



International
Arctic Research
Center



Sea ice forecasts and Bering Sea spring marine mammal subsistence hunting

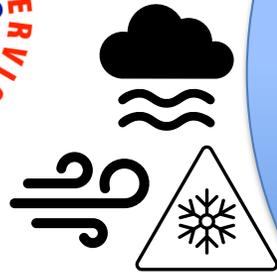
Olivia Lee

Lisa Sheffield Guy, Hajo Eicken, Matthew Druckenmiller,
Curtis Nayokpuk, Aqef Waghiyi, Clarence Irrigoo Jr, Marcus
Barr, Boogles Johnson, Robert Tokeinna Jr., Mary
Beth Schreck, Ed Plumb, Vera Metcalf, Nathan Kettle

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



Forecasts



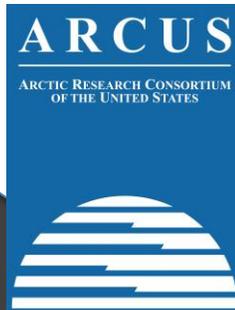
Community Observations



SEA ICE FOR WALRUS OUTLOOK



Funding



Management



Bering Strait Indigenous sea ice experts



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



Research partners

Bering Strait Change



Sea Ice, weather

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



Walrus

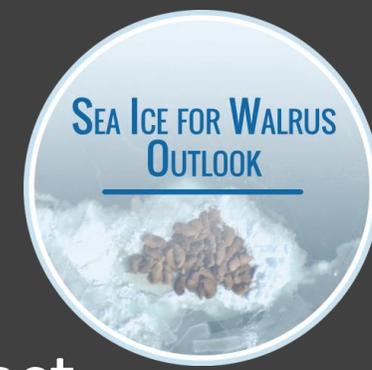
- Fewer observations in most communities
- Fewer late season observations
- Large herds not often seen



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/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/seaiceforwalrus>

Email: oalee@alaska.edu