



Satellite-linked transmitters were deployed on walruses in the Bering and Chukchi seas in June 2013 and 2014.

In 2013, tags were deployed on 34 walruses (15 females without calves, 13 females with calves and 6 males). The tags transmitted for an average of 55 days, ranging from 4 to 124 days (~4 months). During this time walruses traveled, on average, a minimum distance of 1,118 miles, ranging from 158–2,765 miles. At a minimum, these walruses traveled about 21.7 miles per day.

In 2014, tags were deployed on 33 walruses (19 females without calves, 12 females with calves and 2 males). The tags transmitted for an average of 50 days, ranging from 7 to 105 days (~3.5 months). During this time walruses traveled, on average, a minimum distance of 1,100 miles, ranging from 108–2,568 miles. As in 2013, at a minimum, these walruses traveled about 21.7 miles per day.

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The information from these tagged walruses will be used to determine how much time walruses spend in the Chukchi Sea Lease Sale area and when. It also provides general walrus movement and haulout patterns.

Report to the Eskimo Walrus Commission presented December 2014 by Lori Quakenbush (907-459-7214).