



THE
PEW
ENVIRONMENT GROUP



**U.S. ARCTIC PROGRAM
OCEANS NORTH**

www.PewEnvironment.org/Arctic

PROTECTING LIFE IN THE ARCTIC

America's Arctic, one of the most beautiful and extreme places on Earth, includes parts of Alaska and the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas. For thousands of years, inhabitants have depended on the region's natural bounty. Here, one of the world's last relatively untouched marine ecosystems provides habitat for species such as walrus, ice seals, polar bears, and bowhead whales.

Life in the Arctic has been shaped for centuries by the ability to adapt to this land of perpetual ice and snow. But recently, the Arctic has begun warming at twice the rate of the rest of the planet, fundamentally altering natural systems and the human communities that depend on them.¹ Retreating sea ice is not only restructuring Arctic ecosystems, but it is also yielding new industrial access for commercial fishing, offshore energy, and commercial shipping, all on a scale never before seen.

Pew's Arctic program promotes science- and community-based conservation that reduces potential risks to the U.S. Arctic Ocean from climate change and industrial development. The program works specifically to:

- Secure permanent protection for Bristol Bay from offshore oil and gas development.
- Implement integrated Arctic management practices to account for all users in the U.S. Arctic.



Bowhead whale

Photo: Kate Stafford

- Secure a five-year Arctic offshore oil and gas development plan that explicitly designates and protects important subsistence and ecological areas in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.
- Ensure that the Department of the Interior develops and implements Arctic-specific drilling safety and oil spill prevention and response standards.
- Advocate for a long-term integrated research and monitoring plan to guide decisions on whether, where, when, and how offshore oil and gas drilling can take place.
- Develop and implement science-based shipping safety and conservation measures in the Bering Strait and Aleutian Islands to ensure the protection of vulnerable habitat, migratory marine mammals, and subsistence resources.

ABOUT THE PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP

The Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of The Pew Charitable Trusts, a nongovernmental organization that works globally to establish pragmatic, science-based policies that protect our oceans, preserve our wildlands, and promote clean energy. www.PewEnvironment.org.



Boys on ice floe waiting for their fathers to return from fishing.

Photo: Joel Sartore/
National Geographic Stock

For more information on the U.S. Arctic Program, please visit www.PewEnvironment.org/Arctic or contact:

Marilyn Heiman, *Director*
206-905-4796, mheiman@pewtrusts.org

Eleanor Huffines, *Manager*
202-540-6369, ehuffines@pewtrusts.org

Henry Huntington, *Director, Science*
907-696-3564, hhuntington@pewtrusts.org

Raychelle Daniel, *Senior Associate*
907-258-0226, rdaniel@pewtrusts.org

Mary Engel, *Communications Officer*
206-453-2372, mengel@pewtrusts.org

Melissa Prior, *Associate*
206-453-2370, mprior@pewtrusts.org

Ellie Humphries, *Associate*
206-257-2535, ehumphries@pewtrusts.org

Larissa Nipper, *Administrative Assistant*
206-453-2375, lnipper@pewtrusts.org

¹ Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, Impacts of a Warming Arctic, pp. 144. ISBN 0521617782. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. December 2004.