

NORTH PACIFIC RIGHT WHALE SURVEY 2002: Weekly Report 7/18/02
LEG 2 - RIGHT WHALE EFFORTS

This week we continued our tour of the Beaufort scale, from 0 to 5. Our efforts in the Shumagins were a bust due to inclement weather but things got a little better after we entered the Bering. We have seen lots of the usual suspects here - fins, humpbacks, both porpoises, and fur seals. The aerial team has been flying out of Cold Bay and seeing pretty much the same. The best day was the 16th, with Beaufort 0 and 1 most of the day. Hopes were high since the previous night's sonobuoy recorded numerous right whale calls from about 0130 to 0600. However, in spite of the best efforts of plane and ship, the right whales eluded us. Dang. We drowned our frustration in the pizza night festivities that evening. The silver lining is that the calls indicate that there are at least some right whales here.

The other noteworthy event is the recovery of some derelict fishing net on the 15th. The mesh was pretty coarse, like trawl gear, and contained three dead common murrens.

Date	Begin/End time	position	Transect miles	Avg. Beauf
071102	0710	N56:20.71 W153:07.19	151.0nmi	3.7
	2225	N55:32.86 W157:33.25		
071202	0714	N55:30.91 W159:42.19	20.8nmi	4.0
	0922	N55:19.74 W160:10.36		
071302	0723	N54:18.84 W164:32.88	49.8nmi	2.2
	1500	N55:02.13 W164:44.40		
071402	0719	N56:32.43 W163:57.12	38.2nmi	5.6
	2128	N56:41.42 W162:50.71		
071502	0723	N56:32.53 W163:04.28	112.0nmi	2.8
	2039	N57:03.90 W164:03.42		
071602	1455	N57:04.51 W164:52.21	63.8nmi	1.3
	2300	N56:52.62 W164:00.86		
071702	0703	N56:37.00 W164:35.46	144.8nmi	2.8
	2156	N57:26.36 W163:03.51		

Code	Species	Tot#	Biopsy	Photo
37	killer whale	3	3	9
40	harbor porpoise	14		
44	Dall's porpoise	25		
46	sperm whale	2		
70	unidentified rorqual	10		
74	fin whale	32		
76	humpback whale	30		
77	unidentified delphinoid	2		
79	unidentified large whale	11		
CU	northern fur seal	16		
PU	unidentified pinniped	2		
	OTHER	1		
	TOTAL	148		