

Preface to 2014 KM_B field observer forms

In interpreting these forms, the following information may be useful:

1. Because the frequency of observation can be so high in the field, corrections called in for observations already saved – even observations a few seconds old – cannot be immediately edited into the database, as this would require pausing the survey to make each correction. Instead, the correction is noted on the field observer form along with the approximate timestamp of the original recorded observation. These are then applied at the end of the transect or, if conditions require, during the quality assurance processing following the field work. By way of illustration, a notation of “16:32 2U SB 2M” is shorthand for the correction “at the observation stamped at time 16:32, 2 unidentified species murrelets should be 2 marbled murrelets.”
2. Observers only identified groups exhibiting “water” behavior, as specified in the operating protocol KM-2012.1. No flying bird groups were reported in 2014.
3. Transect 017 was terminated 100 m short of the end in order to avoid kayakers.
4. Johns Hopkins Inlet transect 025 was not attempted due to impassable ice.
5. The NPTransect application halted several times during the survey and had to be restarted. While this did not impact the recording of any observations, it did result in some brief timespans when no GPS points were logged in the database. As part of post-processing, the Tracklog GIS feature was manually edited using ArcGIS tools to close up the few resulting discontinuities.
6. After close of work on July 11, 2014, the primary laptop suffered an unrecoverable fault. The backup laptop was put into service and began recording the morning of July 12. The two separate sets of observations were merged into a single file geodatabase during quality assurance processing. No data were affected by this issue. For documentation purposes, observer forms reflecting the primary laptop have been marked with an “A” in the upper left corner while forms taken using the backup have been marked “B”.

