

# Industry Sponsored Programs and Collaborations

### **Chukchi Sea Lease Areas and Baseline Studies**

- Jointly funded by ConocoPhillips & Statoil
- Operated by native corporation
- Three areas of top priority
- Subject to intensive interdisciplinary study each year since 2008
  - Physical oceanography
  - Benthos
  - Plankton
  - Acoustics
  - Fishes
  - Marine Mammals
  - Marine Birds



### **Marine Mammal Observations**

### Triad of Information

- Vessel based observations
  - Thousands of km of observation in Chukchi
- Aerial observations
- Acoustics
  - Open water since 2006
  - Year around since 2007





### Acoustics – Bowheads, migration, and vocalization

- Acoustic recorders
  deployed in the Chukchi
  & Beaufort
- Localization capability
- Goals
  - Understand effects of industry sound on the distribution and behavior of marine mammals.
  - Understand patterns of distribution and movement



## **Case Study – the Bowhead Whale & Industry Activity**

- Baseline 90-110 dB
- Elevated levels L-4 during anchor setting, anchor attachment, & mudline cellar
- Vessel activity can also be fairly loud
- Industry activity elevated sound levels at L-5 (Kaktovik) primarily during anchor setting



Acoustic baseline range - -

Periods of vessel noise

### **Significant Publications and Reports**

Comprehensive Report

#### CSESP Reports

Continental Shelf Research

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JOINT MONITORING PROGRAM IN THE CHUKCHI AND BEAUFORT SEAS, 2012



### **Alaska OCS Science Collaboration**

- Majority of Shell science is through collaboration
  - ConocoPhillips key along with Statoil, GXT, Pioneer, & ENI
  - Universities (UAF, UT, UMD) and Government including USGS, BOEM, NOAA
  - Research entities including NFWF, NOPP, Northern Forum, SINTEF
- 60 % of Shell Alaska science is leveraged
- Shell North Slope Borough Science Agreement to fund local community directed priorities w/ \$5 million/5 years
- Shell/ConocoPhillips/Statoil NOAA agreement on sharing scientific studies data and ice and weather monitoring/forecasting





### **Key Current Collaborations**

- CSESP Shell, CPAI, Statoil
  - Seven years of integrated ecological investigation
- North Slope Borough / Northwest Arctic Borough
  - Community based study program to address baseline needs and answer questions of stakeholders
  - Camden Bay Study
- NOAA data sharing
  - Share data from our studies and monitoring programs through AOOS
  - Direct delivery of met/ocean data to NDBC

### **Key Current Collaborations**

#### PACMARs – Shell, CPAI, NPRB

NPRB administered effort to catalogue existing information, synthesize what is know, and identify data gaps.

- Synthesis of Arctic Research (SOAR)
  - BOEM funded, NOAA administered industry data incorporated
- Others
  - AKMAP
  - NFWF
  - Marine Sound JIP
  - Arctic Spill JIP

### **Key Opportunities for Collaboration**

- NSB/NWAB collaboration NOAA fisheries
- NPRB Arctic Integrated Ecological Research Program (Pages?)
- Arctic Marine Biodiversity Observation (BON)
- UAF Unmanned Aerial System proof of concept
- Advancing use of photography for collection of marine mammal data
- Marine Arctic Ecosystem Study (MARES)
- Marine Mammal Co-management Commissions
- Others
  - Arctic Land Conservation Cooperative
  - Western Arctic Caribou Working Group