

Arctic Beaver Observation Network

Indigenous Knowledge component in Northwest Alaska

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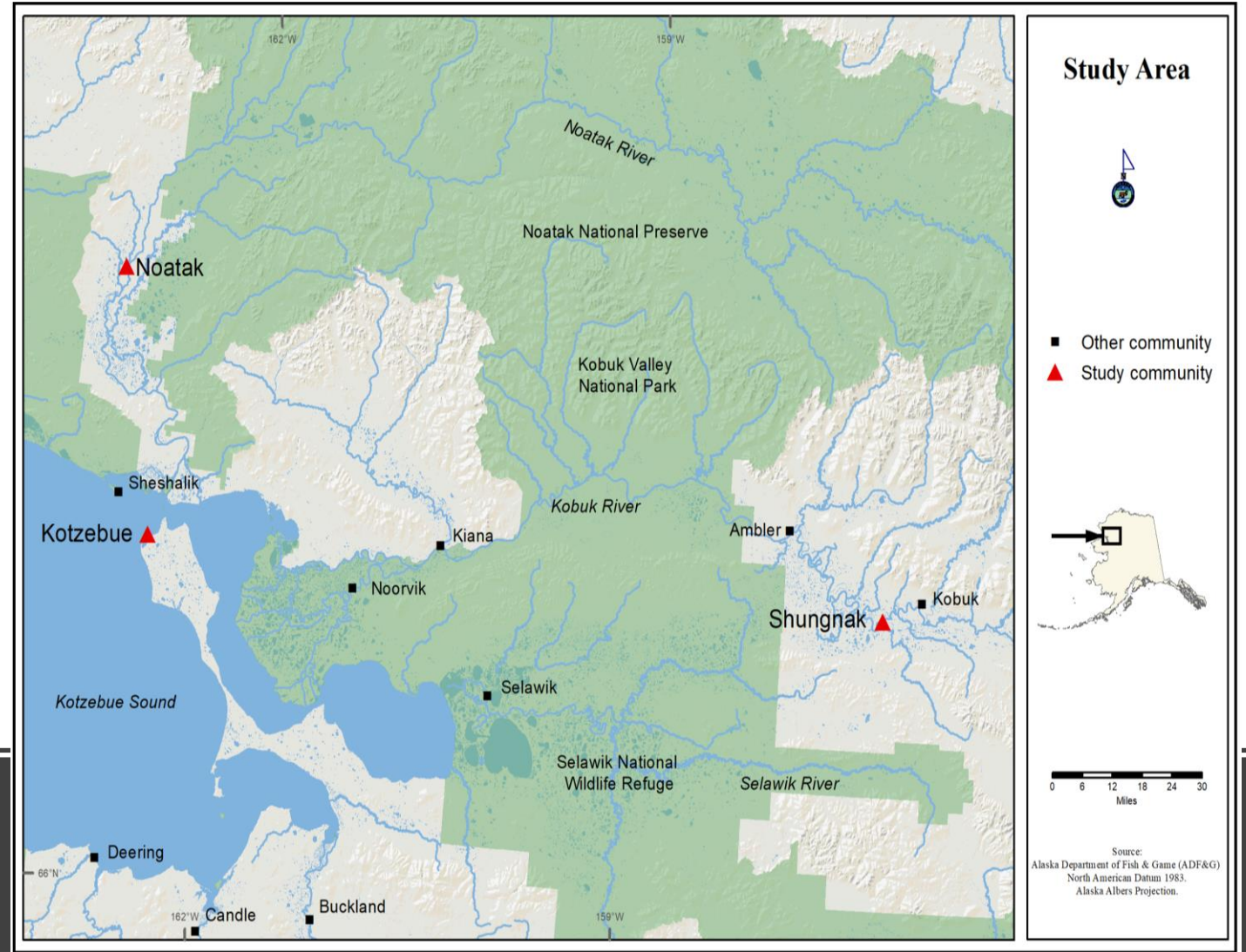
Collaborate with local communities
in Northwest Alaska to:

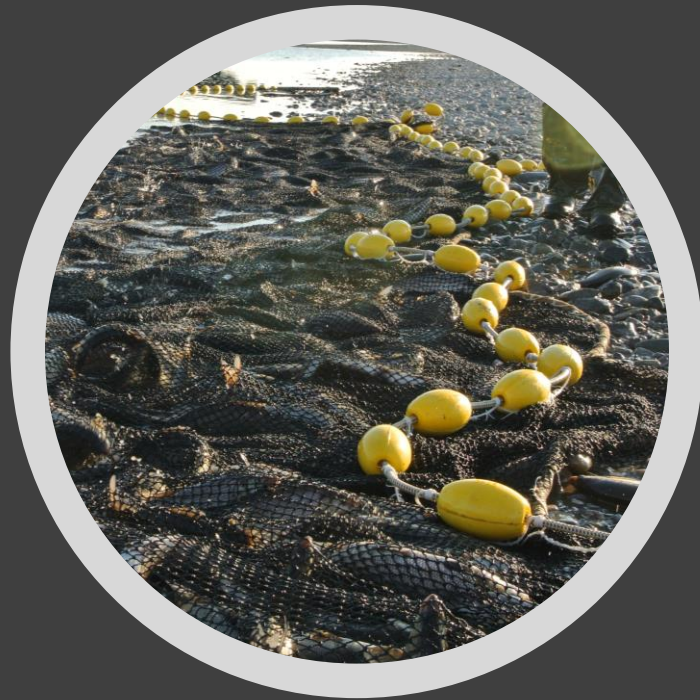
- share remote sensing observations
- document Indigenous Knowledge of beaver ecology and associated impacts to fish, subsistence access, and overall community health
- contextualize the social dimensions of beaver impacts on water quality, fish habitat, boat access, and other factors



Shungnak, 2018

Study Area: Kotzebue, Noatak, and Shungnak





Community Engagement

Participatory Research – working with local research assistants

Anthropological methods: semi-structured interviews, mapping, participant-observation

Community meetings to share local knowledge and data from satellite imagery, scientific instrumentation



Timeline and Next Steps

Project Dates: October 2021 through
September 2026

- **Interviews** conducted annually (2022-2025) focusing on beaver ecology and impacts of beaver presence on the environment and subsistence activities
- Spring/summer 2022: Communities, ADF&G and UAF created LTK management plans (guides for handling and management of LTK)
- **Fieldwork Planning** currently underway, developing contingency plans aligned with changing community health and safety guidelines



Timeline and Next Steps (continued)

- **Kotzebue:** begin key respondent interviews in early March and plan for future participant observation
- **Shungnak and Noatak:** key respondent interviews tentatively scheduled for spring 2023, participant observation summer/fall 2023



ABON meeting in Yellowknife, Canada

- Scientists, community members and managers from the U.S., Canada and Russia met in Yellowknife, Canada October 21-22, 2022
- Shared information about current research efforts to learn more about how beaver are adapting to climate change around the Arctic, how beaver are impacting the environment as they expand their ranges and how human societies are being affected.
- Shared different beaver management strategies and mitigation measures



Questions?

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