



Atlas of Sea Duck Key Habitat Sites in North America

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Sea Ducks: 15 species in North America



Common Eider



Spectacled Eider



Steller's Eider



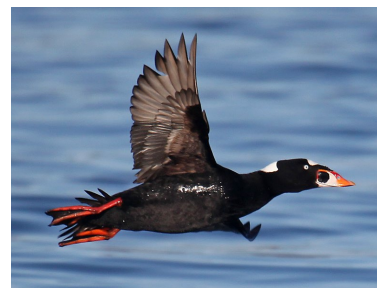
King Eider



Long-tailed Duck



Black Scoter



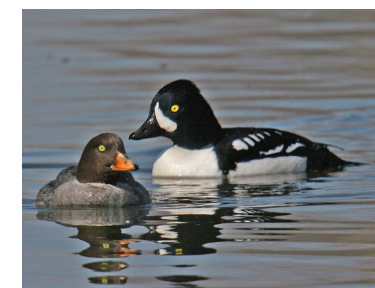
Surf Scoter



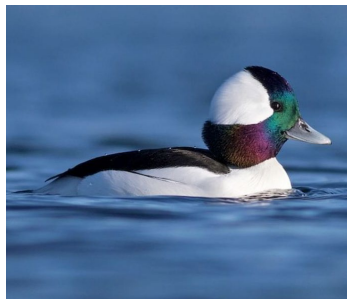
White-winged Scoter



Common Goldeneye



Barrow's Goldeneye



Bufflehead



Harlequin Duck



Common Merganser



Hooded Merganser



Red-breasted Merganser

Importance of Sea Ducks

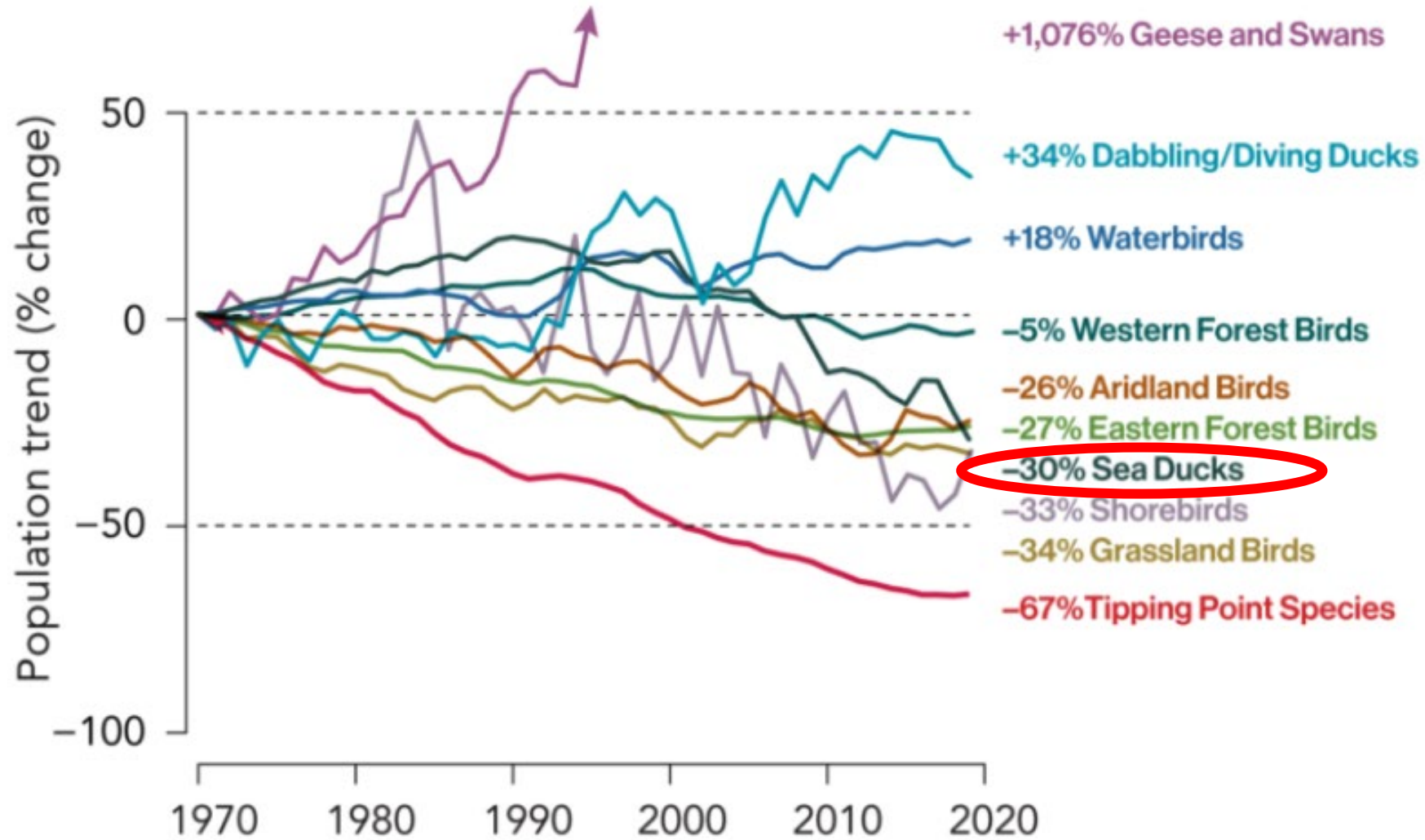
- Important for subsistence harvest
- Some recreational harvest

Threats to sea ducks include:

- Climate change and ecosystem shifts
- Disease
- Contaminants (e.g., oil spills)
- Collisions with vessels
- Disturbance during critical life stages (e.g., molting)



Trends in NA birds



The Sea Duck Joint Venture

An international partnership under
the North American Waterfowl Management Plan



A large flock of sea ducks, likely Pacific Goldeneye, is shown in flight over a deep blue ocean. The ducks are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others further back, creating a sense of a vast, active population. The text 'The Sea Duck Joint Venture' is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular box in the center of the image.

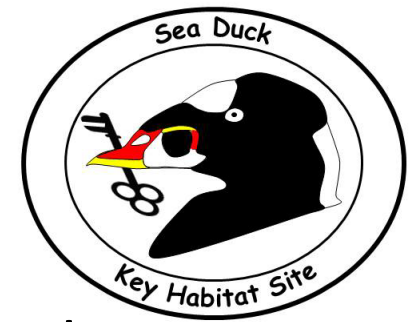
The Sea Duck Joint Venture

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Promotes conservation of sea ducks through science by:

- (1) Generating and sharing knowledge
- (2) Increasing awareness of sea ducks and encourage engagement

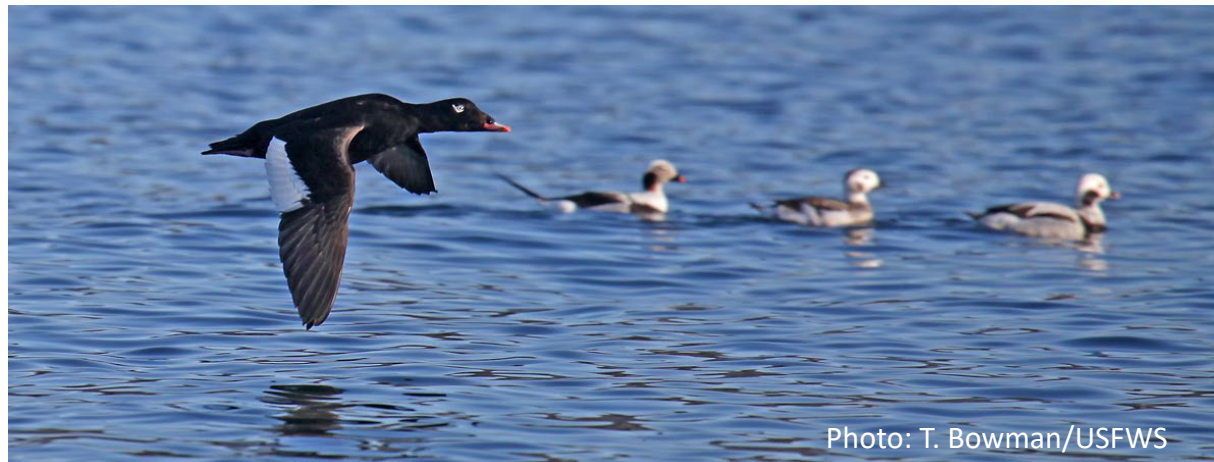
Sea Duck Key Habitat Sites Atlas



Identifies 85 sites in North America that are most critical to sea ducks

- Applied strict abundance and density criteria to available survey and telemetry information
- In many cases, survey data were several years old, used expert opinion

Intent: Aid in prioritization of habitats for conservation, environmental assessments, oil spill preparedness & response



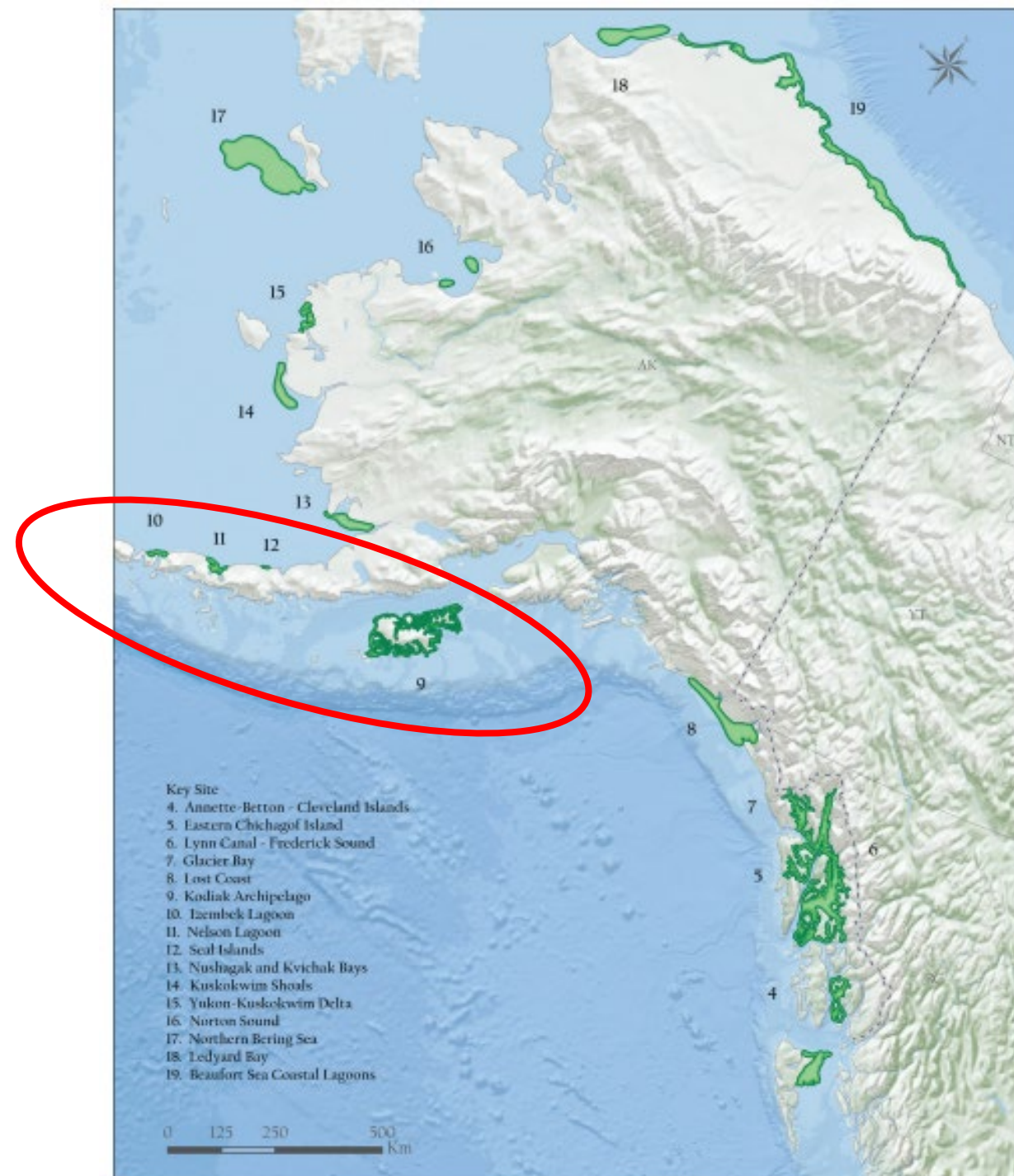
Sea Duck Key Sites in/near Kodiak-Aleutian Region:

Key Site 9: Kodiak Archipelago

Key Site 10: Izembek Lagoon

Key Site 11: Nelson Lagoon

Key Site 12: Seal Islands



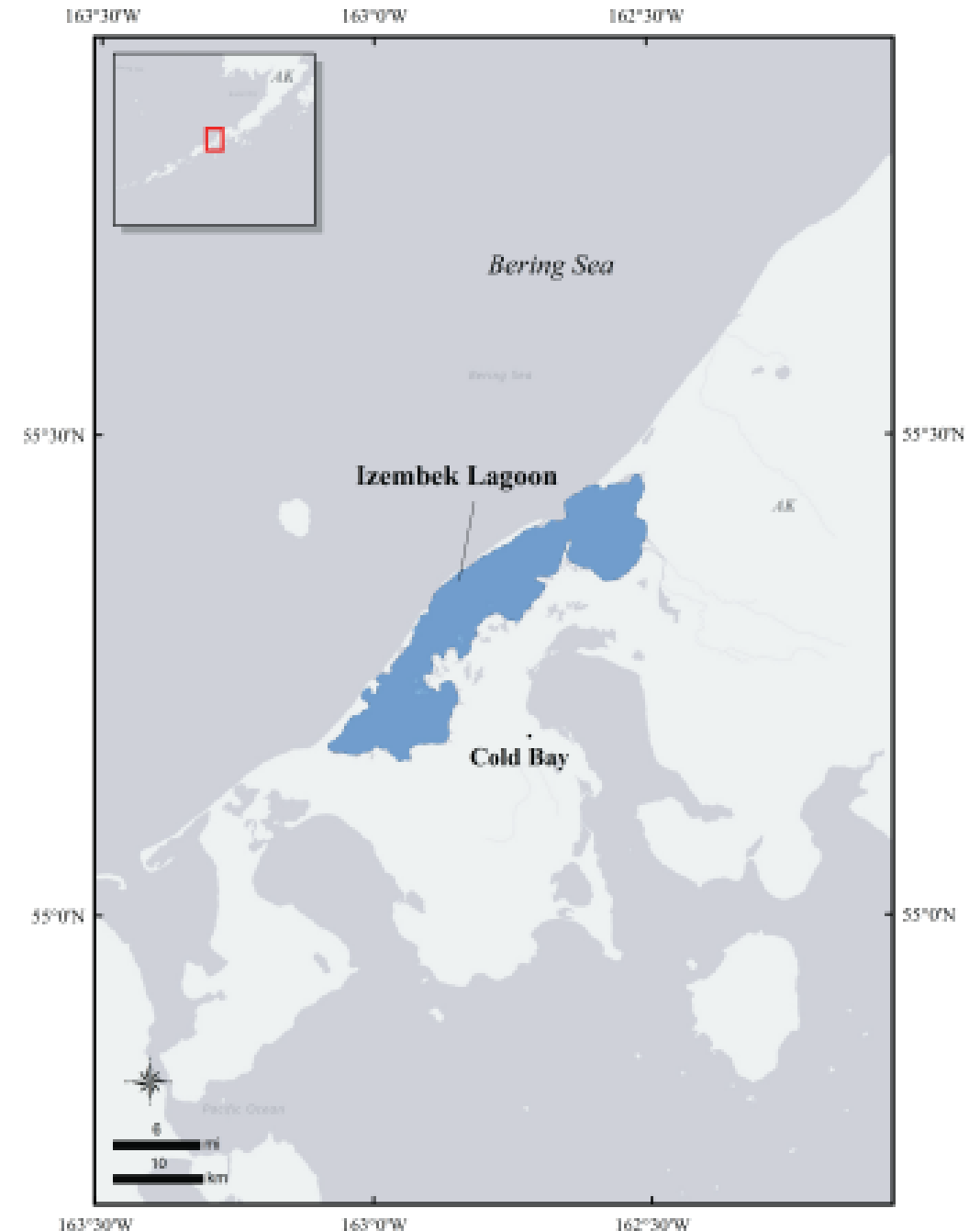
Key Site 9: Kodiak Archipelago

- Nearshore areas <20m deep
- ~200,000 sea ducks of 14 species winter here
- Long-tailed Ducks, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Barrow's Goldeneye, King Eider, Harlequin Duck
- Also provides molting and breeding habitat
- Possible monitoring site for measuring response of sea ducks to climate change



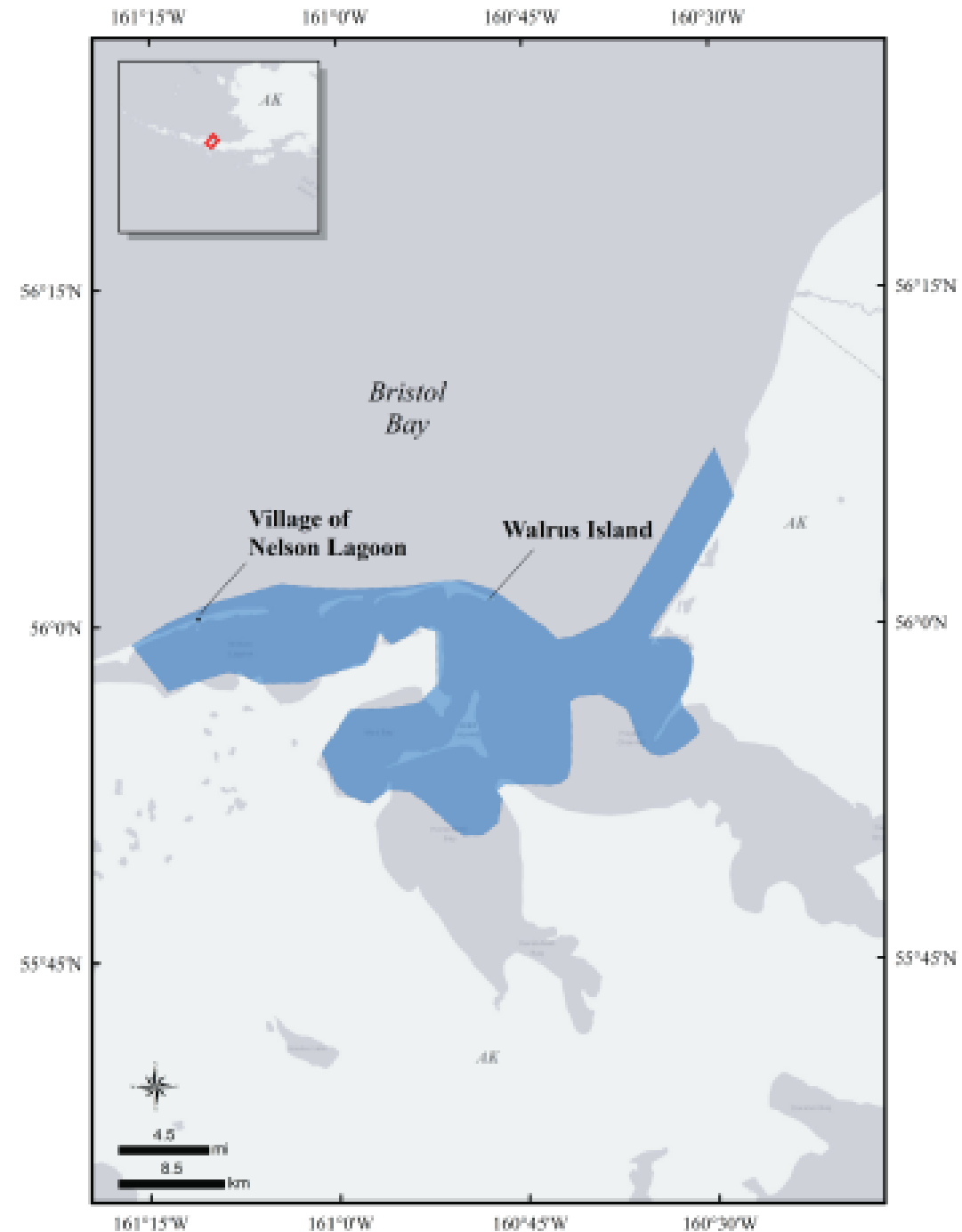
Key Site 10: Izembek Lagoon

- Shallow lagoon, eelgrass beds result in high productivity and use by birds
- Important molting, wintering, and migration staging area for Steller's eiders
- Also present: Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Harlequin Duck



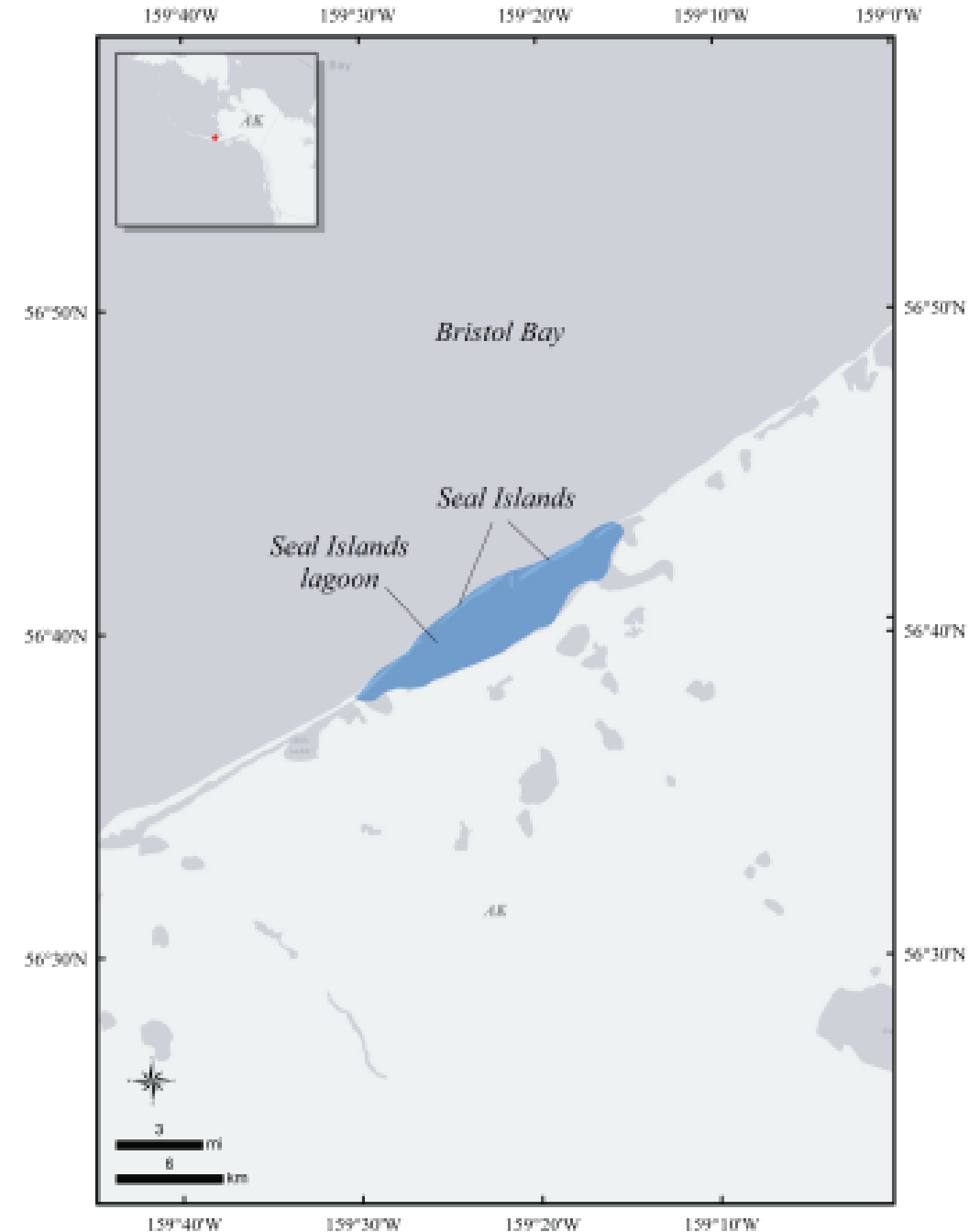
Key Site 11: Nelson Lagoon

- Shallow bay protected by series of barrier islands
- Mostly ice-free in winter
- Wintering, staging, and molting sea ducks:
- Steller's Eider, Black Scoter, Common Eider, King Eider, and Surf Scoter
- Primary molting area for Steller's Eider
- Most important site is inside/adjacent to Walrus Island



Key Site 12: Seal Islands

- Shallow lagoon protected by series of barrier islands
- Important molting area for Steller's Eider
- Also Common Eider, Red-breasted Merganser use the lagoon



Next Steps: Sea Duck Key Sites Atlas



- Continue sharing with potential users
- Identify ways to conserve and protect key sites, reduce threats
- Revise/update at regular intervals with new information
- Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives

Complete Atlas available at seaduckjv.org

Printed copies upon request

Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives

- Is there an interest in sharing knowledge about sea ducks and their habitats?
- Are there priorities related to sea ducks in the Kodiak Aleutian Region that you would like to see addressed?
- There is interest from multiple partners and potential funding sources



Thank you



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