

# Traditional Knowledge Implementation: Accessing Community Panels of Subject Matter Experts

*A Cooperative Agreement between  
DOI BOEM and the North Slope Borough  
Department of Wildlife Management*

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Photo credit: Qaiyaan Harcharek





# Overview

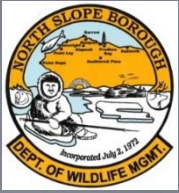


- Traditional Knowledge (TK) = observations/knowledge passed from generation to generation.

Focus on studies in the Beaufort Sea.

TK includes knowledge about the environment.

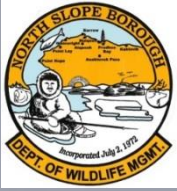
The NSB Department of Wildlife Management and BOEM will organize and implement panels of subject matter experts (TK Panels).



# Overview



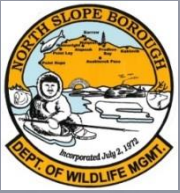
- TK panels will help integrate TK in scientific research.
- Collaborate with the Iñupiaq community to determine research needs
- Panels will be designed to have meaningful engagement with TK holders, with multiple opportunities for feedback.
- Involve local TK experts from study development and implementation through completion of report.



# Main Drivers



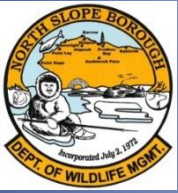
- Responsive to requests from the Iñupiat to ensure that scientific researchers incorporate TK,
- Help federal agencies better incorporate TK in environmental documents, policy, and planning.
- Focus on research that could mutually benefit community members, agencies (i.e., decision makers), and researchers.



# Main Drivers



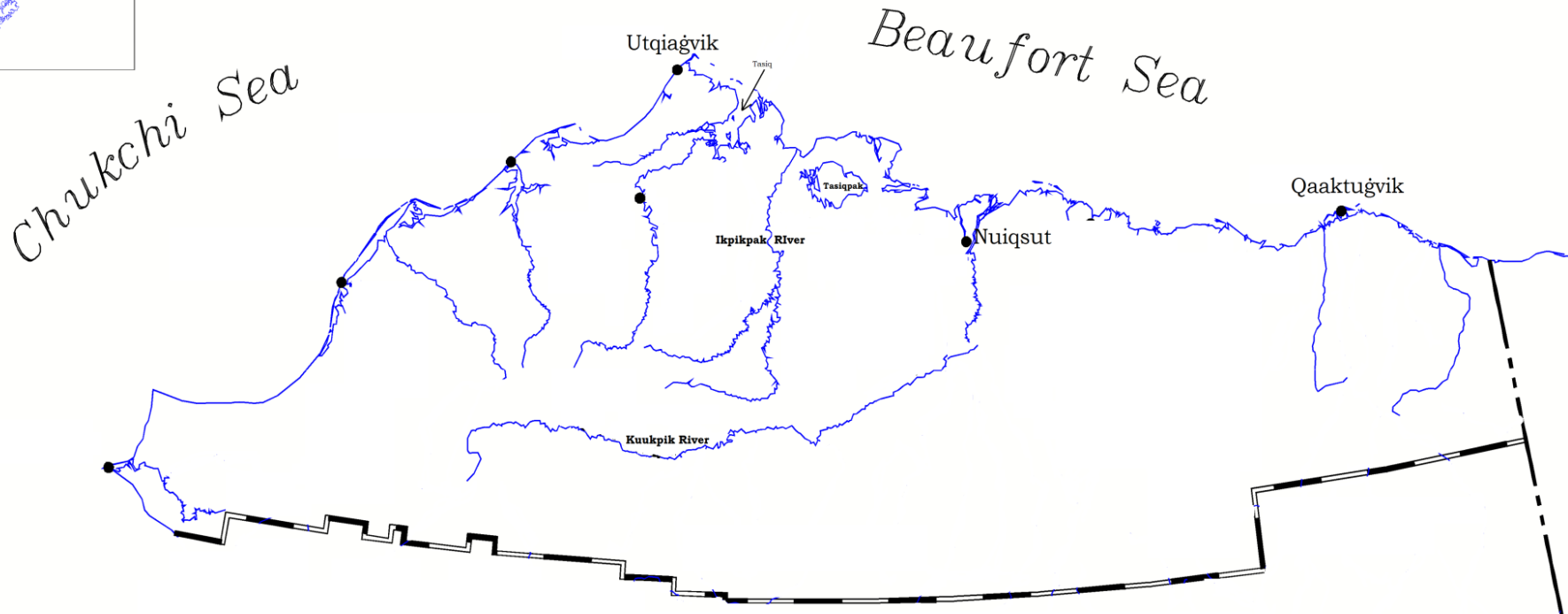
- Better incorporate TK in biological and oceanographic studies.
- Inform decision makers about possible effects of offshore oil and gas activities on the environment.

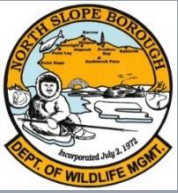


# Communities

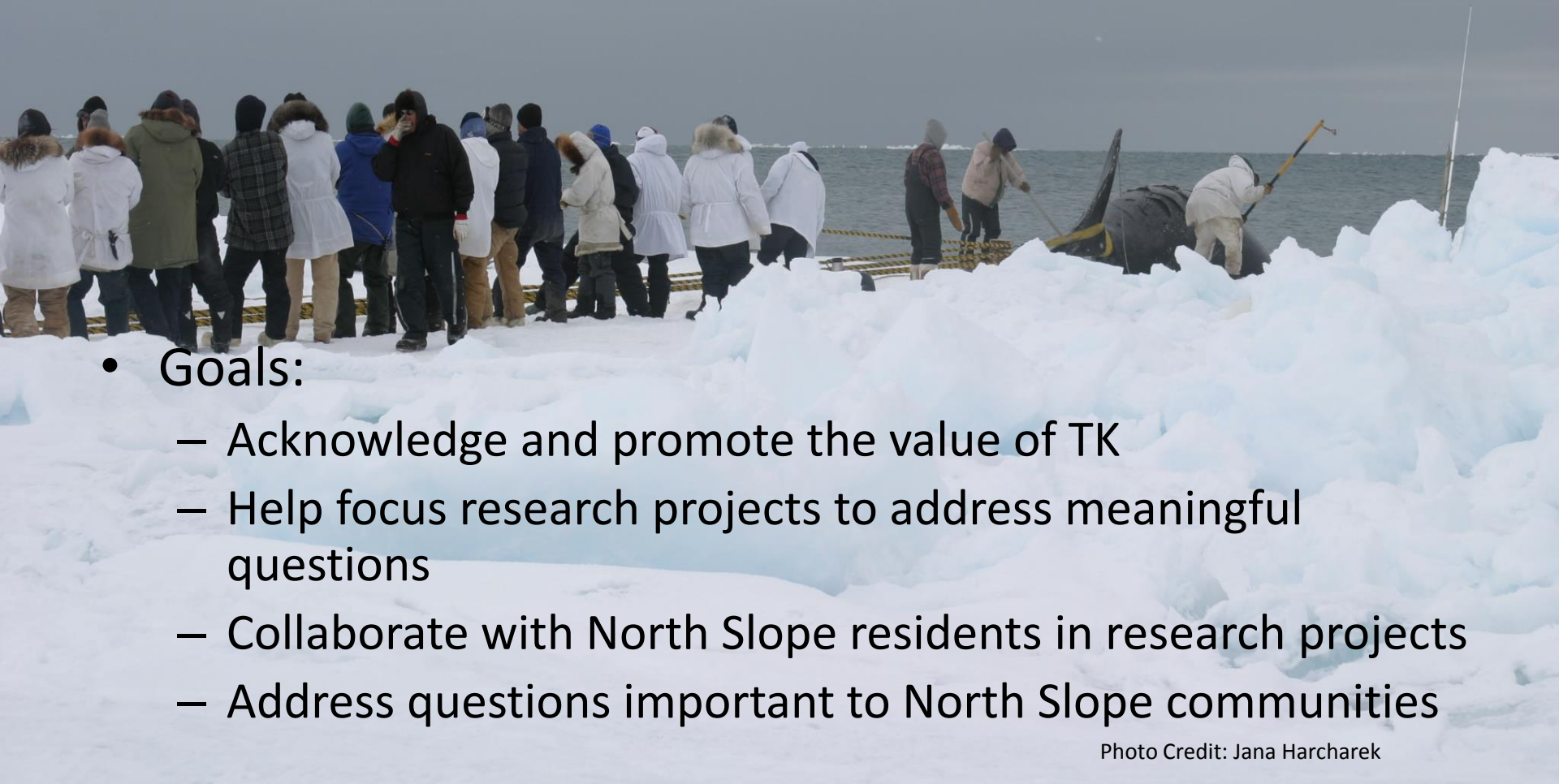


## Tagiuppak

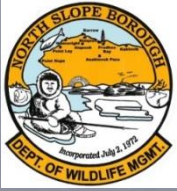




# Communities



- Goals:
  - Acknowledge and promote the value of TK
  - Help focus research projects to address meaningful questions
  - Collaborate with North Slope residents in research projects
  - Address questions important to North Slope communities

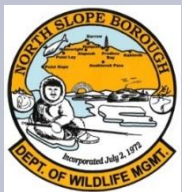


# Communities



- Questions of interest:
- Impacts of human activities and climate change on prey for important marine mammal species
- Cumulative or aggregate impacts on subsistence resources
- Mitigation of impacts on subsistence from industrial activities and research activities (e.g., aircraft impacts)
- Social implications deriving from industrial development





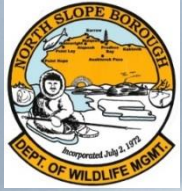
# Research



Engage the NS community in dialogue to identify research needs!

- Possible first projects:

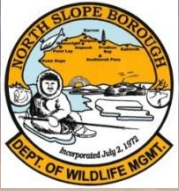
- BOEM project: “Wave and Hydrodynamic Modeling in the Nearshore Beaufort Sea”, J. Kasper, University of AK,
- NSF project: “Nearshore Ecology of Lagoons”, K. Dunton, University of Texas,
- USGS/NPRB project: “Nearshore Fish Surveys in the Beaufort Sea: Examining Long-Term Community Change and the Role of Nearshore Habitats”, V. von Biela, USGS, Alaska



# Future Research and Development



- North Slope communities have long been supportive of science that is used to inform decisions
- Ensure any studies have more benefits than risks to local hunters and resources
- Increase involvement of North Slope residents in research projects
- Promote science as a profession as well as a job opportunity



# Synergies



- TK Panels can
  - Improve research questions, methods, results, and value to communities.
  - Serve as a demonstration project.
  - Promote the utility of integrating TK with scientific research.
- Approach is of interest to other Inuit and northern Canadian tribes.

# Quyanaqpak



Photo Credit: Qaiyaan Harcharek