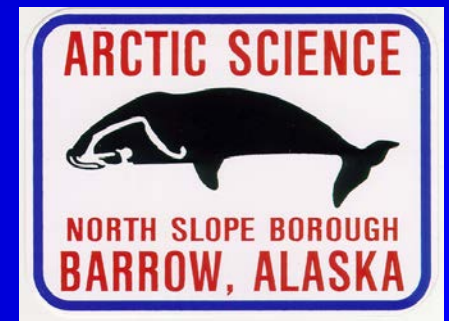
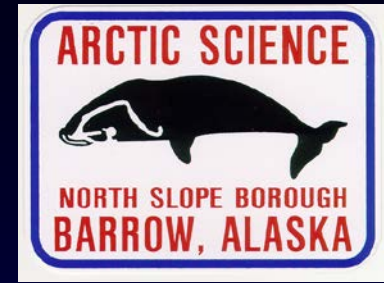


NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

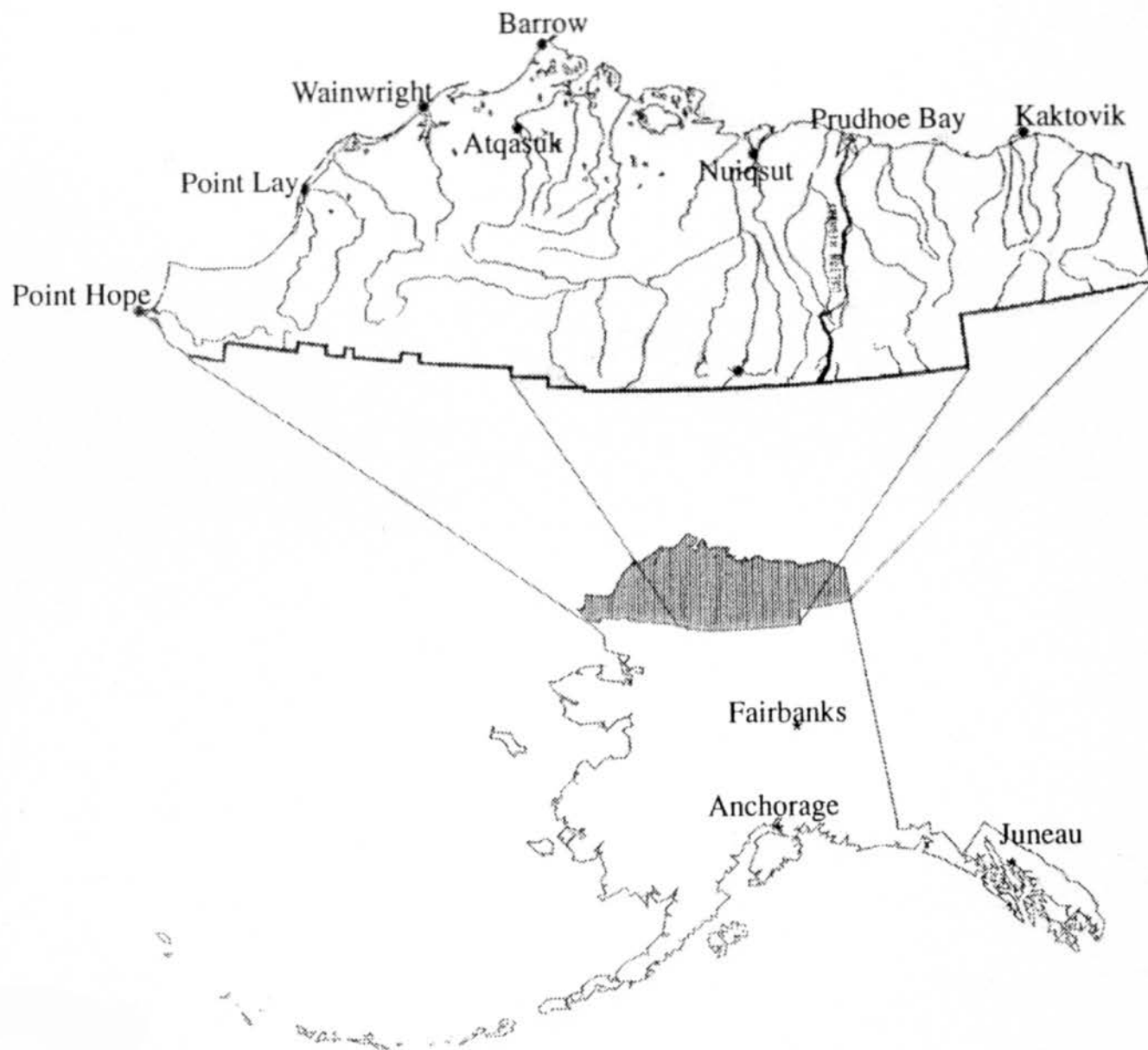
**Robert Suydam, Ph.D.
Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska**



Outline



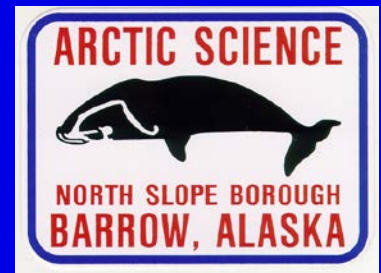
- Background
- Science Program
- Identify and Priority Science Needs
- Conduct of Science: who, output, impacts
- Improvement of Program
 - Collaboration
 - Communication
- BOEM Study Program





Bowhead Crisis, late 1970s

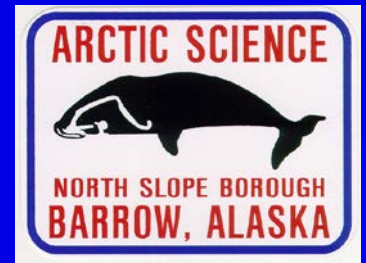
- Federal Scientists: too few whales
- IWC: set small quota
- Whaling Captains: Fed scientists not listening, Captains now lots about bowheads, need local scientists
- NSB DWM was born (with local funds from taxes on oil and gas)

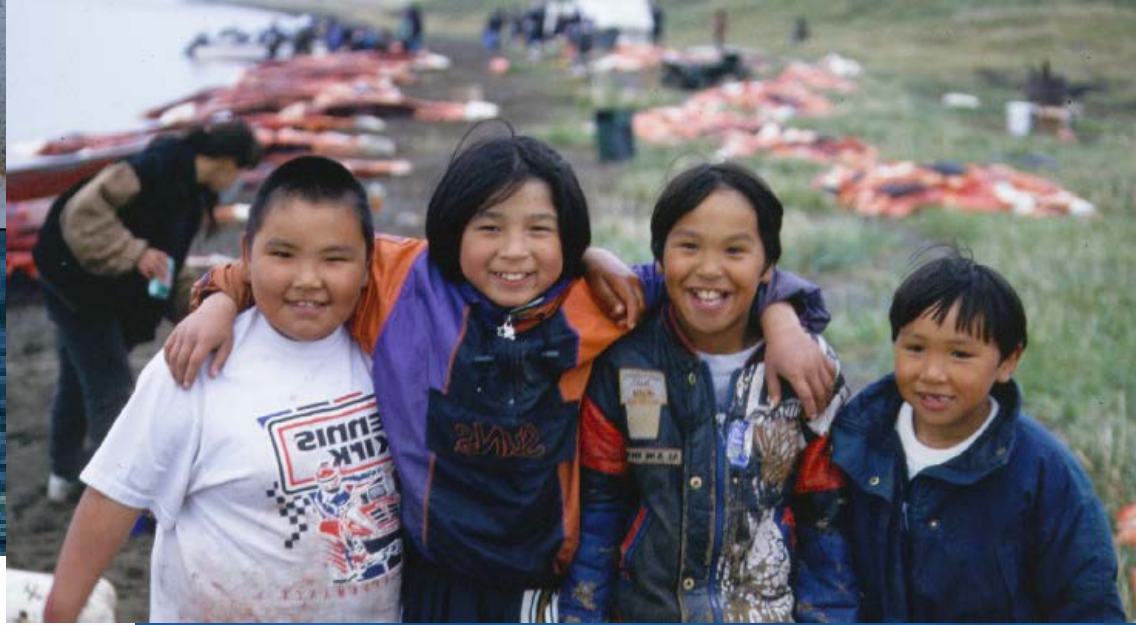
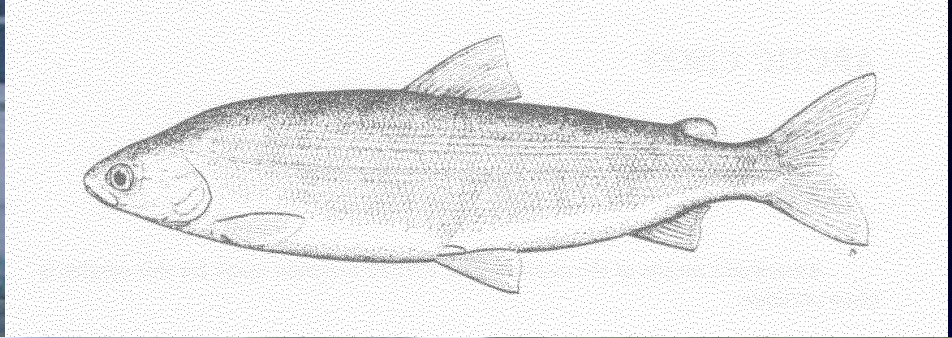




Mission Statement

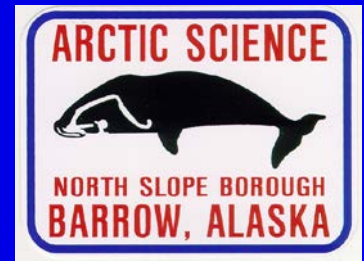
- Facilitate sustainable harvest through scientific research, Indigenous knowledge, leadership, and advocacy from local to international levels.
- Seek funding through grant opportunities, focusing on subsistence species and issues of the highest interest.





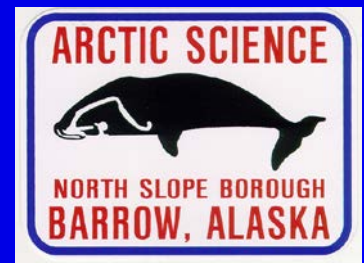
NSB Science Program

- 7 biologists (incl. veterinarian)
- 8 subsistence staff
- ~5 bear patrol
- 9 admin and support staff
- Director, Deputy Director, Special Assistant, and Environmental Resource Specialist (lawyer)



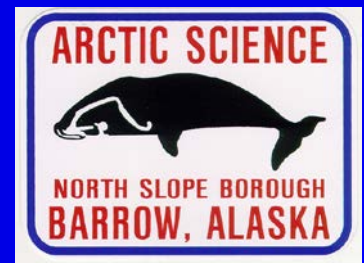
Science Needs

- Funding: some from NSB but most research funding from grants, cooperative agreements, donations, etc.
- NSB Fish and Game Management Committee and NSB Assembly
- Elders/public



Science Needs (con't)

- Mix of deliberate and ad hoc approaches driven by funding and community input
- Wildlife/Subsistence Management issues/regulation
- Issues related to industrial activities (e.g., oil and gas, commercial shipping, etc.)



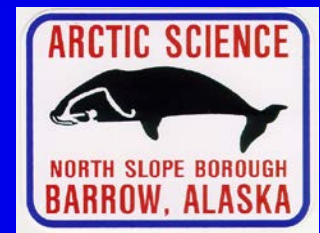
Conduct of Science

- Over-arching Principle: Merging of science and Indigenous knowledge
- True co-production of knowledge
- More powerful than either along



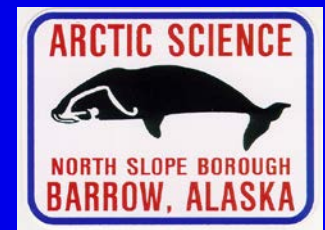
Conduct of Science (con't)

- Internal where possible
- Almost always collaborative (w/ Inupiat, agencies, universities, consultants, etc.)
- Include communities from the beginning

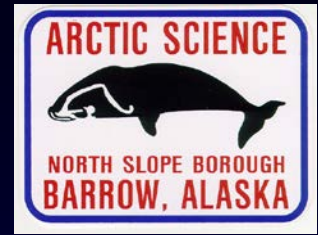


Conduct of Science (con't)

- Communication
 - Scientists not trained to communicate with the lay public
 - Scientists not trained in cross-cultural communication
 - Form collaborative relationships

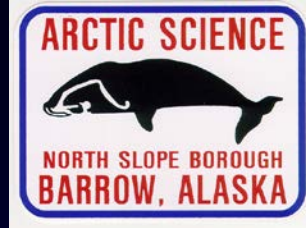


Improvements



- Work closely with hunters, elders, communities
- Pay attention to observations, listen, be respectful, be patience
- Acknowledge, support, and include subsistence hunters throughout the process
- Scientist live in the communities
- Long-term involvement of scientists
- Data availability

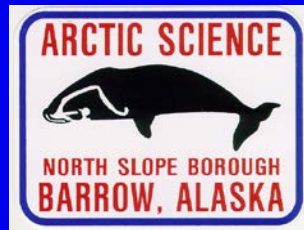
BOEM Study Program



- Request for study ideas
 - Great—community input really important
 - Not great—some scientists are concerned that their ideas may result in funding for others
- Arctic program
 - Effort to include communities and IK
 - Reduced funding resulting in cessation of long-term projects
 - Fewer studies yet big issues for Federal agencies (climate change, shipping, commercial fishing)

Research on the North Slope

- Research can impact subsistence
- More complaints about research than oil and gas activities
- Good neighbors
- Build relationships
- Communication can be difficult but is vital



Quyanaqpak!

Questions?

