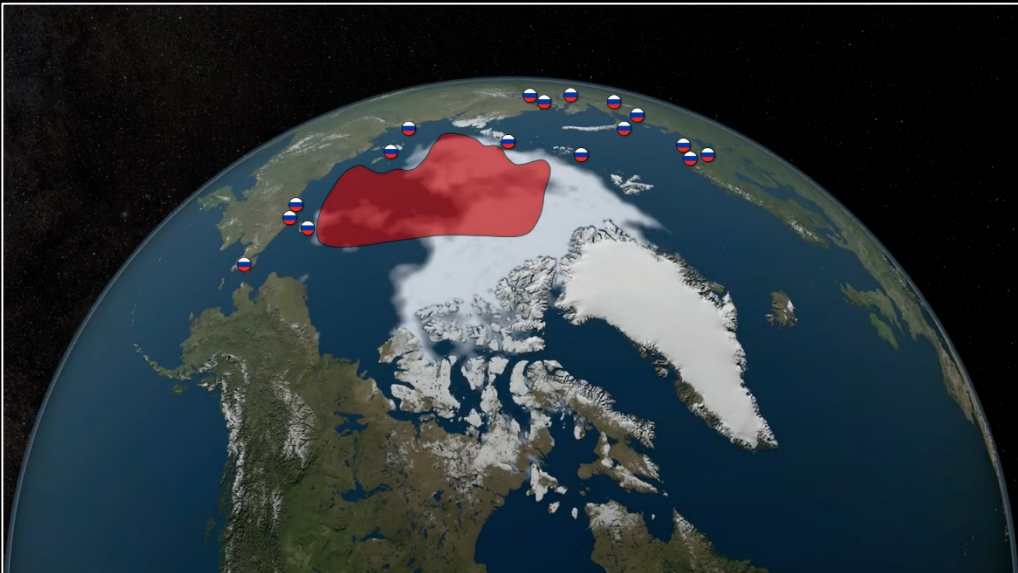
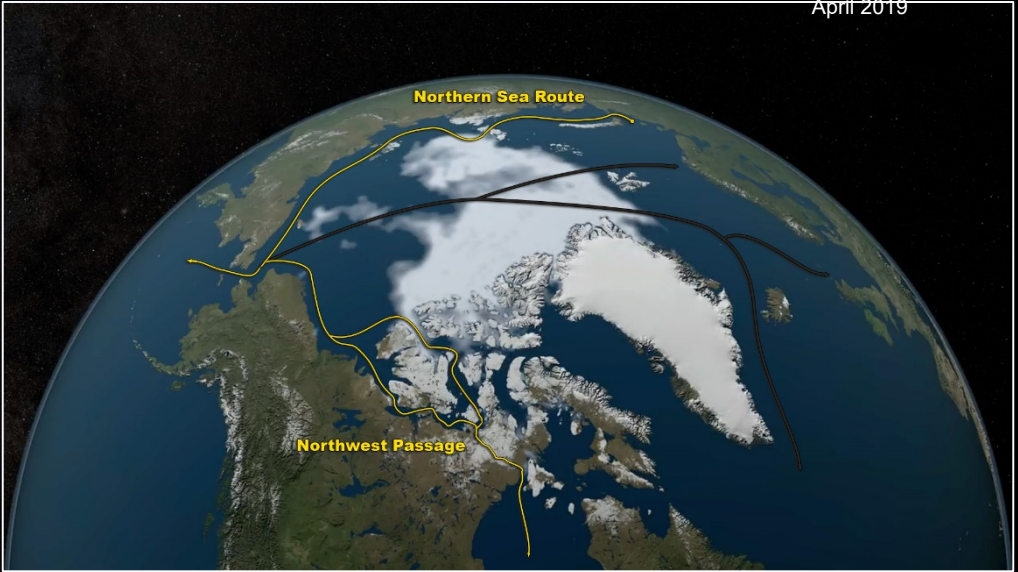
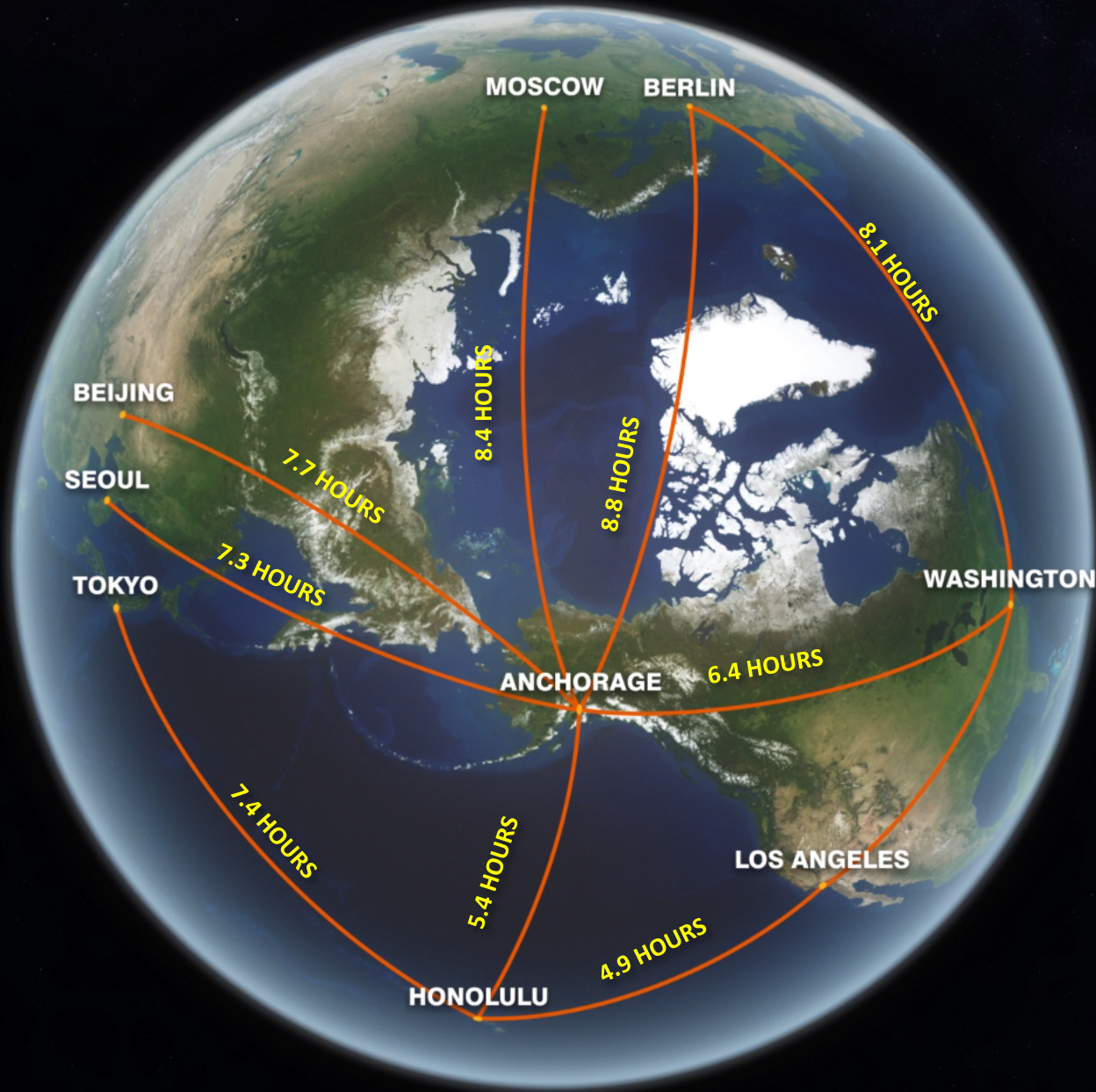




North Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting
03 April 2019

Lt Col Vaughn Brazil
Eleventh Air Force
Operations & Plans Division

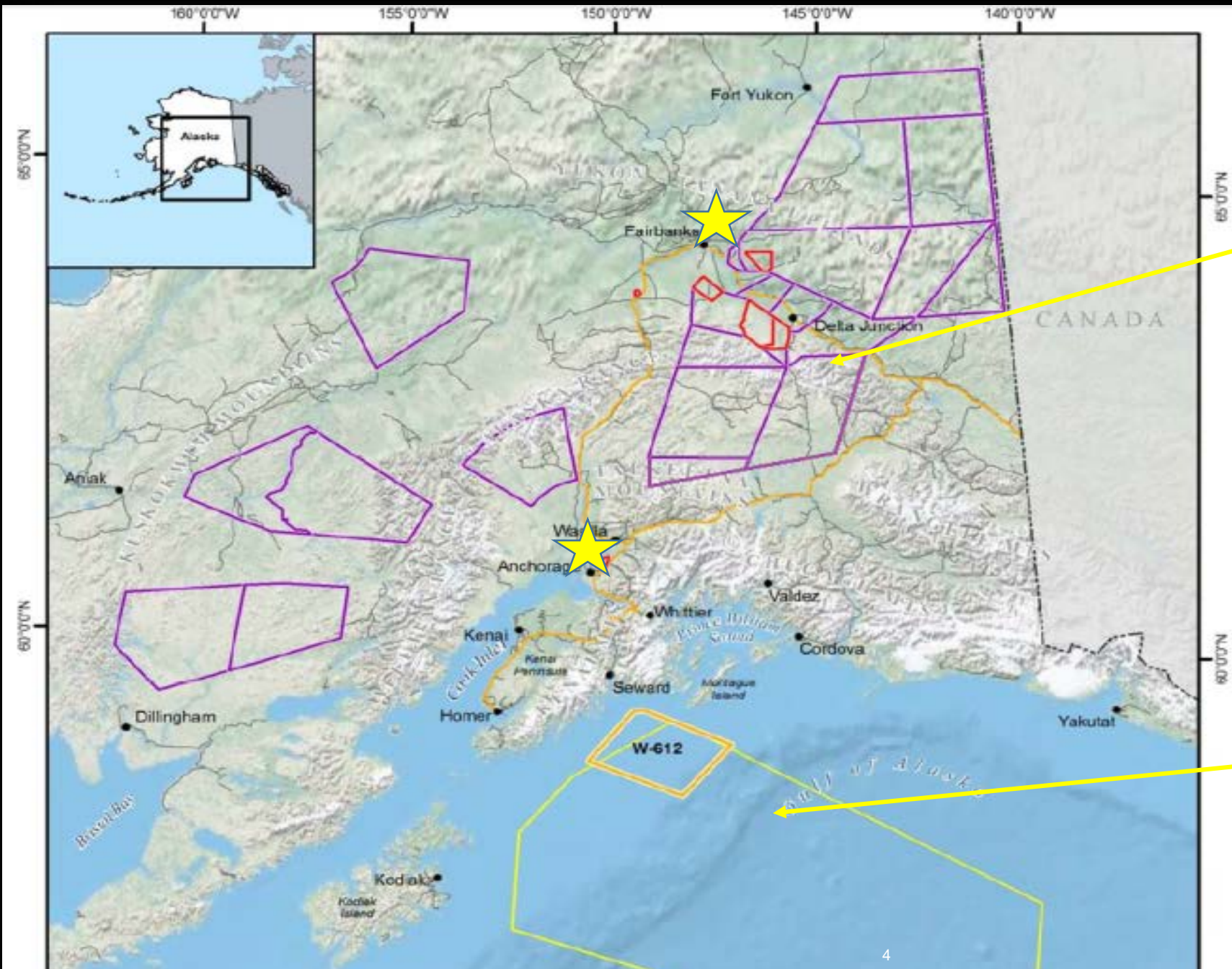
John Mosher
U.S. Pacific Fleet
NW Environmental Program Manager



Northern Edge 19 Overview

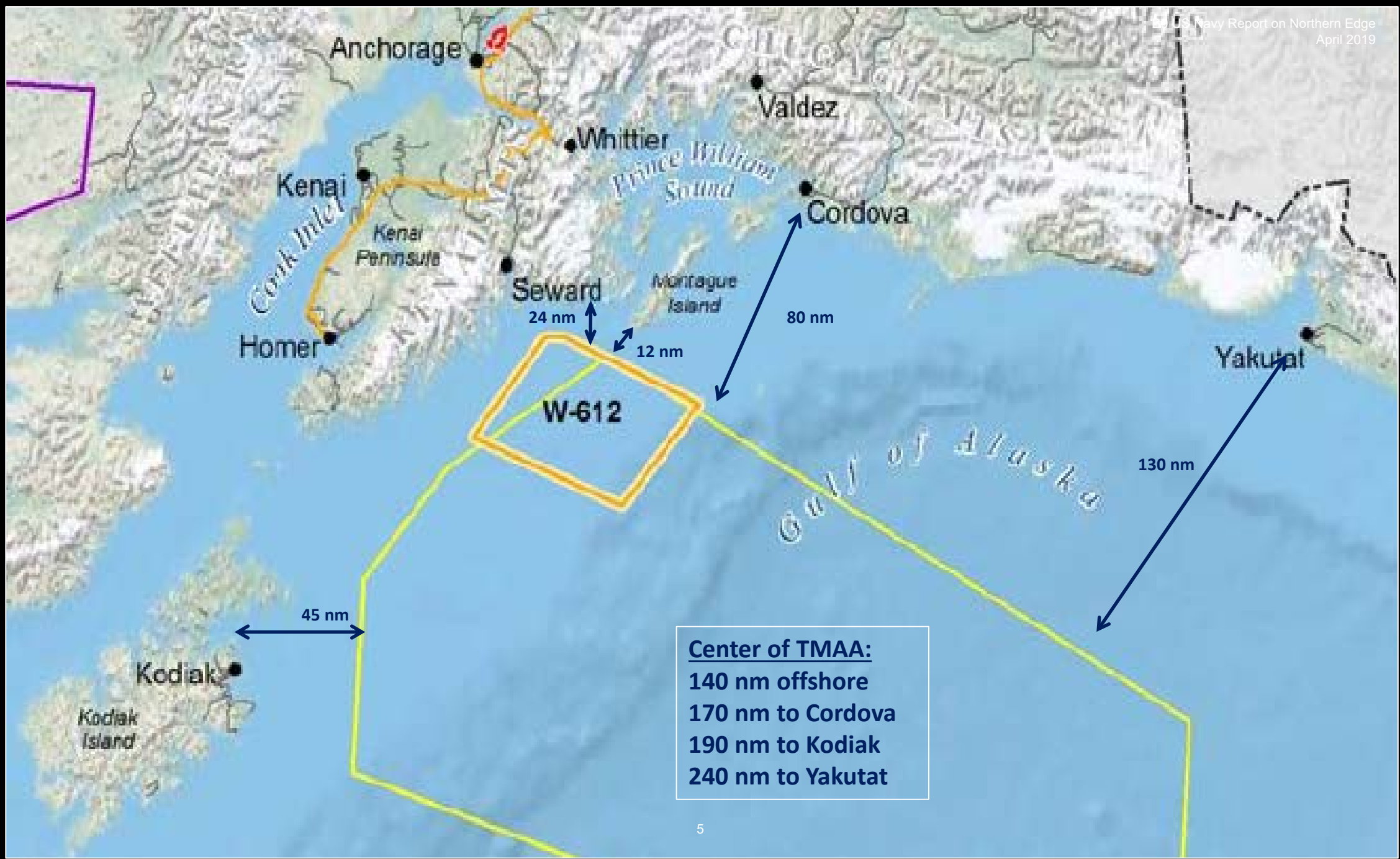
- May 13-24, 2019
 - Biennial exercise (odd years) dating back to 1975
 - Comprehensive, realistic training
 - Joint interoperability tactics, techniques and procedures
- Air focused exercise
- Safety a top priority
- Requires Alaskan-sized spaces to simulate vast distances that modern military forces face
- US Pacific Air Forces is the “Organization Conduction Event”
- Northern Edge 19 similar in size and scope to NE17*
 - * Carrier Strike Group requested
- Northern Edge 17 size and scope
 - Approximately 6,000 personnel
 - 175 fixed-wing aircraft at JBER and EAFB
 - 3 Navy ships – 2 Destroyers and 1 Replenishment Ship
 - Estimated economic impact of over \$28M





Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex

Gulf of Alaska Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA)



Center of TMAA:
140 nm offshore
170 nm to Cordova
190 nm to Kodiak
240 nm to Yakutat

TMAA & Maritime Activities During Northern Edge:

- All at-sea Navy events occur within the TMAA
- TMAA only used and established for duration of Navy participation in the exercise
- Large area = 42,146 nm² of sea space
- No restrictions on civilian navigation to include fishing vessels, commercial shipping or aircraft
- Most exercise at-sea activities occur far offshore toward center of TMAA
- Activities involve protective measures to minimize effects to marine environment



Protective Measures:

- Extensive mitigations developed in coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service
- Implement mitigation zones for sonar and weapons activities
- Minimize use of live explosives during weapons training
- Portlock Bank mitigation: No use of explosives during training activities in this area
- Post qualified marine mammal Lookouts
- Report monitoring results and training activities
- Coordinate with regulatory agencies for adaptive management
- Conduct offshore population surveys and other Marine Species Monitoring projects



Minimal Impacts to Marine Species



Fish:

- TMAA minimal overlap with fisheries management areas; no overlap with salmon management areas
- Mid-frequency active sonar not heard by shellfish and most fish species including key commercial species (*e.g. salmon, groundfish*); no fish mortality occurs from sonar
- Minimal use of explosives during training, occurring far off shore and away from fisheries management areas; Navy vessels avoid fishing activities

Marine Mammals:

- Minimal exposure of marine mammals with limited active sonar use; would not have significant long term or species level effects
- No strandings have been associated with Navy training in the Gulf of Alaska, and no Navy ship strikes of marine mammals have occurred

Marine Species Monitoring Program

- The Navy is a world leader in marine species research and is responsible for compliance with environmental laws that apply to marine protected species
- As part of the regulatory compliance process, the Navy is responsible for meeting monitoring and reporting requirements for readiness activities
- Since 2009, the Navy has contributed \$3.47 million to marine species monitoring projects in the Gulf of Alaska
- 2019 project work includes deployment of two bottom mounted passive acoustic monitoring devices that will be in place prior to, during, and post Northern Edge 2019
- Navy funded marine research information can be obtained at: navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us



Environmental Planning & Outreach

- Navy completed Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and issued Record of Decision for Gulf of Alaska Training Activities in April 2017:
 - Latest science showed minimal impacts to the marine environment
 - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued final MMPA permit and ESA Biological Opinion for 2017-2022 time frame
 - Navy and NMFS Documents available on project website: goaeis.com
- Next Supplement to the EIS and permit renewal process to address Navy training beyond 2022 to be initiated in summer 2019:
 - Supplemental EIS process to include extensive public participation and formal consultation with Alaska Native Tribes
 - Ongoing public outreach planned during public events in addition to EIS project meetings:
 - Coastal community meetings in Cordova, Homer, Kodiak & Seward; ComFish Alaska, Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Alaska Form on the Environment, Alaska Federation of Natives

Questions

