



# U.S. ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION

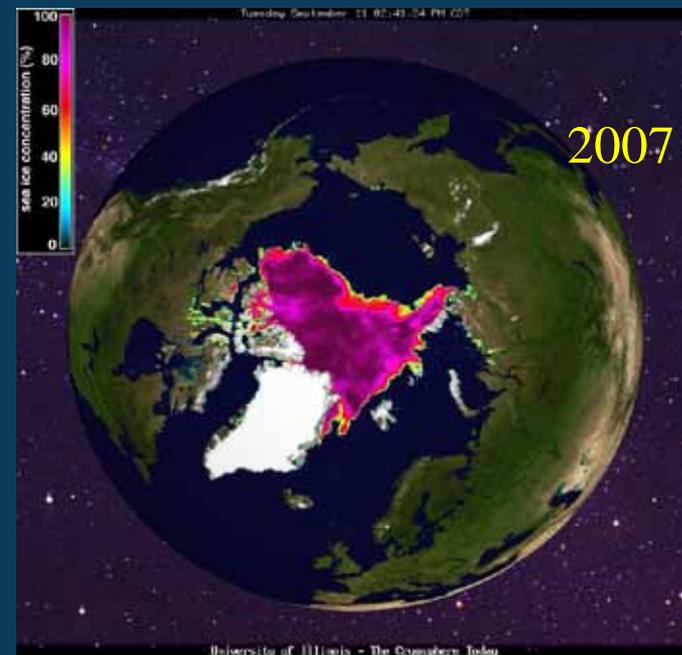


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# Arctic Overview

- Many Arctic related issues in the news today
- Climate change
- Resource development



- Species listings
- Subsistence concerns



- Increased shipping activity
- Territorial disputes
- Contaminant deposition





# US Arctic Research

~\$400M/yr across >15 federal agencies

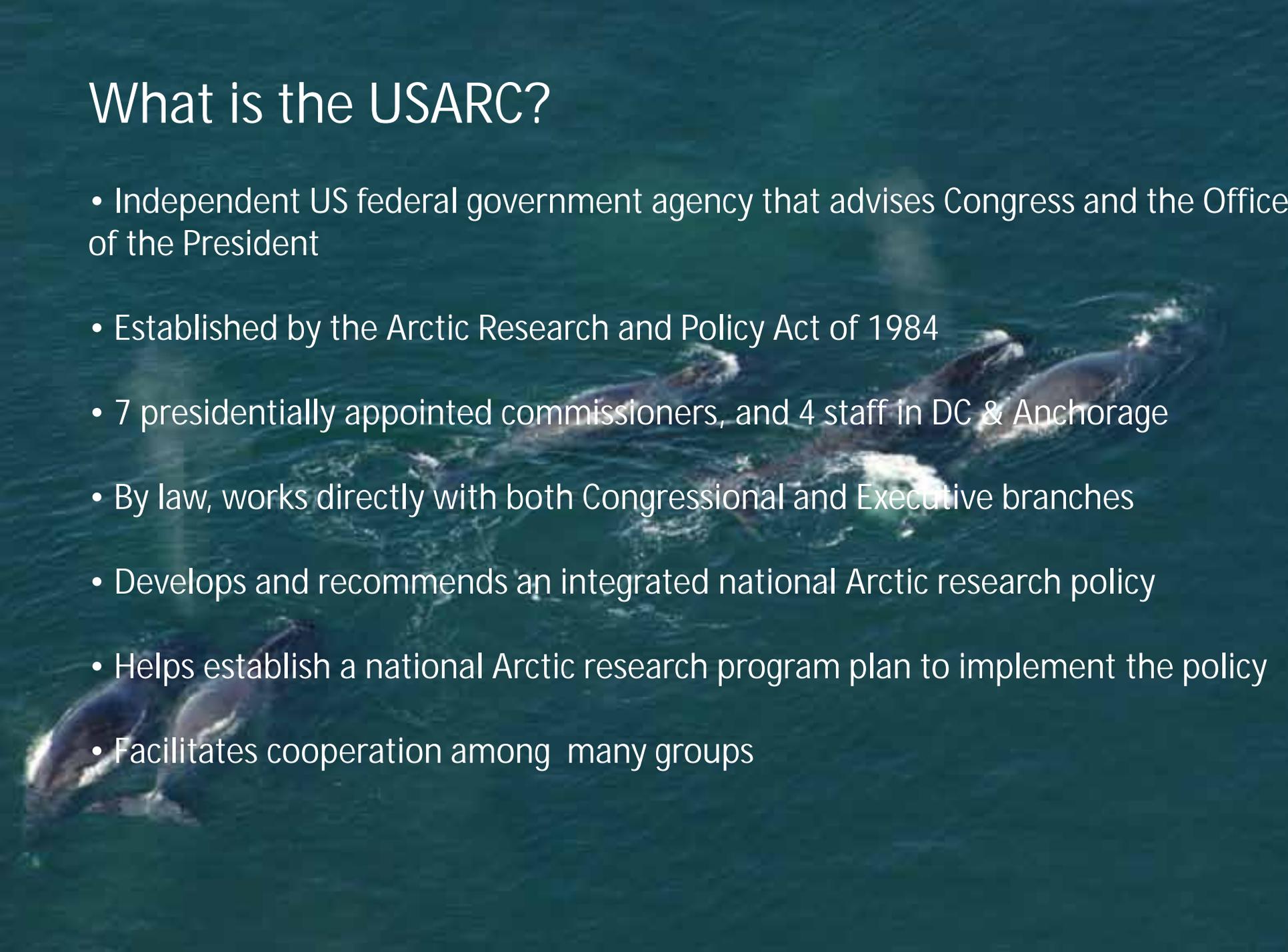
...cooperating with over a dozen nations

...using research infrastructure worth billions

[USARC's budget is ~\$1.5M]



# What is the USARC?

- Independent US federal government agency that advises Congress and the Office of the President
  - Established by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984
  - 7 presidentially appointed commissioners, and 4 staff in DC & Anchorage
  - By law, works directly with both Congressional and Executive branches
  - Develops and recommends an integrated national Arctic research policy
  - Helps establish a national Arctic research program plan to implement the policy
  - Facilitates cooperation among many groups
- 
- A photograph of several whales breaching the surface of the ocean. The water is a deep, dark blue, and the whales' dark, sleek bodies are visible as they rise above the water, creating white splashes and ripples. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, showing the whales' heads and backs as they move across the water's surface.



# US ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



Mead Treadwell, Chair



Michele Longo Eder



Helvi Sandvik



Virgil (Buck) Sharpton



Vera Kingeekuk Metcalf



Warren Zapol



Charles Vörösmarty

# Duties of the Commission:

- Develop, recommend and assist in implementation of an integrated national Arctic research policy
- Facilitate cooperation in Arctic research between Federal, State and local governments
- Review federal Arctic research programs and recommend improvements
- Recommend improved methods for **data sharing** among all Arctic research entities
- Cooperate with the Governor of Alaska in the formulation of Arctic research policy
- Recommend methods for improving international scientific cooperation in the Arctic



REPORT ON  
GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES FOR  
ARCTIC RESEARCH  
2009



# Goals Report research themes

- Environmental Change
- Arctic Human Health
- Civil Infrastructure
- Natural Resource Assessment & Earth Science
- Indigenous Languages, Identities, Cultures

# What does this mean to Arctic residents?

- USARC listens and responds to the voices of all Americans, including rural Alaskans.
- USARC priorities and initiatives that support Arctic human health research and recommendations that address Arctic languages, cultures, and identities, are examples of this.
- USARC is committed to including Arctic residents in the process to develop Arctic scientific research recommendations and Arctic research policy, and we recognize the value of traditional knowledge with respect to the scientific method.



# What does this mean to Arctic researchers?

## *USARC:*

- obtains the broadest possible view of Arctic research needs
- promotes Arctic research
- recommends policy

Our recommendations to the President and Congress that reflect the advice of the scientific community, and the needs of the country.

We recommend research priorities and work with other entities to turn these into an integrated and coordinated national Arctic research plan of funded programs.



# Recent USARC activities...

- Ongoing promotion of 5 Research Priorities (climate/environmental change, civil infrastructure, indigenous languages, cultures and identities, Arctic health, resource assessment)
- Helped initiate & participated in drafting of newly released Arctic Policy
- Provided various support for the production of new US icebreakers
- Co-sponsor of many Arctic research meetings
- “Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment”
- Promoting ARRV, IOOS, BARC, etc., and work with Alaskan delegation & Governor’s Office, as well as many other interagency initiatives



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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