NOAA FISHERIES

Aleutian Island Steller sea lion tracking Update 17: May 29 – June 11, 2015

Update 16 reported that sea lion =30 returned near to her October 2014 capture location at the Kiska Island/Cape Saint Stephens rookery, when transmissions ceased after May 29. However, on June 6 -7 transmissions were received near the rookery and indicated a short trip along the coast (orange track). The instrument was again silent until June 11, when a trip was taken to the Vega Point area (red track). The instrument thus appears to have sufficient battery charge to function, and consistent with programming does not transmit during extended periods onshore. The tracking coverage period is now 251 days.

This pattern of 8-days onshore, followed by a short trip to sea, an onshore period of 3-days, then another trip to sea is consistent with having birthed a pup, and an onshore perinatal period followed by alternating trips to sea and shore visits to nurse a pup.

Maps are for informational purposes only as positions and track-lines are estimated, preliminary, and subject to change. Approximate locations of 100m and 500m depth contours indicated. Study conducted under authority of ESA/MMPA Permit No. 18528. Contact Dr. Brian Fadely of the AFSC/NMML at brian.fadely@noaa.gov or 206-526-6173 if questions.

