

Local Community Involvement: The Marine Mammal Protection Act & Endangered Species Act



Marine Mammals Management Office
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Marine Mammal Protection Act

- Secretary of Interior (USFWS)
 - Walrus
 - Polar bears
 - Sea Otters





Marine Mammal Protection Act

- Moratorium on Take and Import
 - Hunt, harass, capture, or kill

- Alaska Native exemption
 - Subsistence, handicraft uses



Endangered Species Act

- Southwest Alaska Sea Otters
 - Population decline documented in 2000
 - Listed as threatened in August 2005
- Polar Bear
 - Petitioned to list February 2005
 - Listed as threatened in May 2008
- Pacific walrus
 - Petitioned to list February 7, 2008
 - Not yet had the opportunity to review the petition



Endangered Species Act

- Moratorium on Take
 - Hunt, harass, capture, or kill
- Alaska Native exemption
 - Subsistence uses


Subsistence Harvest



Provide for Involvement in the Assessment Process

- Sea otters listing included consultation with the Alaska Native Community.
- Recognized their concerns regarding the impacts of a listing to subsistence harvest.
- Developed a Special Rule under section 4(d) of the ESA that provides for continued cultural exchange.
- Alaska Native representation on the Recovery Team.






Provide for Involvement in the Assessment Process

- Consulted with Alaska Nanuuq Commission as a peer reviewer of our Status Assessment for the polar bear as well as the proposed listing rule for the polar bear.
- Informational meeting and Public Hearing in Barrow with phone links to outlying communities.





Cooperative Agreements

- MMPA re-authorization in 1994, Congress included new provisions, one of which was Section 119.
- The purpose of this section was to provide a framework for Federal Agencies and Alaska Natives to “conserve marine mammals and provide co-management of subsistence use by Alaska Natives.”

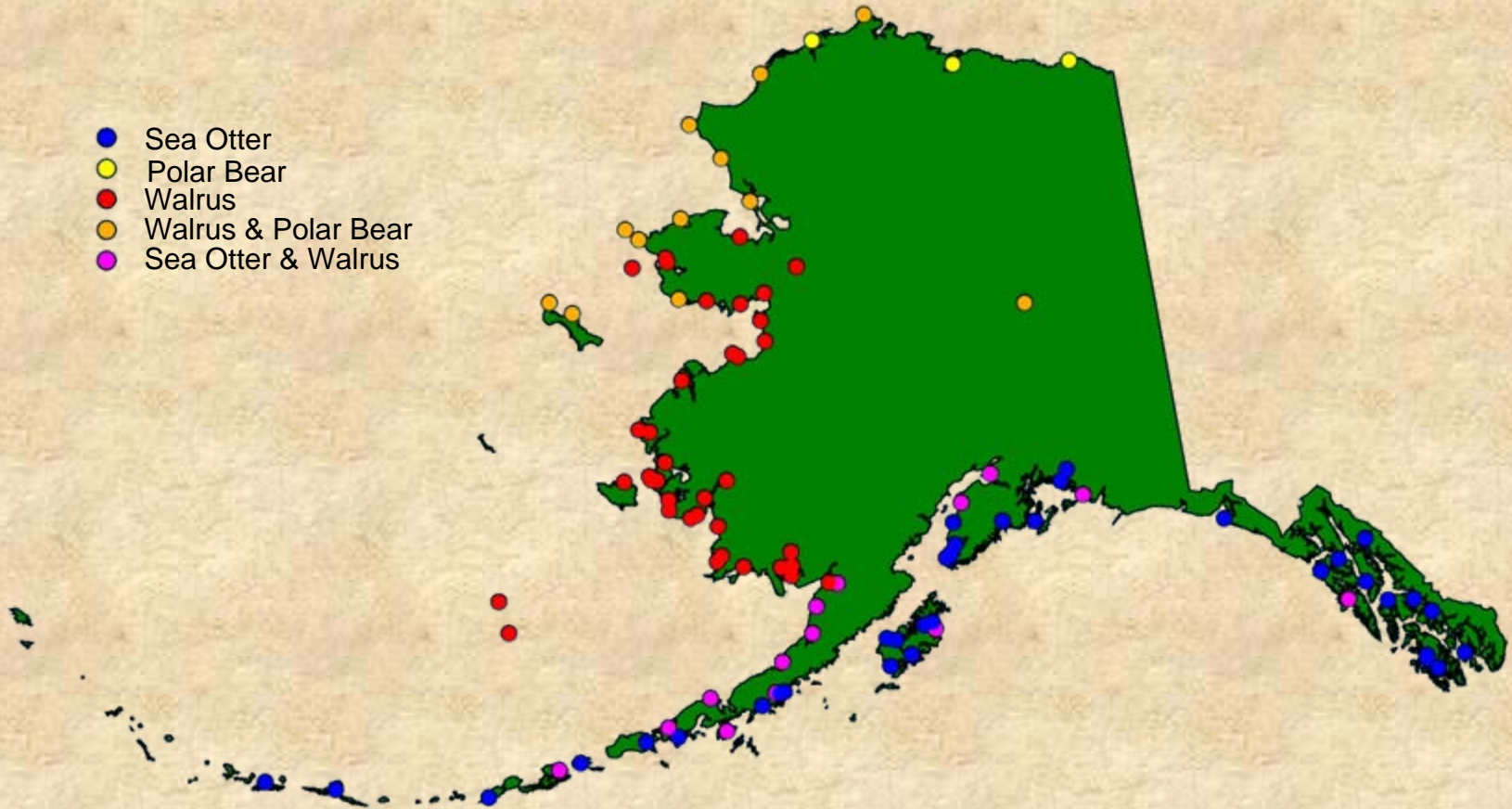
Marking and Tagging Reporting Program (MTRP)





MTRP Villages

- Sea Otter
- Polar Bear
- Walrus
- Walrus & Polar Bear
- Sea Otter & Walrus



140 cooperators in 105 communities for polar bears, sea otters and Pacific walruses

