

KAWERAK, INC.

Mary David, Executive Vice President

Bering Strait Voices

Kawerak's Vision for Action to address increased vessel traffic in the Alaskan Region in order to protect the subsistence way of life



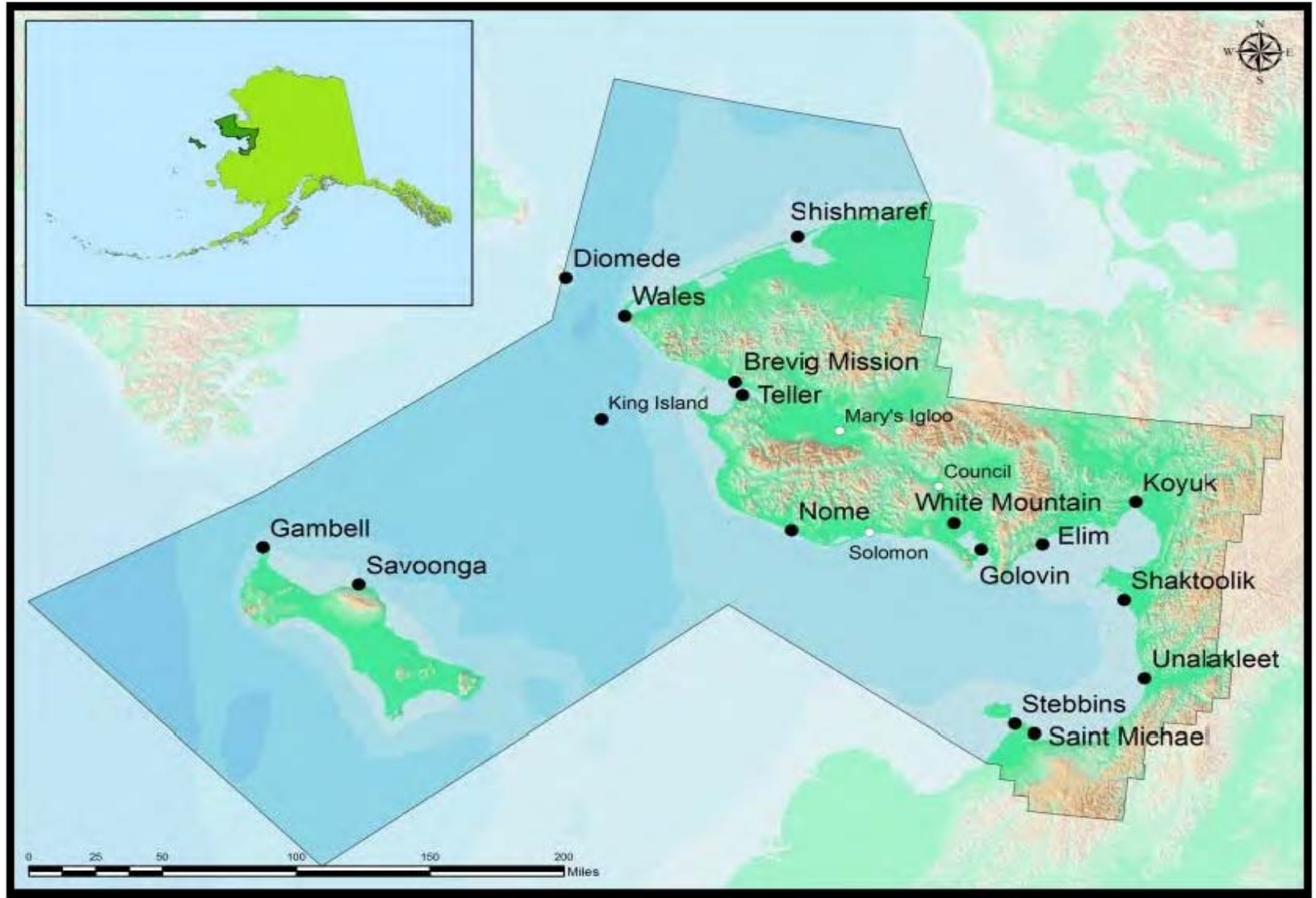
P/V Crystal Serenity arrives in Nome
on a foggy morning AUG 21, 2016

Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors



*To advance the capacity of our people and tribes
for the benefit of the region*

Figure 1. The Bering Strait Region of Alaska.



Bering Strait Region

www.Kawerak.org for more information about our communities



Our region is often referred to as the Bering Strait region, the Norton Sound region, the Seward Peninsula, Western Alaska or the Nome Census area.

- The area contains 570 miles of coastline that includes all of Norton Sound, and portions of the Bering and Chukchi Seas
- The Bering Strait region is home to over 10,040 people, most of who have ancestral ties to the area dating back thousands of years
- In 2010, community populations varied from approximately 3819 in Nome (52% Alaska Native), with other communities ranging from 122-725 persons. The population in this region is about 75% Alaska Native according to the U.S. Census. Approximately 1/3 of the region's population resides in Nome, the area's largest community and commercial hub.
- Nome serves as the hub for the 20 tribes of the Bering Strait Region; 16 tribes are located in outlying villages scattered throughout a region roughly the size of West Virginia while the remaining 4 tribes live within Nome.
- The 20 tribes that Kawerak serves and supports within our consortia and region are: Brevig Mission Traditional Council, Native Village of Council, Native Village of Diomedea, Native Village of Elim, Native Village of Gambell, Chinik Eskimo Community, King Island Native Community, Native Village of Koyuk, Mary's Igloo Traditional Council, Nome Eskimo Community, Native Village of St. Michael, Native Village of Savoonga, Native Village of Shaktoolik, Native Village of Shishmaref, Native Village of Solomon, Stebbins Community Association, Teller Traditional Council, Native Village of Unalakleet, Native Village of Wales, and Native Village of White Mountain.

Koyuk



Little Diomedede



Wales



Nome



About Kawerak, Inc.:

Our mission is to advance the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region through four divisions:



- **Education, Employment & Supportive Services**
- **Community Services & Transportation**
- **Natural Resources**
- **Administration & Cultural Programs**



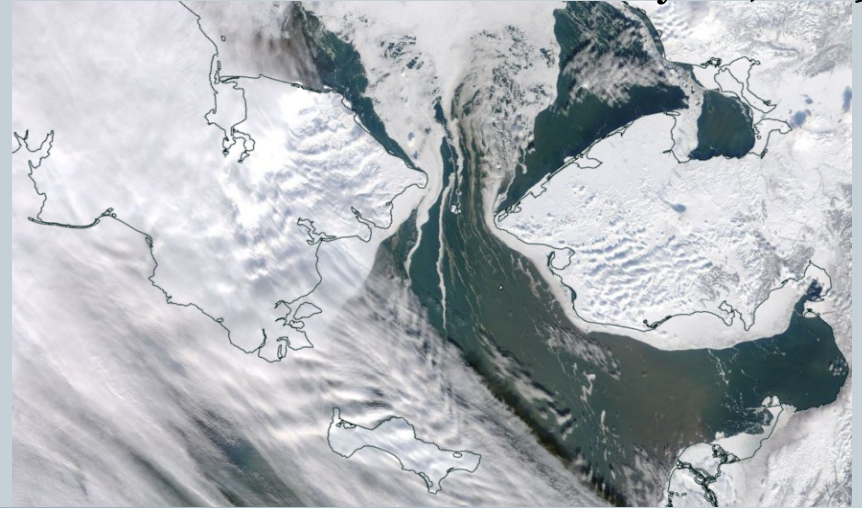
Ice Conditions are Changing & Impacting Alaska Native People



February 28, 2007



February 28, 2019



March 12, 2019



<https://worldview.earthdata.nasa.gov>

Kawerak, Inc. Efforts



- Established a Marine Program in fall of 2014 and Marine Advocate hired in December of 2014.
- Advocate on wide variety of Arctic Issues.
- Work continues with key partners; we are appreciative of key partners and funders who have helped in our efforts.
- Other programs within our Natural Resource Department are actively advocating on issues that impact our way of life.
 - Social Science Program
 - Reindeer Herders Program
 - Eskimo Walrus Commission
 - Subsistence Resources
 - Environmental Program
 - Land Management Services

WHAT CAN BE DONE?



BERING STRAIT VOICES:
VISION FOR ACTION SUMMIT REPORT

NOME, ALASKA

October 12-14, 2016

Guided by Yupik and Inupiaq values and traditions, we will continue to build sustainable capacity to uphold our spiritual and cultural traditions and relationships, by inspiring healthy choices, and protecting our natural resources to ensure food security for our future generations. We proactively adapt to climate and other changes experienced by our people.



Eskimo Walrus Commission

"To protect the pacific walrus population."

- Formed in 1978 by Kawerak, Inc. & represents 19 Alaskan coastal walrus hunting communities from barrow to Bristol bay.
- Represents Alaska's coastal walrus hunting communities in the co-management of the pacific walrus population.
- Recognized statewide entity working on resource co-management of walrus on behalf of Alaska natives.
- A cooperative agreement between the US Fish & Wildlife services and the EWC was developed in 1997.
- As an Alaska Native marine mammal commission and co-management entity, the work of the EWC involves providing information to member communities on the current research, politics, regulations, and issues affecting the Pacific walrus population and subsistence communities. The EWC holds one annual meeting per year with its 19 Commissioners, which provides an opportunity to ensure that the Alaska Native voice is being adequately represented in management processes, receive agency reports, discuss important issues related to walrus, and review proposals for projects.
- **An important role of the EWC is to ensure that scientific and Traditional Knowledge research involving walrus and EWC communities is conducted responsibly, and that both are utilized effectively in management decisions regarding the Pacific walrus population.**
- The EWC advocates on behalf of its member communities in policy forums and through participation in groups such as the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee, the Arctic Marine Mammal Coalition, and the Indigenous People's Council on Marine Mammals.
- There has been many milestones & accomplishments over the years. Please visit: <https://eskimowalruscommission.org>

Indigenous Knowledge – Can Influence Decision Makers



- **Informs and Guides Local Residents**
 - Is the foundation for subsistence lifestyle and activities
- **Has informed science and policy makers**
- **The State and Federal government may limit, enhance, or terminate tribal rights**
 - State and Federal actions dramatically impact the subsistence way of life.
 - Alaska Natives are continuously defending themselves from State and Federal Agencies' actions.

NEXT STEPS?



- Ensure the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea are protected from harm while sustaining local business and commerce.
- Oil Spill response planning will be critical moving forward. The risk of a disastrous oil spill has been reiterated throughout all of our workshops and our advocacy efforts.
- Maintain and strengthen our relationship and collaboration with the U.S. Coast Guard.
- A tribal commission is being created to address the needs of communities in the Bering Strait region

THANK YOU - Guyana



Kawerak, Inc.

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Marine Program

<https://kawerak.org/natural-resources/marine-program/>

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