



# Bering Sea Elders Group

# Mission

To speak and work together as one voice to protect and respect our traditional ways of life, the ocean web of life that supports the resources we rely on, and our children's future.





Map accessed 9.25.2020 from fotolip.com





# Bering Sea Elders Group





# Food Security~Subsistence Foods





# Impacts to Way of Life

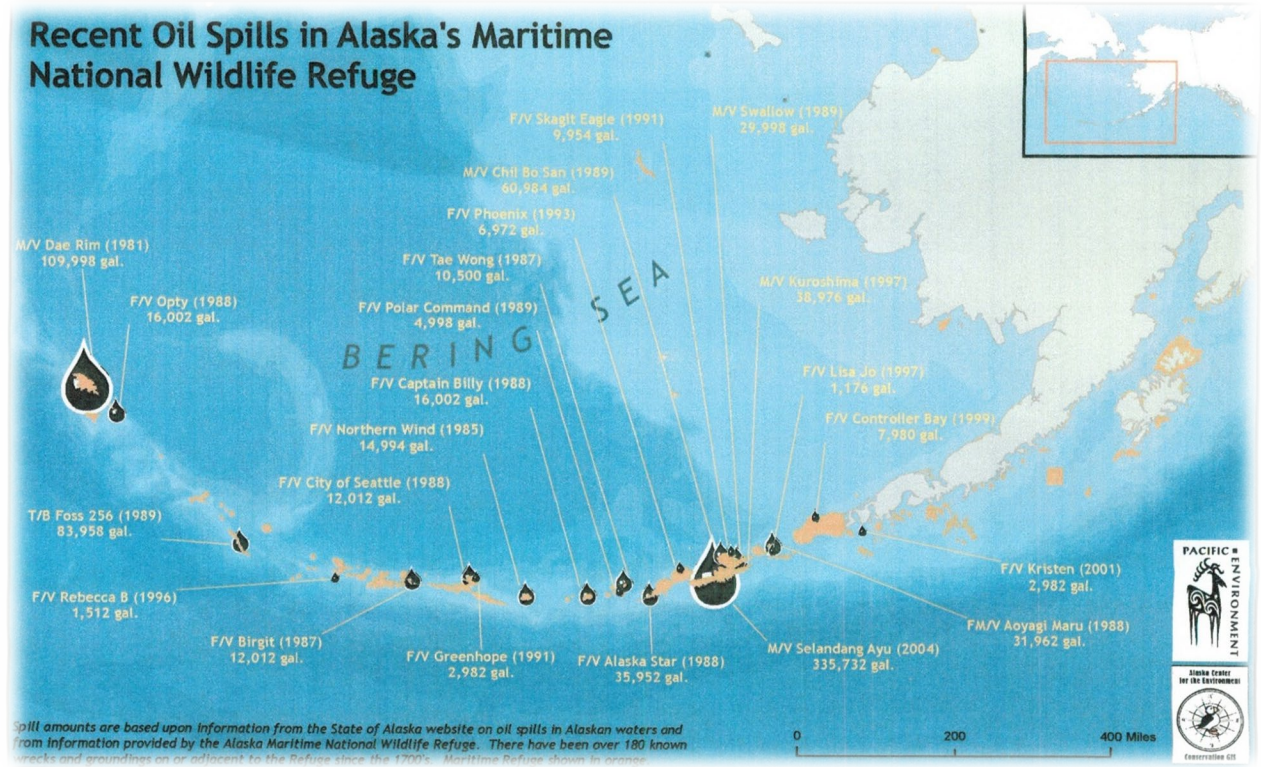
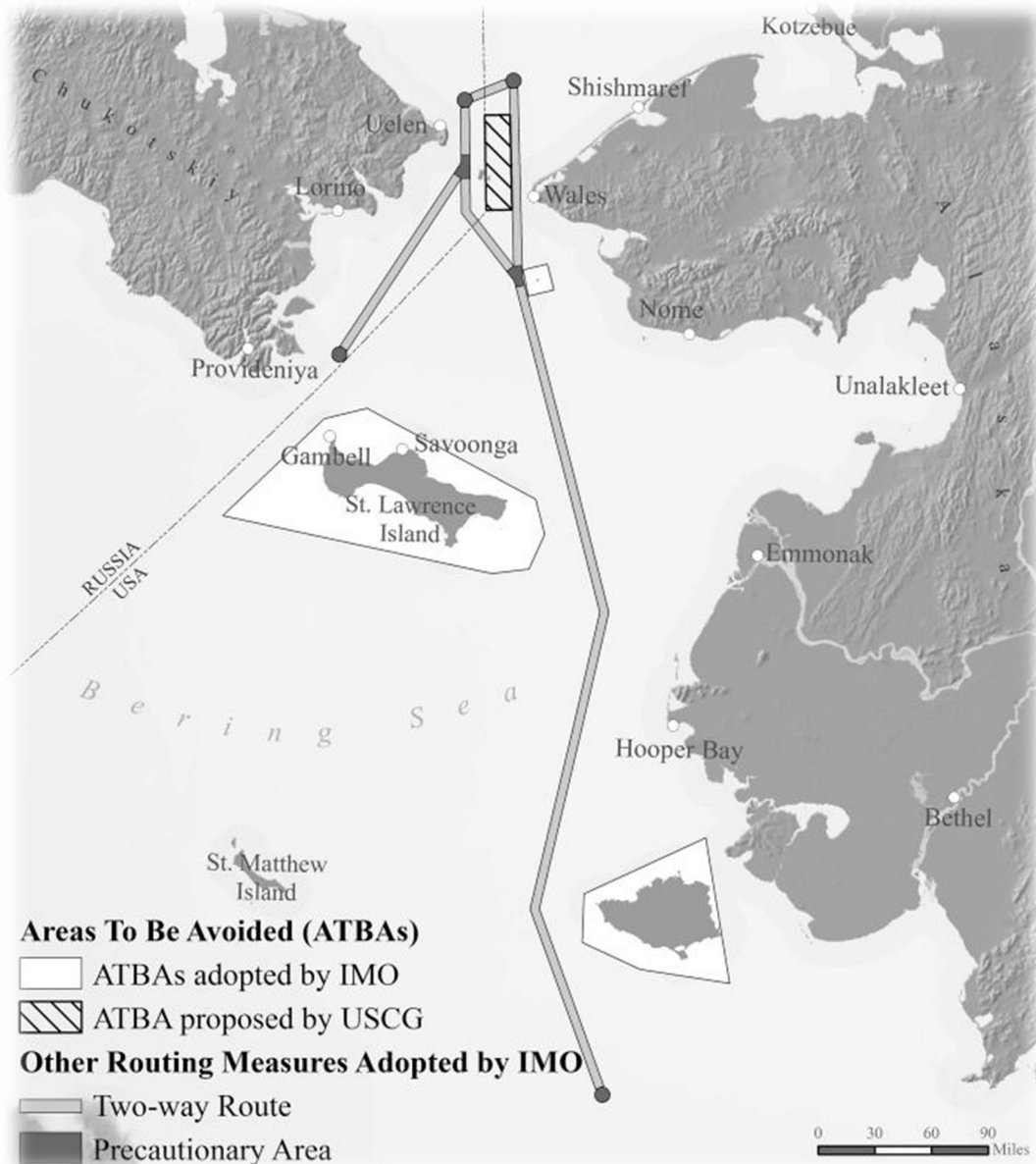


# Impacts to Way of Life





# Precaution & Protection



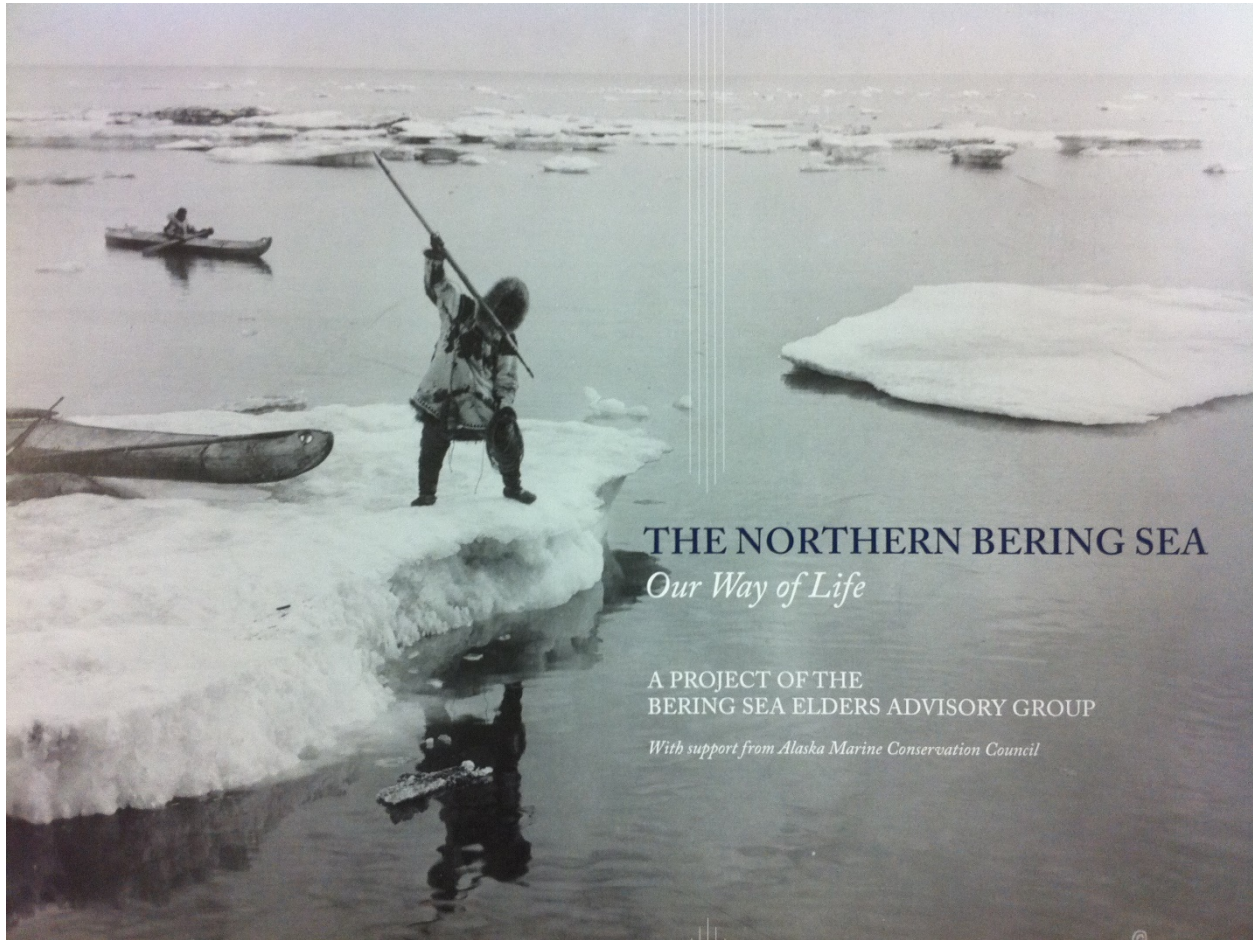


# For the Future

- Continue to identify and establish areas for protection:
  - Big and Little Diomedede (U.S. - Russian Collaboration)
  - Arctic Coast Port Access Route Study (U.S. & Possibly Canada Collaboration)
- Ban HFO and Transition Away from Oil Based Fuels in the Arctic
  - Co-benefit, reduction of black carbon emissions
- Expand the Polar Code to include more vessel types
  - Smaller cargo vessels
  - Large Private Yachts
  - Large Fishing Vessels
- Expand Polar Code Guidance on Marine Mammal Avoidance
- Communicate and Partner with Communities on safe routing
- Avoid Vessel Discharges in Protected and Subsistence Use Areas



# BSEG & the Best Practices Forum



This spring there were container ships passing through the migrating route for walrus and interfering with our “Eskimo sonar” – the way we stick an oar in the water and listen for the walrus. All you could hear is the engine. Ships were too close this spring.

- **Norman Menadelook – Teller, AK**

The important part is the migration patterns and the habitats. We don't want them to be disturbed regardless of how far they are from our hunting area.

- **Elders (after group discussion in Yupik) Gambell, AK**



**Quyanaqpak!**

Maktuayaq (Inupiaq)

Mellisa Johnson

Executive Director

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