



2024 UIC Science: Community Observer Support

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The Arctic is Our Home



BATTELLE
Arctic Research Operations



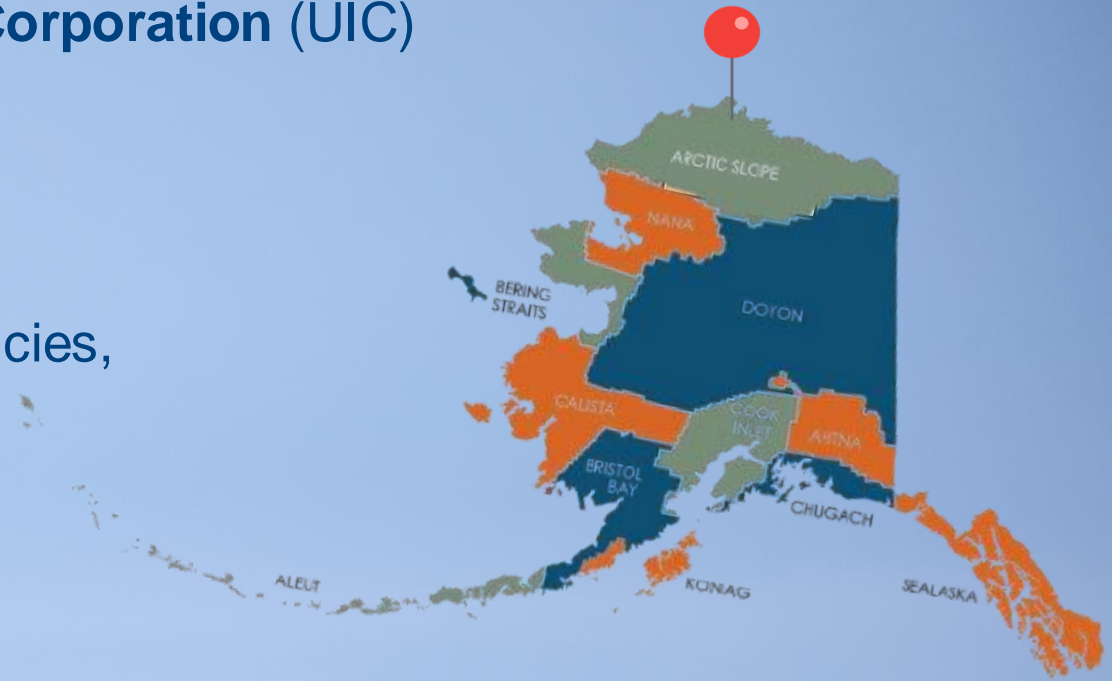
New to the US Arctic?

- Alaska Federation of Natives
 - formed in 1967
- Alaska Land Claims Settlement Act
 - signed in 1971
- Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
 - formed in 1977



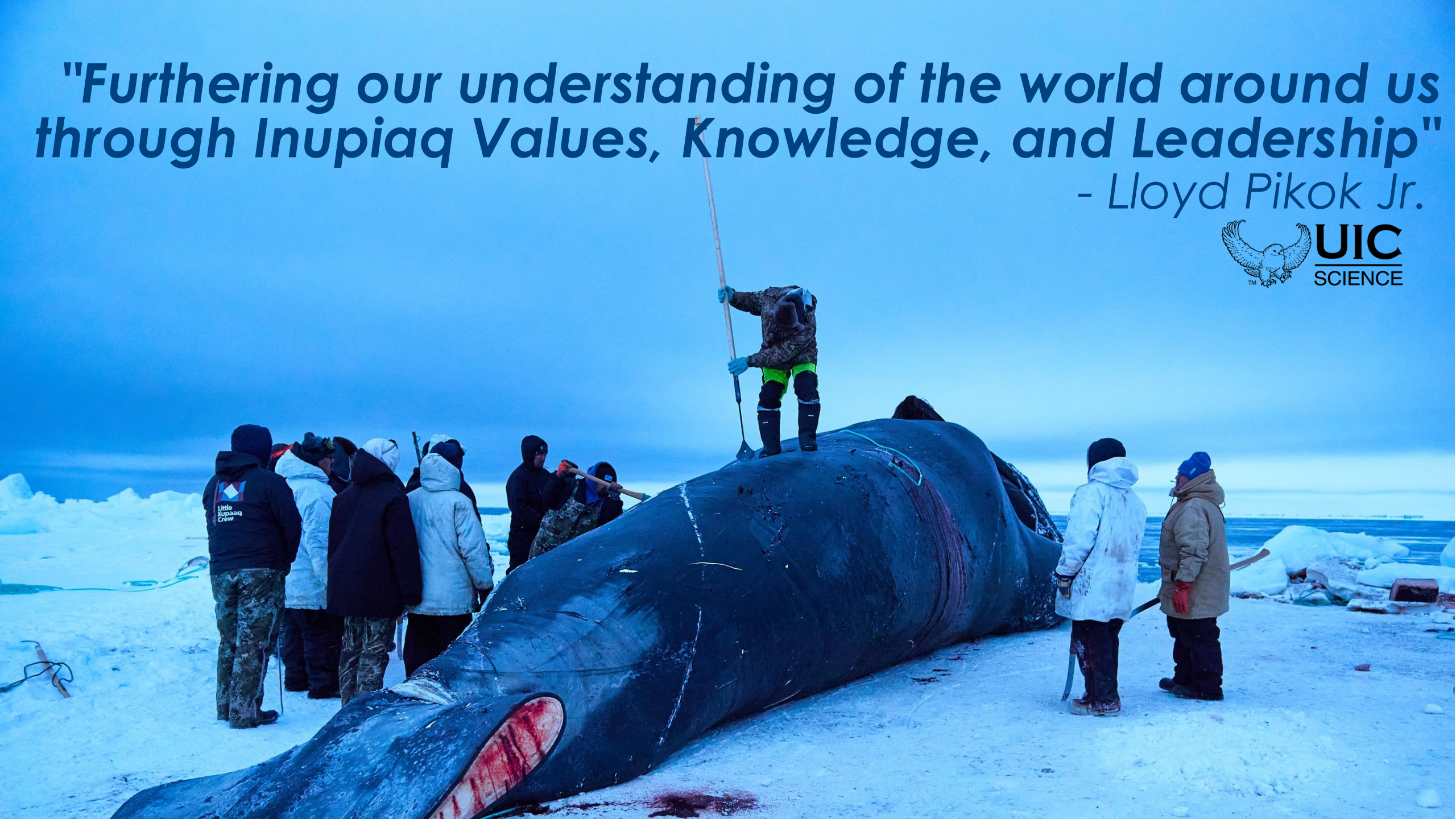
What is UIC Science?

- UIC Science is a subsidiary of **Ukpeaġvik Iñupiat Corporation (UIC)**
 - Based in **Utqiaġvik, Alaska**
 - The Northernmost point of USA
 - Along the Chukchi Sea
- Specialize in Arctic field and logistical support
 - Serve research professionals, government agencies, the military and more!



**"Furthering our understanding of the world around us
through Inupiaq Values, Knowledge, and Leadership"**

- Lloyd Pikok Jr.





2024 Field Season:



TM
UIC
SCIENCE



2024 Field Season:

6968 Lodging Days

3069 Truck Rental Days

509 ATV Rental Days

1569 Skidoo Rental Days

95 Collective Days Underway as Observers

Served over 400 organizations including:

- Universities
- Contractors
- Filmmakers
- Military institutions





Outreach & Engagement



Outreach & Engagement



- Podcast Interviews
- AEWG Science Days
- Visually documenting NSF Research
- BARC Science & Culture Fair
- Soup N Science
- 8th Grade Sea Ice Field Trip
- Community Observer Support on Research Vessels
- And more!



Defining a *Community Observer*

The overall objective is to scan the horizon and maintain high-level communication between the vessel, subsistence hunters, and land-based stations to ensure, to the best of their ability, that potential conflicts between animals, subsistence hunters, and the vessel are avoided to prevent negative impacts.

A C/O **is not** a person who represents all coastal Alaskan communities.

A C/O **is not** a person who will communicate sensitive scientific data that impacts a community.



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Daily Cruise Report

- Shared Via E-mail
 - With research scientists, community members, Alaska Native Corporations, USCG, government professionals, and more!
- Cruise reports include:
 - Vessel Mission
 - Vessel Location/Direction Going
 - Reporting/Findings
 - Animals Sightings
 - Present Conditions
 - Photos
 - Contact Information

Happy Inuit Day from the R/V Sikuliaq!

We are carrying out a mission to better understand the fate of Pacific-origin water in the Arctic Ocean, and how it impacts the regional ecosystem. We will make measurements of temperature and salt content as well as a suite of biological and chemical measurements of the water. We will also collect sediment samples. Since the cruise is taking place so late in the season, part of the focus will be on how the formation of sea ice influences the water beneath it.

Today (Monday) we are transiting to our next sampling line in Canadian waters just west of the outflow of the Mackenzie River. We should arrive at the inshore end of the line mid-morning on Tuesday and spend the next 24+ hours sampling as we progress offshore.

Note that the time estimates on the map are uncertain since our steaming speed could be significantly reduced by the pack ice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reply to this email and I will forward them to the ship.

Present conditions

Location: 70.6°N, 141.5°W

Wind: 10 knots out of the southeast

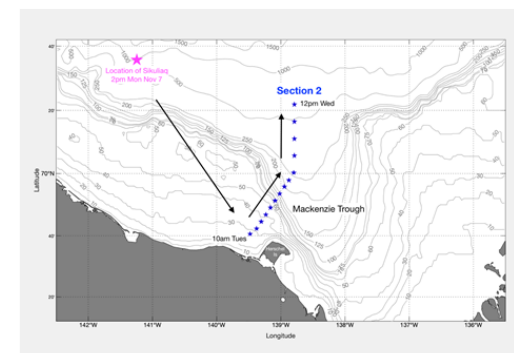
Sea surface temperature: 29.8°F

Sea surface salinity: 28.0 PSU



PC: Amanda Kowlaski

Caption: Tracks left by a Nanuq (Polar Bear) trekking across the frozen sea ice



2024 Vessel Operations Support



Monitoring Western-Arctic Boundary Current in a Warming Climate #2135537 07/01/24 - 08/01/24

- Multi-disciplinary study to better understand how water from the Pacific Ocean circulates through the Arctic and impacts the ecosystem under the warming climate.

Polar Early Career Chief Scientist Training Workshop/Kugluktuk Outreach 07/29/24 - 08/02/24

- Support Early Career Chief Scientist Training Cruise workshop by providing mentorship and presentation to Early Career participants and assist at the community barbeque in Kugluktuk

PARS Corridor Mapping 10/10/24 - 10/25/24

- Scientific research and seafloor mapping activities around Alaska from Nome to the Demarcation Point of the US/Canada Border along the Arctic Port Access Route Study (PARS) corridor

Polar Early Career Chief Scientist Training Cruise #2401176 10/25/24 - 11/3/24

- Give experience to early-career scientists by giving them the opportunity to be PI for a day and exposing t

Protected Species Observer Support 7/12/24 - 8/25/24

- Observe and document marine mammal activity aboard industry vessels



2024 Vessel Operations Support



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Feedback From Our Community Observers:

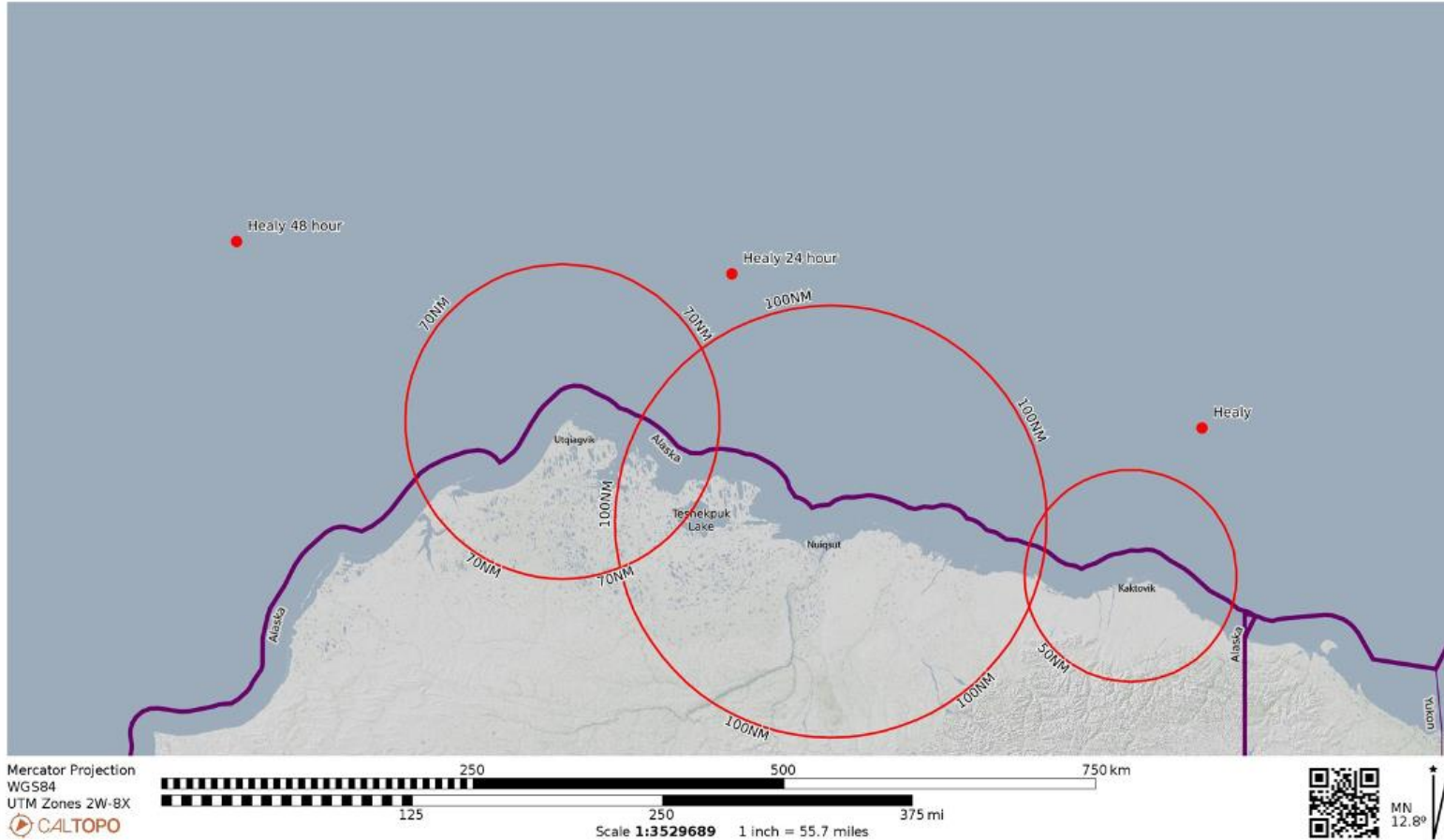
"I got to learn how it takes a team to run a ship, and I was happy to facilitate the local communications to make travels smooth!"

- Clarissa Zeller, UIC Science Liaison

*Aboard USCGS Healy:
Oct 25 – Nov 03, 2024*



New in 2024:



UIC Science, The Chief Scientist, The Healy Crew, and The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission worked together to clarify and navigate the new whaling "buffer zones" around each whaling community and maintained constant communication with the whaling captains of Utqiagvik during an active fall whaling season

Feedback / Questions / Discussion:

Is there any other information that you think community observers should share to enhance their contributions, effectively share science research, and better address community needs?

In what ways could UIC-supported O&E efforts expand beyond Community Observer updates to provide greater value and address the broader research community? (ex. Events, podcasts, etc.?)



Quaynakpak!

(Thank you!)



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