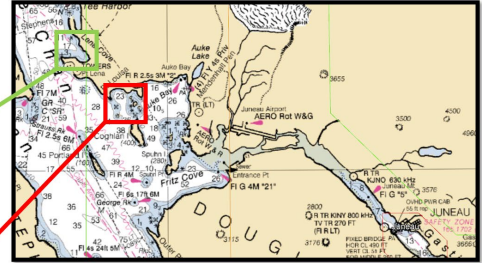
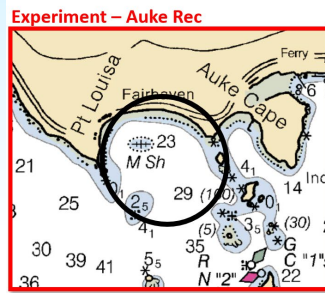
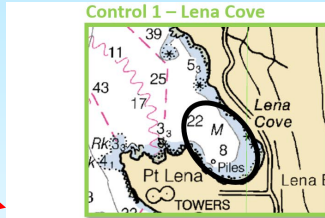




Testing the effectiveness of pingers in deterring harbor porpoise in Southeast, Alaska

May 12 – August 31, 2024



Map showing the experimental and control site along with photographs showing NOAA's RV Sashin used for mooring deployment and recovery, the theodolite observation tent, and the view of Auke Bay where data are being collected.

Who is conducting the research?

Scientists from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's Marine Mammal and Auke Bay Laboratories along with personnel from the Alaska Region Office.

What is the research objective?

The overall research objective is to test and compare the effectiveness of two commercially available pingers in deterring harbor porpoise.

Where is the research being conducted?

A pinger will be deployed in Auke Bay. Harbor porpoise behavior will be monitored using passive acoustic moorings and visual observations from shore. An additional passive acoustics recorder will be deployed in Lena Cove as a control site.

Why are the data important? How will data be used?

Serious injury and mortality of harbor porpoise in Southeast Alaska's commercial fisheries is a significant conservation and management concern. Pingers are effective in deterring harbor porpoise from fishing nets for some fisheries, and may be an effective way to reduce harbor porpoise bycatch in Southeast Alaska. Data collected during this project will provide important information on the effectiveness of pingers in this environment.

Schedule for the 2024 Harbor Porpoise Pinger Project

Event	Date
Project setup and mooring deployment	May 12-15
Dedicated theodolite observation period	May 16 – June 12
Opportunistic theodolite observation period	June 13 – August 31
Mooring recovery	End of August

What steps are you taking to prevent spread of COVID-19? (bulleted list, cite only high level activities from SOP)

- Scientists are fully vaccinated and following AFSC SOPs in compliance with Discovery Health.
- Scientists self-monitor for COVID symptoms daily, follow rules regarding personal infection controls and disinfection of surfaces.

How do you plan to communicate research results? (e.g., outreach document, webstory, radio interview, community meeting, etc.)

Data collected will be analyzed and results will be written up in a scientific report that will be made publicly available. Final results will be presented at conferences (e.g., Alaska Marine Science Symposium), symposiums, seminars, and research meetings.

Contacts:

MML Program Leader: Robyn Angliss, Robyn.Angliss@noaa.gov

NOAA PI: Kim Goetz, kim.goetz@noaa.gov

University of Washington PI: Alex Zerbini, Alex.Zerbini@noaa.gov



Gina Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce

Benjamin Friedman
Deputy Under Secretary for
Operations, performing the duties of
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator
for Fisheries

May 2024

www.fisheries.noaa.gov

Alaska Fisheries
Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way
Seattle, WA 98115