



Jonathan Felis/USGS

Aerial Survey Maps of Seabirds, Cetaceans, and Pinnipeds in Pacific NW Completed for BOEM

Josh Adams, Jonathan Felis, John Takekawa and partners have assembled the first comprehensive, large-scale, multi-seasonal aerial survey data set for the northern California Current System since the 1980's/1990's. This survey effort completes the first stage of the **Pacific Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment (PaCSEA)**, which will help the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** identify regional species hotspots at sea and inform marine resource planning. Airplane-based visual surveys were conducted during winter, summer, and fall of 2011 and 2012 along 32 transects spanning Fort Bragg, CA, through Grays Harbor, WA, with finer-scale surveys at six focal areas including Eureka, CA, Siltcoos Bank, OR, Newport, OR, and Nehalem Bank, OR. The report covers 54 seabird, 16 cetacean, and 5 pinniped species, charting density and occurrence by season and depth stratum for many taxa.

OCS Study BOEM 2014-003: <http://www.boem.gov/2014-003/>

WERC Publication Brief: <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5023>

Project Website: <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/pacsea>

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Wood, DA, RN Fisher, AG Vandergast. 2014. Fuzzy boundaries: color and gene flow patterns among parapatric lineages of the western shovel-nosed snake and taxonomic implication. *PLOS ONE* 9(5): e97494. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0097494 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5026>

Pausas, JG, JE Keeley. 2014. Abrupt climate-independent fire regime changes. *Ecosystems*. doi: 10.1007/s10021-014-9773-5 <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/ProductDetails.aspx?ID=5025>

EVENTS

June 9, 2014 (Sacramento, CA)

Rob Klinger will speak about endangered Amargosa voles as part of the TWS and CDFW Conservation Lecture Series. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=182>

June 9-13, 2014 (San Diego, CA)

Robert Fisher and colleagues are co-hosts of the Southwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation meeting. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=187>

June 16-19, 2014 (Elko, NV)

Pete Coates, Mike Casazza, and Mark Ricca will present research updates at the WAFWA Sage & Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/Event.aspx?ID=186>

IN THE NEWS

Changing Climate Could Move Joshua Trees North (12News Arizona)

Reporter Krystle Henderson interviews Todd Esque about his research tracking Joshua tree response to climate change. <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/arizona/2014/05/14/9096935/>

Looking for Life in the Ashes (U-T San Diego)

Reporter Deborah Sullivan Brennan joined Barbara Kus in the field to learn how habitat burned in San Diego wildfires will impact the endangered least Bell's vireo. <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/may/23/environment-river-fire-habitat-wildlife/>



This Biweekly Update is produced as a service to USGS/WERC staff, colleagues, partners and the interested public. To add your email address to the mailing list or to report errors/suggestions, please contact blandis@usgs.gov. Download this issue at <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/outreach.aspx>.