



**The many faces of the sea:
Planning and implementing marine ecosystem
science in a changing world**

Francis Wiese
Science Director
North Pacific Research Board
www.nprb.org

Carrie A. Eischens, Cynthia L. Suchman, Thomas I. Van Pelt,
Danielle M.S. Dickson, Nora L. Deans



North Pacific Research Board - *Vision*

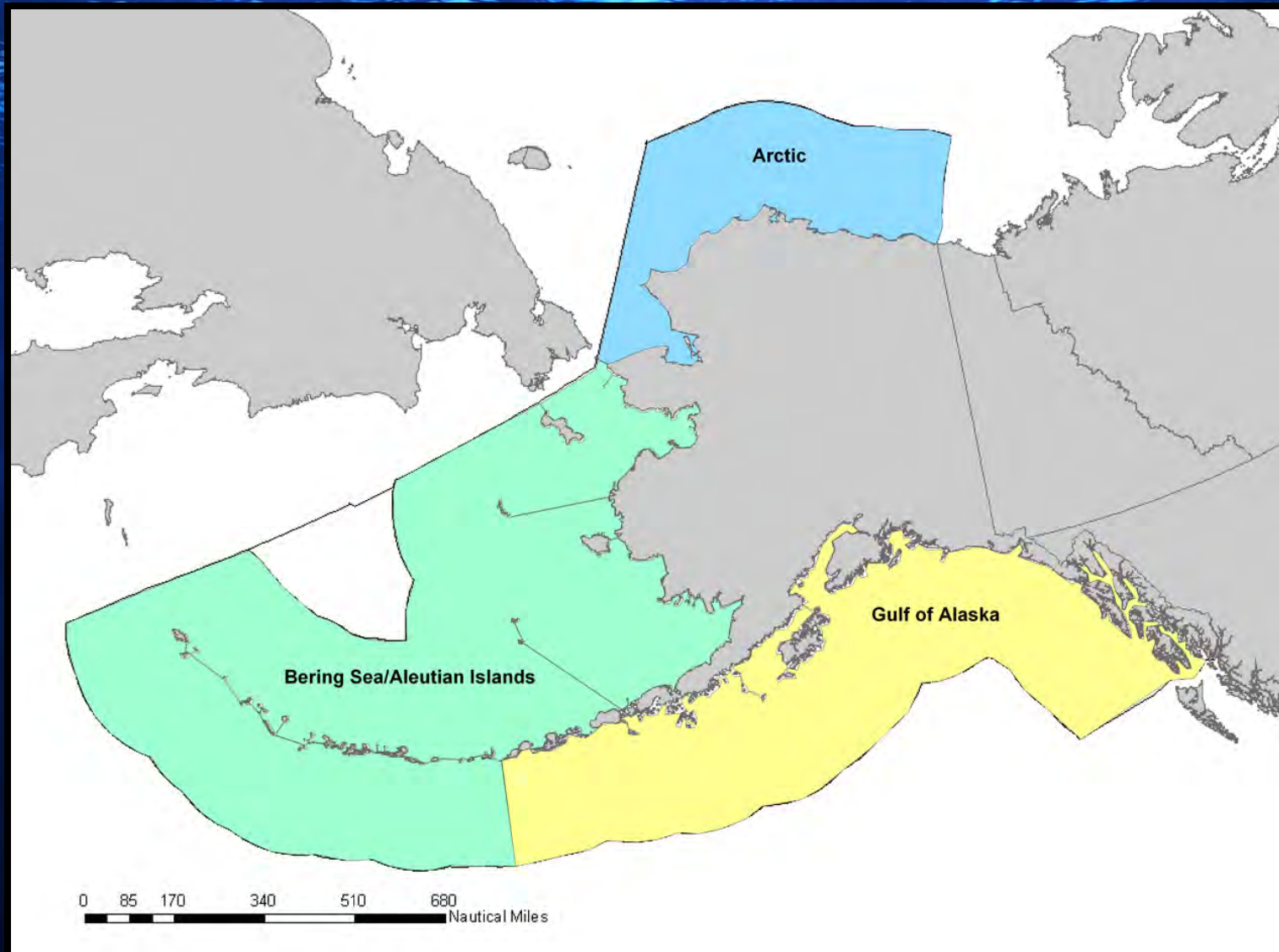


Building a clear understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources.





Large Marine Ecosystems





Science Implementation

- Competitive
- Annual RFP
- IEPRs

North Pacific
Research Board

Science Plan



Building a clear understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources.

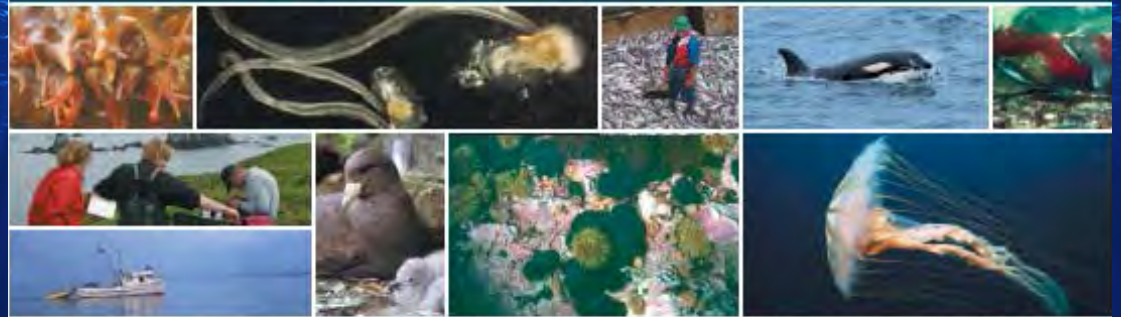


Table 1. NPRB-supported research initiated in 2002-2012.

<u>Categories of Research</u>	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Total Funding</u>	<u>%</u>
Lower Trophic Level Productivity	55	\$8,207,681	17
Fish and Invertebrates	117	\$20,597,567	42
Fish Habitat	19	\$4,369,791	9
Marine Mammals	50	\$7,791,493	16
Seabirds	26	\$4,597,106	9
Humans	21	\$1,660,506	3
Other Prominent Issues	16	\$1,684,074	3
TOTAL	304	\$48,908,218	



Ecosystem
Science
Approaches

- Individual projects that address parts of a broader research plan
 - ☑ *easier, hands-off*
 - ⊖ *integration after the fact*



Ecosystem Science Approaches

- New Ideas
- Potential for mismatch

U.S. GLOBEC



A Component of the U.S. Global Change Research Program

Strategies for Pan-Regional Synthesis in U.S. GLOBEC

U.S. Global Ecosystems Dynamics

Report Number 21

December 2007



Ecosystem Science Approaches

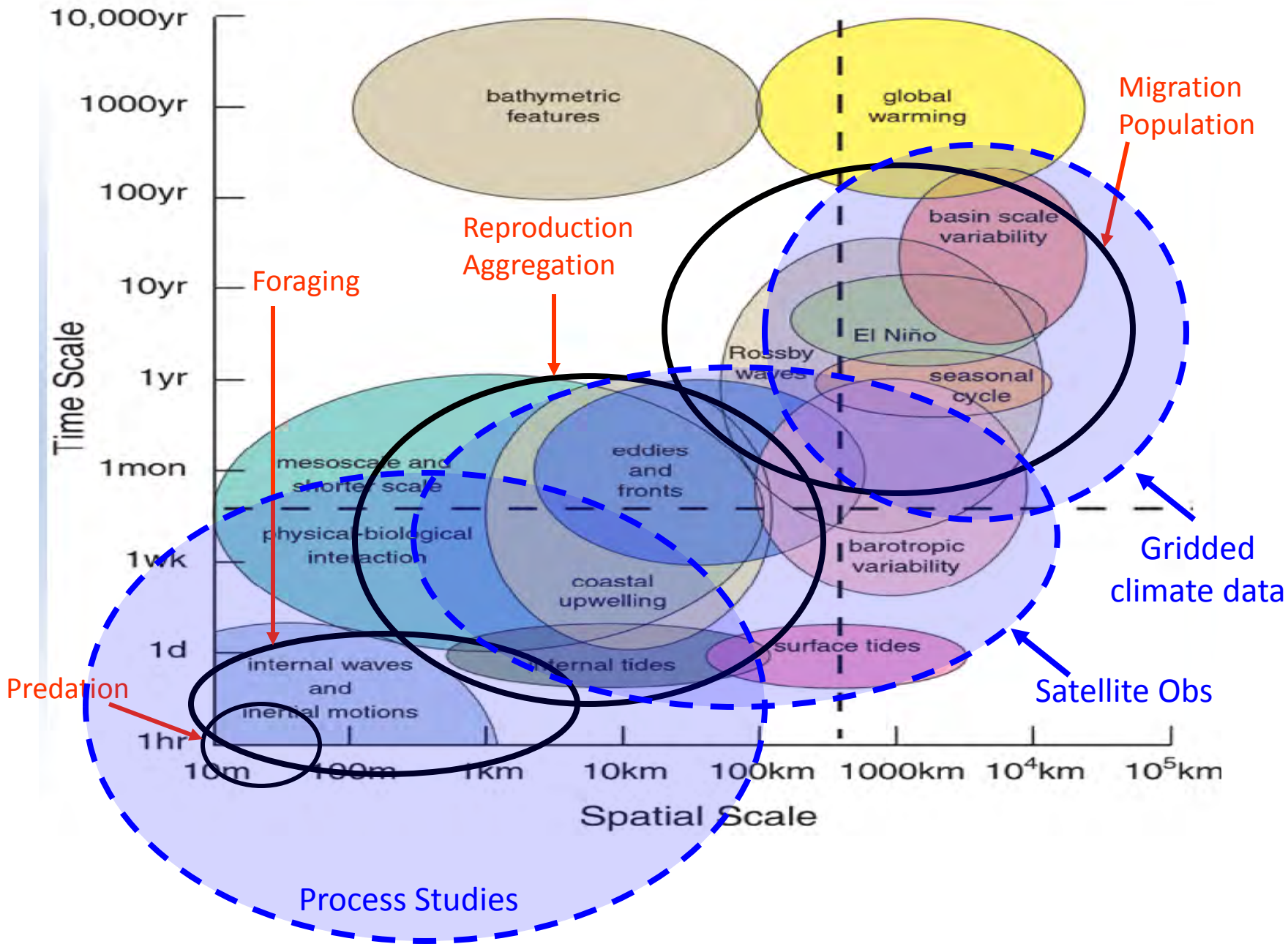
- Individual projects that address parts of a broader research plan
 - ☑ *easier, hands-off mgmt*
 - ⊖ *integration after the fact*
- A fully integrated study that addresses the ecosystem, not its components as its subject
 - ⊖ *harder, more involved project*
 - ☑ *integration, broad question*

Ecosystem science = anticipate vs. mitigate



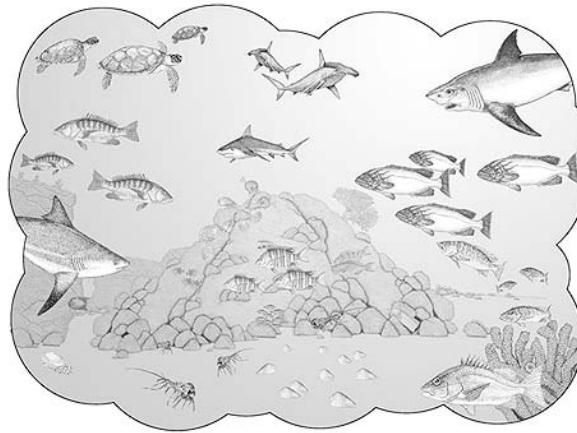
Clear Goals: Application



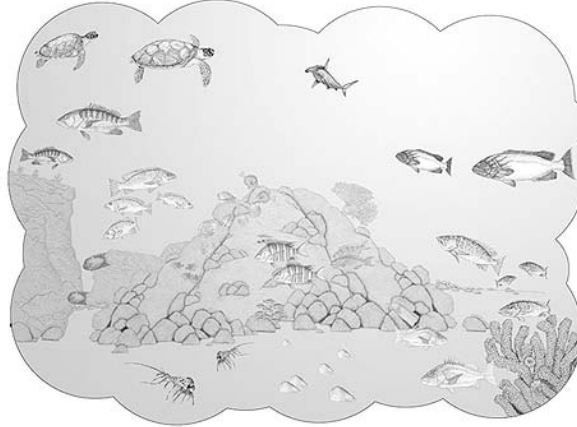




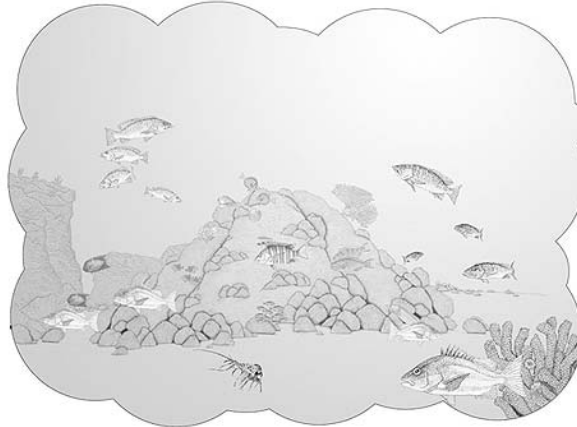
Shifting Baselines: Changing Seas



The past Gulf of California for the old fisher (1940's).



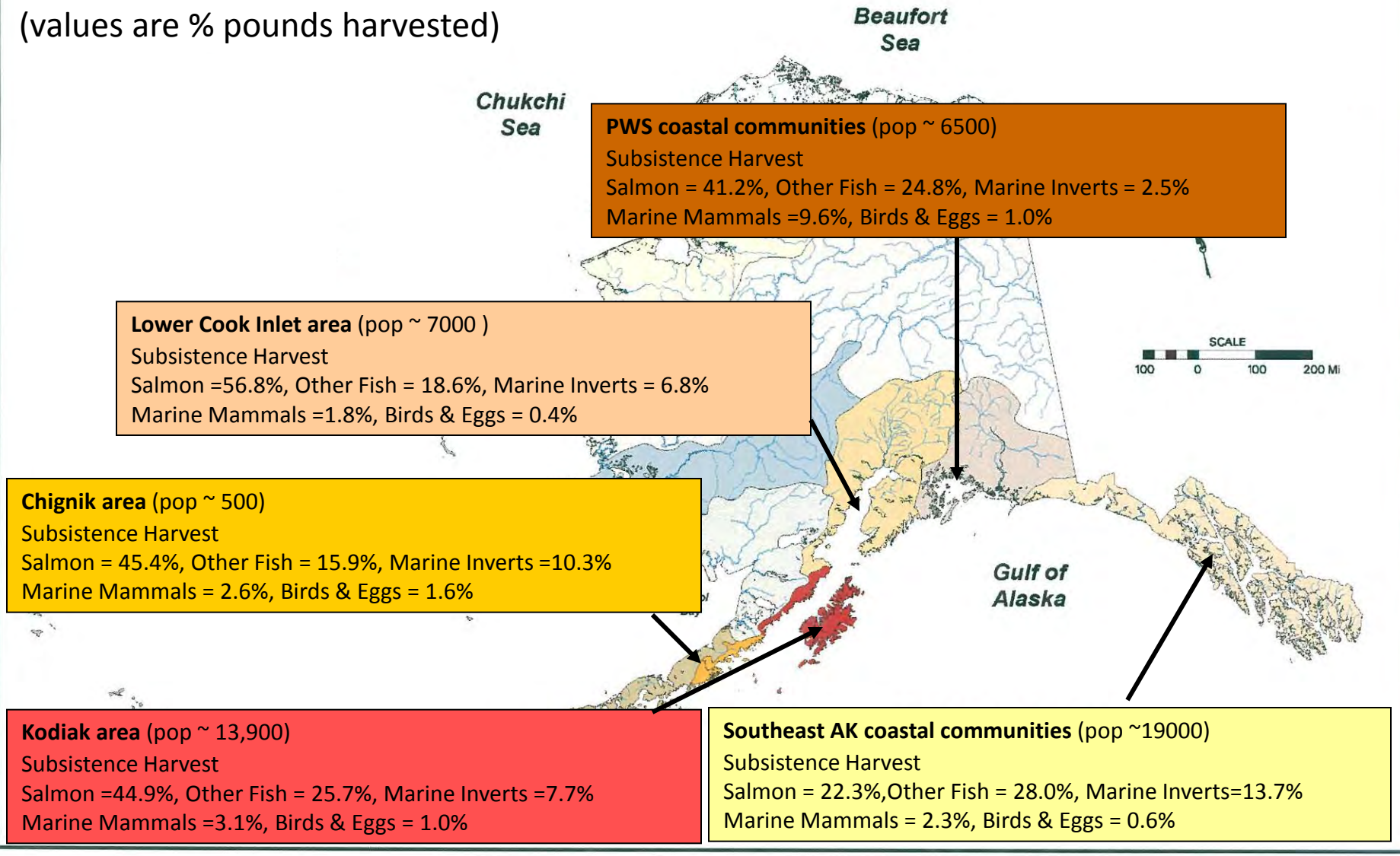
The past Gulf of California for the middle-aged fisher (1970's).



The past Gulf of California for the young fisher (1990's).

Subsistence Harvest in GOA Coastal Communities

(values are % pounds harvested)





FUTURE –

Vision

To *understand* and *forecast* responses of North Pacific marine ecosystems to *climate change and human activities* at basin-wide and regional scales, and to broadly *communicate* this scientific information to Members, governments, resource managers, stakeholders and the public.

Developing *risk-based ecological assessments* within a policy/management framework to communicate future states of nature, their implications, and uncertainties to decision-makers and society.

Why Study the Gulf of Alaska?

The Gulf of Alaska sustains huge populations of marine animals. The strongest currents found along the coasts of North America flow here, dispersing sea life and nutrients from deeper waters across the shelf. This study looks at the physical and biological mechanisms that determine annual survival of juvenile groundfishes and forage fishes, which may differ between the eastern and western Gulf.

- Interdisciplinary study
 - >40 scientists from 11 institutions
 - 5 years (2010 – 2014)
 - \$17.5 million-study
- Gauntlet for groundfishes
 - Sablefish
 - Walleye pollock
 - Pacific ocean perch
 - Pacific cod
 - Arrowtooth flounder

NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD GULF of ALASKA PROJECT



Why Study the Gulf of Alaska?

The Gulf of Alaska sustains huge populations of marine animals. The strongest currents found along the coasts of North America flow here, dispersing sea life and nutrients from deeper waters across the shelf. This study looks at the physical and biological mechanisms that determine annual survival of juvenile groundfishes and forage fishes, which may differ between the eastern and western Gulf.



Interdisciplinary Study

More than 40 scientists from 11 institutions are taking part in this ecosystem study that integrates two field seasons (2011 and 2013) with ecosystem modeling to give us a thorough understanding of the key processes in the Gulf.

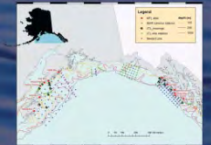


Gauntlet for Groundfishes

From 2010 to 2014, the Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Research Program, funded by NPRB, NOAA and other partners, will be looking at the biological and oceanographic gauntlets faced by commercially important young-of-the-year groundfishes – walleye pollock, Pacific cod, Pacific ocean perch, sablefish and arrowtooth flounder.



Early life survival likely determines the year-class strength for these marine groundfishes. Climate, currents, temperature and other biophysical factors affect larval and juvenile transport, and settlement into suitable habitat. Competition and predation further affect survival.



gulfofalaska.nprb.org

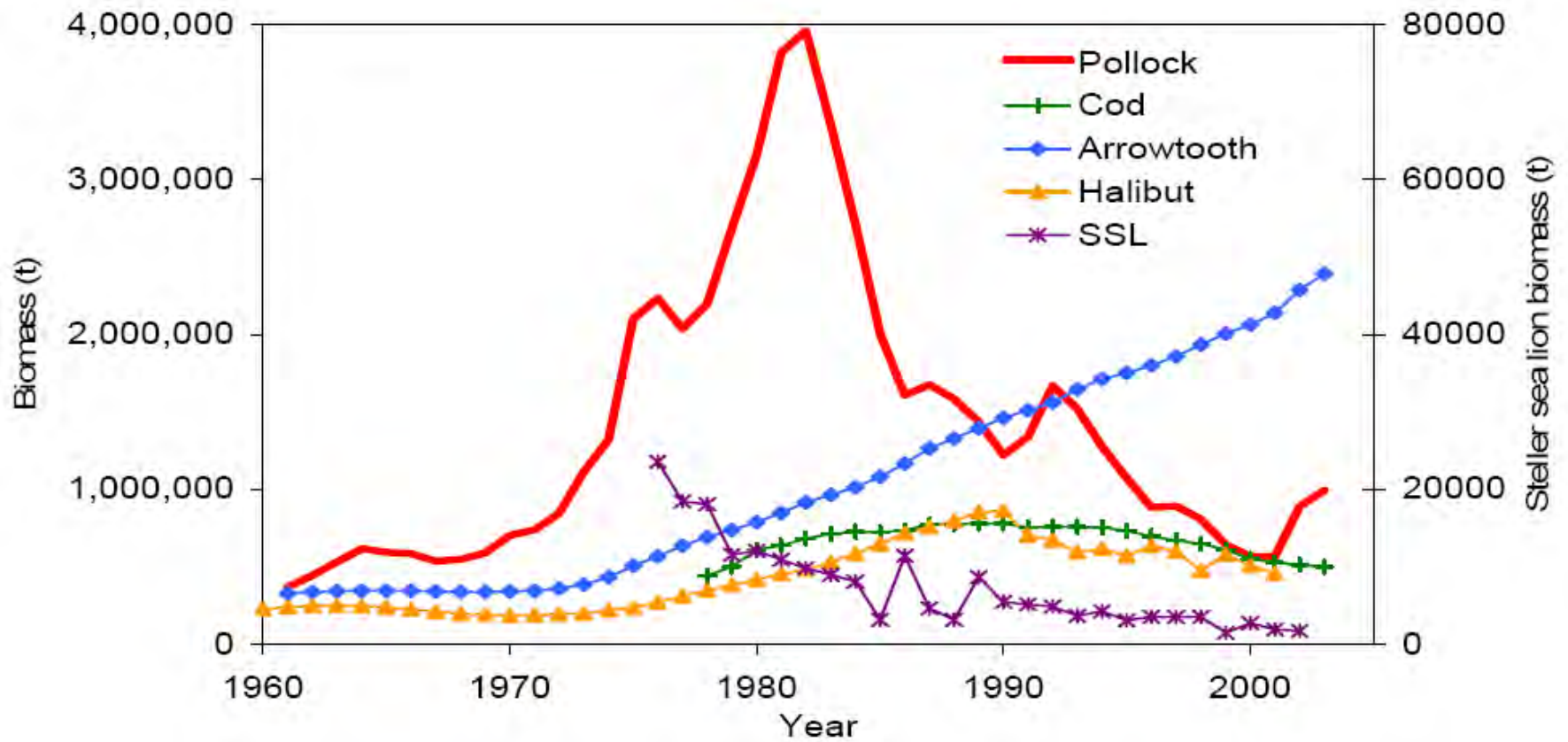




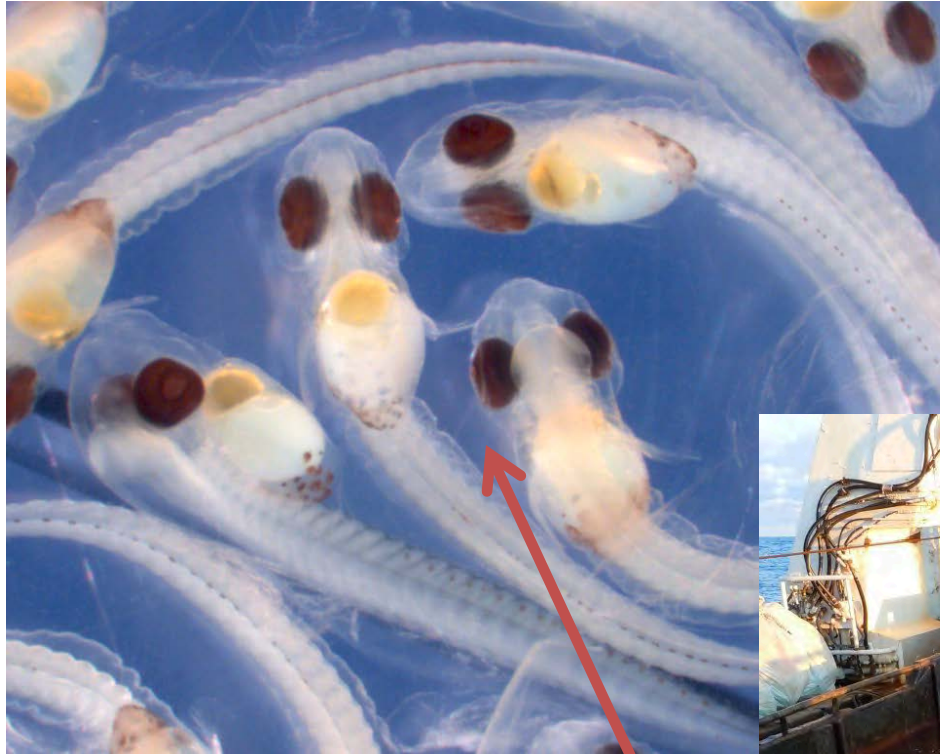
Alaska Digital Graphics



Imperfect knowledge



The Gauntlet



currents

temperature, nutrients

prey, predation

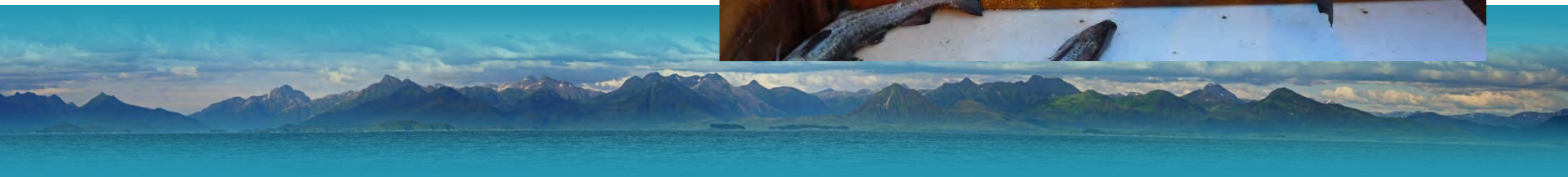
competition

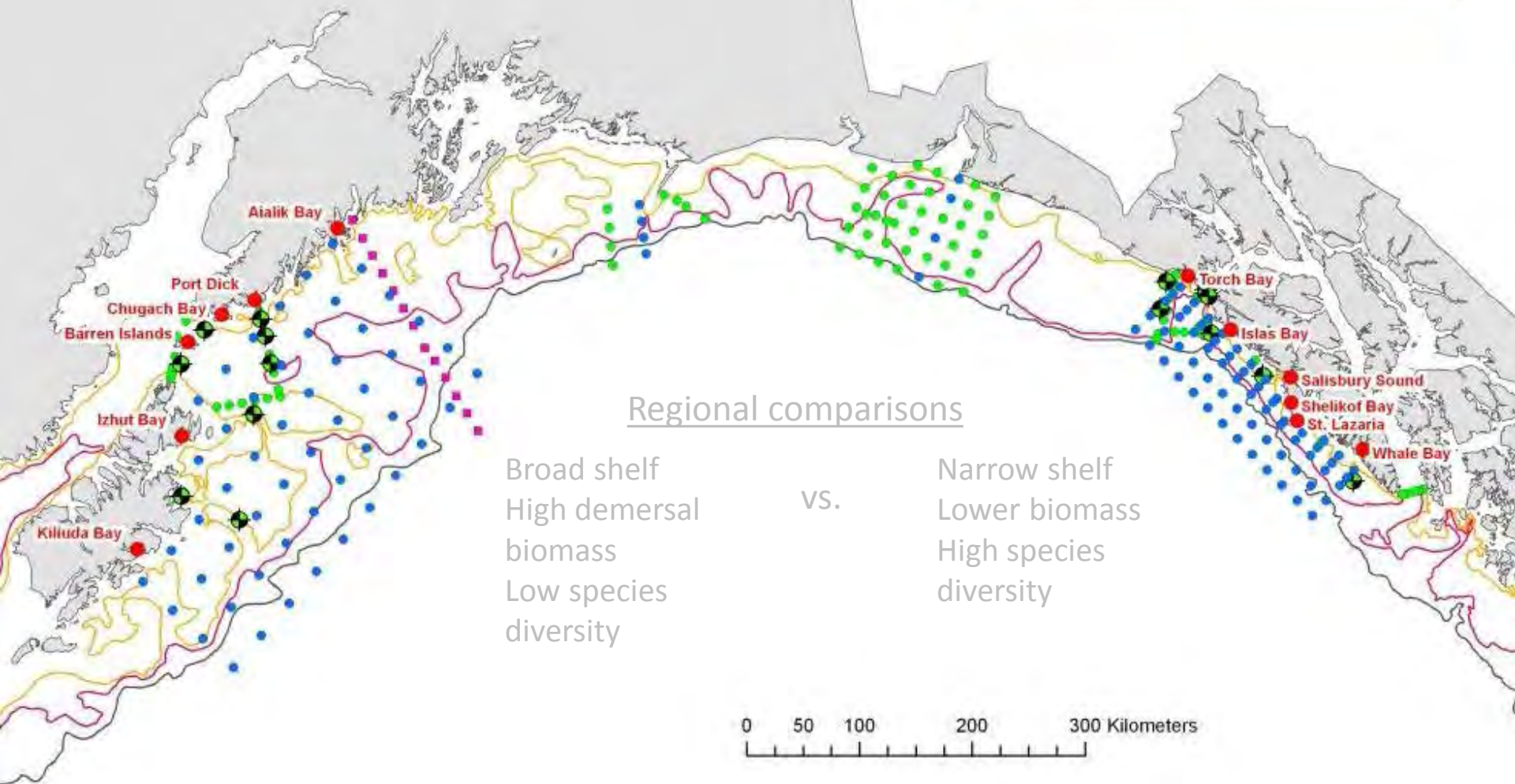
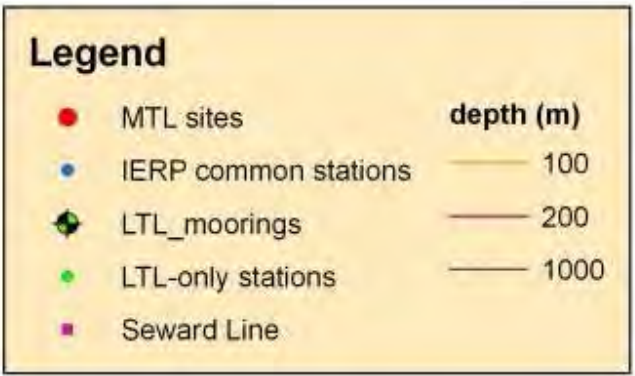
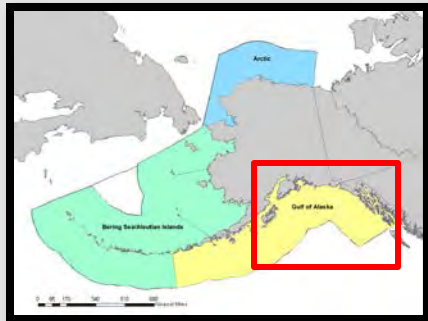
habitat



What factors most affect how the 5 target species of groundfish get from here...

...to here?







Management Structure



Many individuals cooperate to make this project possible.



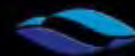
Ecosystem Knowledge and Management

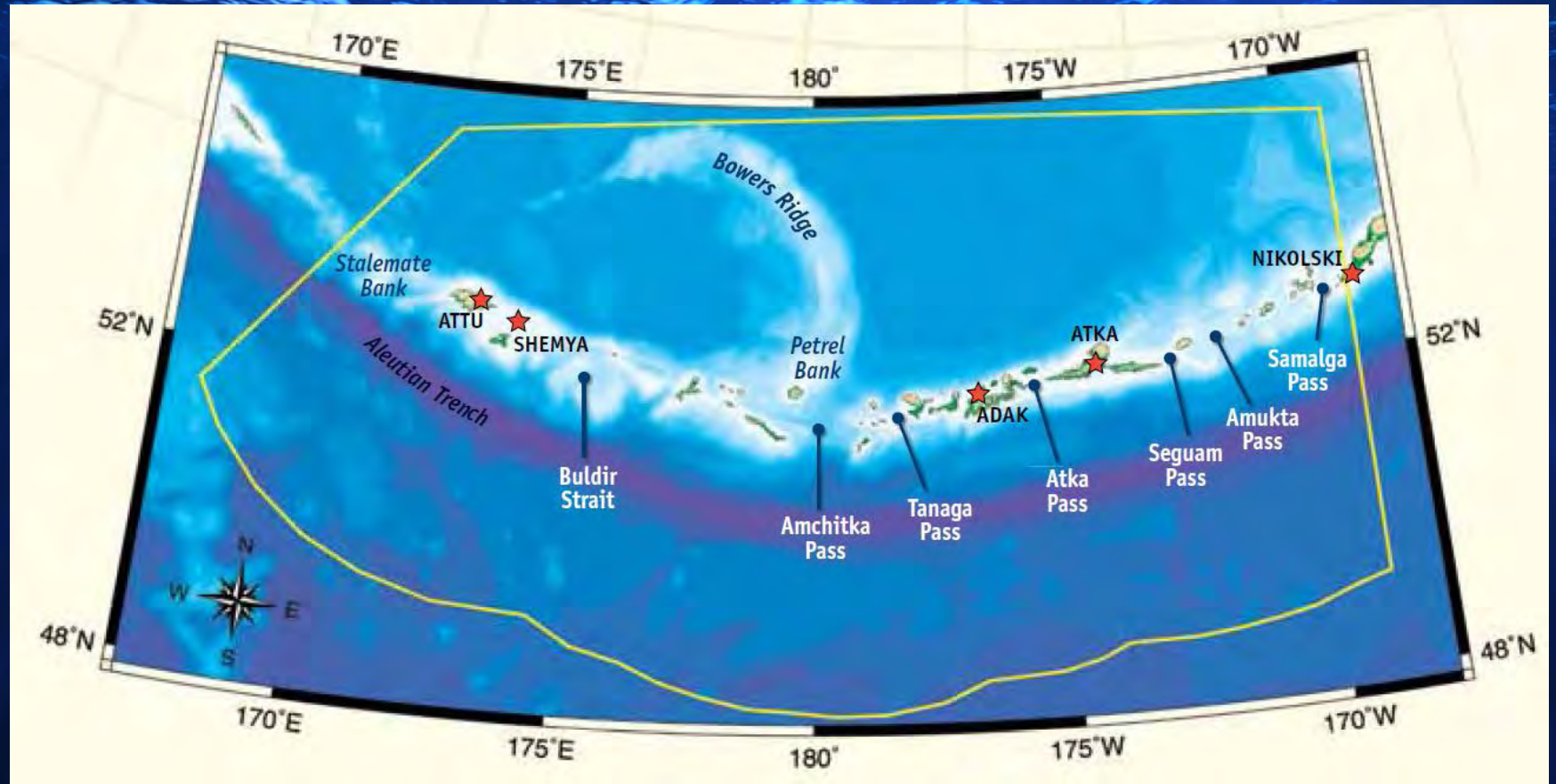
Qualitative Risk Assessment

Overview of the Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan



North Pacific
Fishery Management Council





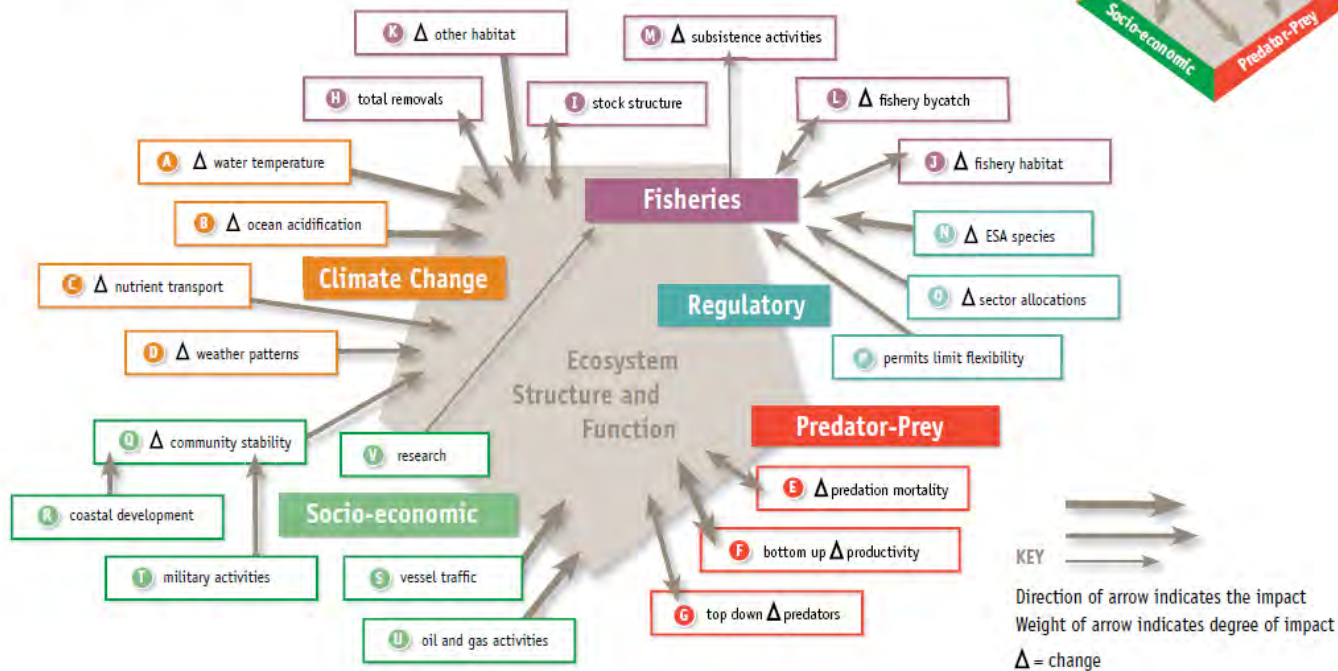
1200 miles (2000km): from Los Angeles to Dallas!



Non-Quantitative Risk Assessment

This first iteration of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan relies on a non-quantitative risk assessment to provide general guidance to the Council on priority areas and issues for management attention and further research and analysis. This process still follows the classic risk assessment framework, but relies on expert opinion and the building of consensus. A quantitative risk assessment may be a part of future iterations of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Map of Aleutian Islands ecosystem interactions



Steps of the Risk Assessment

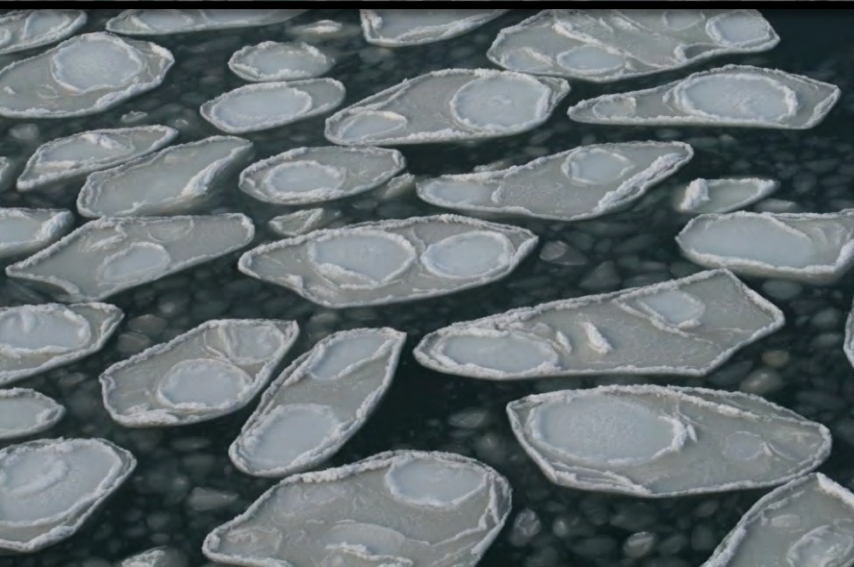
- What are the key interactions in the Aleutian Islands ecosystem?
- How is risk associated with these interactions currently addressed by managers?
- What else might be done to address any risk? Is further action warranted?
- What indicators should be used to monitor these interactions?
- What are the priority data gaps and research needs for the Aleutian Islands ecosystem?







ICE





Subsistence Life-style



- 55,000 people on or in the Bering Sea
- 25 million pounds of subsistence foods



The Bering Sea Project

2007-2013

The cover of the report "Understanding Ecosystem Processes in the Bering Sea 2007-2012" features a large aerial photograph of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, the USCGC Healy (WMEC-913), navigating through a field of sea ice. The ship is red and white, with "U.S. COAST GUARD" and "WMEC-913" visible on its hull. The background is a vast expanse of white and blue ice. At the top, a red banner contains the text "A HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD AND THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION" flanked by the logos of the North Pacific Research Board and the National Science Foundation. Below the banner, the title "BEST-BSIERP Bering Sea PROJECT" is written in a mix of bold, sans-serif and elegant, cursive fonts. A paragraph of text reads: "Climate change and reduced ice cover significantly impact the Bering Sea ecosystem. We seek to understand the mechanisms that create and sustain this highly productive region, and how they may be altered over time." The cover is decorated with several small inset images: a coastal town with red-roofed buildings, a person in an orange survival suit working on ice, a person in an orange suit holding a bucket, a white bird on a nest, a close-up of a dog's face, a pile of fish, and a smaller view of the Healy ship at sea. At the bottom, the text "UNDERSTANDING ECOSYSTEM PROCESSES IN THE BERING SEA 2007-2012" and "bsierp.nprb.org • January 2010" is displayed, along with logos for the Bering Ecosystem Study, the Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program, and the National Science Foundation.

UNDERSTANDING ECOSYSTEM PROCESSES IN THE BERING SEA 2007-2012
bsierp.nprb.org • January 2010

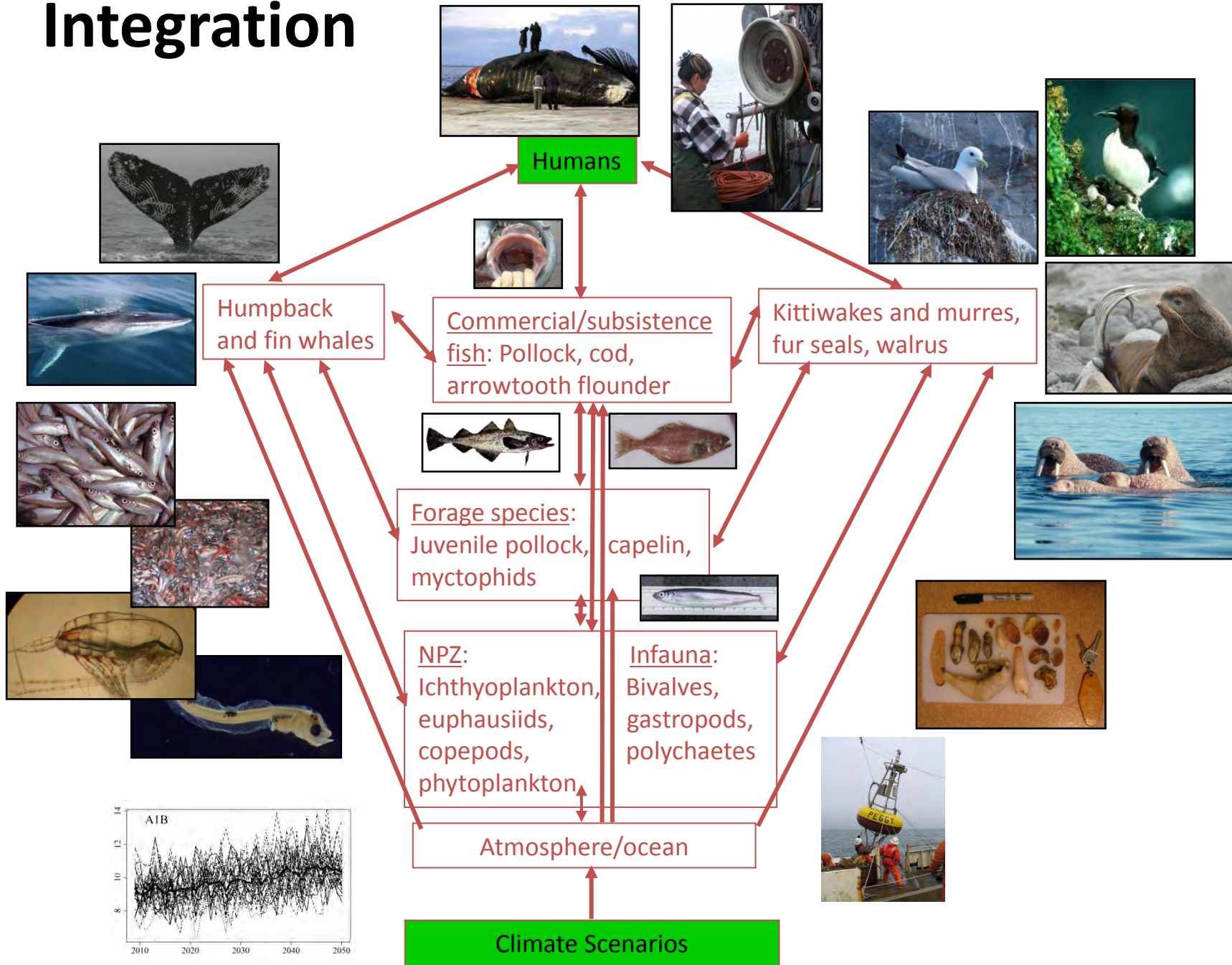


24,205 person-days of fieldwork completed

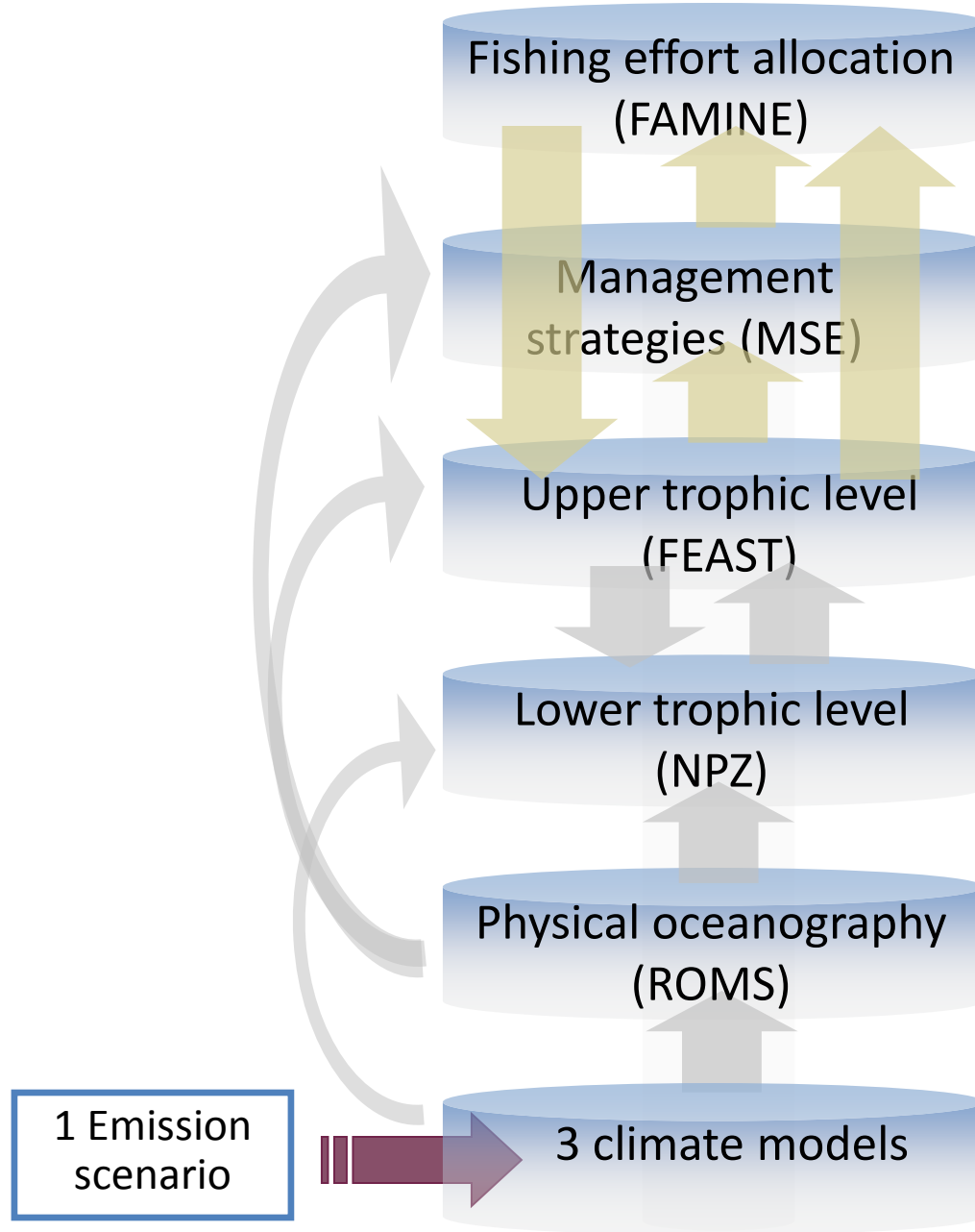
- NSF and NPRB in partnership
- In-kind support from NOAA and USFWS
- 100 PIs, dozens of institutions, small army of students, collaborators, technicians, field and ship crews...



Integration



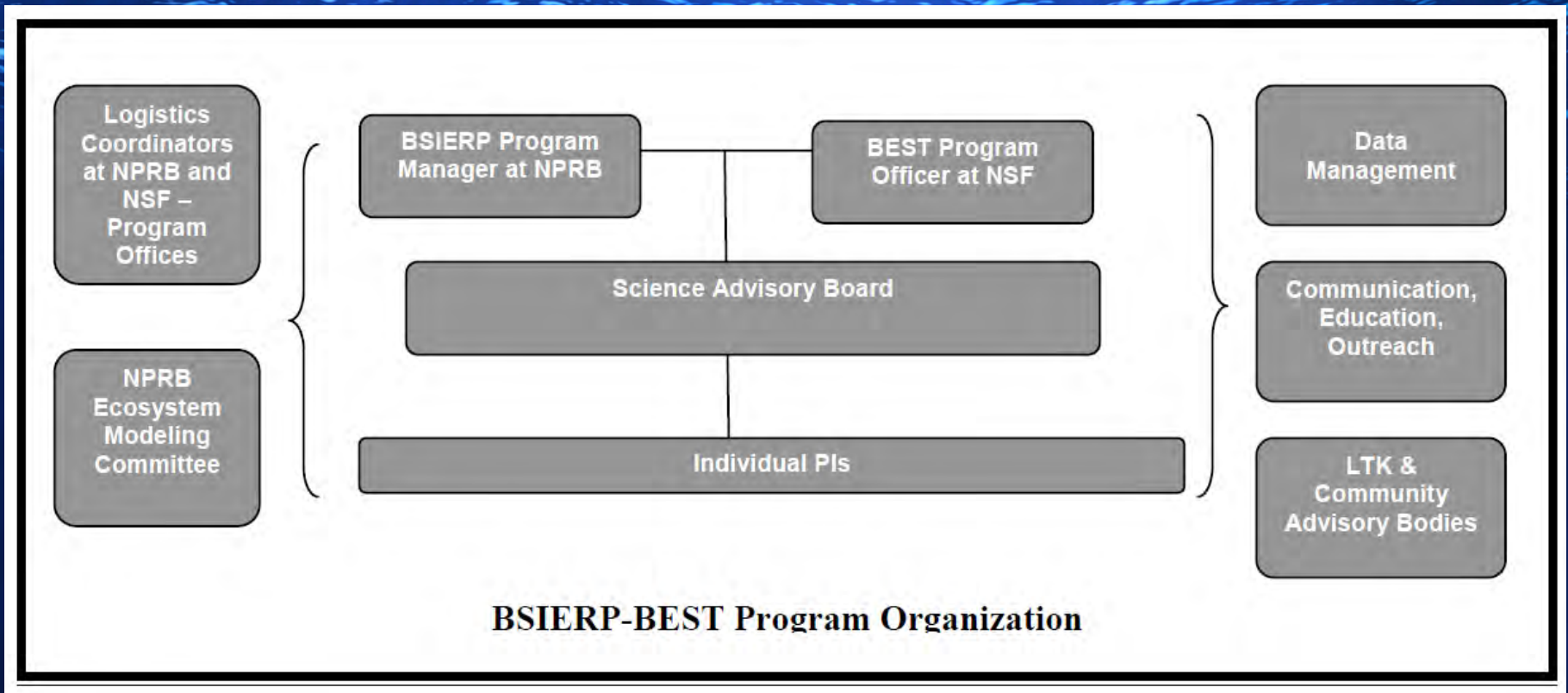
Vertically-Integrated, Coupled Ecosystem Model



Cast of Characters



Structure





Ecosystem Based Management

Ecosystem Indicators Approach

APPENDIX C

Ecosystem Considerations for 2011

Edited by:

Stephani Zador^{1,2} and Sarah Gaichas²

¹Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean (JISAO), University of Washington
and

²Resource Ecology and Fisheries Management Division, Alaska Fisheries Science Center,
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

With contributions from:

Alex Andrews, Kerim Aydin, Shannon Bartkiw, Sonia Batten, Jennifer Boldt, Nick Bond, Peter Boveng, Greg Buck, Troy Buckley, Michael Cameron, Amy R. Childers, Kristen Ciciel, J. Comiso, K.O. Coyle, Miriam Doyle, Martin Dorn, Sherri Dressel, Doug Eggers, Lisa Eisner, Diana Evans, Lowell Fair, Ed Farley, Angela Feldmann, Shannon Fitzgerald, Robert Foy, Lowell Fritz, Sarah Gaichas, Jessica Gharrett, John J. Goering, Angie Greig, Chester Grosch, Lisa Guy, Steven Hare, Alan Haynie, Kyle Hebert, Jonathan Heifetz, Ron Heintz, Jack Helle, Terry Hiatt, Jerry Hoff, Anne Hollowed, Jim Ianelli, W. James Ingraham, Tom Kline, Kathy Kuletz, Carol Ladd, Robert Lauth, Heather Lazrus, Mike Litzow, Pat Livingston, Josh London, S. Allen Macklin, Michael Martin, Ellen Martinson, W. Meier, Kathryn Mier, Steve Moffitt, Sue Moore, Jamal Moss, Franz Mueter, Jim Murphy, Marcia Muto, Jeffery Napp, S. Nghiem, John Olson, Jim Overland, Mike Perez, D. Perovich, Susan Picquelle, A.I. Pinchuk, Amanda Poole, Patrick Ressler, TaeKeun Rho, J. Richter-Menge, Kim Rivera, Chris Rooper, Tom Royer, Nicholas Sagalkin, Sigrid Salo, Nandita Sarkar, Jennifer Sepez, Leila Sievanen, Elizabeth Sinclair, Leslie Slater, Paul Spencer, Mick Spillane, Phyllis Stabeno, Dean A. Stockwell, Rob Suryan, J. Ward Testa, Rod Towell, Dan Urban, Gary Walters, Muyin Wang, Fred West, Terry E. Whitedge, Tom Wilderbuer, Carrie Worton, Atsushi Yamaguchi, Stephani Zador, Jie Zheng, Alaska Fisheries Science Center Stock Assessment Staff

Reviewed by:

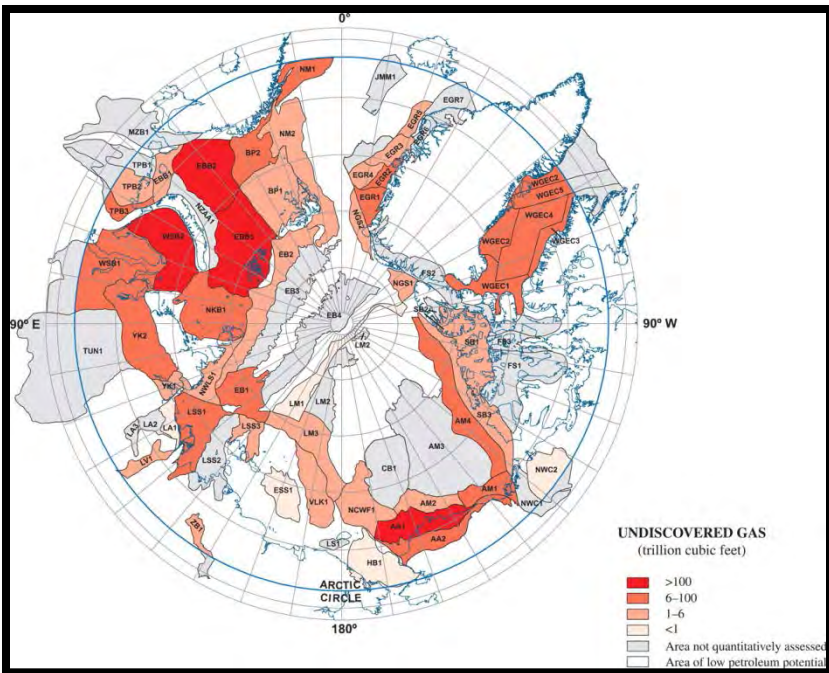
The Plan Teams for the Groundfish Fisheries of the
Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, and Gulf of Alaska

November 15, 2010
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99301



The Arctic





Arctic Research

- 25 Projects totaling \$3.25M since 2002
 - *contaminants, subsistence, whales, data rescue, sea ice*
 - *projects.nprb.org*



Arctic Synthesis and Information Needs



Pacific Marine Arctic Regional Synthesis

Synthesis of Arctic Research (SOAR)

Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO)

Pacific Arctic Group (PAG)

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (CBL)

North Pacific Research Board (NPRB)

Research Leads

Dr. Jacqueline Grebmeier

Dr. Lee Cooper

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

Principal Investigators

Dr. Bodil Bluhm

Dr. Steve Okkonen

Dr. Sveta Yamin-Pasternak

Ms. Gay Sheffield

PacMARS

The Pacific Marine Arctic Regional Synthesis (**PacMARS**) is a research synthesis effort underwritten by the North Pacific Marine Research Institute to assemble by mid-year 2013 up-to-date written documentation that contributes to understanding the Pacific-influenced coastal shelf ecosystem of the Arctic Ocean. Our study area extends from Saint Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea through Bering Strait into the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and our objective is to compile the best available knowledge from local communities, peer-reviewed social and natural sciences, as well as less readily available knowledge sources.

Background

As seasonal sea ice declines in much of the Arctic and reached record minima in 2012, oil and gas exploration is increasing, and additional ship traffic is also using Bering Strait, perhaps a portend of changes to come if the Northern Sea Route along the north coast of Russia becomes a practical ice-free route between Asia and Europe, reducing shipping costs significantly. The Northwest Passage through the Canadian Arctic has also become ice-free several times in recent summers, a significant change. All of the Arctic countries, including Russia, the United States, Canada, and Denmark (Greenland) are exploring the limits of their arctic continental shelves in order to advance claims under the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Within this context of environmental and likely socio-economic changes, wildlife populations and human communities are adjusting to these shifts in seasonal sea ice coverage and climatic warming that has been much more obvious than at lower latitudes. Subsistence hunting patterns in the Arctic are changing, and it is also clear that many organisms, from plankton to top predators may be changing their migration and foraging patterns. Productivity is also forecast to change as sea ice declines and penetration of sunlight into open water increases.

Goals

goal is to provide guidance for scientific research needs in the region, as well as to

Meetings

PacMARS PI Meeting

September 24-25, 2012

Annapolis, MD

Contact Information

Agenda (DRAFT)

DC Metro Area Map

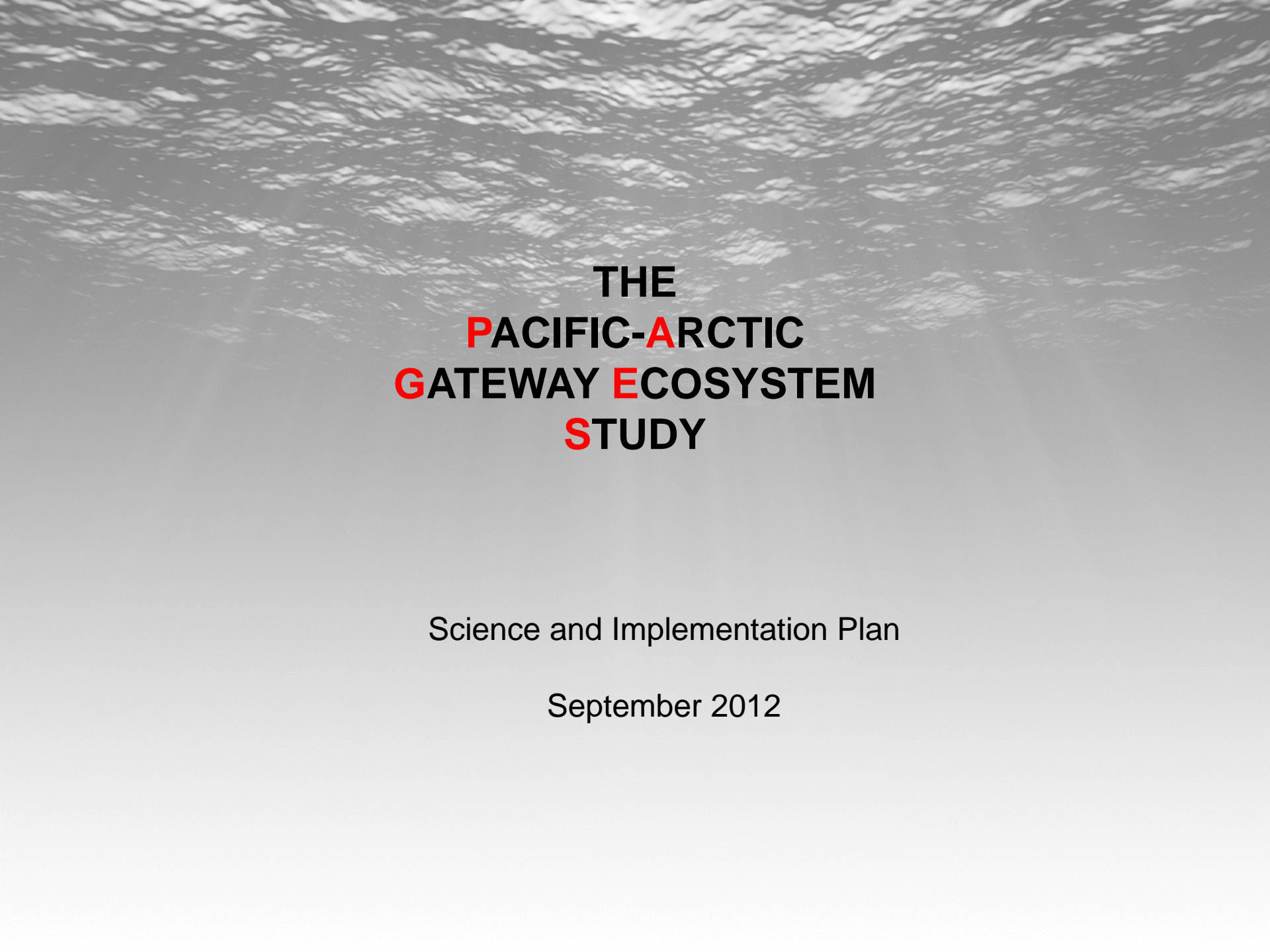
Annapolis Area Map

Annapolis Visitor Website

Joint PacMARS & SOAR Community Meeting

There will be a joint PacMARS and SOAR OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING on Saturday, January 20, 2013 just prior to the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (Jan. 21-25) in Anchorage, Alaska.

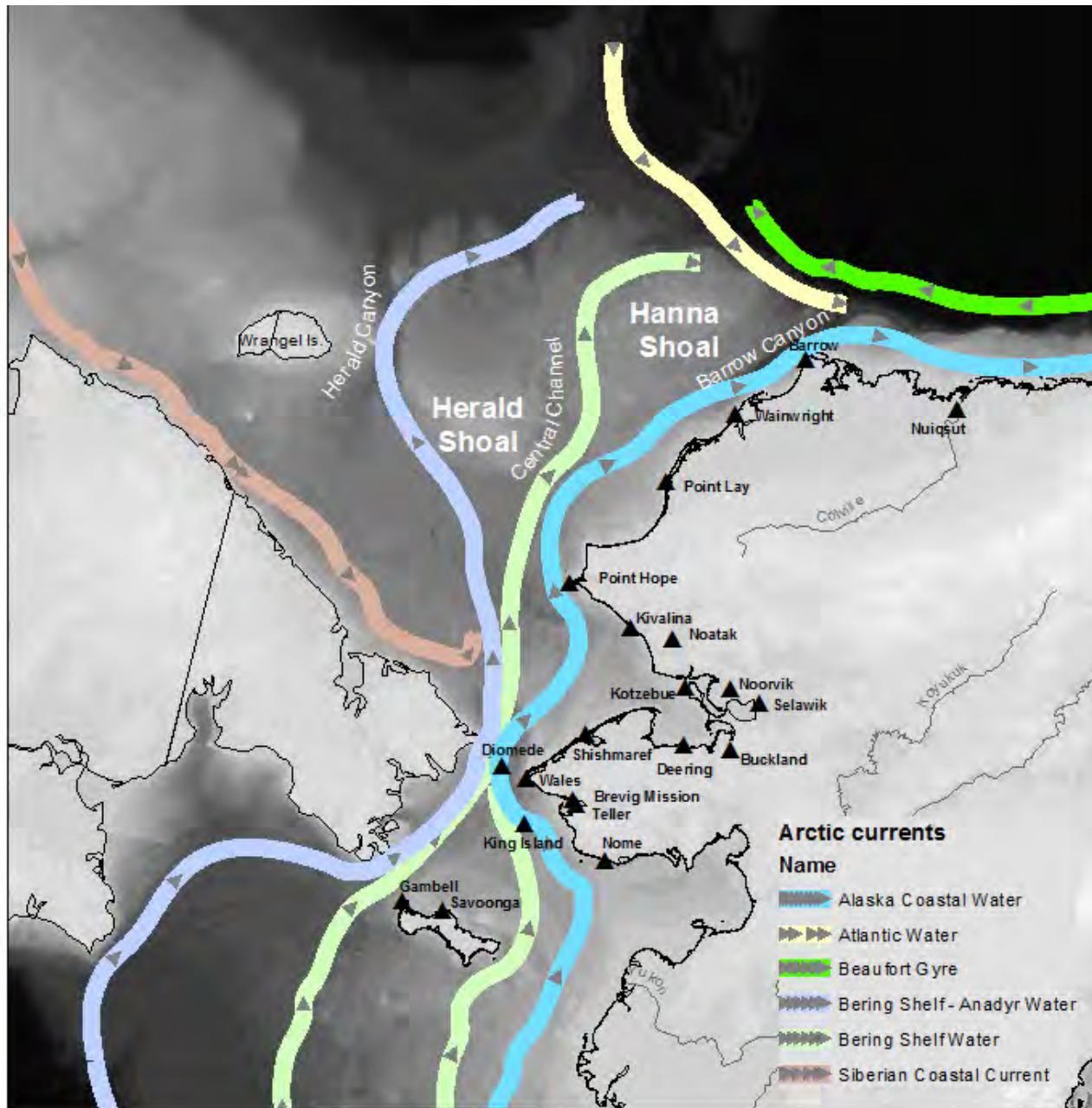
The purpose of this open meeting is to update the community on the PacMARS

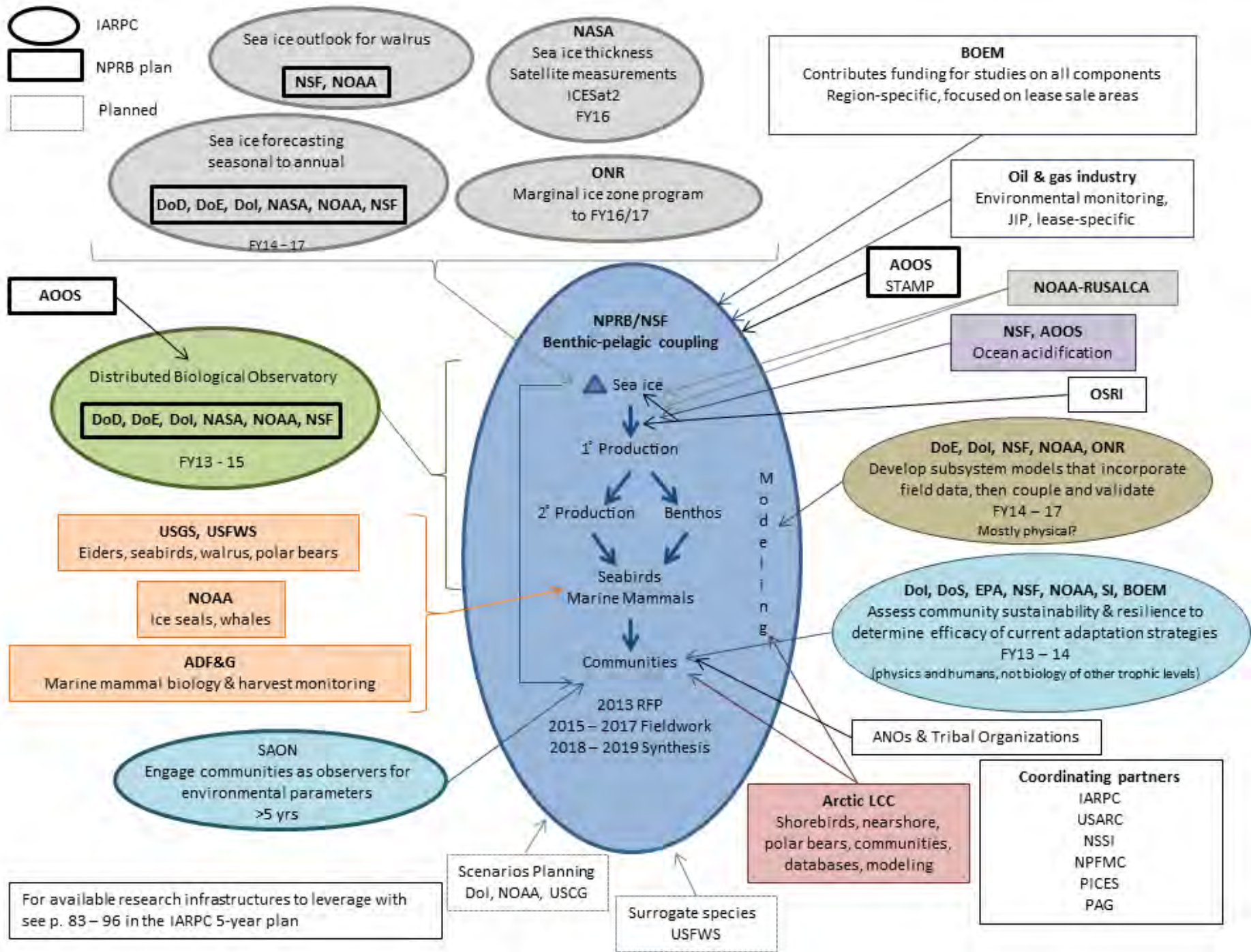


**THE
PACIFIC-ARCTIC
GATEWAY ECOSYSTEM
STUDY**

Science and Implementation Plan

September 2012





Ocean Ecosystem Research Planning and Outreach

Nora L. Deans, Francis K. Wiese, Tom Van Pelt and Carrie Elschens,
North Pacific Research Board, 1007 West Third Avenue, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 www.nprb.org



Ecosystem Research Planning

Climate change and reduced ice cover could significantly impact the Arctic, Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, home to millions of seabirds, fishes, marine mammals and the humans whose ancestors have lived here for thousands of years. **Planning and implementing multi-disciplinary research that addresses these issues and includes stakeholders is integral to the sustainability of our ocean ecosystems.** Each fall, NPRB solicits proposals investigating the research priorities of the NPRB, based on the NPRB Science Plan and research needs and priorities of stakeholders, such as resource managers, agencies, fisheries and Alaska communities.

Stakeholder input is gathered through:

- requests for research priorities from national and state agencies and institutions;
- a public web-based interface (<http://www.nprb.org/proposals/suggestion.html>);
- information gathered at scientific conferences and from peer-reviewed literature;
- the NPRB Advisory and Science Panels and Board members.



Successful proposals are chosen based on scientific merit, pressing fisheries and ecosystem management needs and budgetary constraints. At the annual Alaska Marine Science Symposium co-sponsored and organized by NPRB, more than 1,100 researchers come together from all over the world to share their latest findings on research in Alaska's seas.



Integrated Ecosystem Research

NPRB also supports **integrated ecosystem research programs to understand how Alaska's marine ecosystems are changing, from benthos to atmosphere and everything in between.** Researchers also study the socio-economic impacts of a changing marine ecosystem on humans and communities, incorporating local and traditional knowledge. Currently, NPRB supports a \$52 million program in the Bering Sea in partnership with the National Science Foundation involving more than 100 scientists (bering.nprb.org), and one focused on the Gulf of Alaska with NOAA and other partners (www.gulfofalaska.org) with more than 40 scientists working across disciplines. To ensure synthesis across disciplines, and between observational and ecosystem modeling scientists, researchers meet annually.



Communicating Ecosystem Research



Communicating about how we are learning about the changes that scientists and Alaska Natives are witnessing firsthand is the subsequent challenge when talking about such complex marine ecosystems. NPRB starts by putting faces on the stories, knowing that many people relate to other people more easily than to concepts. Among lessons learned, NPRB has found that when field scientists share the excitement and obstacles of conducting research in remote, icy seas firsthand, via web blogs and multimedia and visits to coastal communities, their stories grip the attention of diverse audiences, inspiring interest in these remote seas and giving scientists new tools for communicating about science.

Sharing Research

We've created a multi-faceted program to share our stories using a variety of media:

- Websites for NPRB and ecosystem programs
- Scientists' Blogs, tweets, photography galleries
- Podcasts, Google Ocean, Twitter
- Publications
- Research at a glance (synopses)
- Magazine-style research summaries
- Posters
- Displays
- Newspaper articles
- Press clippings
- National TV broadcasts
- Film
- Videos
- Photographers and artists
- Radio journalists
- Science writers
- Community events
- Teachers at sea





Communication







Field Research Blogs





The Bering Sea Ecosystem Workshop

A Model for Transforming Ecosystem Science into Educational Resources

Nora Deans, North Pacific Research Board, nora.deans@nprb.org; George Matsumoto, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, mage@mbari.org; Janet Warburton, Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, warburton@arcus.org; Kristin Timm, Arctic Research Consortium of the United States, kmftimm@gmail.com; Marilyn Sigman, Alaska Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence, msigman@alaska.edu; Darcy Dugan, Alaska Ocean Observing System, dugan@aos.org; Andrea Anderson, SoundView Evaluation and Research, andrea@soundviewevaluation.com



ECOSYSTEM WORKSHOP MODEL

Bering Sea Project Outreach

In October 2010, the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) partnered with three other organizations – Alaska's Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE-Alaska), the Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (Mbari) EARTH program – to bring together 15 teachers and scientists for a professional development workshop to share the outcomes of the Bering Sea Project. This landmark, \$56 million ecosystem study is a partnership between NPRB and National Science Foundation (NSF) with in-kind support from NOAA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others (<http://bering.nprb.org>).

Educators from all over the country and in remote communities participated in the field seasons of the six-year study, working side-by-side with scientists through the PolarITREC (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating) and NOAA Teacher-at-Sea programs.

Integrated Approach

Reflecting the integrated nature of the study, we worked across our organizations to convene Bering Sea Project scientists and educators, including those from Alaska coastal communities to:

- Share study outcomes
- Engage scientists in outreach
- Enrich educators' understanding of Alaska's seas
- Create educational resources
- Help educators integrate western science with traditional knowledge

We used the Bering Sea Project scientific hypotheses as a guide, and drew upon the model of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's EARTH workshops (<http://www.mbari.org/EARTH/>), which use data in the classroom. Educators and researchers presented to and learned from each other. Specifically:

- Scientists shared ecosystem study hypotheses and findings and collaborated on resource development.
- Educators shared insights with scientists on how to communicate with students and the public and.
- A scientist who is also an educator facilitated the workshop, working across disciplines and between the scientific and educational cultures.

OUTCOMES

Working side-by-side, scientists and educators created resources that bring research into classrooms. These online resources can be utilized by educators in classrooms throughout the United States.

Impacts on Scientists

The researchers learned how to communicate with educators and students and watched the interest in their research blossom among teachers. Many created lasting partnerships, leading to repeat classroom and community visits and sustaining collaborations, including participation in St. Paul's annual Bering Sea Days science outreach event on the Pribilof Islands. In the words of one of the scientists:

"What surprised me... the teacher presentations were a whole lot more engaging than the scientists."

Impacts on Teachers

Teachers and informal educators found great value in these first-hand learning experiences with scientists. Educators took the scientist datasets and the deeper content knowledge they gained and refined existing lessons or created new educational materials. Teachers who had participated in a single research project with a scientist on board a research cruise broadened their understanding to encompass the interdisciplinary and modeling approaches and results of the ecosystem study.

Educators were also able to combine place-based and culturally relevant perspectives of those teaching in Bering Sea communities with the perspective of what would be engaging to students in other parts of the U.S. They also formed partnerships that continued after the workshop, including an exchange between students on St. Paul and students on the island of Maui, Hawaii, which culminated in the St. Paul students making a field trip to Hawaii. In the words of the educators:

"The follow-up discussion with the scientist was most helpful in understanding more about their research and findings."

"They gave me new ways to help summarize their work to a variety of kids..."

RESOURCES

Educational resources created during the workshop were posted as a comprehensive Bering Sea Ecosystem Collection hosted through ARCUS PolarITREC Learning Resources database at <http://www.polaritrec.org/collections/bering-sea-ecosystem/>.

We shared the workshop as a model with more than 2,500 educators and scientists through a special issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Current Journal of Marine Education* Volume 27 Number 1, Spring 2011, available through the National Marine Educators Association.

We also presented the results during the 2011 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Formal workshop evaluation reports are posted on the COSEE-Alaska website at <http://www.coseealaska.org/resources/coseepublications/>.

EXTENDING THE MODEL

To help scientists share ocean research ongoing in Alaska's vast marine ecosystem – the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska – we refined the initial workshop model and brought together regional partners.

Gulf of Alaska

We expanded the model to the Gulf of Alaska Project (<http://gulf.alaska.nprb.org/>) during the summer of 2011. Twenty-two educators, including informal educators, traveled to a remote research lab as part of an official EARTH workshop. The resulting online resources are posted at the website <http://www.zhbcis.org/year11/11A/EARTH11.html> and were shared in a presentation given at the 2012 Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

Arctic

A workshop focused on the Arctic Ocean ecosystem will be held in Barrow in May 2012, with a focus on Arctic research and traditional knowledge, building upon the North Slope Borough's landmark curriculum that incorporates an Inupaq learning framework.

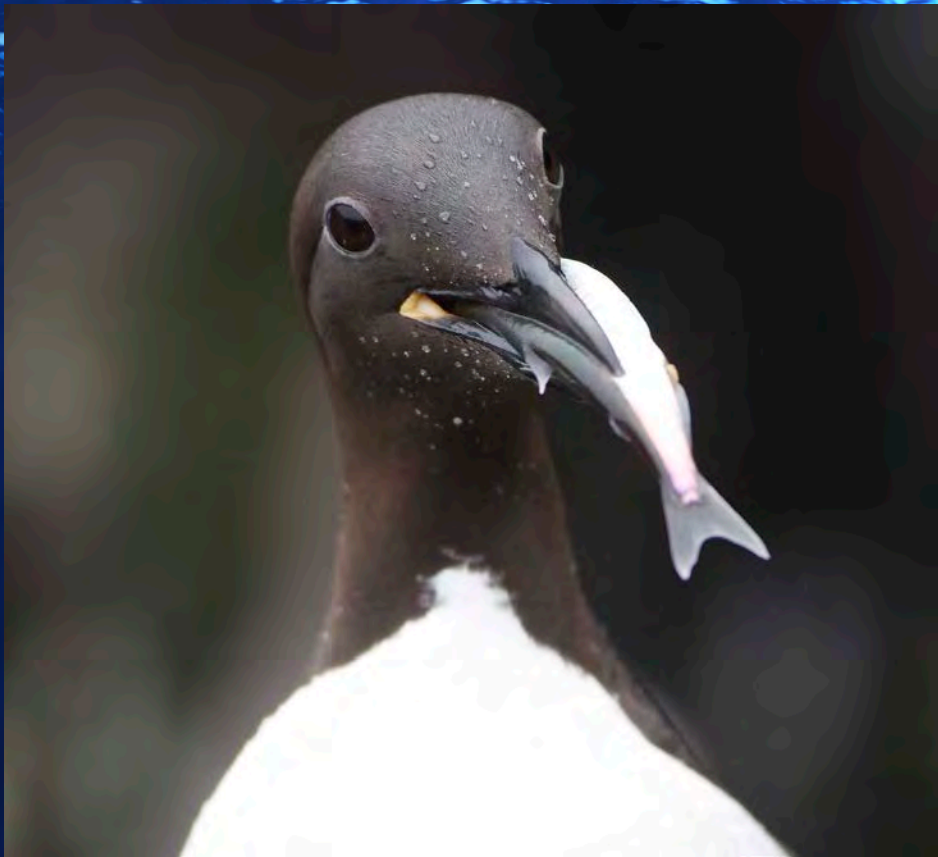
*Working side-by-side,
scientists and educators
created resources that
bring research into
classrooms.*



Photo by Sarah Krum



Integrated Approach to Outreach for Ecosystem Research



Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem EARTH Workshop

Jul 28 – Aug 2, 2011



NPR Encounters Radio Program

Arctic Ecosystem Teacher Workshop in Barrow May 19-23, 2012 Traditional Knowledge





Lessons Learned

Planning:

- Clear tangible scientific goals
- If applied science: include stakeholders in program design/implementation as early as possible
- Leverage: \$
- Integration as part of design
- Manage expectations
- Ecosystem science implementation: an experiment!

Implementation:

- Integrated review – components match objectives
- Central program office
- Data Management critical and always slower and more expensive than you think
- Democratically elected leads (e.g. SAB, GABI)
- You need one or more intellectual heroes
- Face time, social events



Lessons Learned

Communication

- Make it fun and attractive and people will want to be part of it
- Facilitate frequent internal communications (SharePoint, Facebook, Listserver, PI calls, etc.)
- Report out to funders, stakeholders, public and science community
- Tell stories

Synthesis

- Part of initial funded design
- Synthesize as you go: YEAR1! – staggered approach
- Circle back to beginning objectives (e.g Road Map)
- Close-out Plan



What do we really need to further our understanding?





Thank you