

USA National Report to ISIRA 2021



Lee Cooper, USA ISIRA national representative 19 March 2021

The New York Times

United States Rattles Arctic Talks With a Sharp Warning to China and Russia



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday at a meeting of the Arctic Council in Rovaniemi, Finland. Pool photo by Mandel Ngan



By Somini Sengupta

May 6, 2019

His remarks appeared to shock many diplomats and observers, because the Arctic Council's mandate has nothing to do with security issues.

"Everything has been focused on constructive cooperation where you don't bring outside problems in," said Malgorzata Smieszek, a political scientist and a fellow at the International Arctic Science Committee, a nonprofit group. "All of a sudden, the speech today shifted everyone's attention to, 'Are we looking at next conflict in Arctic?' when the real issue here is still climate change. No speech will change that."

Pinned Tweet



Dr. Gosia Smieszek
@gosiasmieszek

The biggest risk with that U.S. speech is that it might turn people's attention away from the greatest threat to the [#Arctic: #climatechange](#). NO speech will change that and this is what we need to keep focusing on. Thanks for having me with that [@nytimes](#)

Agency Driven Programs

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service
(NPS)

(Department of the Interior)

EPA: Black Carbon

NOAA: Atmosphere, marine mammals, fisheries

USFWS: Polar bears and some other
migratory wildlife, including waterfowl

NPS: cultural exchange and Beringian science

Agency Driven Programs

Environmental Protection Agency (Black carbon)

PNAS

Proceedings of the
National Academy of Sciences
of the United States of America

Keyword, Author, or

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Siberian Arctic black carbon sources constrained by model and observation

Patrik Winiger, August Andersson, Sabine Eckhardt, Andreas Stohl, Igor P. Semiletov, Oleg V. Dudarev, Alexander Charkin, Natalia Shakhova, Zbigniew Klimont, Chris Heyes, and Örjan Gustafsson

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PNAS February 14, 2017 114 (7) E1054–E1061; first published January 30, 2017; <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1613401114>

Edited by Mark H. Thiemens, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA, and approved December 20, 2016 (received for review August 11, 2016)

Article Figures & SI Info & Metrics PDF

Significance

A successful mitigation strategy for climate warming agents such as black carbon (BC)

<https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/black-carbon-diesel-initiative-russian-arctic>

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International Cooperation

Black Carbon Diesel Initiative in the Russian Arctic

Black carbon, also known as "soot," results from the incomplete combustion of organic matter such as fossil fuels and biomass. Black carbon causes significant environmental harm and impacts human health in the Arctic. When deposited on snow or ice, it reduces the reflection of sunlight, causing further warming and increasing the rate of melting.

Mobile and stationary diesel engines are among the largest sources of black carbon emissions in the Arctic. Across the diesel sector, substantial black carbon reductions are possible. To address this challenge, EPA led the Black Carbon Diesel Initiative under the Arctic Black Carbon Initiative (ABCI). The ABCI also included initiatives led by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with support from the U.S. Department of State.

EPA engaged with partners from government agencies, U.S. Arctic and Russian universities and non-governmental organizations, Russian and Arctic stakeholders, and indigenous communities on a four-step project to reduce diesel black carbon emissions in the Russian Arctic through 2016. Specifically, EPA and its partners:

1. [Conducted initial scoping and assessment of primary sources of black carbon in the Russian Arctic,](#)
2. [Developed a baseline emission inventory for black carbon from diesel sources,](#)

Russian Language Content

For Russian language information on black carbon, please see our partner site hosted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Russia.

Highlights

The largest bus company in the Murmansk region upgraded its busses to reduce emissions and costs, improve health and comfort for passengers, and strengthen the company's market

Environmental impacts on walleye pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) distribution across the Bering Sea shelf

Lisa B. Eisner ^a, Yuri I. Zuenko ^b, Eugene O. Basyuk ^b, Lyle L. Britt ^a, Janet T. Duffy-Anderson ^a, Stan Kotwicki ^a, Carol Ladd ^c, Wei Cheng ^{c, d}

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2020.104881>

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Highlights

- Adult walleye pollock moved farther north in the Bering Sea in warm years, 2017–2019.
- Pollock distributions relate to reductions in sea-ice, cold pool extent and currents.
- Adult pollock prefer temperatures of 0–6 °C; age-1 pollock tolerate a broader range.
- Continued warming presents possibility of US–Russia stock mixing.
- US–Russia collaborations are key to understanding climate impacts on fisheries.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/international-affairs/bilateral-agreement-between-united-states-and-russia

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Bilateral Agreement Between the United States and Russia

The United States and Russia share many important stocks of living marine resources in the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea, so it is important for the two countries to coordinate efforts to conserve and manage marine resources. Marine resources of the Bering Sea include the walleye pollock, which supports one of the largest and most valuable commercial fisheries in the world.

National

Table of Contents

United States–Russia Agreement on Mutual Fisheries
Joint Activities

United States–Russia Agreement on Mutual Fisheries

In 1988, the United States and Russia signed the “Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Mutual Fisheries Relations,” establishing the U.S.–Russia Intergovernmental Consultative Committee. The agreement primarily aims to maintain a fisheries relationship that benefits both countries. The United States and Russia cooperate on scientific research, consult on issues of fisheries conservation and management beyond their exclusive economic zones and third-party zones, and cooperate to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities.

Joint Activities

Fisheries Enforcement Cooperation

Efforts focus on stemming IUU fishing activity along the maritime boundary line in the Bering Sea and on the high seas in the North Pacific Ocean. Strong partnerships continue between U.S. and Russian enforcement agencies.

Living Marine Resources

The United States and Russia cooperate on research and projects on the condition of a number of species, including:

- Bering Sea pollock stocks
- Pacific salmon
- Seabirds
- Steller sea lions
- North Pacific right whales
- Northern fur seals

Arctic Fisheries

Both countries conduct Arctic research and projects on fisheries, ecosystems, and marine mammals. Research focuses on loss of sea ice, ocean acidification, and studies using surface, midwater, and bottom trawls.

In 2013, the United States and Russia signed a joint statement on enhanced fisheries cooperation, which reaffirms the 1988 agreement and focuses future cooperation on combating IUU fishing, researching and managing Arctic fisheries, and advancing conservation efforts in the Ross Sea region of Antarctica.

Last updated by Office of International Affairs & Seafood Inspection on 05/23/2019

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Testing for Geographic Variation in Survival of Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*) Populations in Chukotka, Russia and the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska

Diana V. Solovyeva,¹ Vera Yu. Kokhanova,^{1,2} Melissa Gabrielson³ and Katherine S. Christie⁴

(Received 8 July 2016; accepted in revised form 4 April 2017)

ABSTRACT: Information on variation in survival among geographically distinct breeding populations can produce valuable insights about the population dynamics of a species. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta sub-population of Spectacled Eiders in Alaska decreased precipitously between the 1950s and 1990s. Causes for this decline are unknown but may be attributed to low female survival due to predation and lead exposure on the breeding grounds. From 2014 to 2015, we compared annual survival probabilities of Spectacled Eiders on Kigigak Island in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, and Ayapechian Island in the Chukotka Delta, Chukotka, where similar field protocols were implemented. A Cormack-Jolly-Seber maximum likelihood approach was used to estimate apparent survival (ϕ) and recapture probability (γ) from mark-resight data. We tested (a) whether Russian and Alaskan sub-populations differed in their survival rates, (b) whether survival varied annually, and (c) whether survival followed an increasing or decreasing trend over time at either site. We found no evidence for differing survival between the two breeding areas when mean survival across years was compared, and we did not find strong evidence for a linear trend in survival over time at either site. Furthermore, our data supported models with annually varying survival at Kigigak Island and constant survival at Ayapechian Island. Sample size constraints precluded estimates of annual survival at Ayapechian Island. Our finding of no difference in mean survival between sites lends support to the idea that survival may be a function of conditions on the wintering grounds.

Key words: Spectacled Eider; *Somateria fischeri*; Kigigak Island; Ayapechian Island; annual survival rate; recapture probabilities

RÉSUMÉ. Les données en matière de variations de survie chez des populations nicheuses géographiquement distinctes peuvent donner un précieux aperçu de la dynamique des populations d'une espèce. La sous-population d'aiders à lunettes du delta Yukon-Kuskokwim, en Alaska, a chuté abruptement entre les années 1950 et les années 1990. Nous ne connaissons pas les causes de ce déclin, mais elles pourraient être attribuables aux faibles taux de survie des femelles en lien avec la prédation et l'exposition au plomb dans les aires de reproduction. De 2014 à 2015, nous avons comparé les probabilités de survie annuelle des aiders à lunettes sur l'île Kigigak, dans le delta Yukon-Kuskokwim, en Alaska, et sur l'île Ayapechian, dans le delta Chukotka, où des protocoles d'étude similaires sur le terrain ont été adoptés. La méthode du maximum de vraisemblance Cormack-Jolly-Seber a servi à estimer la survie apparente (ϕ) et la probabilité de recapture (γ) à partir de données de marquage et de réobservation. Nous avons tenté de déterminer (a) si les sous-populations de la Russie et de l'Alaska avaient des taux de survie différents, (b) si les taux de survie variaient d'une année à l'autre et (c) si le taux de survie affichait une tendance à la hausse ou à la baisse au fil des ans à l'un ou l'autre des sites. Nous n'avons trouvé aucune preuve justifiant le taux de survie différent aux deux aires de reproduction au moyen de la comparaison des moyennes de survie au fil des ans, et nous n'avons pas trouvé de preuve importante permettant de détecter une tendance linéaire au fil des ans en matière de survie à l'un ou l'autre des deux sites. De plus, nos données ont permis d'évaluer des modèles ayant des taux de survie annuels variables à l'île Kigigak et des taux de survie constants à l'île Ayapechian. Des contraintes en matière de taille d'échantillons ont empêché de faire l'estimation des taux de survie annuels à l'île Ayapechian. Le fait que nous n'ayons pas trouvé de différence entre les moyennes de survie des deux sites soutient l'idée selon laquelle la survie peut être tributaire des conditions des aires d'hivernage.

Mots clés : aiders à lunettes; *Somateria fischeri*; île Kigigak; île Ayapechian; taux de survie annuel; probabilités de recapture

Traduit pour la revue *Arctic* par Nicole Giguère.

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⁴ The Alaska Sea Life Center, 301 Railway Ave., Seward, Alaska 99664, USA

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https://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/russia/index.html

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
International Affairs

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Russia

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Home >> Wildlife Without Borders >> Regional Programs >> Russia

2016-2017 Work Plan-English
2016-2017 Work Plan-Russian
2013-2014 Work Plan-English

[US-Russia Environmental Agreement](#)

[US-Russia Marine Mammal Working Group](#)

Older work plans and project summaries can be found here:
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Credit: O. Zaporozhets

Russia

Russia's vast terrain stretches from the frozen tundra of the far north, to the peaks of the Caucasus Mountains to the southern prairies. It's diverse ecosystems are home to many unique and amazing animals like Amur tigers, snow leopards, saiga antelope, and Siberian cranes. There are also many species who's natural ranges span between Russia and the United States such as the polar bear and a wide variety of migratory birds.

In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection to provide a framework under which the two nations could collaborate on environmental issues of mutual interest and concern. The Agreement was re-

negotiated in 1994 to replace the U.S.S.R. with the Russian Federation as signatory in order to continue protecting those important species and their habitats.

For more than 45 years, USFWS - Russia program has worked with Russian conservationists to share wildlife management best-practices and jointly conduct scientific studies. Under this Agreement, we have been able to implement nature conservation efforts through partnerships with federal, state, and local governments, native communities, and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, we have the authority to provide grants and assistance to Russian nature reserves and national parks. These efforts have promoted collaborative management of shared species and bolstered the protection of some of Russia's most iconic wildlife.

Species of Concern



Amur Tiger



Marine Mammals



Saiga Antelope

https://www.fws.gov/international/wildlife-without-borders/russia/us-russia-marine-mammal-working-group.html

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US-Russia Marine Mammal Working Group

Home >> Wildlife Without Borders >> Regional Programs >> Russia >> US-Russia Marine Mammal Working Group

[Working Group Meeting History](#)

[2013 Working Group Protocol](#)

[Alaska Marine Mammals Management Office](#)

[Marine Mammals Species Information](#)

[7th U.S.-Russia Sea Otter Working Group Protocol](#)

[Read it in Russian](#)

[U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Agreement Factsheet](#)

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[Anatoly Kochnev](#)

Marine mammals are charismatic and iconic animals, particularly in the Arctic region, where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leads cooperative programs for wildlife conservation in partnership with Russia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

The bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and Russia supports a wide range of animals from native waterfowl to shared marine life. Marine mammals, particularly polar bears, walrus, and sea otters, are a major focus of this cooperation, conducted through the **USFWS - Russia** program, and the Service's Alaska Marine Mammals Management Office.

Note: U.S.-Russia cooperation in the management of polar bears is conducted under a separate mechanism. For more information visit the [Alaska Marine Mammals Management Office](#).

Credit: Kevin Bell

National Park Service Shared Beringia Program

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/beringia>

Call for new proposals, 2021, due 21 April

Involving a Russian specialist or partner as a project collaborator
Conducting a portion of the project in Russia
Fostering cultural, scientific, educational, or familial exchanges between Russia and the United States related to the Beringia area
Compiling, translating (either Russian-to-English or English-to-Russian), and disseminating research results and other materials that could be beneficial to others

Products include translations, published studies, cultural and Indigenous knowledge exchange

MATERIALS AND STUDIES ON THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE NORTHERN FAR EAST AND ADJACENT TERRITORIES

Ruslan S. Vasil'evskii and Alexander I. Lebedintsev

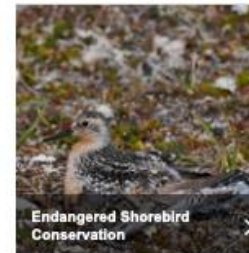
Translated by
Richard L. Bland

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New Projects (2018-2023)

Explore our current projects below

For more information, contact Peter Neitlich, Shared Beringian Heritage Program Project Manager (peter_neitlich@nps.gov) or Evguenia Anichtchenko, Outreach Coordinator (evguenia_anichtchenko@nps.gov).



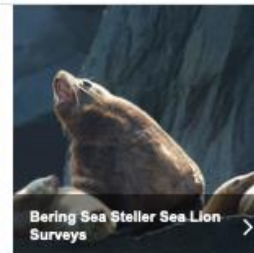
Endangered Shorebird Conservation

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)



Seabird Youth Network Student Exchange

Northern Research Technical Assistance Center (NORTAC)



Bering Sea Steller Sea Lion Surveys

Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Local Environmental Observer Network

Aleut International Association



Communicating Beringia's Cultures

Found Sound Nation and the Alaska Native Heritage Center



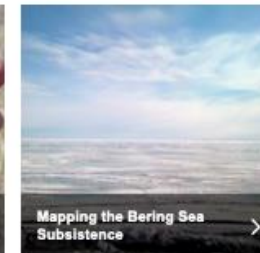
Testing the "Standstill Hypothesis"

Brown University



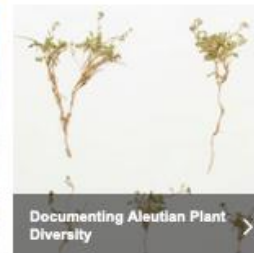
Exploring Ceramic Technology of Beringia

Portland State University



Mapping the Bering Sea Subsistence

Aleut International Association



Documenting Aleutian Plant Diversity

Western Washington University



Understanding Shared Fisheries

Wildlife Conservation Society



Reconnecting Unangan genealogies

Museum of the Aleutians

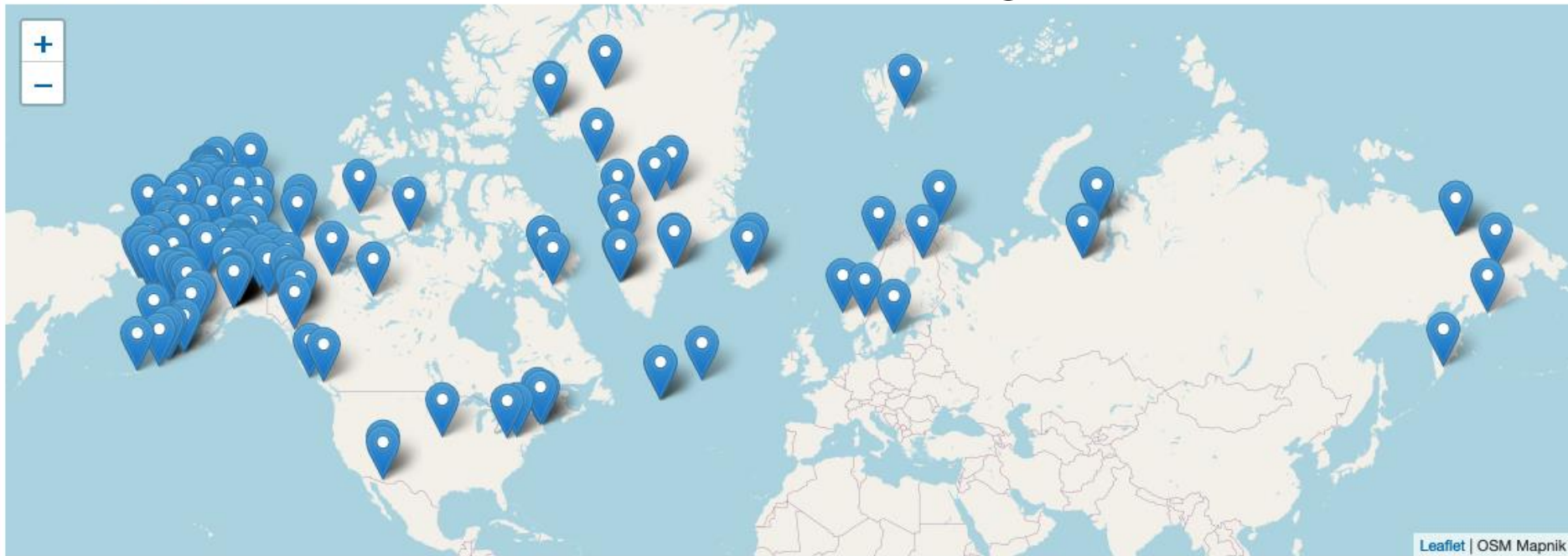


Navigating the New Arctic

U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF)

NNA Project Locations

<https://www.arcus.org/nna>



Arctic Robust Communities-Navigating Adaptation to Variability <https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/research/project/arctic-robust-communities-navigating-adaptation-to-variability/>

The Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring Network (CALM V): Long-term Observations on the Climate-Active Layer-Permafrost System <https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/>

Interactions of Environmental and Land Surface Change, Animals, Infrastructure, and Peoples of the Arctic (planning project; no fieldwork) <https://ungarlab.uark.edu/arctic-research/>

Rain on Snow and Extreme Precipitation Events Across the Arctic and their Impacts on Social-Ecological Systems <https://nsidc.org/rain-on-snow>

Active Awards with Search term Russia

Foundation grants

FileEditViewInsertFormatToolsDataWindowHelp

HomeInsertDrawPage LayoutFormulasDataReviewViewAnalytic SolverAcrobat



Selected Individual Projects

U.S. National Science Foundation grants

- Collaborative Research: Hydrologic and Permafrost Changes Due to Tree Expansion into Tundra <https://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/2017-09/sheshukov92217.html>
- Taimyr Reindeer Migration Reanalysis (TAMARA) https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1504934
- Collaborative Research: Tracking Carbon, Water, and Energy Balance of the Arctic Landscape at Flagship Observatories in Alaska and Siberia. https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1936752
- Arctic Great Rivers Observatory, <http://arcticgreatrivers.org>

Possibly upcoming: Synoptic Arctic Survey Meeting at Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Moscow following ASSW 2019

