
Abstract

Fin and humpback whales are seasonal migrants to the Gulf of Alaska and consume significant amounts of prey. Data on their dive behavior and targeted prey are essential in quantifying this consumption and defining their roles as apex predators within marine ecosystems. Humpback and fin whales are tagged with real-time acoustic time-depth transmitters near Kodiak Island, Alaska resulting in the documentation of nearly 300 individual dives to date. Concurrent to whale tagging, available prey is assessed through hydroacoustic surveys of pelagic backscatter, as well as net sampling in most cases.