PERSPECTIVES ON RESEARCH FROM NORTHERN ALASKA

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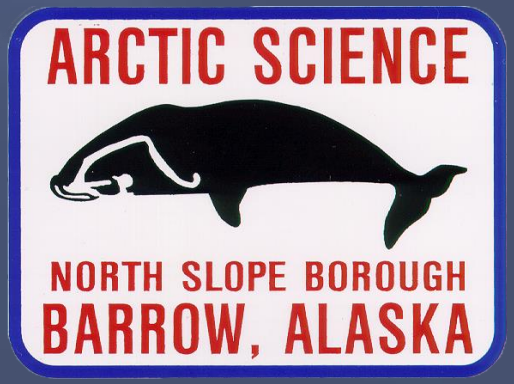


History

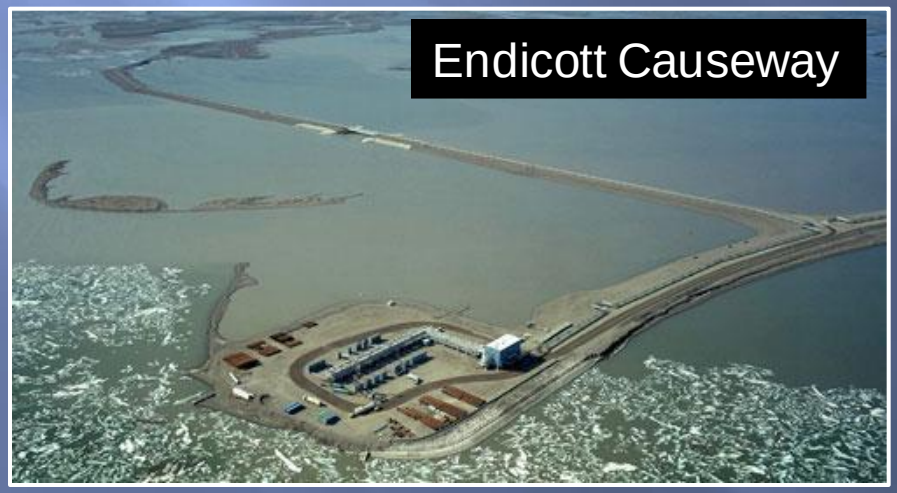
- The people of the North Slope have a long history of working with scientists
- By the late 1970s, agencies were making critical decisions based on inadequate science that hurt our people

North Slope Borough

- NSB—Environmental Protection Office, focused on bowheads and impacts on O&G activities
- EPO ⇨ Department of Wildlife Management
- Guided by traditional/local knowledge and western science
- NSB Fish and Game Management Committee

DWM Collaboration—Long-term Projects

- Bowhead whales with the AEWC and many agency and university scientists
- Endicott fish monitoring since 1985 with BP/Hilcorp
- Northstar monitoring required by NSB Ordinance
- Teshekpuk caribou herd study improved baseline knowledge before development



Science works if:

- Objectives are clear, understood, and accepted locally
- TK integrated with science
- Community members involved
- Research does not interfere with subsistence
- Researchers communicate with communities, before, during, and after!

What studies are needed?

- Communities must help drive science and define priorities
- Examples of needed research
  - Social science
  - Ecosystem science
  - Understanding impacts
  - Mitigating impacts
  - Baseline and long-term monitoring

Guidance to Researchers

- Avoid impacts to subsistence hunters and resources
  - Reduce impacts from air traffic
  - Capturing and collaring animals seen as disrespectful
- Improved coordination and collaboration
- Increased integration of TK and science
- Develop a relationship with hunters and communities

Guidance continued

- Enhance Communication
  - Different languages, cultures, perspectives
- Be respectful; build trust
- Be flexible and patient
- Oil and gas companies are pretty good at this but some Government and University scientists have room to improve

Summary

- TK and science needed for informed decision making
- Establish baselines and trends
- Promote objective high-quality science
- Involve communities and local experts
- Protect resources and critical subsistence harvests
- Coordinate, collaborate and communicate!