

US Ship-Related Issues

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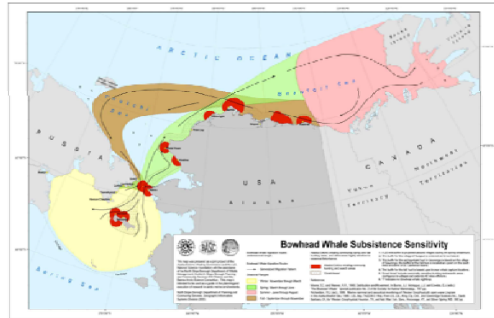
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Community Primer

A Primer for Marine Scientists Planning Shipboard Work in Alaskan Arctic and Sub-Arctic Waters

A project of the [Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee \(AICC\)](#)



Disclaimer: The contents of this web page are the responsibility of the Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) and do not represent the policy or opinions of U.S. government funding agencies or ship operators. The AICC is a volunteer committee facilitated by the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System that provides guidance to the scientific community, the US Coast Guard and U.S. funding agencies that support research by icebreakers in the Arctic. The prime goal of the committee's work is to promote effective use of icebreaker assets in support of arctic scientific research. Editing suggestions and comments for this primer are welcome and can be provided to Lee Cooper, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, PO Box 38, Solomons MD 20688, USA, or by [email](mailto:lee@umces.edu).

Introduction

The Arctic polar region differs from the Antarctic significantly in that it has been home to humans for thousands of years. While much has changed since first contact between Inuit in Greenland and European Viking settlers more than one thousand years ago, many circum-Arctic people continue to live in ways that reflect traditional pursuits of food resources from the marine environment while still taking advantage of "Western" technology.

As scientific interest in the Arctic has increased in the past couple decades, particularly to follow apparent recent changes in arctic climate and sea ice cover, some conflicts have arisen between scientific researchers wishing to access Arctic marine research sites and Native subsistence users who often are hunting in the same areas. Concerns such as the impacts of ship operational noise on marine mammal behavior and migration routes have often been the basis for these conflicts. At the same time, many primarily Native communities in Alaska are specifically interested in having scientists help them understand how the Arctic will change physically, and also respond ecologically as climate changes. This creates a paradox combining concern over possible conflicts between scientific research and subsistence hunting, with an interest by local residents in using scientific knowledge to facilitate adaptation to potentially rapid climate change. This means that researchers working in Alaskan marine waters,

Overview

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- Advance Notice Requirements
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- Native Communities
- Northern Sea Route
- Russian Federation
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community-pri
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Arctic Icebreaker Coordi
nating Committee

DBO/PAG Ship Issue

- Coast Guard may be requiring vessels to join Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network (<http://www.ak-mprn.org/>)
- Vessels in network shall: “sail on a route that ensures a distance of minimum of 12 miles offshore is maintained with exception of the Bering Strait, where a distance of 3 miles offshore shall be maintained.”
- Potentially serious impacts: DBO3 and DBO5
- Recent discussion USCG, AICC and US agencies-give update

