philip.Clapham@noaa.gov, Jessica.Ornato@noaa.gov