**Weather**

During the week of 4/8-4/14, the weather was overcast, with periods of rain and high winds. Total precipitation for the week was 2.2 inches, and average wind speed was 17 knots, with maximum gusts of 47 knots on 4/9. The average temperature for the week was 49°F with a maximum of 52°F and a low of 45°F.

**Caspian Terns**

High winds in the estuary prevented boating to the island during 4/8-4/10, and the colony was not checked on those days for the presence of terns on-colony. As such, Caspian terns were observed on the prepared one-acre colony area for the first time during a brief visit on 4/11, when 232 terns were counted in the center of the colony area. On 4/12, we checked the colony area prior to spreading PIT tags and counted 421 terns loafing on the one-acre colony area. We began full data collection at the Caspian tern colony on 4/14; the estimated number of Caspian terns on-colony at high tide on 4/14 was 791 individuals.

Caspian terns have been observed exhibiting pre-nesting behaviors on the one-acre colony area, including nest scraping. We observed five nest scrapes on-colony on 4/12, and we counted more than 50 nest scrapes on-colony on 4/14. Caspian terns have also been observed defending nesting territories, and one pair was observed copulating on 4/14.

On 4/12, one bald eagle disturbance of the tern colony was observed at 09:55, when an adult bald eagle kleptoparasitized a fish from a Caspian tern.

On 4/14, the field crew observed three large disturbances to the Caspian tern colony during 09:13 – 09:17 by adult bald eagles. A total of six disturbances to the tern colony due to bald eagles were recorded on 4/14. At 13:23 on 4/14, a red-tailed hawk caused all the Caspian terns on-colony, as well as the western/glaucous-winged gulls loafing on the tern colony area and just east of the tern colony area, to flush. Five Caspian terns returned to the colony area at 15:08, but were disturbed by an adult bald eagle flying over the south beach at 15:14. The terns continued to loaf on the south beach and avoid the tern colony area until 16:45. No terns were present on-colony at 20:31, and terns did not return to the colony area until just after first light on 4/15 (06:07).

**PIT Tag Deposition Study**

One hundred PIT tags were spread on the one-acre tern colony area on 4/12 to allow estimation of PIT tag detection efficiency rates on the tern colony after the nesting season, when smolt PIT tags deposited by terns during the nesting season are recovered.

**Pelicans**

As of Sunday, 4/14, no brown pelicans have been observed in the Columbia River estuary.

**Gulls**

Attendance by large numbers of ring-billed gulls at their breeding colony site on the upper section of the northeast beach on East Sand Island has remained consistent since last week.

Western/glaucous-winged gulls continued to set up and defend nesting territories on the island, including on the eastern part of the one-acre tern colony area. We counted 145 western/glaucous-winged gulls on the prepared one-acre tern colony area on 4/14, and one pair of gulls on the tern colony area was observed copulating. Western/glaucous-winged gulls have also been observed kleptoparasitizing fish from Caspian terns as they attempted to land on the colony with fish in their bills.

**Predators**

Bald eagles have been observed multiple times on each visit to the island, flying both around the eastern end of the island and over the tern colony area. Adult bald eagles have been observed several times successfully kleptoparasitizing fish from Caspian terns.

On 4/12, a pile of ring-billed gull feathers was found on the eastern tip of the island. There were no identifiable tracks in the area. A pair of ring-billed gull wings attached to the keeled sternum was found on the northeast beach just below the rack line on the afternoon of 4/14, suggesting that it was a recent depredation. The carcass was picked clean, indicating that an avian predator was responsible.

A red-tailed hawk was observed perched in a bush just east of the Caspian tern colony on 4/12. A red-tailed hawk was observed in the same area on 4/14, and was the cause of a disturbance to the Caspian tern colony, the western/glaucous-winged gull colony, and to birds loafing on the north beaches.