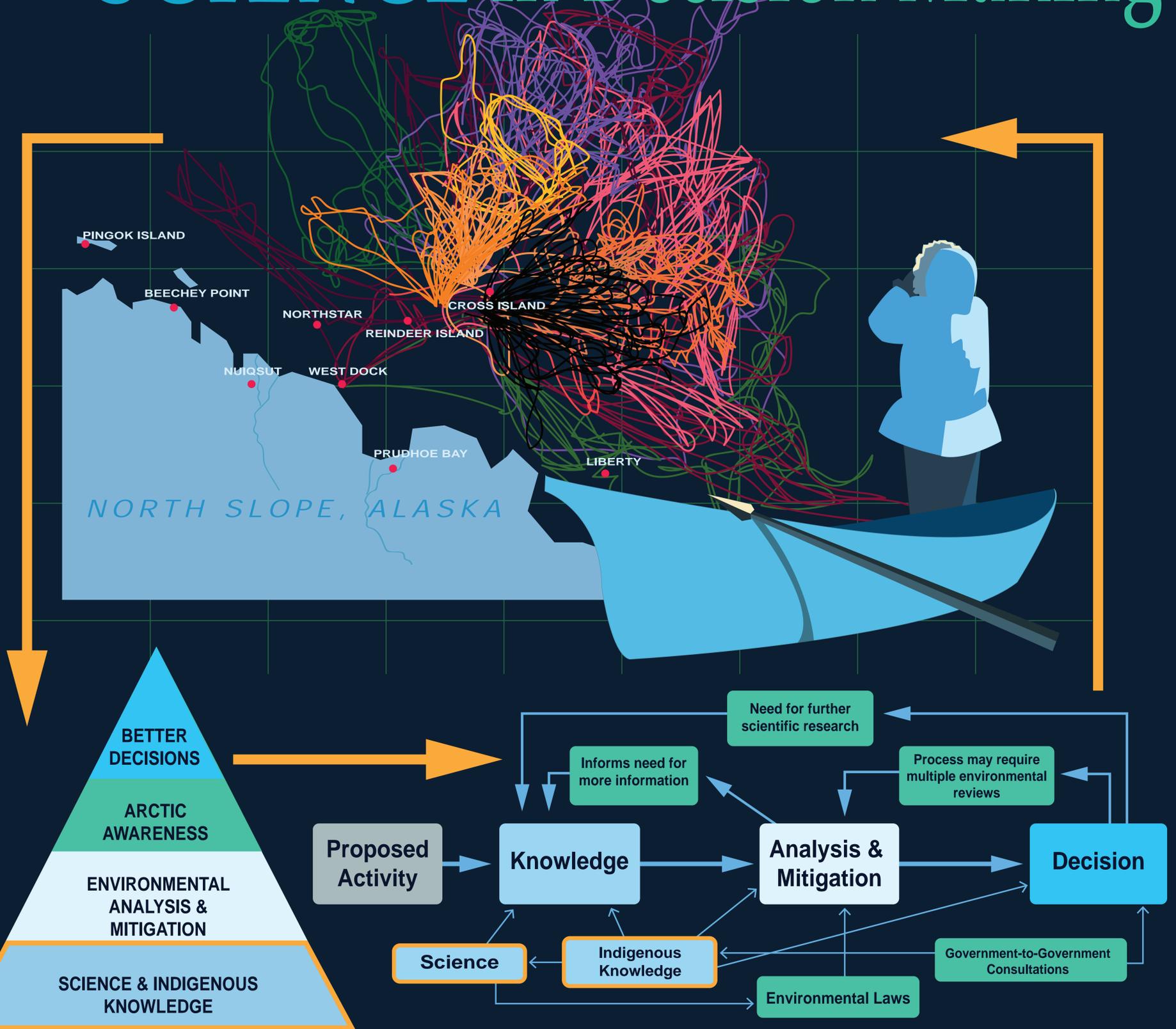


# TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & SCIENCE in Decision Making



Over time, BOEM has developed a decision-making process that strives to use both science and Alaska Native traditional knowledge. We do this to better understand the local environment and potential impacts of proposed activities. Here we highlight our partnership with Nuiqsut whaling crews. Each fall, they travel to camp at Cross Island to look for whales to bring home to their community. Working with whaling captains and an anthropologist, BOEM sponsored a 12-year project that combined the whalers' knowledge of the hunt with GPS technology. Our study recorded whalers' observations and documented the importance of hunting areas. Applying the traditional knowledge of our Alaska Native partners in the decision-making process provides a more complete view of the environment. BOEM gains a greater understanding of the potential impacts of proposed projects and learns how to prevent possible conflicts with subsistence practices. BOEM is looking for more partnerships with Alaska Native communities and new ways to apply traditional knowledge to reach better decisions.