The Bering-Okhotsk Seal Surveys (BOSS) Program Progress toward comprehensive estimates of abundance.

Scientists at NOAA’s NMML collaborated with Russian colleagues from the Research Institutes “Giproybfloft”, “MagadanNIRO”, “ChukotTINRO”, Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, and the Kamchatka Branch of the Pacific Geographical Institution, FEB Russian Academy of Sciences to conduct synoptic aerial surveys of ice-associated seals (bearded, spotted, ribbon, and ringed seals) in the Bering and Okhotsk Seas in the spring of 2012 and 2013. U.S. survey flights covered the pack-ice zone of the eastern Bering Sea, and Russian Federation flights covered the pack-ice of the western Bering Sea and Sea of Okhotsk. Two U.S. aircraft flew more than 57,400 km during 75 surveys, and collected more than 1.8 million SLR images. The Russian aircraft flew more than 31,000 km during 42 surveys, and collected more than 400,000 SLR images. In this year, Bering-Okhotsk Seal Surveys (BOSS) Program Progress toward comprehensive estimates of abundance.
sources of variability than has been done in previous surveys, the final abundance estimates can be anticipated to be substantially more precise and reliable than previous estimates.