

Preface to 2013 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, at the quality control process 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 concentrated on accurately identifying groups having “water” behavior. To best accomplish this, they did not attempt to record any birds with “flying” behavior, as these are not used in any of the analyses defined for this vital sign. Therefore, no flying bird groups were reported in 2013.
3. Johns Hopkins Inlet transect 025 could only be 80% completed due to impassable ice.
4. 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.



SEAN KITTLITZ'S MURRELET OBSERVER FORM

This sheet is used as:
 Corrections to auto data capture,
 or Manual record of observations

Transect 101
 Vessel FOGLARK Page 1 of 1
 Obsvr 1 STH
Only observer, or left observer of 2-person team
 Obsvr 2 ACS
Right observer of a 2-person team
 Start | end 8:29 9:30 |
In Alaska Daylight Time

Date 7/18/2013
 Recorder WIFP
 Weather 1/3/1
(0) <50 CC (1) >50 CC (2) Fog (3) Mist (4) Rain
 Visibility (m) 1
(1) > 500m (2) 250-500m (3) < 250m
 Beaufort 1/0/1/0
(0) Calm (1) 1-20 cm (2) 20-50 cm (3) 0.5-1 m (4) 1-2 m

When recording manually, note changes to starting conditions below on a single row between observations

Record key	Angle 0-359°	Distance (m)	Behavior W/F	# in Group	Species K/M/U	GPS Waypnt	ADT 24:mm	Latitude dd.ddddd	Longitude -ddd.ddddd
	8:42		Slowed to ~6 km/h						
			to avoid						
			cross ship traffic						
✓	9:04	30 SB	SU						
	9:09		back to 10 km/h						
			speed						
✓	9:14	50 SB	SM + 3U						
✓	9:19	13M SB	14M						
	9:29		crossed						
			- no observations						
			lost						

Record key is present only for correction to automated entries.

Transcribe time and location from GPS waypoints after transect is completed.

