



**Annual Report of Marine Mammal Monitoring at Ugak Island**

**Compliance with National Marine Fisheries Service Final Rule  
(50 CFR Par 217, Subpart H)**

**31 May 2013 through 31 May 2014**

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### Attachments

- Attachment 1 (3Q FY13 Ugak Quarterly Monitoring Report (16 Jun 2013))
- Attachment 2 (4Q FY13 Ugak Quarterly Monitoring Report (01 Oct 2013))
- Attachment 3 (1Q FY14 Ugak Quarterly Monitoring Report (14 Nov 2013))
- Attachment 4 (2Q FY14 Ugak Quarterly Monitoring Report (21 Jan 2014))

## Introduction

The Alaska Aerospace Corporation (AAC) owns and operates the Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) at Narrow Cape, Kodiak Island, Alaska. AAC is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration to launch rockets from KLC. KLC is adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, and marine mammals are known to occupy land on Ugak Island. Therefore AAC is subject to the Marine Mammal Protection Act and oversight by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for harassment and incidental take of marine mammals. NMFS has issued a final rule which will govern AAC mitigation, monitoring and reporting requirements from 2011 to 2016. These reporting requirements include an annual report summarizing the annual activities at KLC with regards to rocket launches and marine mammal monitoring. This document is the annual report for May 2013 through May 2014.

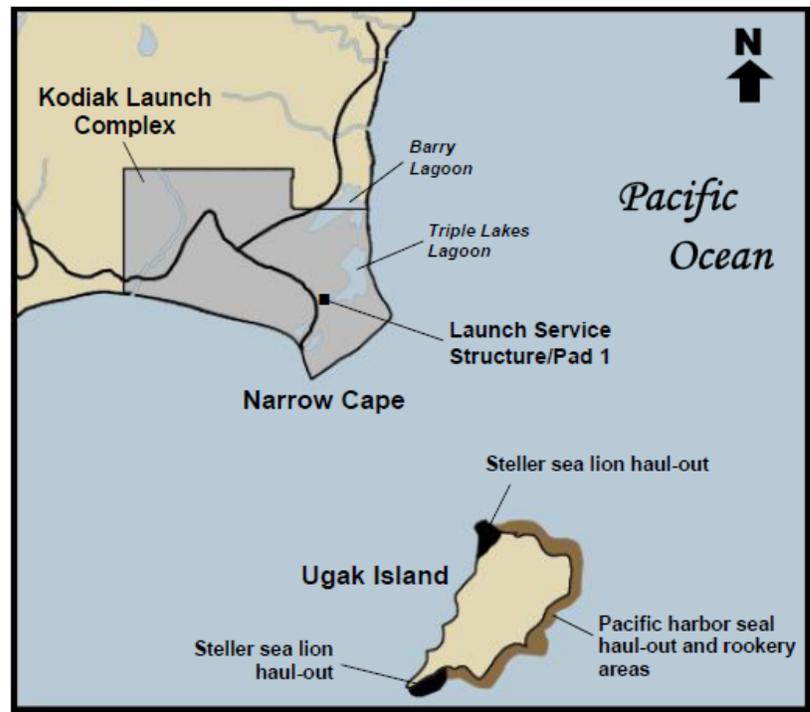
## Overview

The Alaska Aerospace Corporation (AAC) owns and operates the Kodiak Launch Complex (KLC) at Narrow Cape, Kodiak Island, Alaska. KLC is a spaceport that launches both orbital and suborbital rockets on a southern trajectory for government and commercial customers. KLC can launch up to eight rockets a year.

AAC monitors the effects of launch operations on the environment. For marine mammals, the main focus is on the pinniped population on Ugak Island, about 3.5 miles south of the

launch pad along the flight azimuth. Rockets are usually eight miles in altitude when they pass over the island. Ugak Island is a known haul-out area for both Stellar sea lions and harbor seals.

According to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Regulations Governing Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities, and the conditions of previous Letters of Authorization (LOA), AAC must perform the following monitoring activities for the NMFS in accordance with the final rule (50 CFR Part 217, Subpart H):



Source: Modified from USASMDC, 2003

Figure 1: Narrow Cape and Ugak Island site overview.

- Deploy a remote camera system designed to detect pinniped responses to rocket launches for at least the first five launches.
- Conduct visual monitoring of pinniped response two hours before launch, during launch, and two hours after launch.
- Conduct visual monitoring of harbor seal rookery if the launch is during pupping season.
- Conduct quarterly aerial surveys of haulout sites.
- Monitor sound pressure and exposure time for new classes of rockets.

A summary of these monitoring activities follows.

### **Launch Operations and Monitoring**

There were no launches during the annual period (May 2013 -- May 2014)

### **Pupping Season Monitoring**

There were no launches during seal pupping season (15 May – 30 June).

### **Quarterly Aerial Surveys**

The following aerial surveys of Ugak Island were performed this last year:

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (local)</b>	<b># Sea Lions</b>	<b># Harbor Seals</b>	<b>Notes</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Apr-Jun)	16 Jun 2013	1342-1408	0	332	Results Typical
4 <sup>th</sup> (Jul-Sep)	01 Oct 2013	1210-1316	0	955	Results Typical
1 <sup>st</sup> (Oct-Dec)	14 Nov 2013	N/A-N/A	0	847	Results Typical
2 <sup>nd</sup> (Jan-Mar)	21 Jan 2014	1115-1230	0	144	Results Typical

See Attachments 1, 2, and 3 for the full quarterly monitoring reports.

### **New Vehicle Sound Pressure**

No new launch vehicles were launched from KLC this year.

### **Contact**

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