

BACKYARD BUOYS

Equipping Indigenous Communities
with Ocean Intelligence Platforms

ARCUS Community & Citizen Science of the Far North
April 17, 2024

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Backyard Buoys

To empower Indigenous and other coastal communities to collect, steward, and use wave data that complements their existing knowledge to support their safety at sea and blue economy.



ALASKA



PACIFIC NW



PACIFIC ISLANDS

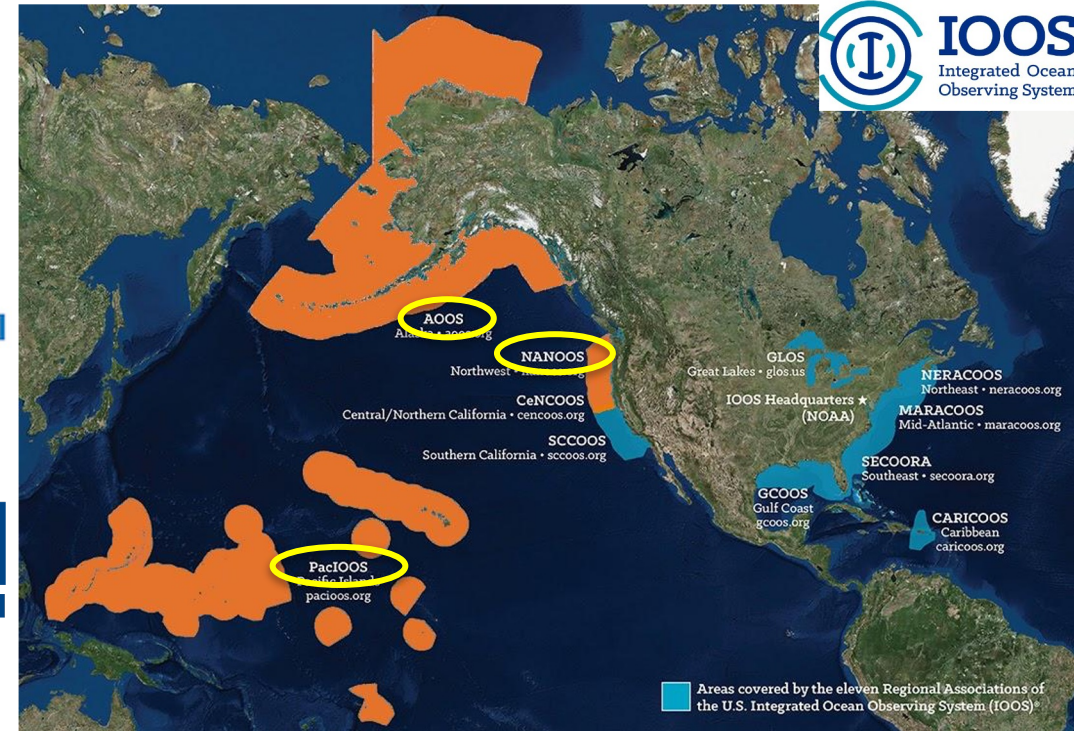
The Convergence Team



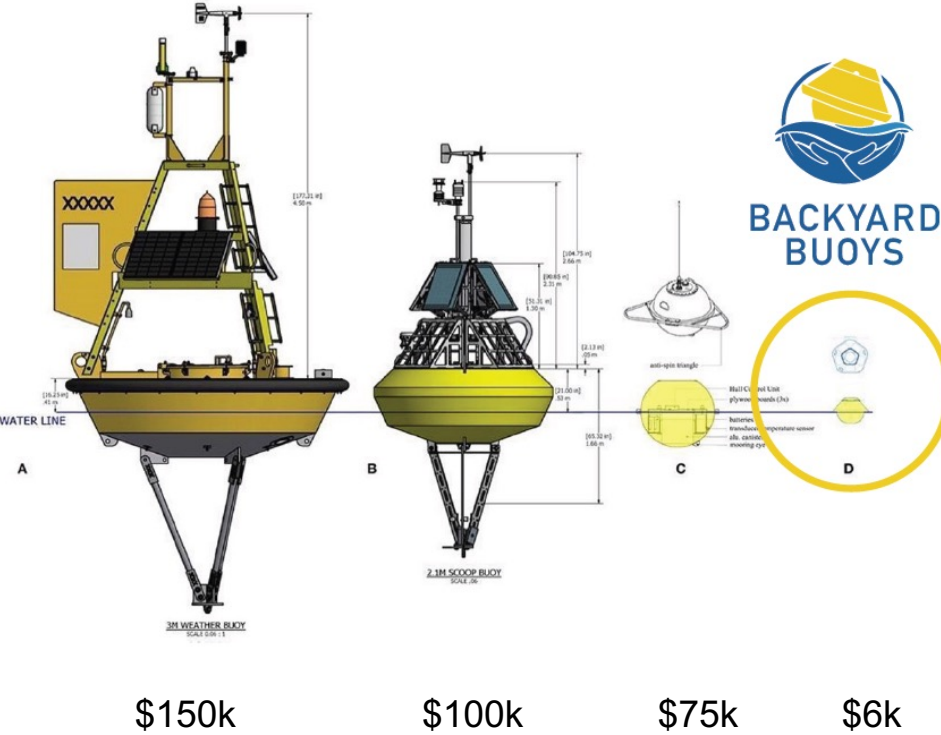
Indigenous / Community Partners

Educational / Technical Partners

Ocean Observing Partners



Community-accessible technology



Co-designed with inclusivity at every step



1. Proposal development
2. Identify buoy placement
3. Buoy deployment
4. Data tools
5. Data sharing
6. Knowledge sharing across regions

1. Proposal development



- Funding included in NSF proposal
 - Whaling Captains Associations for all 11 whaling villages
 - AEWC staff (labor & travel)
 - Whaling captains (travel)

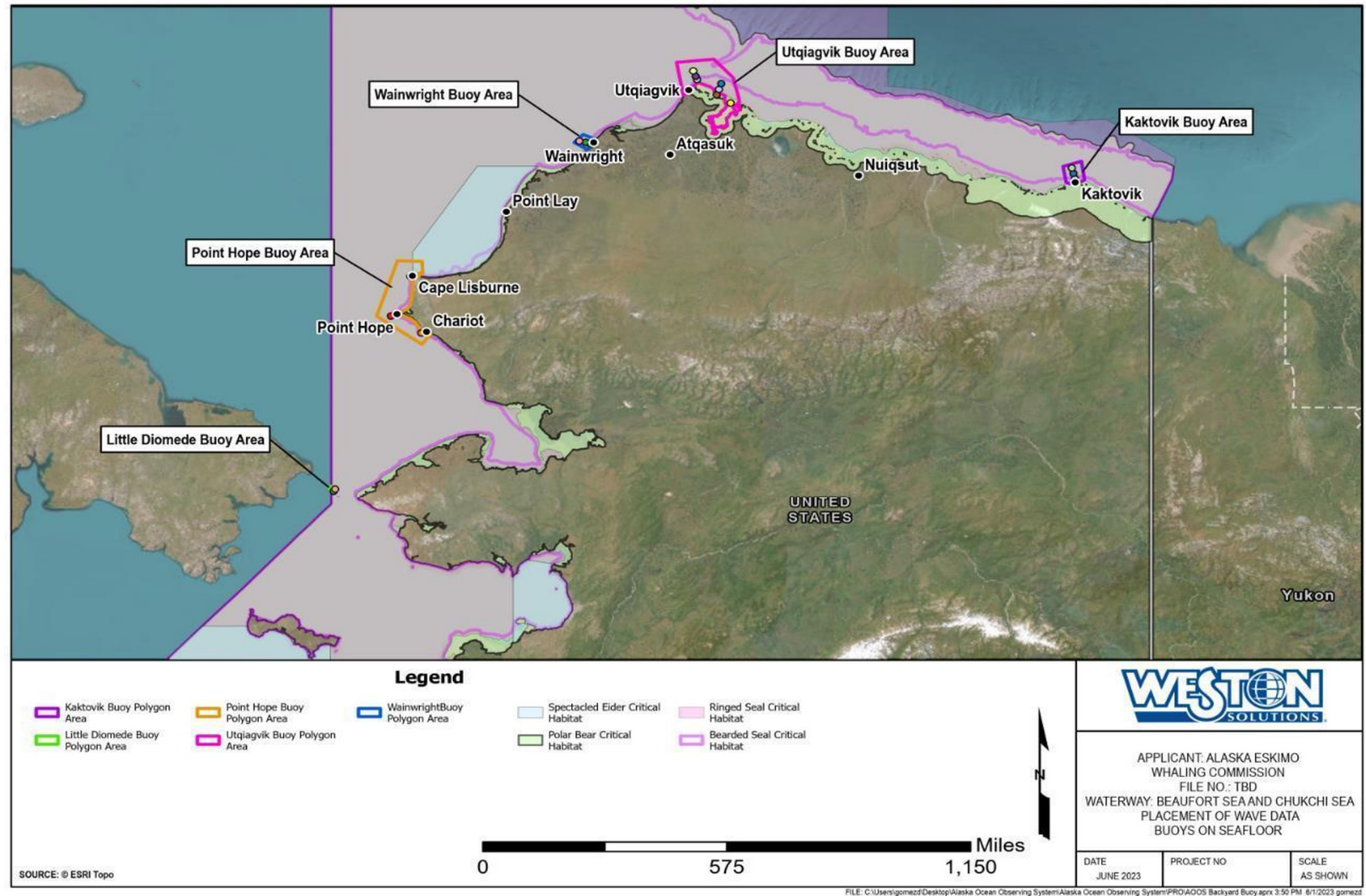
2. Identify buoy placement

- Workshops at AEWC meetings
 - Dec 2021
 - Dec 2022
 - Feb 2022
 - Feb 2023
 - Jul 2022



2023 Locations

- 2 Little Diomede
- 3 Point Hope
- 3 Wainwright
- 7 Utqiagvik
- 3 Kaktovik



3. Buoy deployment

- AEWEC contracted UIC Science (Martin Edwardsen) as lead in Mar 2023
- AEWEC hired village facilitators in each village
 - Per buoy stipend
 - Fuel reimbursement
 - Travel support
- Key accomplishments:
 - Martin participated in training by Sofar Ocean in April
 - Led in-person and virtual training for facilitators
 - Ordered all supplies



ALASKA ESKIMO WHALING COMMISSION

We're hiring
VILLAGE FACILITATORS

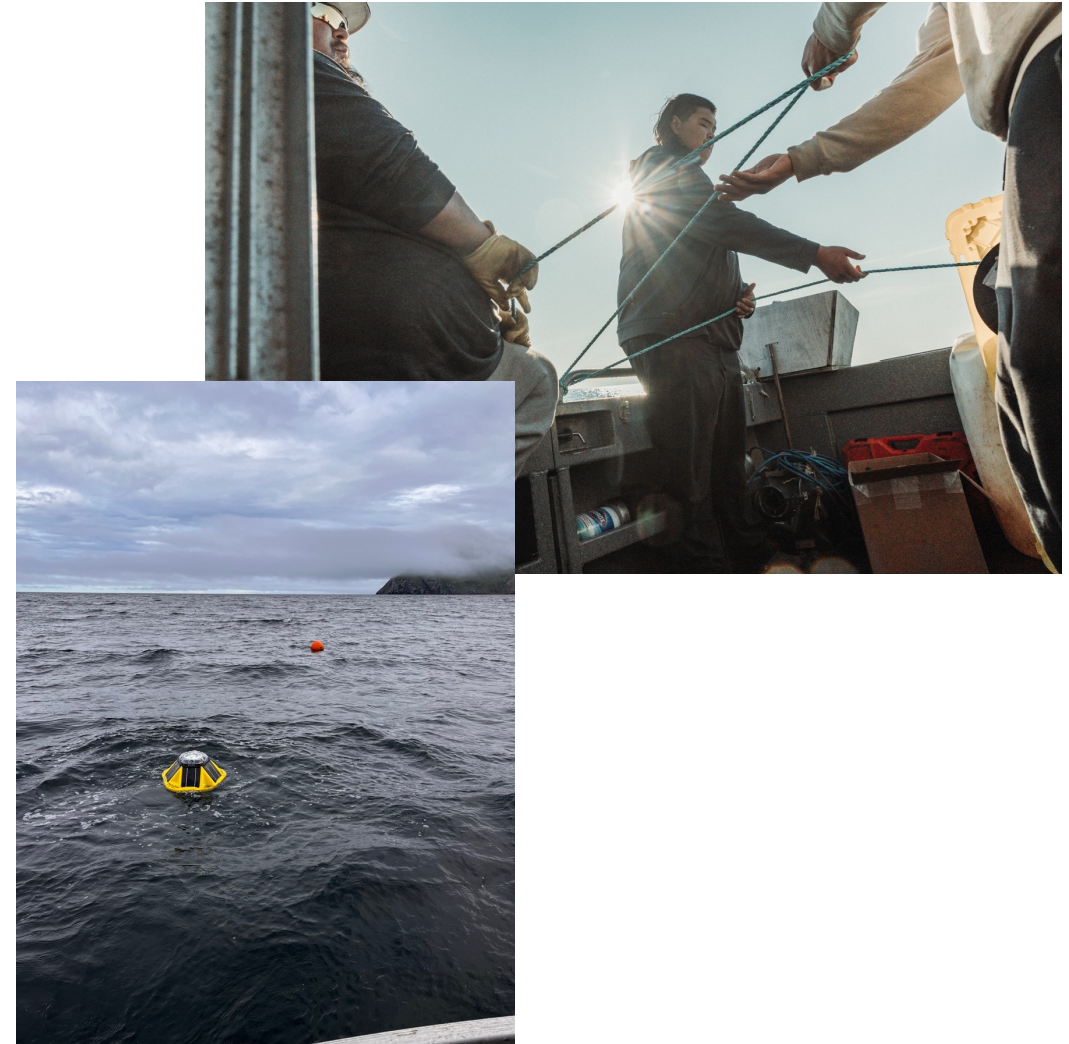
The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission is hiring a part-time Wave Buoy Village Facilitator to work with the AEWEC to deploy wave buoys in **Little Diomedé, Pt. Hope, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and Kaktovik**. For more information, scan the QR code above, visit the AEWEC website, or call the AEWEC office.

Call (907) 852-2392 for more information.
Visit www.aewc-alaska.com for more information.

ALASKAESKIMO
WHALING COMMISSION

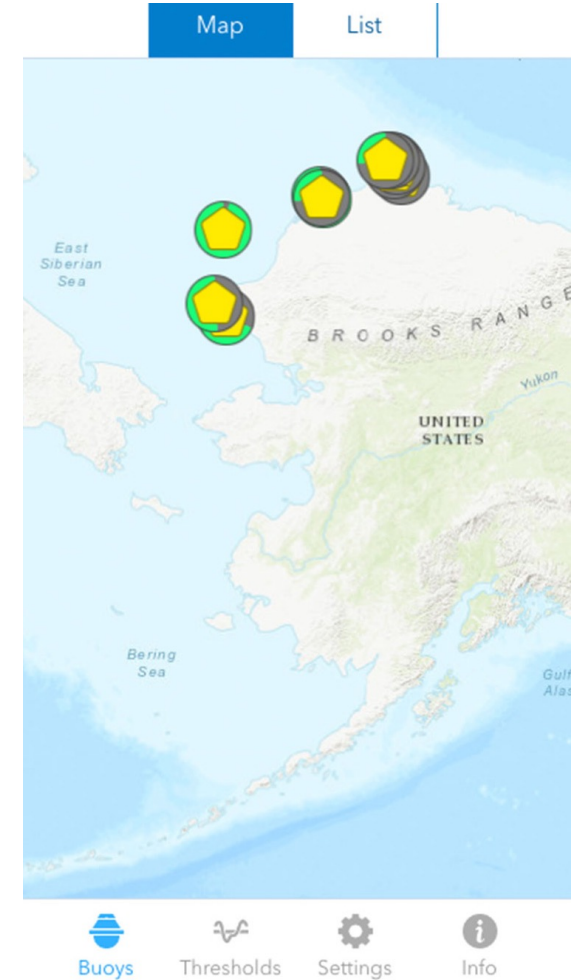
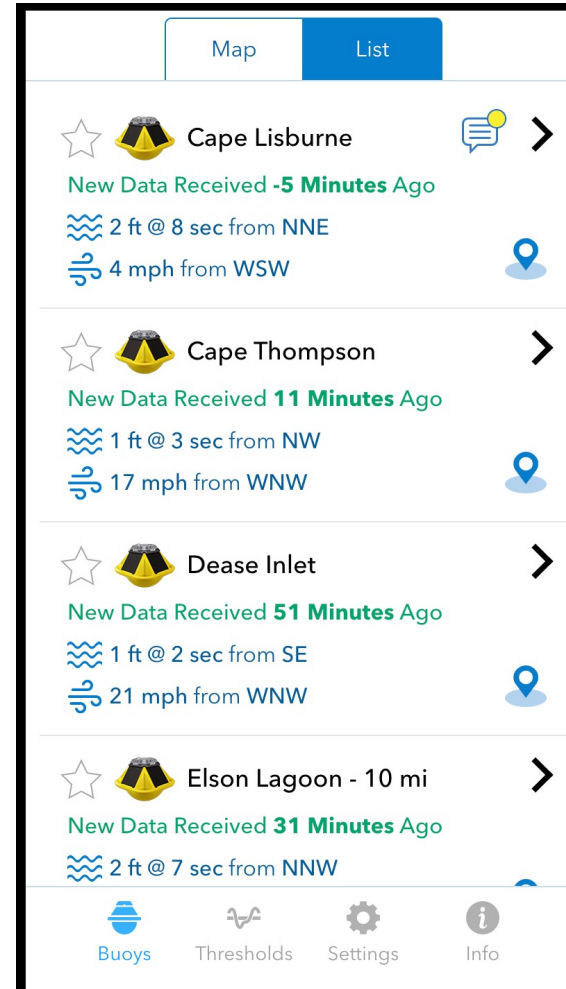
2023 Season

- Permits
 - 18 buoys permitted
 - Polygons instead of points so that buoys could be moved easily
- Deployments
 - Point Hope: 3 buoys
 - Wainwright: 3 buoys
 - Utqiagvik: 7 buoys
- Retrievals
 - Point Hope: 2 buoys (1 on walkabout)
 - Wainwright: 3 buoys
 - Utqiagvik: 5 buoys (2 pulled underwater)



4. Data tools app

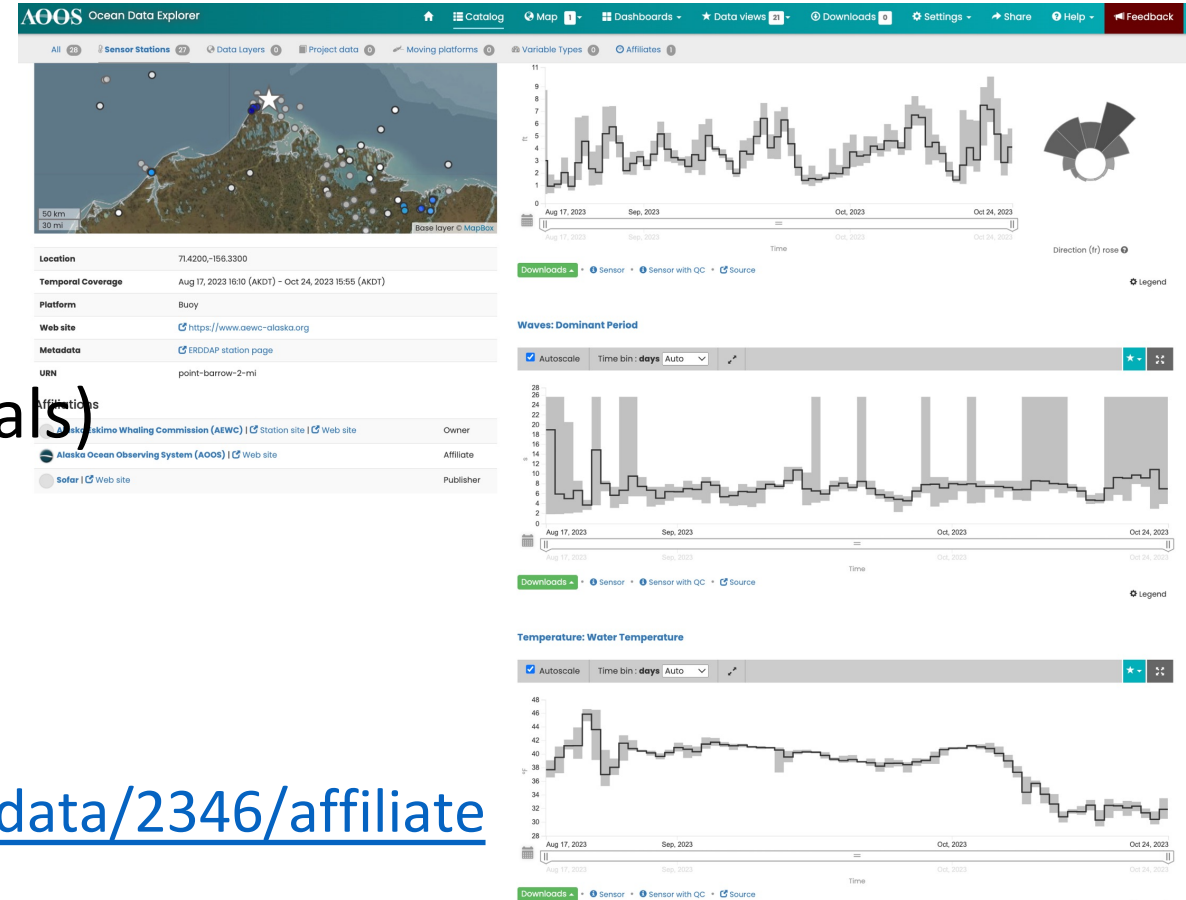
- Designed by Univ of Washington
- Input from all Indigenous partners
- Used by boat users in 2023



5. Data sharing

- Voted by AEWC to share data publicly (took 2 years to get approvals)
- Goal to include in NWS marine weather forecasts

<https://portal.aos.org/?ls=FZHczS0I#metadata/2346/affiliate>



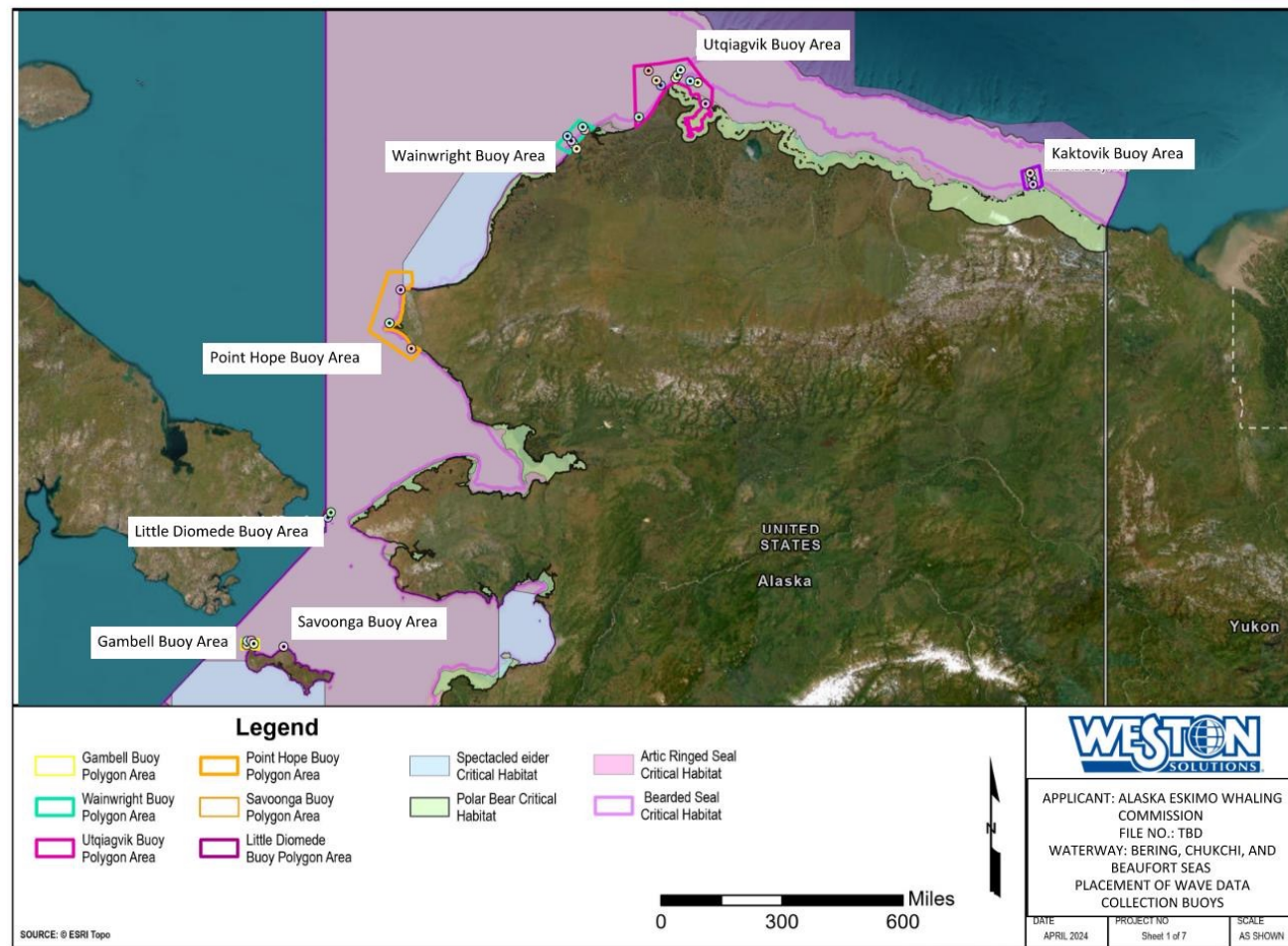
6. Knowledge Sharing

- Monthly Working Groups (virtual)
- Quarterly All-Hands meetings (virtual)
- Workshop in Utqiagvik with partners in Aug 2022
- Workshop in Honolulu with all partners in Feb 2024



Next steps

- 2024 planning underway
 - 4 Gambell
 - 1 Savoonga
 - 2 Little Diomede
 - 3 Point Hope
 - 6 Wainwright
 - 10 Utqiagvik
 - 3 Kaktovik
- Updated moorings
- AOOS will continue to fund for 3 more years (2026-2028)
- Deployment of buoys by Nalaquq in 2025 near Kwinhagak



Quyanakpak!

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www.backyardbuoys.org

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