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Oceans Management and Inuit People

- Foundation of the relationship is – Respect
- Need for appropriate behavior
- Management must acknowledge traditional values and practices
- Management must see the holistic view of the environment which includes humans as part of the ecosystem

What is Traditional Knowledge?

UNESCO defines TK – Indigenous people of the world possess an immense knowledge of their environments based on centuries of living close to nature. Living in and from these complex ecosystems, they have an understanding of the properties of plants and animals, the functioning of the ecosystem and the techniques for using and managing them that is particular and often detailed. Equally, people's knowledge and perceptions of the environment, their relationships with it, are often important elements of cultural identity.

What is Native LTK?

- Knowledge based on teachings and experiences passed from generation to generation
- Knowledge of the environment, ice, sea, land, resources and the relationship between them
- It is holistic. It is a way of life

Challenges to recognizing Native Knowledge

- State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources requires that any use of important subsistence use area in Coastal management program must be **scientifically defensible**.
- NPFMC SSC has proposed to NOAA – “To the extent possible, an effort should be made to consider both scientific information and local and traditional knowledge, when such knowledge has been **verified and validated**.”

Gathering Local & Traditional Knowledge Standards?

We need to ensure that LTK is collected with appropriate, accepted methods, the research is well designed, that data collection is consistent and well documented and that the interpretation of the results have been reviewed and approved by communities

Why Map Important Ecological Areas ?

Protect ecosystem health and opportunities
for the subsistence way of life

- Builds knowledge base
- Helps identify specific threats
- Inform management decisions
- Spatial planning tool

Identifying Important Ecological Areas

Ecological Criteria

- Biological diversity, importance for breeding, feeding, spawning, nursery habitats, sensitivity to disturbance, rarity, critical habitat

Representative Features

- Biogenic habitat (sea grass beds, kelp forests), structurally complex habitats (rocky reefs), breeding areas (seabird colonies and marine mammal rookeries), migration areas, high benthic biomass areas, polynyas etc.

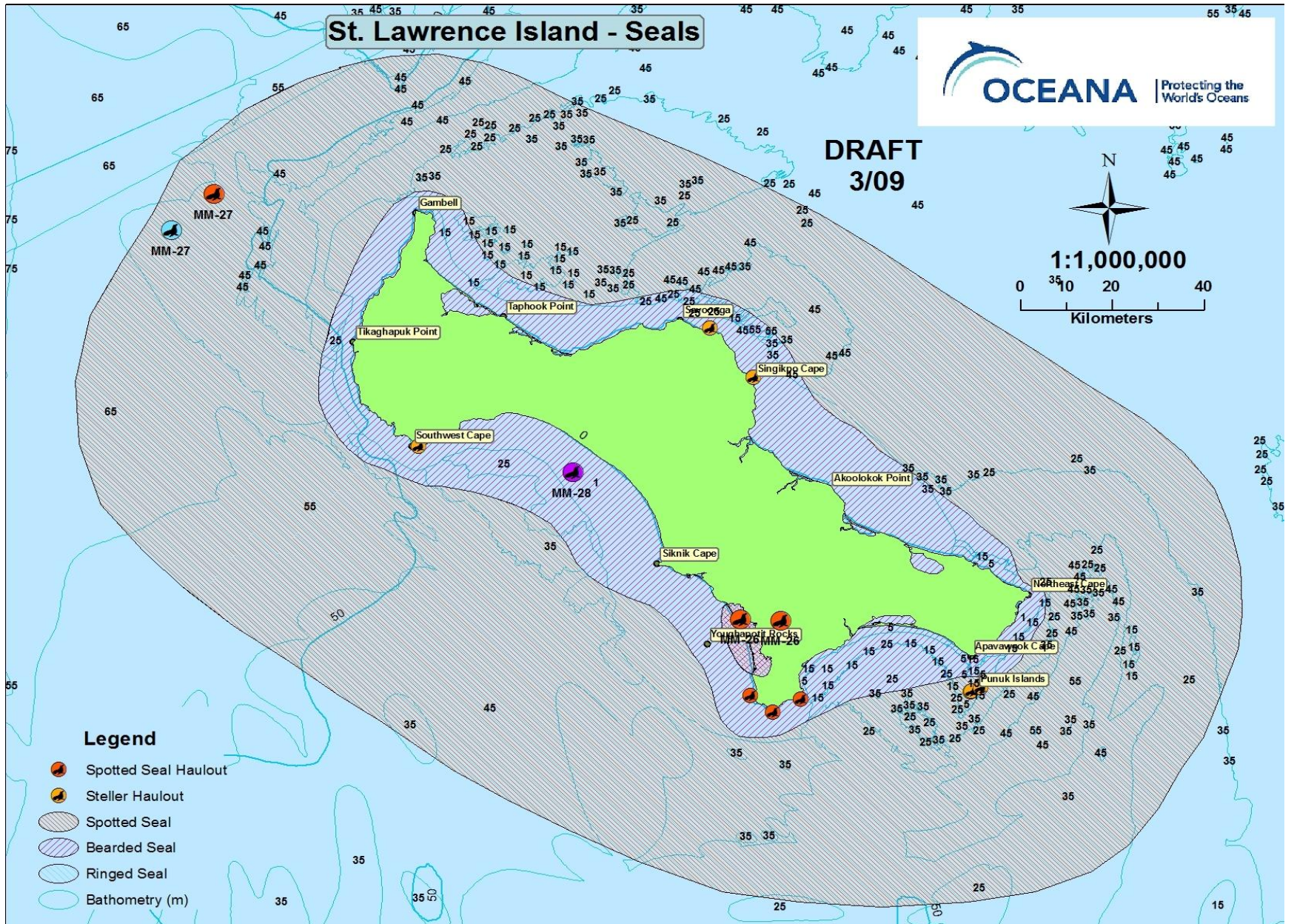
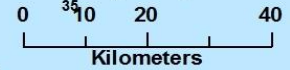
St. Lawrence Island - Seals



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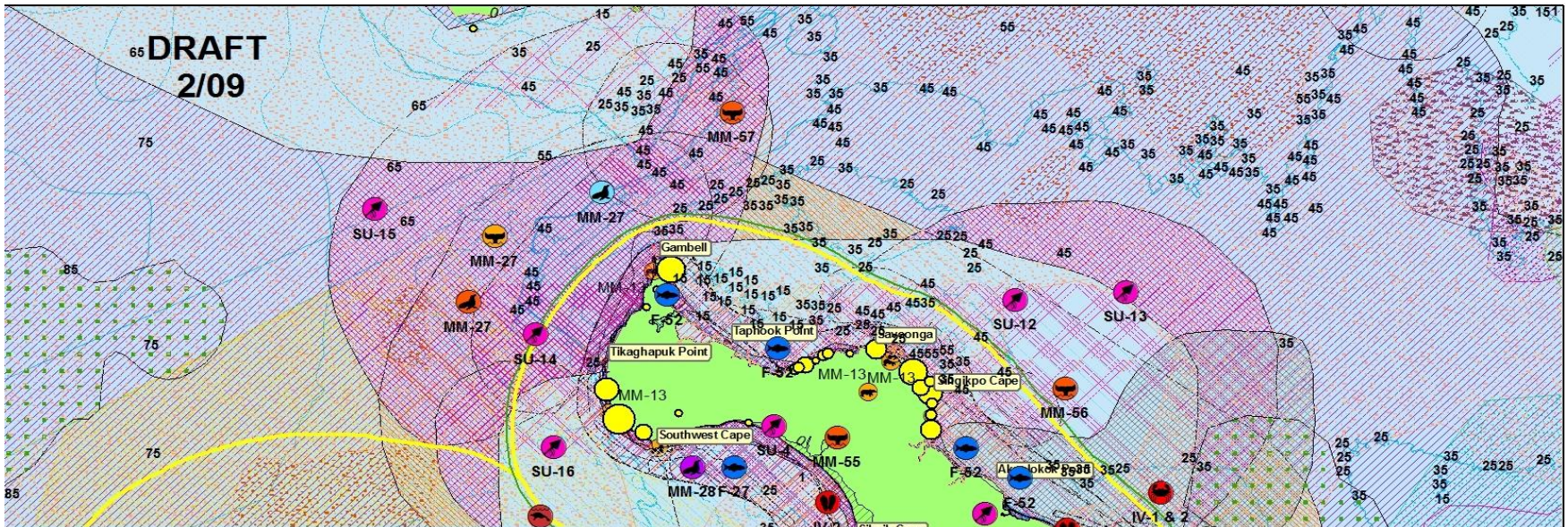
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Legend

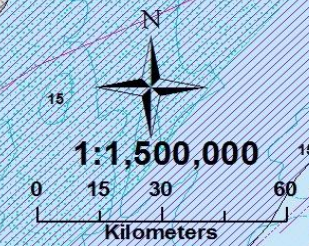
- Spotted Seal Haulout
- Steller Haulout
- Spotted Seal
- Bearded Seal
- Ringed Seal
- Bathymetry (m)

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Legend

ADF&G MESA	Bowhead Migration Areas	Sea Bird Colony Population
Audubon IBA	Fall - September through November	1 - 999
Bearded Seal Haulout	Overlap	1,000 - 24,999
Ringed Seal Haulout	Spring - March through June	25,000 - 49,999
Spotted Seal Haulout	Summer - June through August	50,000 - 149,999
Steller Haulout	Winter - November through March	150,000 - 499,999
Walrus	Polar Bear Areas	500,000 - 999,999
Beuga	Denning Area	1,000,000+
Bowhead Concentration Area	Feeding Area: Active Ice	
Bowhead Fall Feeding	Feeding Area: Coastal and Shorefast Ice	
Spotted Seal	Feeding Area: Lead	
Ringed Seal	Walrus Haulouts	
Bearded Seal	Population	
Polar Bear Dens	<10	
Terrestrial Mammal	10-99	
Migration Pinchpoints	100-999	
Subsaltenae	1,000-9,999	
Hard Substrate	>10,000	
Lingering Ice	Unknown	
Polynyas		
Kelp	Essential Fish Habitat	
Eel Grass	Alaska Plaice	
Chlorophyll a Hotspot	Blue King Crab	
Eipfaunal Biomass Hotspot	Flathead Sole	
Crabs	Pacific Cod	
Bivalve	Red King Crab	
Fish-Stream	Walleye Pollock	
Fish-Open	Yellowfin Sole	
Bathymetry (m)	Infaunal Biomass gC/m2	
Spec. Elder Crit. Hab.	10.1-20.0	
	20.1-30.0	
	30.1-40.0	
	40.1-100.0	





**What you do not see,
Do not hear,
Do not experience,
You will never really know**

Anders Appasingok