**Weather**

During the week of 4/29 - 5/5, the weather was generally overcast with sunny periods. Total precipitation for the week was 0 inches and average wind speed was 7 knots, with maximum gusts of 37 knots on 4/30. The average temperature for the week was 51°F with a maximum of 67°F and a low of 36°F.

**Caspian Terns**

A drone flight to take aerial photography and count the number of individual Caspian terns on the one-acre colony area was conducted on 5/2. The count of Caspian terns from the photo mosaic taken during this flight was 4,528 individuals, which was an increase in the number of terns counted on-colony compared to the count from the aerial photo mosaic the previous week (3,079 individuals).

Caspian terns continued to exhibit courtship and nesting behaviors on the one-acre colony area, with observations of nest scraping, copulations, territorial disputes, and mate feedings continuing this week. The first observed Caspian tern eggs were seen on 4/29 (3 eggs), and all were quickly depredated by gulls during a flush caused by an adult bald eagle.

The number of Caspian terns sitting tight in nest scrapes increased this week, and the number of eggs on the colony increased throughout the week. Due to a high rate of tern colony flushes caused by bald eagles, tern eggs were depredated daily by western/glaucous-winged gulls. During one colony flush on 5/3, at least 13 tern eggs were depredated by western/glaucous-winged gulls. Nevertheless, the number of Caspian tern individuals sitting tight during flushes increased by the end of the week, and a two-egg tern nest was observed on 5/5 just northeast of the center of the colony area.

Salmonids remained the main prey type in Caspian tern diets this week, comprising 67.7% of observed bill-loads. Gull pressure on Caspian terns returning to the colony with fish in their bills was consistent with the previous week, with almost half (48%) of terns arriving at the colony with bill-loads being chased by gulls. Adult bald eagles were also observed chasing Caspian terns with bill-load fish multiple times each time the colony was visited this week, and adult bald eagles were frequently observed kleptoparasitizing fish from Caspian terns.

**Pelicans**

As of Sunday, 5/5, no brown pelicans have been observed in the Columbia River estuary so far this season.

**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 was consistent with last week, despite multiple observed flushes per day by avian predators (eagles and falcons). Ring-billed gulls were regularly observed on the east beaches carrying nesting material.

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. This part of the one-acre tern colony was used by nesting gulls last year, and not by Caspian terns. The number of western/glaucous-winged gulls present on the tern colony ranged from 96 to 129 individuals during the week. Multiple pairs of western/glaucous-winged gulls were observed copulating and defending nesting territories on the eastern edge of the one-acre tern colony. Two pairs of western/glaucous-winged gulls continued to defend territories surrounded by Caspian tern individuals. Western/glaucous-winged gulls continued to kleptoparasitize fish from Caspian terns at a high rate this week, as the terns returned to the colony with prey items for their mates. Western/glaucous-winged gulls were observed depredating Caspian tern eggs on the colony throughout the week, especially during flushes of the terns on-colony.

**Predators**

Bald eagle pressure on the Caspian tern colony increased this week, with a total of 33 major disturbances to the tern colony observed this week. Adult bald eagles continued to kleptoparasitize fish from Caspian terns as well. Three adult bald eagles and 1 subadult were consistently observed around the island during the week.

River otter trackers were observed on the north beach east of the prepared one-acre colony area on 5/5, leading into the vegetation east of the colony.

Two peregrine falcons were observed flying over the east end of the island on 5/1, and were performing aerial courtship displays.