



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Protected Species Science Program Review



Theme 1: Information Needs

**NMML overview  
& priority setting**

John Bengtson

Director, National Marine Mammal Laboratory

16-20 March 2015

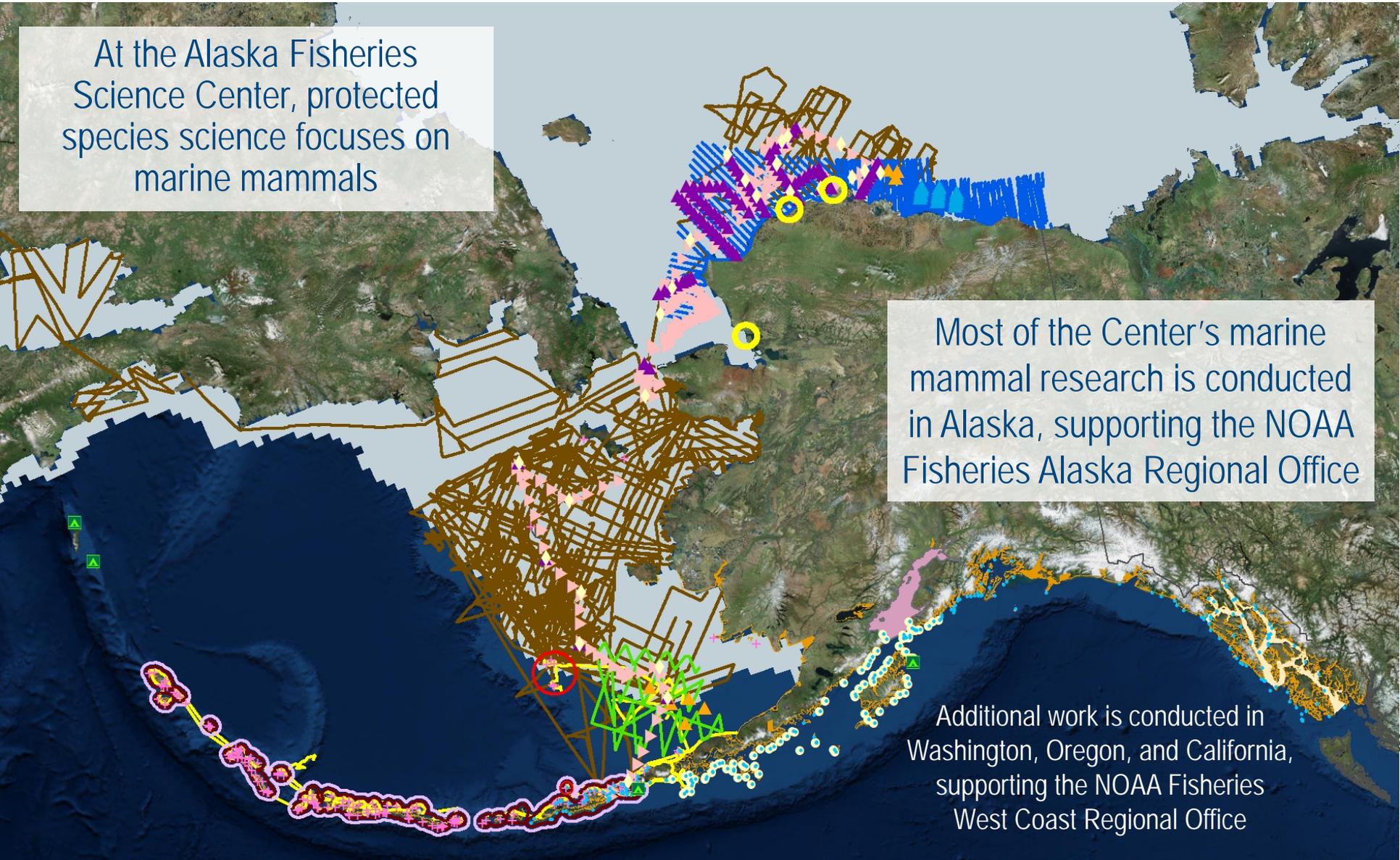
# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

## Protected Species Science Program Review

At the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, protected species science focuses on marine mammals

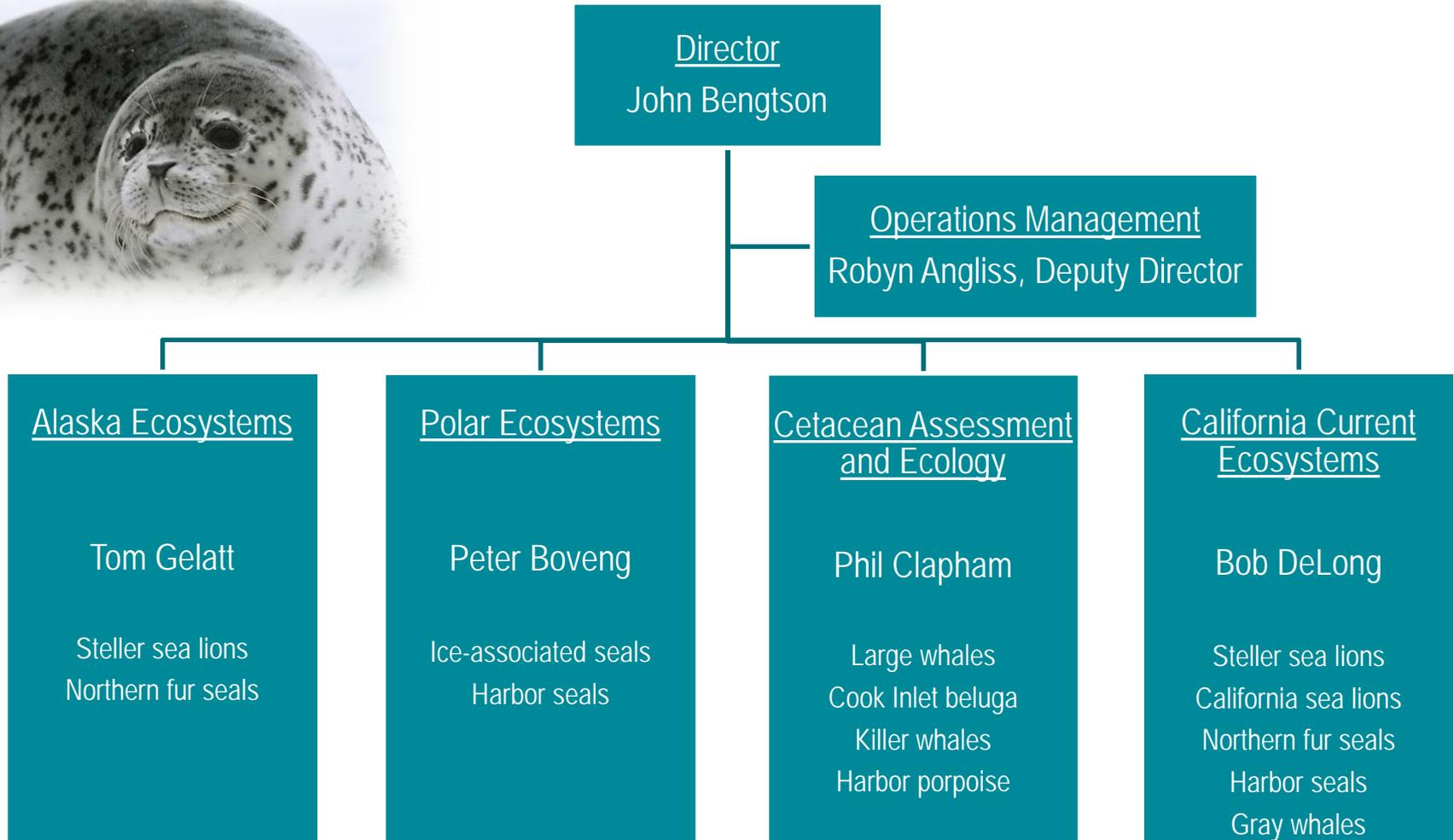
Most of the Center's marine mammal research is conducted in Alaska, supporting the NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office

Additional work is conducted in Washington, Oregon, and California, supporting the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Regional Office



# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

## National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML)



# Alaska Fisheries Science Center

## National Marine Mammal Laboratory labor in FY14

| Program                       | Permanent staff | Non-permanent staff | Contractor labor | Seasonal field assistants |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Alaska Ecosystems             | 15              | 1                   | 4                | ~13                       |
| Polar Ecosystems              | 12              | --                  | 3                | ~1                        |
| Cetacean Assessment & Ecology | 14              | 4                   | 8                | ~15                       |
| California Current Ecosystems | 8               | --                  | --               | --                        |
| Directorate & Administration  | 9               | 1                   | 2                | --                        |
| Totals                        | 58              | 6                   | 17               | ~29                       |



# Alaska Ecosystems Program

## Tom Gelatt – Program Leader

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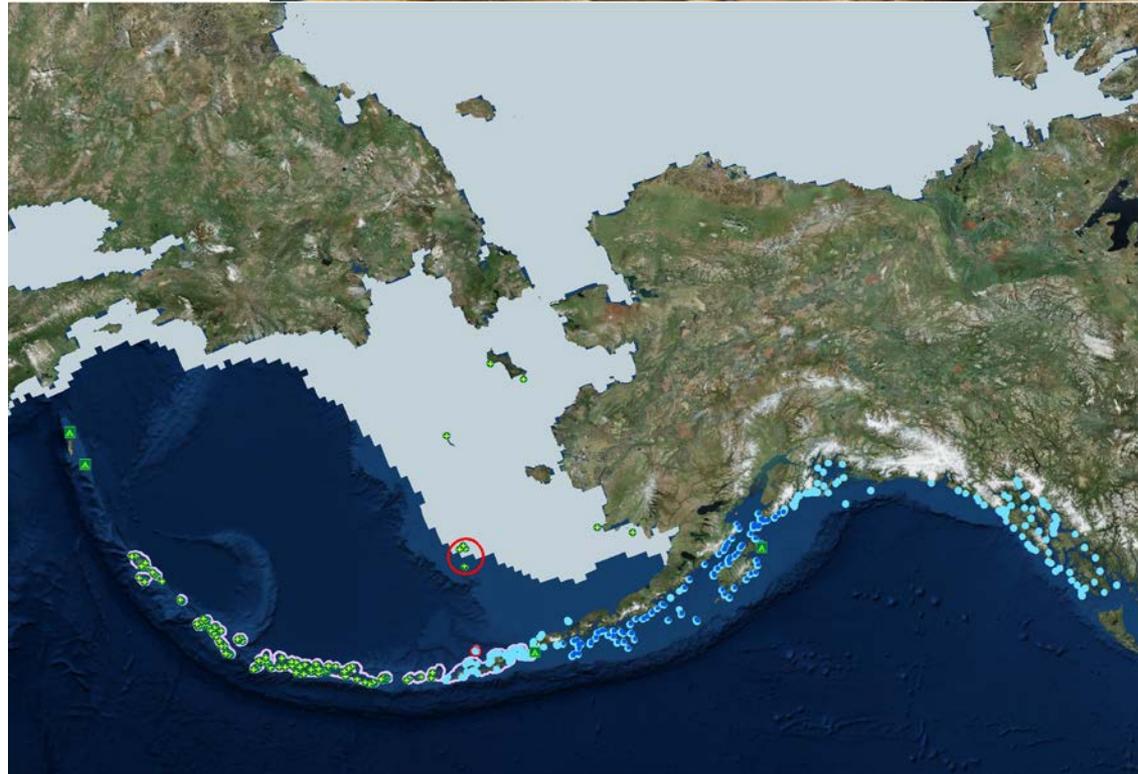
- Personnel:
  - 14 permanent staff
  - 1 non-permanent staff
  - 4 contractor labor
  - ~13 seasonal field assistants
- Steller sea lion and northern fur seal research
- Bering Sea, Pribilof Islands, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, Southeast Alaska, Russia



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# Polar Ecosystems Program

## Peter Boveng – Program Leader

- Personnel:
  - 11 permanent staff
  - 3 contractor labor
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- Ice-associated seal and harbor seal research research
- Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort seas, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, Southeast Alaska, Russia



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# Cetacean Ecology and Assessment Program

## Phil Clapham – Program Leader

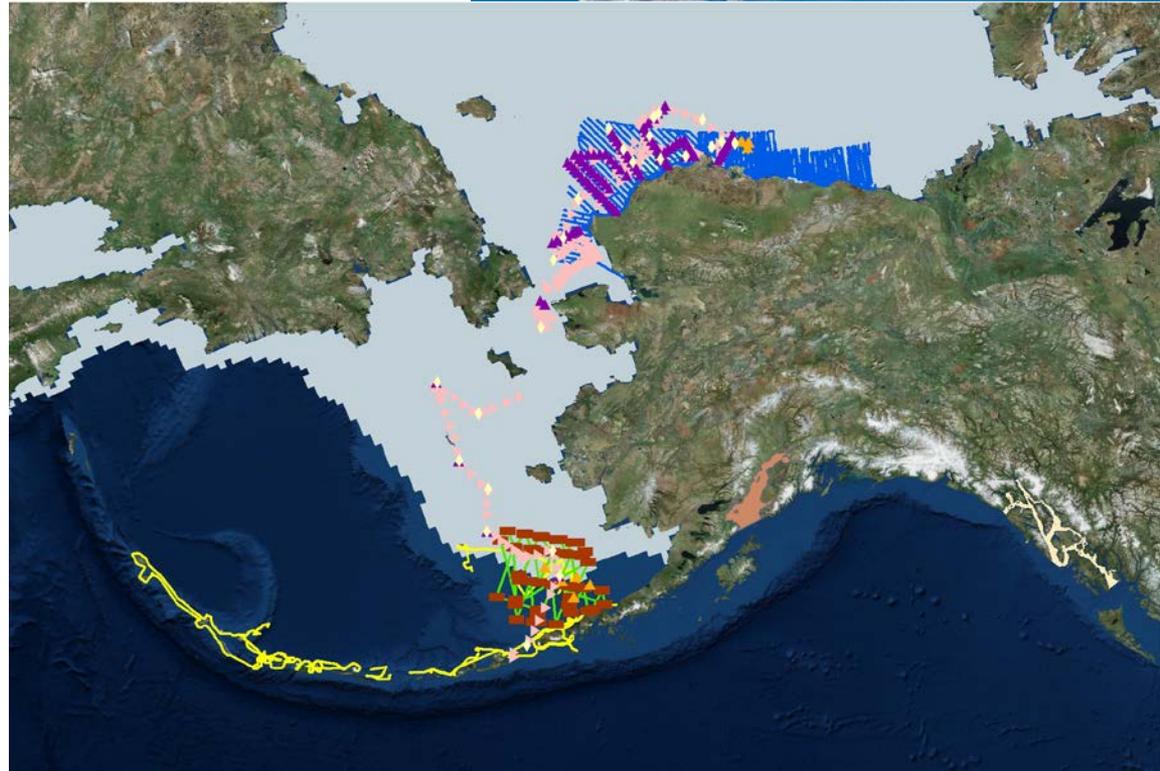
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# Setting research priorities

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## Alaska Regional Office

- Annual marine mammal coordination meetings are held between the Alaska Fisheries Science Center and the Alaska Regional Office
- Identify top priority information needs of the Alaska Regional Office
- Clarify scientific information products and services that will be needed over the next 12-18 months



## Alaska Fisheries Science Center

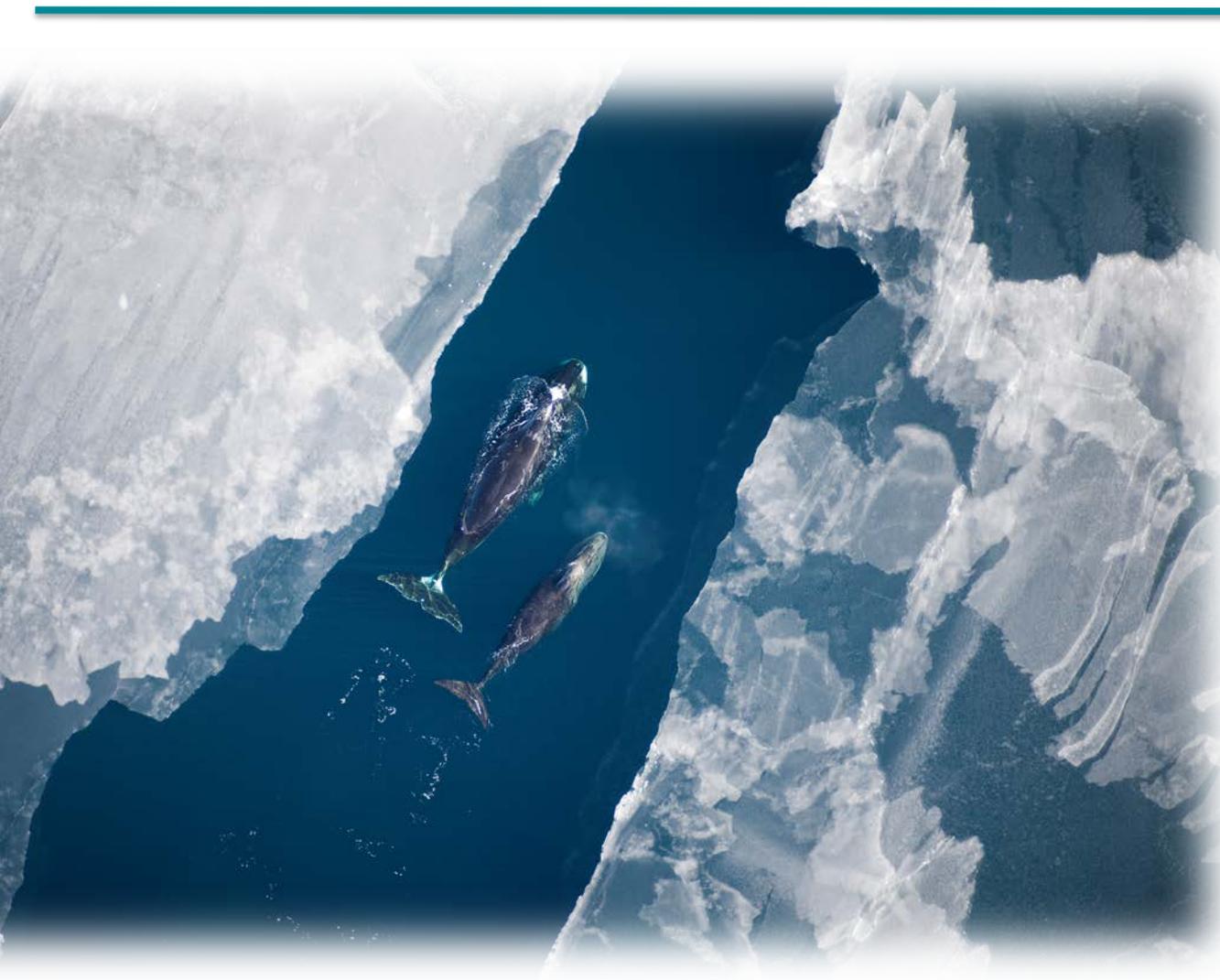
- Develop annual activity plans (proposals) aligned with the Center's Science Plan, Annual Guidance Memo, and Implementation Process
- Proposals are ranked according to agency needs and funding availability

## External partners

- Scientific information needs of selected federal agency partners (e.g., Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) are assessed through consultation
- Pending the availability of funds from partners, projects are undertaken that fulfill the information needs of both NOAA Fisheries and its external partners

# Marine mammal science funding

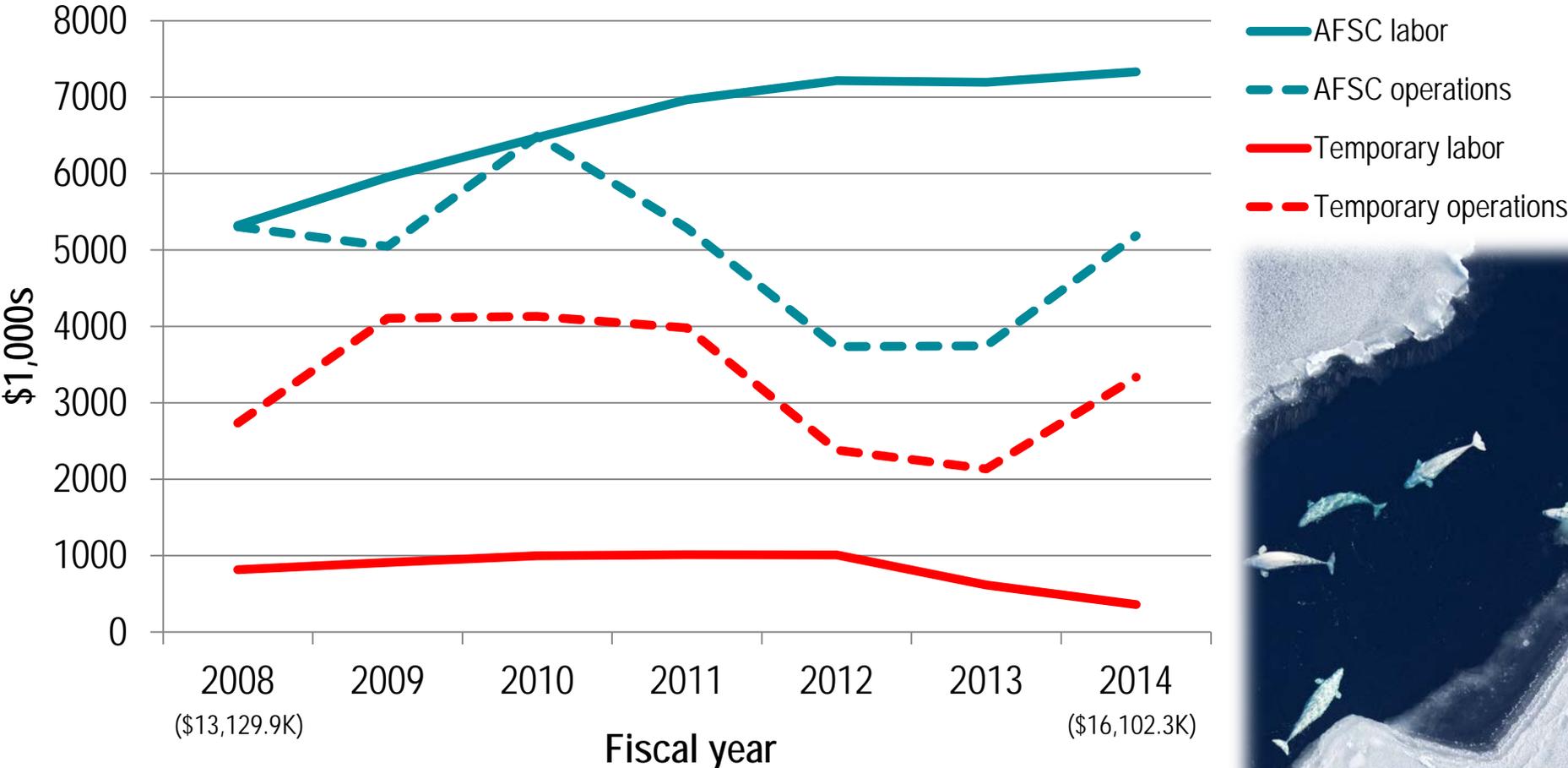
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- Marine mammal research is supported by a combination of both internal (NOAA Fisheries) and external funding
- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is a very strong partner in supporting AFSC marine mammal science in Alaska

# AFSC spending on marine mammal research

(labor, science & administrative operations)



# Alaska science operations in FY14 (non-labor; \$1,000s)

| Species                             | AFSC allocation | Temporary funds | Totals  |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Steller sea lions                   | 1,706.4         | 416.3           | 2,122.7 |
| Northern fur seals                  | 479.7           | 59.3            | 539.0   |
| Ice-associated seals & harbor seals | 980.5           | 259.6           | 1,240.1 |
| Multispecies cetaceans              | 95.1            | 3,036.1         | 3,131.2 |
| Cetacean surveys & assessment       | 0.0             | 183.0           | 183.0   |
| Cook Inlet beluga                   | 245.3           | 25.0            | 270.3   |
| Killer whales                       | 0.0             | 6.3             | 6.3     |
| North Pacific right whales          | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0       |
| Approximate totals                  | 3,507.0         | 3,985.6         | 7,492.6 |

# Questions?

