



MAP FEATURES

- Whale feeding and migration areas
- Caribou concentrated calving area
- Polar bear denning and feeding areas
- Waterbird nesting, molting, and/or staging area (goose molting area indicated by green hatching)
- Raptor nesting area
- Seabird colony
- Marine mammal haulout area (walrus and spotted seal)
- Salmon stream
- Mid-summer sea ice

SELECTED SPECIAL AREAS

Capes Lisburne and Thompson Seabird colonies near Cape Lisburne and south of Cape Thompson are home to over 650,000 nesting seabirds, including Horned Puffins, Thick-billed and Common Murres, and Black-legged Kittiwakes. Marine mammal haulouts are used seasonally by several hundred to several thousand walrus.

Ledyard Bay This area is frequently free of sea ice, making it an important migration area for birds and whales. Around 500,000 King Eiders stop here each spring, and the area is designated critical habitat for the threatened Spectacled Eider. Walrus and spotted seals haul out along the coast.

Kasegaluk Lagoon Approximately 125 miles long, this sheltered, shallow lagoon is very important for calving and molting beluga whales, and a great diversity and abundance of birds. Hundreds of walrus and spotted seals haul out along the barrier islands, which are also frequented by denning polar bears.

Hanna and Herald Shoals These shallow areas divert warm waters flowing north from the Bering Sea. The resulting cold water pool atop each shoal retains lingering sea ice throughout the summer, making these important haulout and foraging areas for walrus, whales, and polar bears.

Point Barrow Bowhead whales congregate to feed in autumn, providing important subsistence hunting opportunities. Polar bears feed on whale remains and den on barrier islands. Several hundred Black Guillemots nest on nearby Cooper Island, and Spectacled Eiders nest in high densities near Barrow.

Teshekpuk Lake and Wetlands One of the most important wetland complexes in the circumpolar Arctic, 31 bird species breed here, and 50,000 geese molt here in late summer. This is the core calving and insect relief area for the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd. King and Spectacled eiders and Yellow-billed Loons nest in high densities.

Utukok Uplands This is the core calving ground for the 350,000-head Western Arctic Caribou Herd, which is Alaska's largest herd. The Colville River uplands are important habitat for moose, and high densities of raptors, wolverines, grizzly bears, and wolves. The Utukok River is home to pink and chum salmon.

Colville River and Delta Draining much of the Brooks Range, Alaska's largest Arctic river is home to 22 fish species. Bluffs are high-density nesting habitat for raptors such as Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, and Golden Eagle. This is a haulout area for spotted seals, and home to 68 regularly occurring species of breeding birds.

Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain This area is proposed critical habitat for denning polar bears. Along with areas in Canada, the coastal plain is part of the core calving area of the 100,000-head Porcupine Caribou Herd. This is an Important Bird Area for summer waterfowl. Migrating bowhead and beluga whales are an important subsistence resource.

Alaska's Arctic

Selected Wildlife Values & Special Areas

