

# AICC Working Group on PI Outreach to Alaska Native Communities

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# Background on this effort

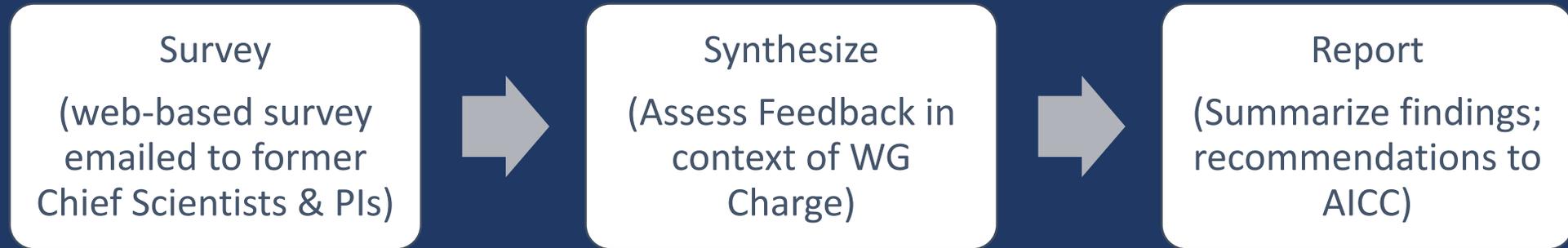
To help AICC fulfill relevant mandates in UNOLS charter:

- Assist PIs with planning of research on US ice-capable vessels
- Facilitate and encourage communications among Chief Scientists and appropriate Alaska Native communities

# Working Group Charge:

- 1) Review communication efforts associated with cruises on *Healy/Sikuliaq* in the last 2-3 years
  - What were experiences?
  - What are the unique considerations for a PI who wishes to work in Alaskan coastal waters?
- 2) Identify resources available to *Healy* and *Sikuliaq* PIs related to outreach coordination
  - How efficient are these resources?
  - Are resources evenly available to all users of each ship?
- 3) Assess AICC's formal mandate and other informal roles in helping researchers to be effective in communicating with Alaska Native communities.
  - Are there any changes that should be considered in the long-term?
- 4) Prepare a report summarizing the above

# Our Process:



# Survey Questions:

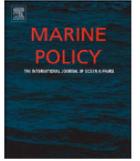
- 1) Basic cruise information (ship, timing, location)
- 2) Pre-cruise outreach efforts (venues, timing in relation to field work, protocols followed, outcomes)
- 3) At-sea outreach efforts (mode of communication, protocols followed, outcomes)
- 4) Post-cruise outreach efforts (venues, outcomes)
- 5) PI-based assessment of effectiveness of communication efforts, any suggestions for improvement

# Survey Demographics

- Survey respondents: 8
- Mixture of *Healy* and *Sikuliaq* PIs
- 7 out of 8 with multiple cruises over the 2016-2019 period
- Cruises represented assortment of timing, coastal vs offshore sampling
- 100% familiar with Community Environmental Compliance Standard Operating Procedure (CECSOP), majority of respondents followed in some capacity.

# CECSOP

- Developed by UAF in parallel with a similar effort by the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee (AWSC) Standard of Care (<http://www.arcticwaterways.org/safety-plan.html>)
- Pre-cruise activities:
  - If timing, and/or area of operation, and/or any sampling methods of concern PI or delegate expected to consult with local communities (in person or by proxy)
    - Typical venues for consultation are AWSC and Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Meetings
  - After consult, plans may need to be modified, with additional outreach/consultation
  - Strong recommendation to identify a Protected Species Observer or a Local Expert to sail with the science team
- During cruise PI and vessel operator:
  - Communicate location, speed, activities to local communities as agreed upon during consultations
- Post-cruise :
  - the PI submits summary of cruise activities to UAF ADR, may be required to present cruise report and any preliminary findings at AWSC or AEWK meetings



Development of best practices for scientific research vessel operations in a changing Arctic: A case study for R/V *Sikuliaq*



B. Konar\*, L. Frisch, S.B. Moran

B. Konar et al.

Marine Policy 86 (2017) 182–189

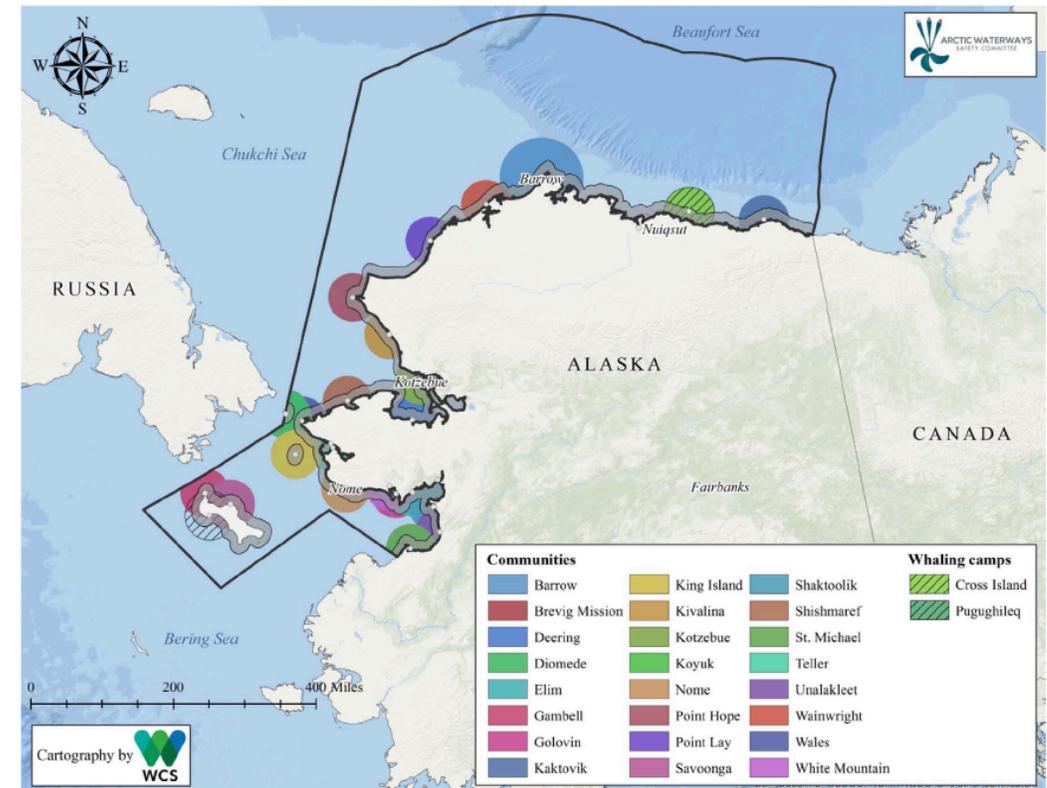


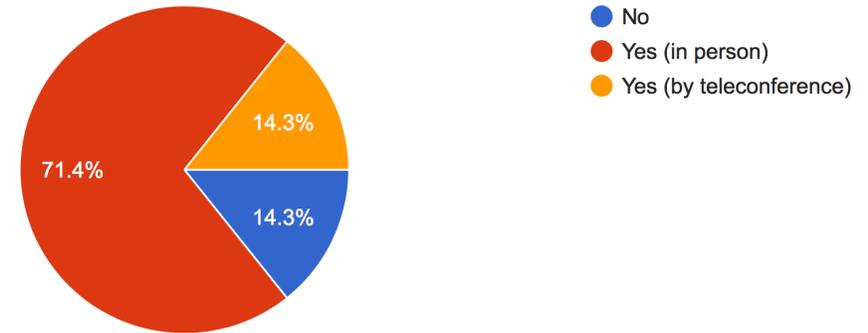
Fig. 2. Arctic villages and coastal areas of concern according to the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee (AWSC) Standards of Care (SOC) for Research Cruise Operations Draft 22 Feb 2017 Version. Although not included in this graphic, Nuiqsut is also recognized as having a 30 nm boundary associated with the Colville River delta.

# Experiences:

- Majority following (or loosely following) CECSOP, some CECSOP+
- Anywhere from 1-2 days (2 respondents) to 2 months (2 respondents) spent on communication
- Over half modified cruise plans in response to pre-cruise outreach
- Significant fraction (40%) also modified plans while at sea
- Nearly all attempted some form of post-cruise follow-up, with mixture of modes of communication

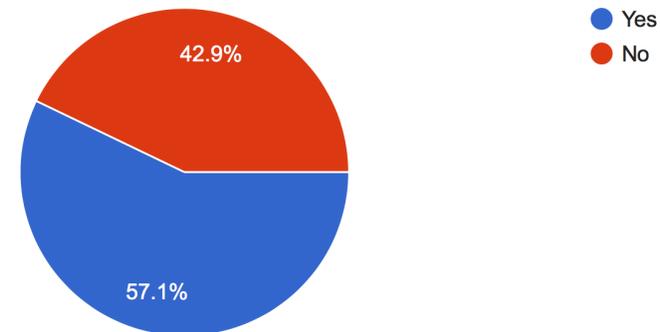
Have you personally attended meetings of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), the Alaskan Waterways Safety Committee (AWSC) or other...ance bodies with Alaskan Native representation

7 responses



Did the plan for your cruise(s) your cruise(s) plan change as a result of discussion with local communities?

7 responses



# Assessment:

- Importance of building trusting relationships is paramount; this is difficult to do over the course of a single project and particularly challenging for new PIs
- Historical guidelines for what may/may not impact subsistence activities have been changing in recent years (wrt both timing and distance offshore)
- AEWC meetings might not be the best venue for communication in some cases. A better dialogue often takes place when individual PIs travel to and work with local communities
- Multiple-PI initiated communication efforts can contribute to “research fatigue” in communities
- Unexpected appearances by foreign vessels can create difficulty for US-based PI outreach efforts

# Recommendations:

- 1) Appointment of a trusted knowledge broker (would be ad hoc AICC member), though not as replacement for PI effort
- 2) Consistent employment of community observers
- 3) Encourage foreign vessels to follow CECSOP, with coordination between AICC and the Pacific Arctic Group
- 4) Evaluate/revise CECSOP every 3-5 years.
- 5) Maintain up-to-date information on the AICC UNOLS website concerning community relations best practices for ship-based work in the US Arctic

Questions/Comments?