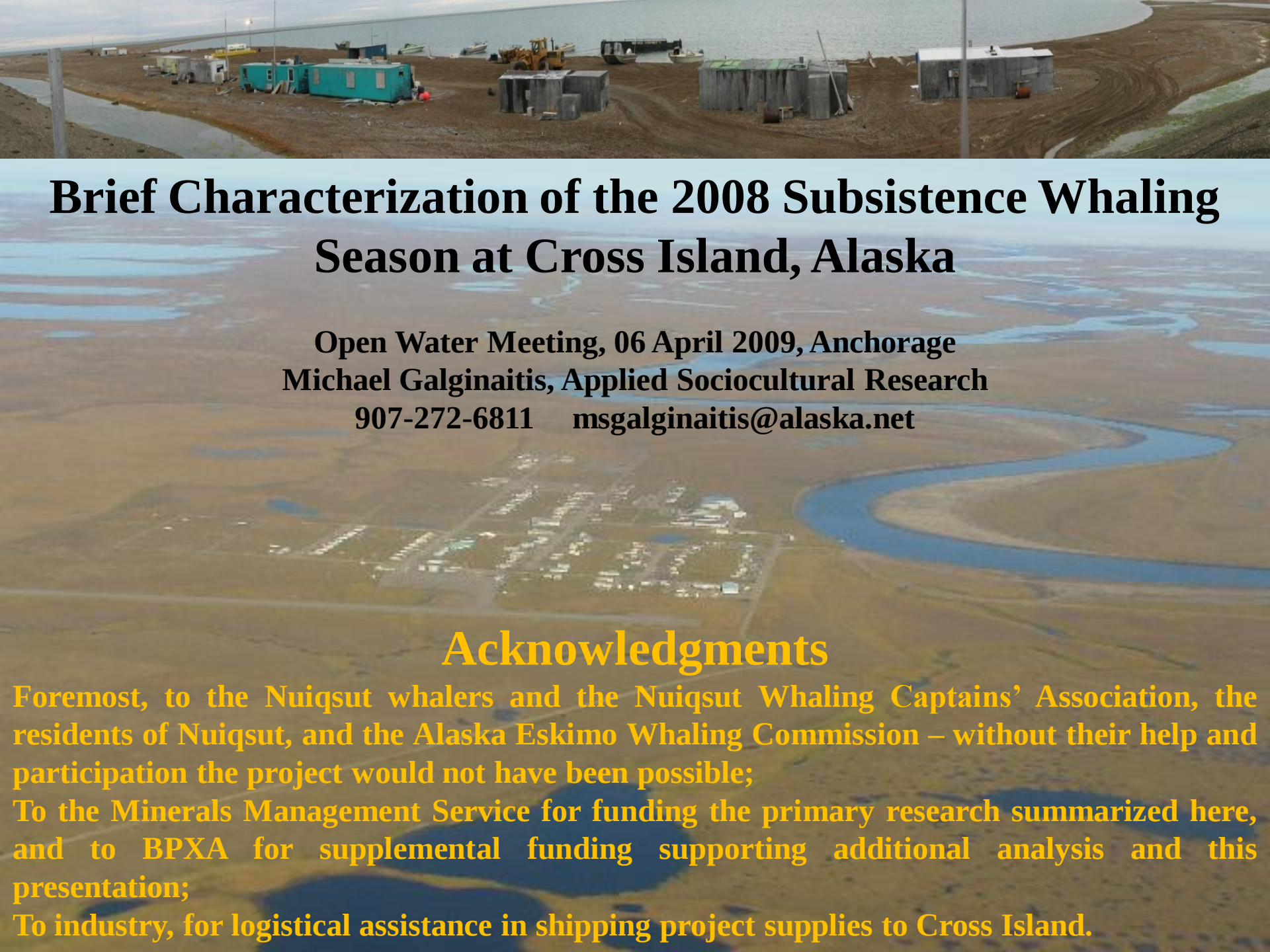




Brief Characterization of the 2008 Subsistence Whaling Season at Cross Island, Alaska

**Open Water Meeting, 06 April 2009, Anchorage
Michael Galginaitis, Applied Sociocultural Research
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Acknowledgments

Foremost, to the Nuiqsut whalers and the Nuiqsut Whaling Captains' Association, the residents of Nuiqsut, and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission – without their help and participation the project would not have been possible;

To the Minerals Management Service for funding the primary research summarized here, and to BPXA for supplemental funding supporting additional analysis and this presentation;

To industry, for logistical assistance in shipping project supplies to Cross Island.

Location Map, Landmarks, and Routes Between Nuiqsut and Cross Island

Figure 1

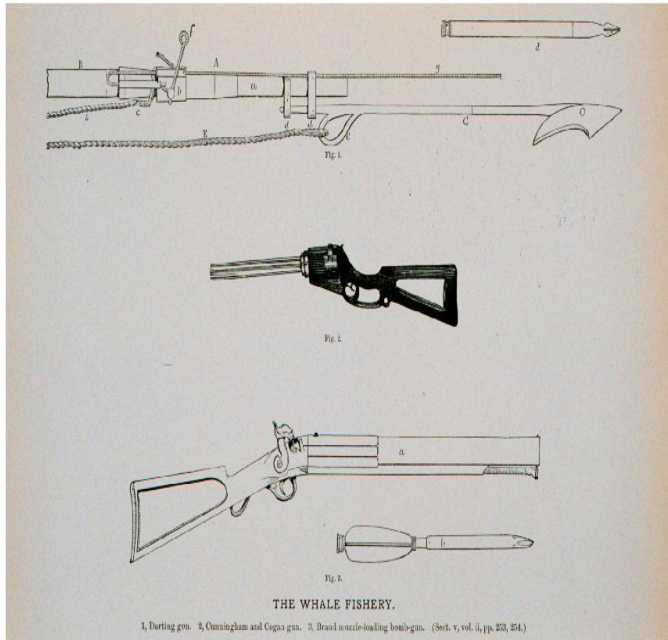
0 5 10 20 Miles

August 2004

0 10 20 40 Km

BEAUFORT SEA





Representative Boat Crew Prepared to Go Scouting for Whales



Napageak Boat
at Nuiqsut



Taalak Boats at Cross Island



Ipalook Boats at Nuiqsut

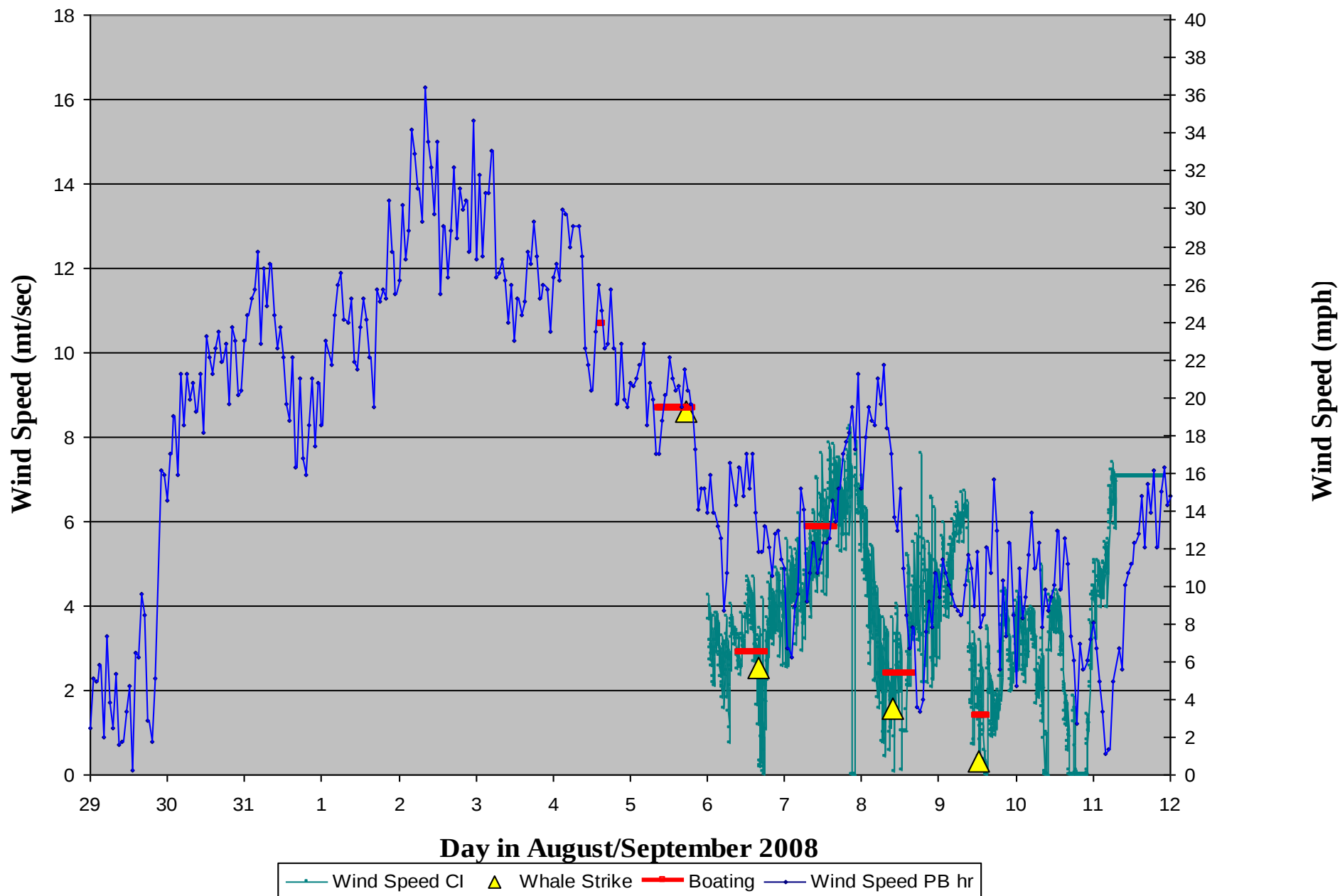
Nukapigak Boats at Cross Island

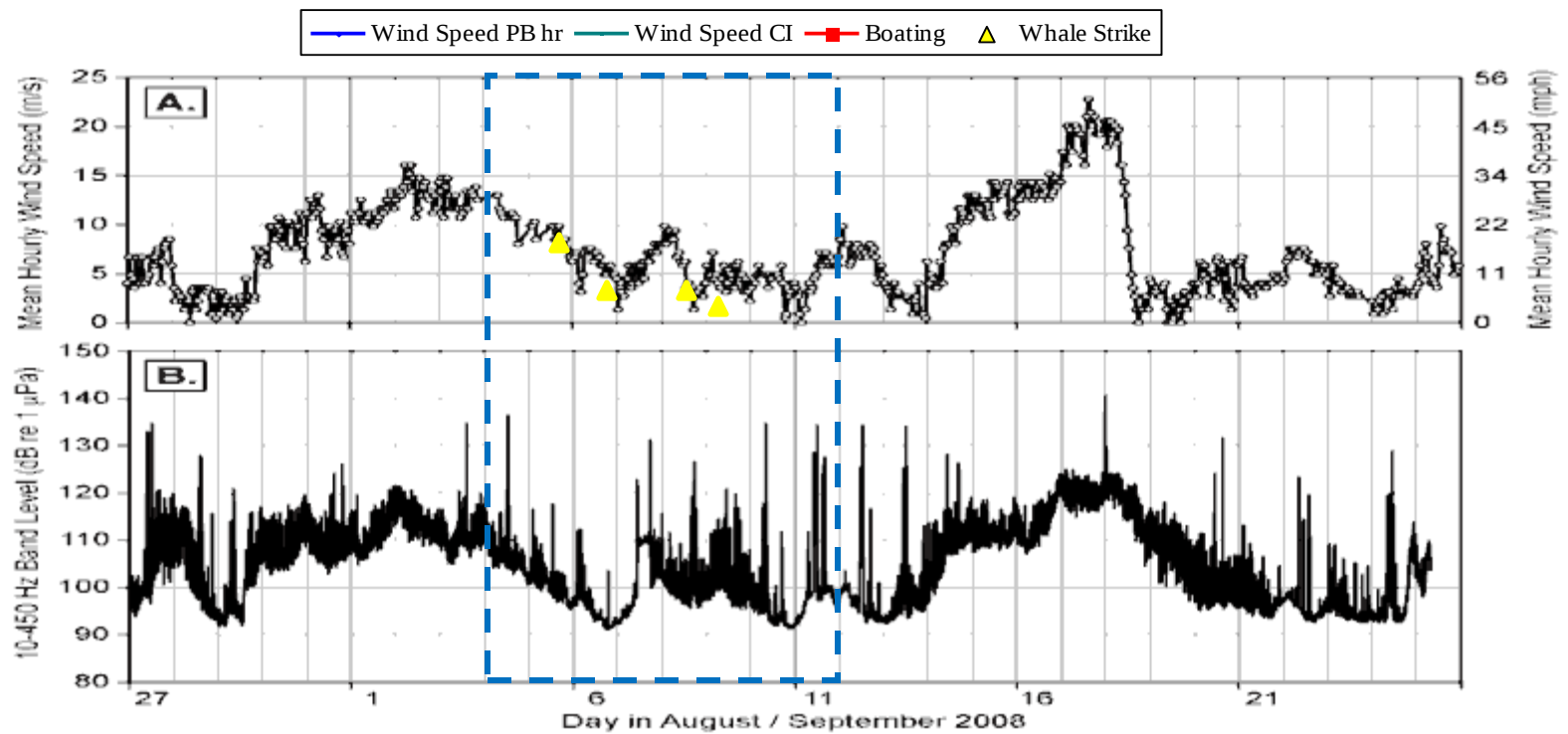
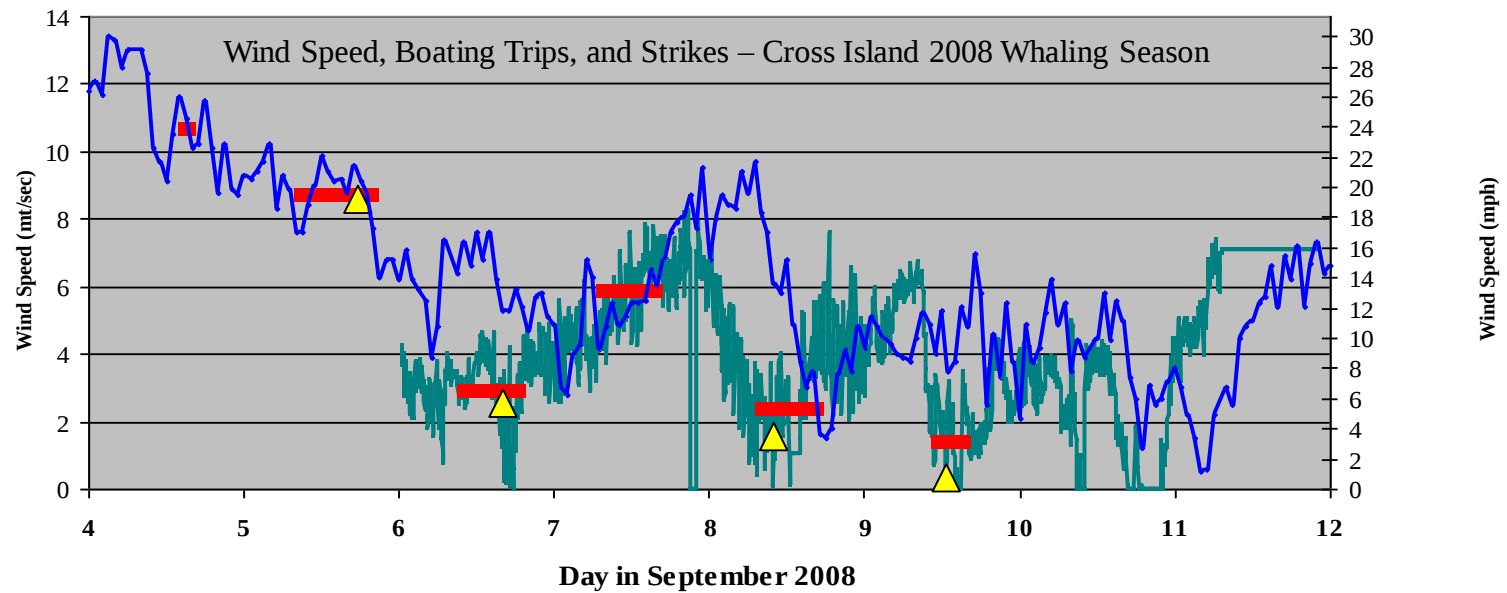


Oyagak Boats at Cross Island

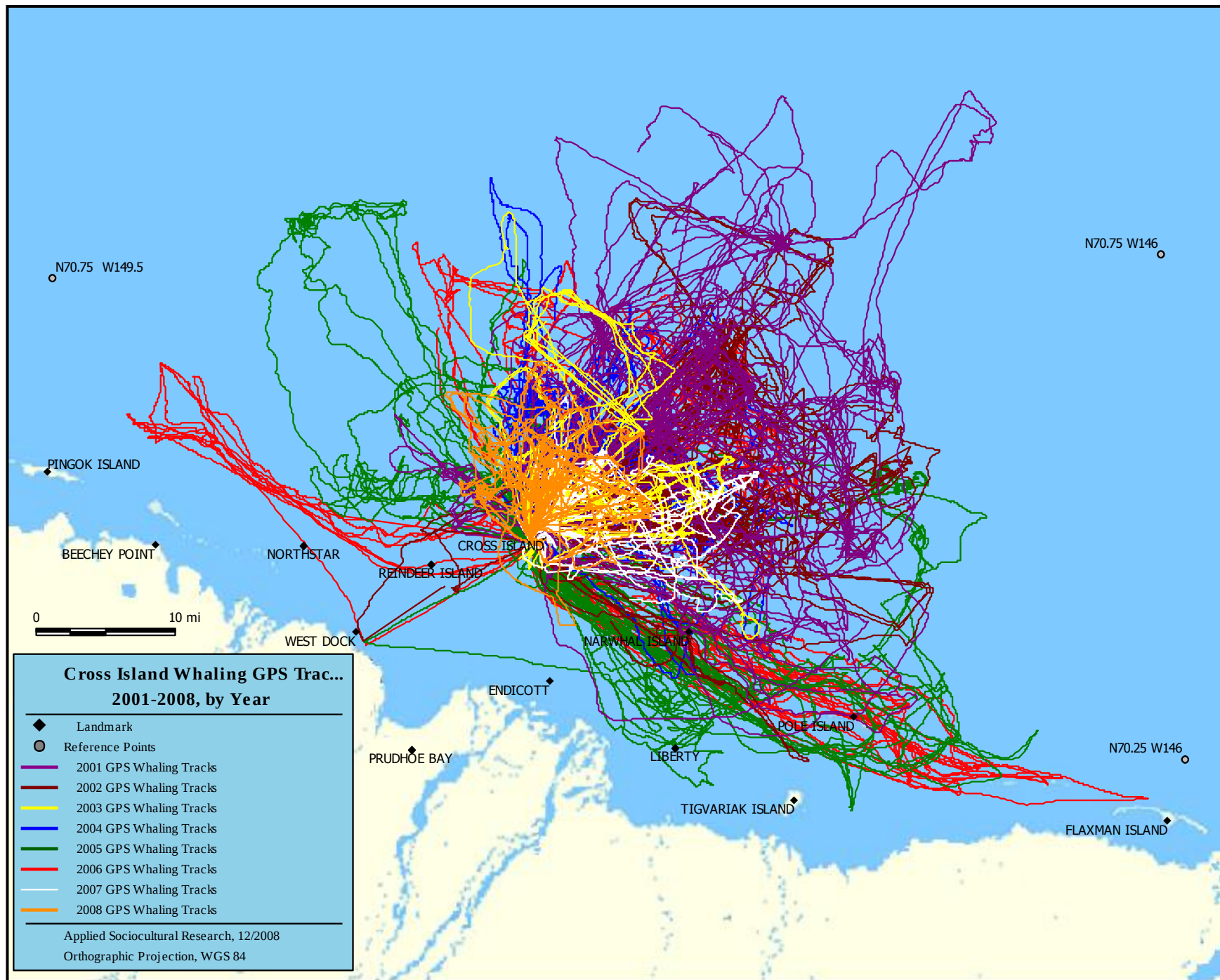


Summary of 2008 Cross Island Subsistence Whaling Season





Wind Speed at Prudhoe Bay, Noise Levels at Northstar, and Whale Strikes at Cross Island - 2008

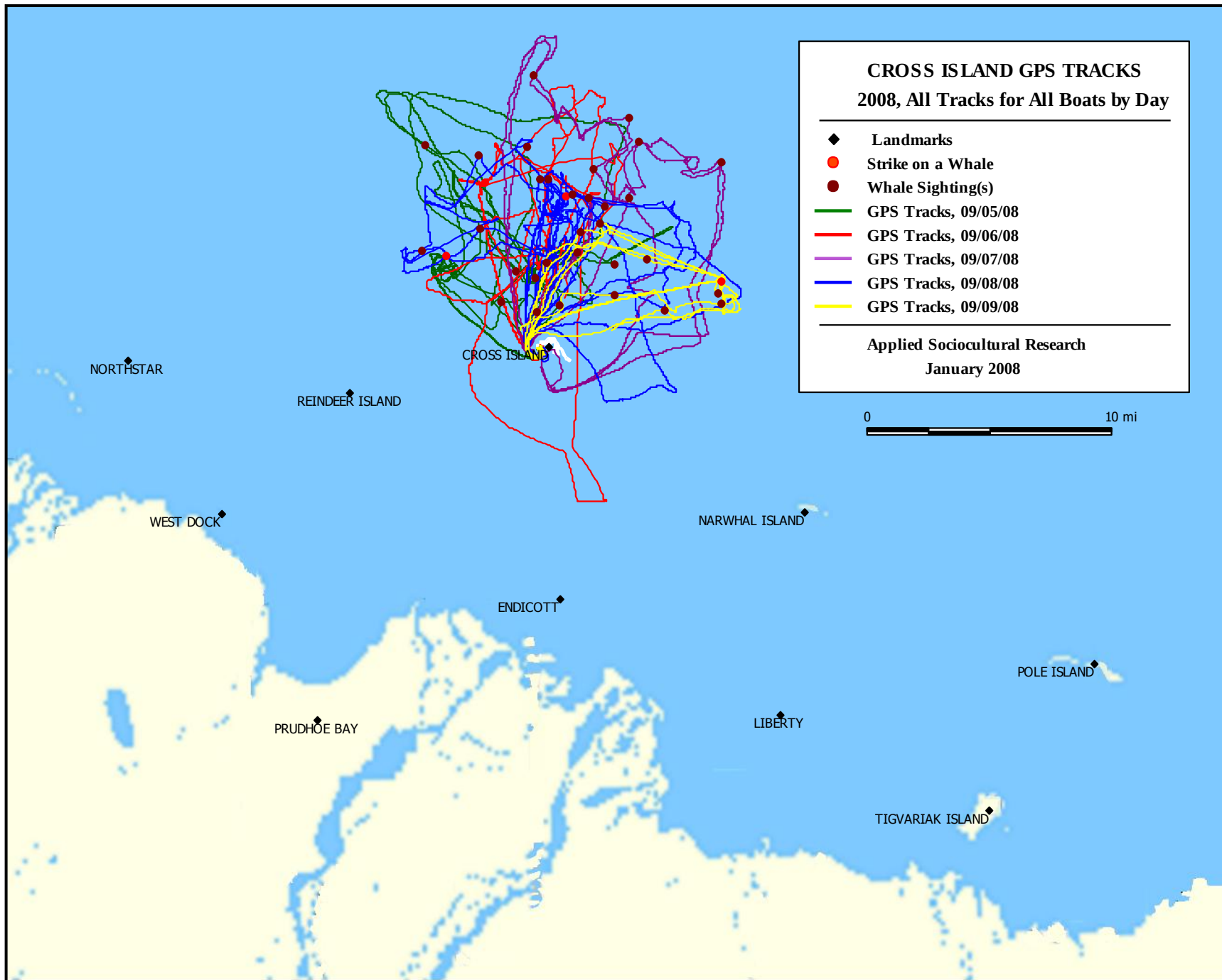


CROSS ISLAND GPS TRACKS
2008, All Tracks for All Boats by Day

- ◆ Landmarks
- Strike on a Whale
- Whale Sighting(s)
- GPS Tracks, 09/05/08
- GPS Tracks, 09/06/08
- GPS Tracks, 09/07/08
- GPS Tracks, 09/08/08
- GPS Tracks, 09/09/08

Applied Sociocultural Research
January 2008

0 10 mi



Selected Measures of Cross Island Whaling, 2001-2008

Metric		Season							
Measure	Type	2001	2002	2003	2004 ⁹	2005 ⁹	2006	2007	2008 ¹⁰
Whales Taken/Whales Struck and Lost	count	3/0	4/1	4/0	3/0	1/0	4/0	3/1	4/0
Active Crews on Cross Island (maximum)	count	4	3	4	4	5	4	5	6
Scouting Boats on Cross Island (maximum)	count	7	9	10	8	8	7	9	12
Cross Island Population	average	27.7	26.6	20.4	18.9	29.8	29.2	26	22 (36)
Length of Season ¹	count	24	23	19	30	27	21	13	14 (7)
Average Length of Season/Crew (days on Cross Island)	average	22.5	19.34	13.25	19.25	21	21	10.4	7.3
Weather Days	count	8-9	4	8	10	11-15	4	3	6 (0)
# days scouting ²	count	12	15	7	12	9	10	5	5 (5)
# days whales seen ³	count	9	9	7	6	7	8	4	5
Boats scouting/day	average	4.8	4.3	4.9	3.4	4.0	4.8	3.2	4.8 (5.4)
# boat days ⁴	count	57	65	34	41	35	48	16	29 (27)
# boat trips (possible # of GPS tracks) ⁵	count	59	67	42	46	48	53	22	33 (31)
Actual # of GPS tracks collected	count	49	52	37	44	48	51	20	30
Length of trip (miles)	average	84.0	64.3	37.2	45.3	60.7	60.8	30.1	32.1
Duration of trip (hours:minutes)	average	9:43	7:58	4:31	6:51	7:07	8:13	5:39	5:03
Furthest point from Cross Island (miles)	average	23.6	19.5	11.6	12.1	19.1	22.2	10.4	8.3
Strike distance from Cross Island (miles) ⁶	average	19.5	13.4	9.3	9.7	25.9	17.0	12	6.5
Strike Direction from Cross Island –degrees ^{6,7}	average	64°	67°	56°	36°	82°	59°	80°	05°
Boat Crew Size	average	3.9	3.6	2.9	3.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	3.8
Total Seasonal Boat Effort (Boat-Hours) ⁸	sum	572.9	533.6	162.9	301.2	341.3	427.1	124.3	158.0
Boat Hours/Strike	average	191.0	106.7	40.7	100.4	341.3	106.8	31.1	39.5

¹Number of days with at least one crew on Cross Island - includes day of arrival at and departure from Cross Island.

²Number of days when at least one boat went out scouting for whales

³Number of days when at least one crew saw whales while scouting from a boat. Blows were seen from Cross Island on a few non-scouting days, but are not included in these totals.

⁴Each boat scouting for whales on any given day counts as one "boat day" – regardless of the duration of the trip or if whales are seen or not. Thus if 2 boats scout on one day and 4 boats scout on the next, the total for the two days would be 6 boat days.

⁵Some boats made more than one scouting trip on a single day

⁶Includes "struck and lost" whales in 2002 and 2007

⁷Due north is 0 (and 360) degrees, due east is 90 degrees – includes struck and lost as well as landed strikes

⁸Yearly total equals aggregate sum of duration of all whaling trips by all boats. Includes estimates for missing information.

⁹One crew went to Cross Island well before other crews, so total season measures may be somewhat misleading. See 2004 and 2005 Annual Reports.

¹⁰Figures in parentheses () are values for the 7 days when more than 1 crew was on Cross Island.

Ipalook Whale, 2008



Peeling Muktuk



Taking Intestines



Muktuk Crew Shares



Meat



Polar Bears at Butcher Site



Boxed up Whale



Nulukataq in Nuiqsut

June 2008, celebrating one of
2007's whales

QUESTIONS?

