



International
Arctic Research
Center

Sea ice forecasts and Bering Sea spring marine mammal subsistence hunting

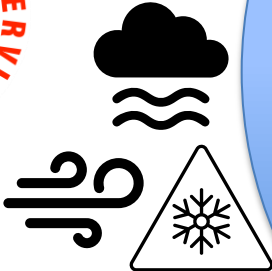
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Weekly forecasts in
spring to provide
practical, regional
information on
weather and sea ice
conditions
Since 2010



Forecasts



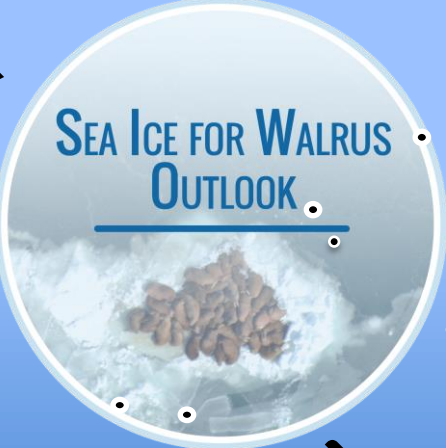
Eskimo Walrus Commission
"To protect the pacific walrus population."

Community
Observations

Bering Strait
Indigenous
sea ice
experts



SEA ICE FOR WALRUS
OUTLOOK



Funding



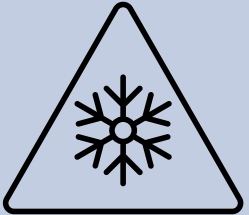
Management



Research
partners

Bering Strait Change

SEA ICE FOR WALRUS
OUTLOOK



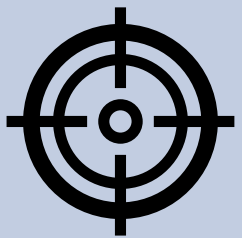
Sea Ice, weather

- Earlier forecast season (earlier ice retreat)
- Changing persistence of N winds (?)



Walrus

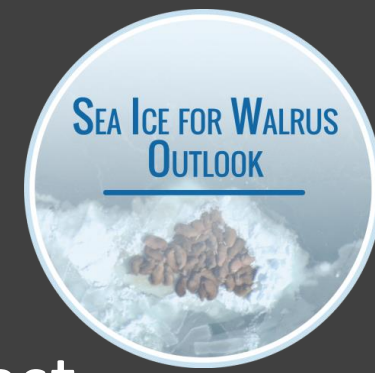
- Fewer observations in most communities
- Fewer late season observations
- Large herds not often seen



Dangerous hunting conditions

- Variable winds with low sea ice concentration
- Unstable shorefast ice
- Longer travel distances (>50 miles)

Implications and Next Steps



- Not all dangerous hunting conditions can be forecast
 - Thin ice, potential for getting trapped in ice
- Avenues to explore impacts of long-term changes in winds and sea ice on marine mammal migrations & subsistence activity
- Study to evaluate SIWO products and communications

Website: <https://www.arcus.org/siwo/>

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