

# TK IMPLEMENTATION: Establishing Arctic Community Panels of Subject Matter Experts



## **BOEM Information Need:**

- Better integration of TK with formal science through process-oriented project to improve resource mgmt.
- Create mechanism to enhance access to TK expertise.
- Identify and organize subject matter experts from Arctic communities into working panels so they may be pre-authorized to speak with authority.
- All disciplines (Phys O, Biology, Social systems) would benefit from more direct consultation and collaboration with local TK experts.



## Background:

### **A) Relationship with Previous Work/Efforts**

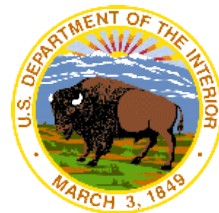
- Prior BOEM study, *Variation in the Abundance of Arctic Cisco in the Colville River* (MMS study 2007-0042) used social network analysis to establish a panel in Nuiqsut.
- PI stated that project was invaluable because local TK experts became invested in the study, and the process served as a vehicle for communicating study goals and results.



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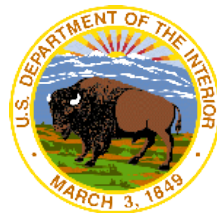
### **B) Relationship with Concurrent/Future Efforts**

- Most western scientists working in the Arctic seek TK.
- Study would provide a formal structure to facilitate dialogue and streamline integration in transparent and credible way.
- If oil & gas exploration leads to development, the panels will enhance awareness of potential community impacts.



## Objectives:

- Enhance TK authority and integration with western science by developing a functional process for western scientists to directly involve local experts through use of **consistent methods**.
- Provide a systematic process for scientists to integrate TK on the North Slope and make it **accessible to all disciplines and entities including the State, NSF, and academia**.
- Explore and expand “**complementarities**” available to science through TK .



## Methods:

- Use social network methods to ID subject matter experts using referral techniques.
- Develop panels on 1) marine subsistence; 2) terrestrial subsistence; and 3) fishing and birding throughout North Slope communities.
- Village tribal leaders will be asked to review lists to recommend finalists.
- Provide honoraria to each subject matter panelist for participation on a study-by-study basis (paid consultants).
- Develop protocols for operational procedures.
- Partner with the NSB school district to involve youth as *ex-officio* delegates.



## **Additional *Pertinent* Information**

- Debriefing on the use of TK and panel involvement in decision-making will encourage mutually respectful dialogue between local experts and BOEM.
- Involvement of youth will facilitate cross-generational transfer of TK and promote local institutional capacity.
- Systematic social networking processes will help neutralize panels so the focus is on knowledge rather than politics, family connections, or positions on development.
- Feedback so far has been very positive.

