Entanglement scars are observed on bowhead whales in aerial images. The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, BCBS Future Permits, and Photo credits are acknowledged.

**References:**


**CONCLUSIONS:**

- Entanglement scars are observed on Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Sea (BCBS) bowhead whales despite their high-latitude distribution north of most commercial fishing operations; however, spatial overlap occurs and some temporal overlap occurs in some winters, so bowheads get entangled in active or ghost gear. The only tagged gear recovered to date is US gear but little is known about Russian fishing.
- BCBS bowhead population is healthy with 3.7% annual increase; nonetheless the fish/crab gear entanglement rate of 12-13% is a problem requiring attention.
- Future entanglement trends are uncertain. Locations from satellite tagged bowheads indicate wintering is limited to area with sea ice cover (J. Citta, pers. comm., 2018). In 2017-2018, bowheads wintered further north than usual in Bering Strait region while US crabbers fished typical areas far south which suggests that entanglement rates may not increase appreciably unless fish/crab gear is lost in the ice, or pot and longline fishing move into bowhead summering areas. On the other hand, longliners have already advanced north, and some bowheads utilize open water in summer on the Russian coast; hence entanglements may increase as the fisheries (crab/cod) expand northward.
- The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, Alaska Sea Grant, and North Slope Borough have engaged with the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers to discuss specifics about gear types, range overlap, and the goal of stabilizing and/or reducing entanglement.

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**Photo credits:**

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**Permits:**

Aerial surveys: NMFS Permits 782-1719 and 14243 issued to NMML. Examinations of harvested whales: NMFS Permits 814-1899-01, 814-1899-02, 17350-03, and 17350-01 issued to North Slope Borough.