**Weather**

During the week of 4/15-4/21, the weather was generally overcast with periods of sunshine; wind conditions were mostly calmer than during the previous week. Total precipitation for the week was 0.47 inches and average wind speed was 12 knots, with maximum gusts of 30 knots on 4/16. The average temperature for the week was 52°F with a maximum of 56°F and a low of 44°F.

**Caspian Terns**

Despite the general improvement in weather this week, high winds in the estuary did prevent a full day of data collection and monitoring on 4/16.

The high count of Caspian terns on the prepared one-acre habitat this week was 2,467 individuals on 4/19 during a count conducted near a high tide. The low count for the week was 1,898 individual terns on 4/16; during a count also conducted at a high tide. The average on-colony count for this week was 2,217 individuals. Overall, the number of terns counted on-colony increased throughout the week.

Caspian terns continued to exhibit pre-nesting behaviors on the one-acre colony area with increased nest scraping, copulations, territorial disputes, and mate feedings throughout the week. Individuals established at the center of the one-acre colony area have begun to sit tightly in nest scrapes during the day.

Frequent daytime disturbances to the colony by bald eagles continued this week, with a high count of 22 disturbances to the Caspian terns on colony by bald eagles on 4/18. Although the Caspian terns have been establishing nest scrapes and territories on the one-acre colony area, they have not yet spent the night on the prepared colony area. On most nights this week, terns abandoned the colony after sunset and returned just after first light. However, on the evenings of 4/17 and 4/18, the terns abandoned the colony area well before sunset (18:36 and 18:52, respectively); they did not return to the colony area until 06:51 on the morning of 4/18. There have been no observations of Caspian tern carcasses surrounding the colony area, and the cause of the nighttime colony abandonment is unknown.

Salmonids were the main prey item in Caspian tern diets this week, comprising 46.4% of observed bill loads, followed by Pacific sand lance (17.9%) and clupeids (13.3%).

**Pelicans**

As of Sunday, 4/21, no brown pelicans have been observed in the Columbia River estuary.

**Gulls**

Attendance by large numbers of ring-billed gulls at their breeding colony located on the upper section of the northeast beach on East Sand Island has remained consistent since last week, despite multiple observed flushes per day by avian predators.

Western/glaucous-winged gulls continued to set up and defend nesting territories on the island during the week, including on the eastern part of the prepared one-acre tern colony area. The number of Western/glaucous-winged gulls present on the tern colony did, however, decrease from 123 to 62 individuals throughout the week. Two gull pairs were observed copulating and defending nesting territories on the tern colony, but these territories were surrounded by Caspian tern individuals throughout the week. Western/glaucous-winged gulls have continued to kleptoparasitize fish from Caspian terns as they attempted to return to the tern colony with their prey items.

**Predators**

Bald eagle pressure to the Caspian tern colony continued this week, with a total of 35 observed disturbances to the colony. Adult bald eagles continued to kleptoparasitize fish from Caspian terns as well.

One pair of ring-billed gull wings were found on the northeast beach on 4/18, in the rack line just below the ring-billed gull colony. Another pair of ring-billed gull wings with a keel were found on the east tip on 4/18. Both carcasses were picked clean, suggesting that an avian predator was responsible. A wing and keel of a corvid were found underneath a tree on the north beach on 4/18; there were teeth marks on the bones which suggested the carcass had been scavenged by a mammal.

On 4/19, a river otter was observed causing a small disturbance the Western/glaucous-winged gull colony as it commuted through the grass just east of the one-acre Caspian tern colony.