

# USCG District 17

## Bering Strait Port Access Route Study

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# Waterways Management Branch

## What we do:

- Oversee 6 Buoy Tenders located throughout Alaska
- Record Custodian for ~1,400 ATON
- Tracking of discrepant ATON
- Private ATON permitting
- Publish Local Notice to Mariners
- Bridge Administration
- Waterway Studies and Management

# PARS Actions to Date

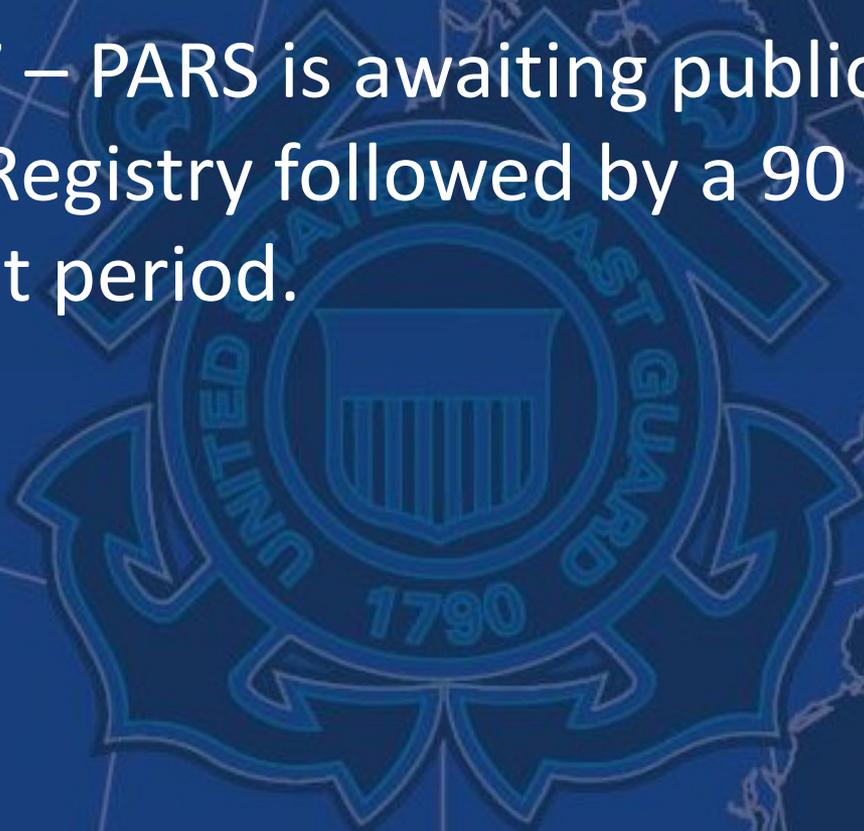
- Nov 2010 – USCG began PARS of Bering Strait and solicited public comment on the need for a vessel routing system in the region.
- Sep 2011 – PARS public comment period closed with 25 public submissions that overwhelmingly supported some form of vessel routing system but caution that specific impacts could not be determined until a vessel route was proposed.

# PARS Actions to Date (cont.)

- 2012 – 2014 – After reviewing public comments the USCG determined the scope of the PARS needed to be expanded and a proposed vessel route developed.
- Dec 2014 – USCG re-announced the PARS with an expanded geographic scope and a proposed vessel routing system.
- Aug 2015 – Public comment period closes with 28 submissions.

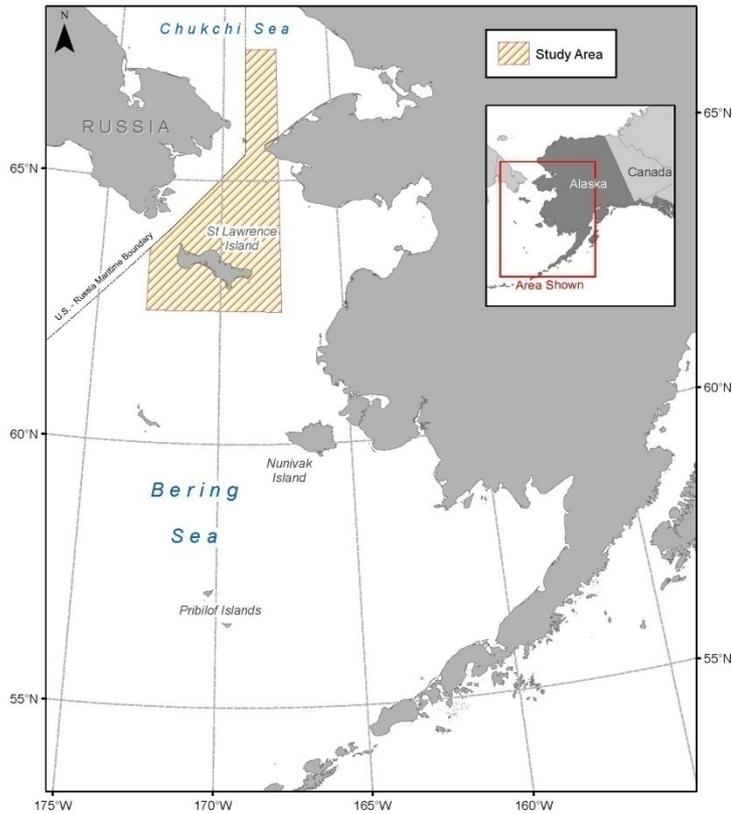
# PARS Actions to Date (cont.)

- Dec 2016 – Submitted PARS to Coast Guard Headquarters and DHS for review.
- Jan 2017 – PARS is awaiting publication in the Federal Registry followed by a 90 day public comment period.



# PARS Expanded Study Area

Port Access Route Study (PARS)

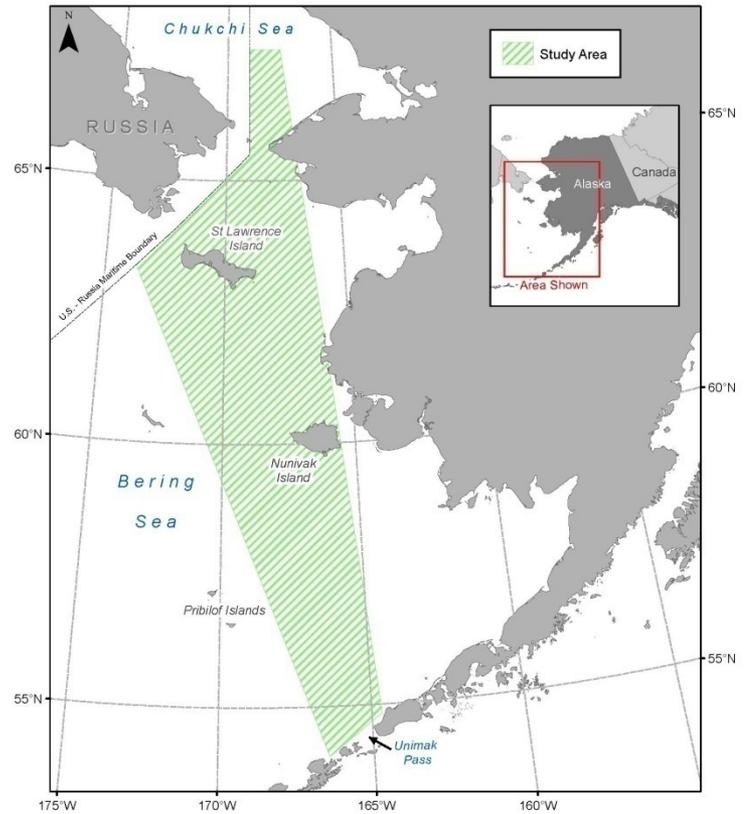


0 100 200  
Nautical Miles

Prepared By: MAD 1983 Alaska Albers  
Projection: Albers  
Datum: North American 1983

Prepared By: U7jg Michael Mironchik, USCG, March 2016  
Data Sources:  
Alaska Dept of Natural Resources, NOAA,  
USFWS, USF S, Tongass EYCS Timber Council

Port Access Route Study (PARS)



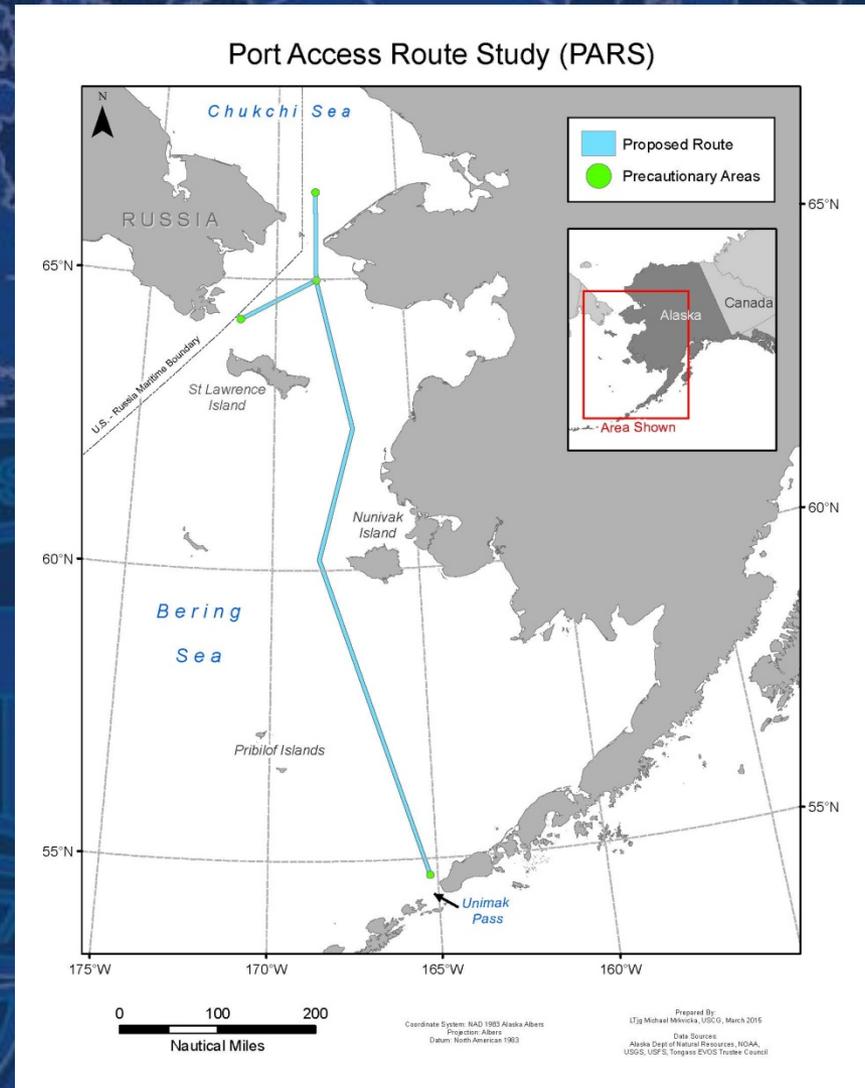
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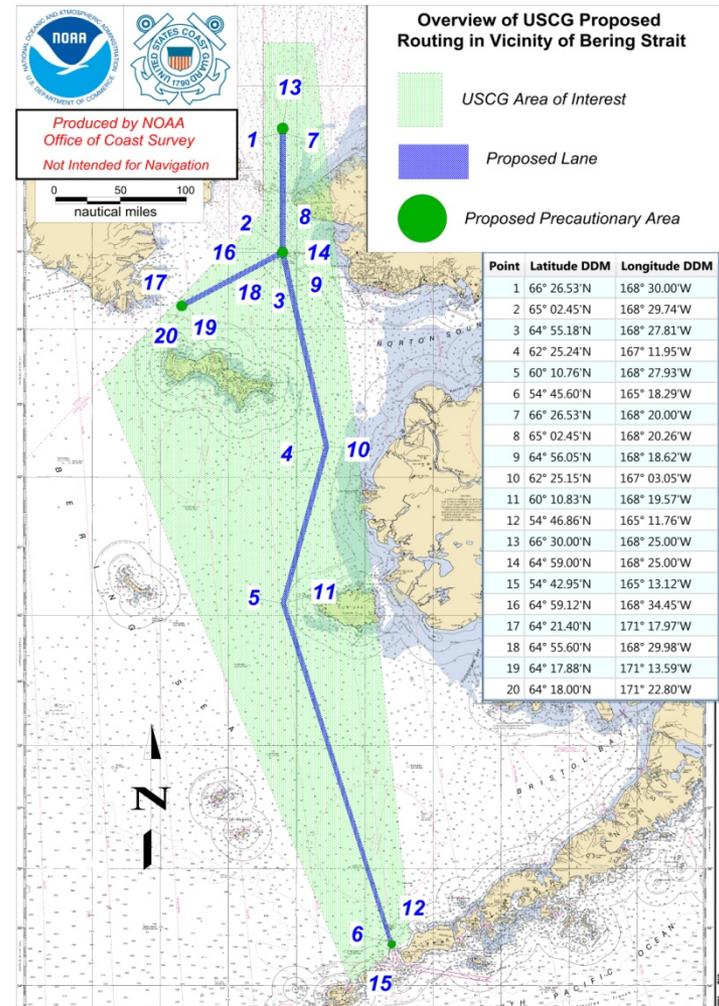
# PARS Proposed Route

- Unimak Pass to Chukchi Sea, w/extension towards St Lawrence Is.
- 4 nm wide two-way vessel route
- 8 nm circular precautionary areas

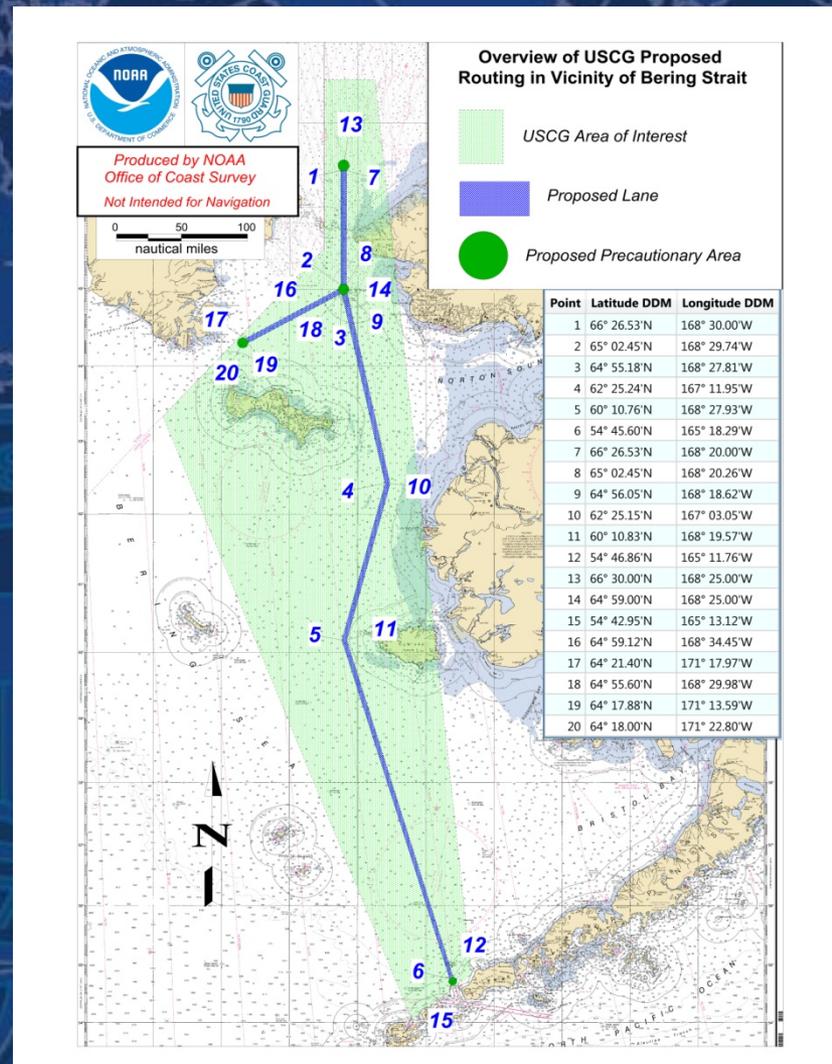
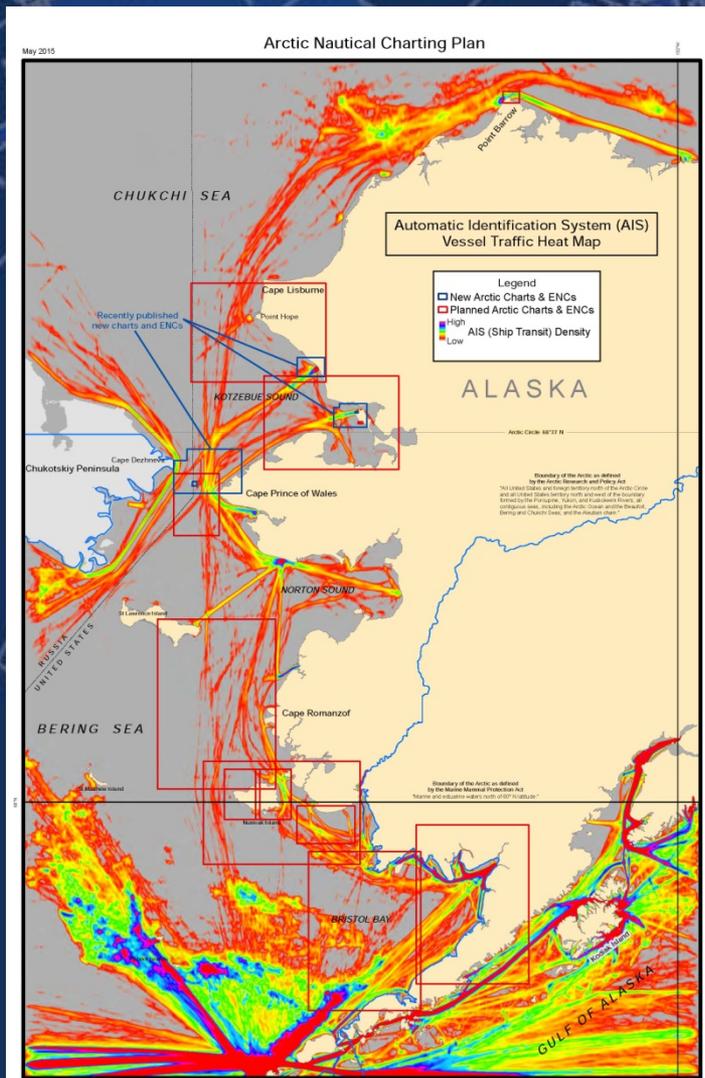


# PARS Proposed Route

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# PARS Proposed Route



# Most Commented On

- Areas to be avoided (ATBA's)
- Speed Restrictions
- Hunter Safety
- Proximity to King Island



# PARS Report – Preliminary Findings

- Required by White House Executive Order
- 128 page report
- Study looked at vessel AIS tracks from 2014-15
- Ship traffic was broken into categories
- Study also looked at casualty history
- Lots of new information on what is really going on out on the water
- Large file size - if you can't download call us

# Recommendations

- Recommend dropping the Russian track leg
- Recommend 4 ATBAs:
  - St. Lawrence Island
  - Nunivak Island
  - Western Side of Bering Strait
  - King Island

# The Future of PARS

- DHS will:
  - Publish the findings in the Federal Register
  - Open for Public Comments for 90 days
- What Then...
  - Possibly maintain status quo
  - Draft a proposal for IMO consideration
  - Modify PARS and solicit additional comments

# PARS Information

[www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov)

then search

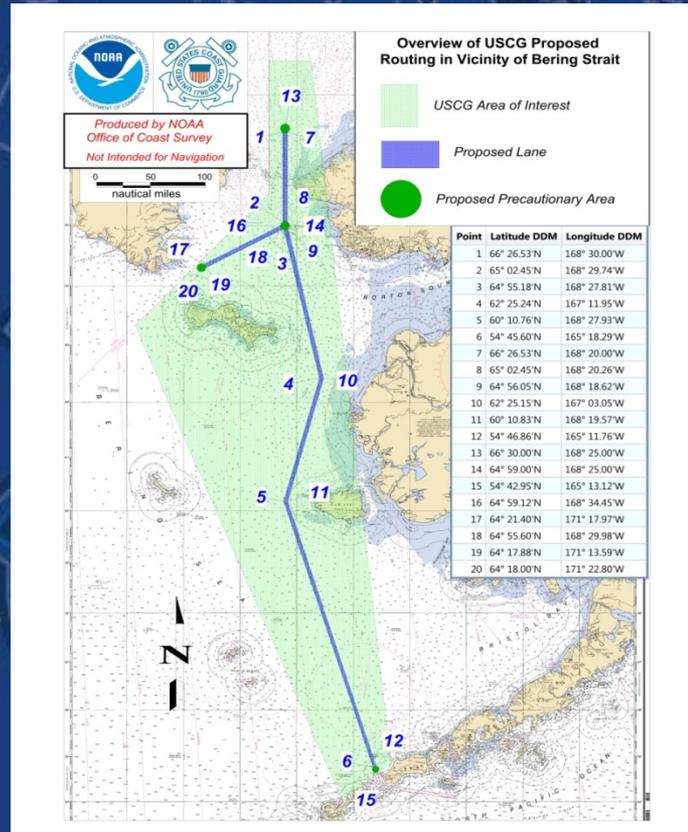
“USCG-2014-0941”

# Questions ?

[www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov)

then search

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# Contact Information

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