To: Dan Brown, SAC, U.S. Department of Interior Office of Inspector General

From: Dr. Charles Monnett (through counsel)

Date: September 14, 2011

RE: Supplemental Materials on 2006 Polar Biology article: "Observations of mortality associated with extended open-water swimming by polar bears in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea"

After Dr. Monnett's materials that were seized by Inspector General agents in February 2011 were finally returned to him this month, he was able to assemble documents relevant to questions that IG agents have posed to him about this paper.

This supplemental filing includes:

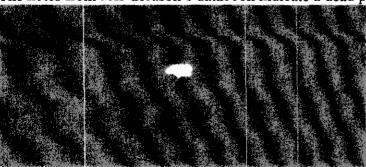
- 1. Identical notebook entries Drs. Monnett and Gleason both independently made on sightings of each of the four drowned polar bears;
- 2. A contemporaneous email from Dr. Monnett about both previous swimming bear sightings at the end of the next flight in which three floating bear carcasses were sighted; and
- 3. A draft of the paper's abstract written by Drs. Monnett and Gleason, prior to journal edits, stating "most of these [swimming bears] probably died as a result of the windstorm."

1. Notebook Entries

The following are observations taken directly from the notebooks of Charles Monnett and Jeff Gleason as they were conducting aerial surveys during the month of September 2004. They reveal that both researchers saw the same four polar bear carcasses and made similar notes of their observations.

The included photos are of one polar bear carcass sighted by both men on these dates. The complete notebook segments are included as Attachments I and II at the end of this submission.

The notes from Jeff Gleason's databook indicate a dead plar bear sighted on September 14:



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Gleason notes another polar bear carcass sighted on September 16:

And another on September 18:

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His last observation of a polar bear carcass occurred on September 22:

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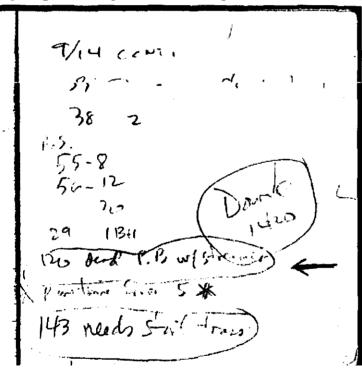
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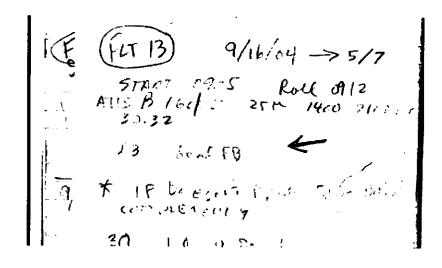
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The data recorded in Dr. Monnett's databook parallel those in Gleason's. Dr. Monnett recorded sightings of dead polar bears on September 14:



On September 16:



On September 18:

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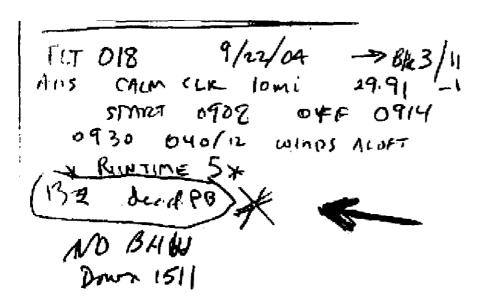
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And finally on September 22:



These notes reflect direct observational data that supports the published work of Drs. Monnett and Gleason. As there were also other witnesses to the sightings, we do believe there should be no further question about the authenticity and accuaracy of the observations giving rise to the paper.

II. Email on Sightings

In addition to the databooks, Dr. Monnett sent an email to Fred King, who flew as an observer when the swimming bears were seen pre-storm. The 9/20/04 email referenced "all those swimming Pbears" they had seen during the earlier pre-storm flight. Dr. Monnett reported his first first 3 post-storm sightings of drowned bears. (The sighting of the fourth drowned polar bear occurred 2 days later on September 22nd.):

From: Monnett, Charles

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2004 1:05 PM

To: King, Fred **Subject:** congrats

What a shocker. I'm guessing your new job won't cramp your fishing as much, so congratulations! Lisa's sure going to miss you as boss.

Lisa mentioned that there might be a timing issue with Jeff Childs for BWASP. Jeff Gleason is willing to stick around D'horse for a few more days if it would help.

We started seeing lots of BHW about a week ago. Total count is now 350. Feeding groups practically in Smith Bay last time we flew there. No significant ice yet...still 200 mi north of most of the study area. We saw the leading edge at 100 mi near Canadian border, but is way offshore elsewhere. Also, of interest...remember all those swimming Pbears. We've seen 3 dead floaters this past week. May not be so smart to take long swims.

III. Draft of Abstract with Weather Reference

In the August 9th interview, Ageny May made a point that the paper abstract did not mention the role of weather, although the paper itself does so. While this point is of questionable relevance to a legitimate IG inquiry, Dr. Monnett made the point that there was no attempt to downplay the role of weather as an ovious causitive factor in the bear drownings.

In fact, a 12/6/04 draft of the abstract by Drs. Monnett and Gleason clearly references the role of weather as the probable cause of death.

This draft of the abstract was 283 words but the journal's word limit for the absstract was aproximately 200 words. Thus, the draft written by the two authos and the final, which appears in the journal is substantially shorter.

Offshore observations of swimming and dead polar bears in the Beaufort Sea: an indication of things to come?

Charles Monnett and Jeffrey S. Gleason
Minerals Management Service, Environmental Studies Section
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Abstract: During aerial surveys in early-September, 2004, observers participating in the Minerals Management Service Bowhead Whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) Aerial Survey Project (BWASP) saw an unusually large number of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) swimming in open water, >2 km from the Alaska Beaufort Sea coastline. A few days after those survey flights a windstorm passed through the survey area likely causing many of those bears to fatigue and die of drowning. Extrapolation of survey transect data suggests that numbers on the order of 40 bears were swimming and that most of those probably died as a result of the windstorm. From 1987-2004, 315 polar bears were observed during September and of those 26 were in open water, >2 km from shore. During 2004, 14 polar bears were seen in open water, >2 km from shore. Four of those were dead. Distances from land and pack ice edge for the live polar bears swimming in open water in 2004 (n = 10) were 8.3 ± 3.0 km and 177.4 ± 5.1 km, respectively.

We speculate that mortalities due to offshore swimming during late-ice (or light ice) years may be a relatively important and unaccounted for source of natural mortality given energetic demands placed on individual bears engaged in long-distance swimming. In addition, we suggest that drowning-related deaths of polar bears may increase in the future if the observed trend of regression of pack ice, and/or longer open water periods caused by increases in ambient air temperature continues.

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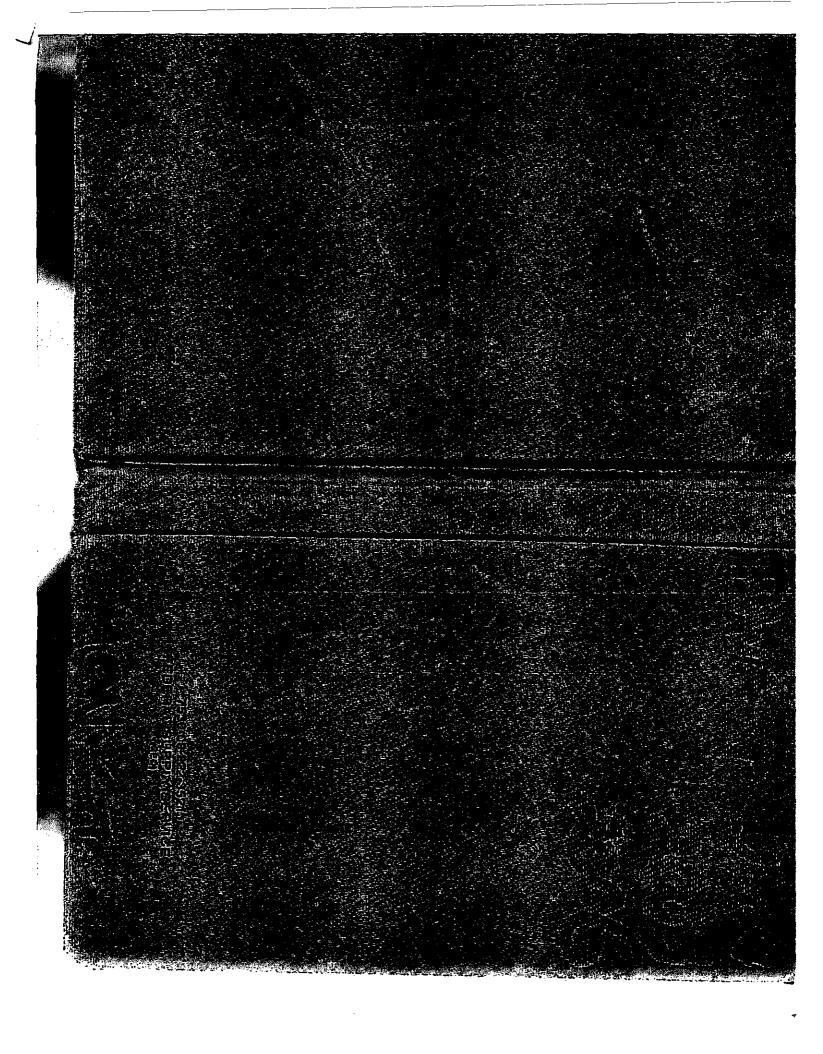
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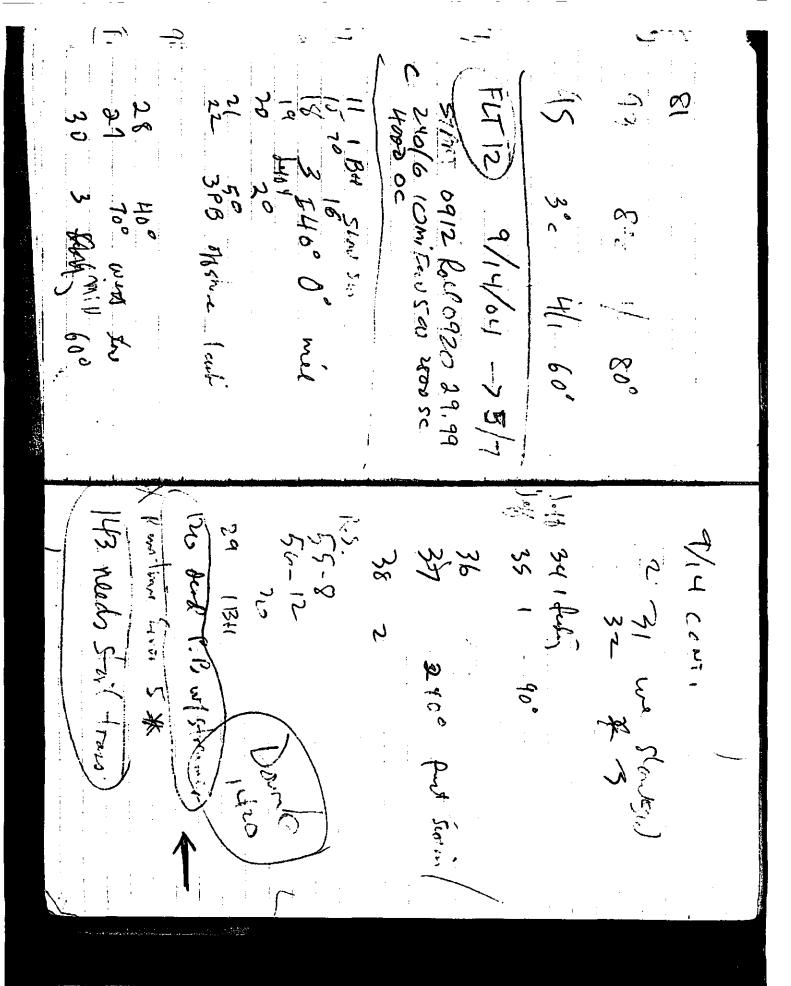
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