AK Geosummit: April 11, 2025

# The Bigger^ the Dot, the Better the Fishing? Habitat Mapping with Community Soundings and Local Tide Data

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### **Bathy Data Sources**

- Marine Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI)
- Crowdsourced(CSB)
- Citizen Science
- Trusted Community Bathymetry (TCB)

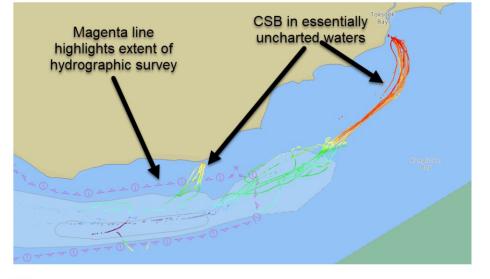


Fig. 1 CSB tracks collected through and past the extent of a NOAA hydrographic survey in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Image courtesy of NOAA.

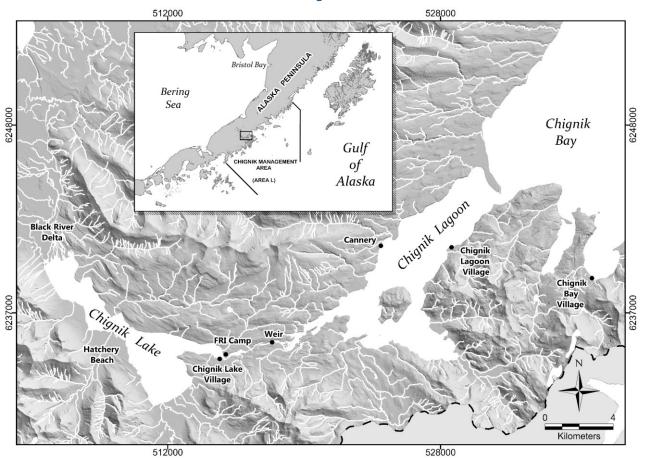
#### T. RECOMMENDATIONS /

Due to the siltation and concomitant shoaling in an area that is important to the commercial fishing industry, the hydrographer recommends putting a note on Chart 16566 that local knowledge is required to travel south of latitude 56° 19' 00"N.



Community-based Bathymetric Data
Local knowledge & mobilization
Local priorities (e.g., fisheries)
Data Sovereignty
Collaborative, intentional & structured

## **Study Site**



#### **Project Objectives**

# Community-based bathymetry

Partner with and supply local vessel operators with recreational grade SBES

# Continuous water level monitoring

Install sensors to obtain hyperlocal data and to process bathymetry

## Seamless elevation modeling

Process and compare depth measurements with high precision elevation data



#### **Checklist**

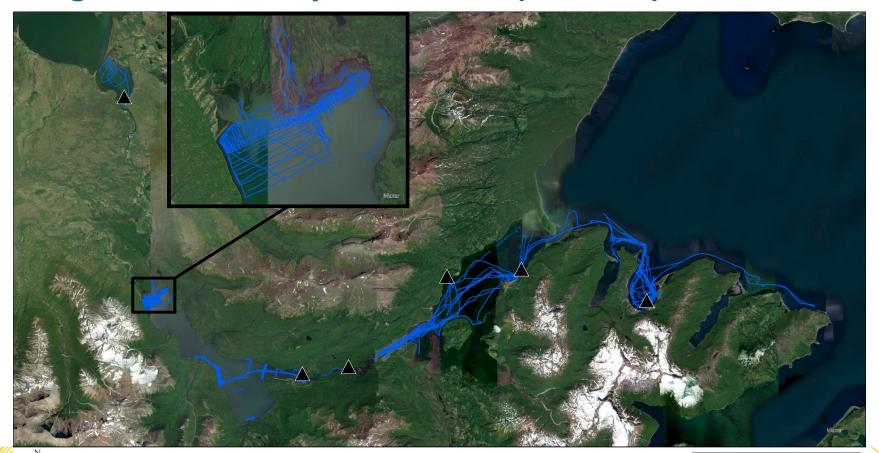
- ✓ 1. Community partners
- √ 2. Local vessel(s)
- ✓ 3. Recreational Grade

  Fishfinder/Chartplotter



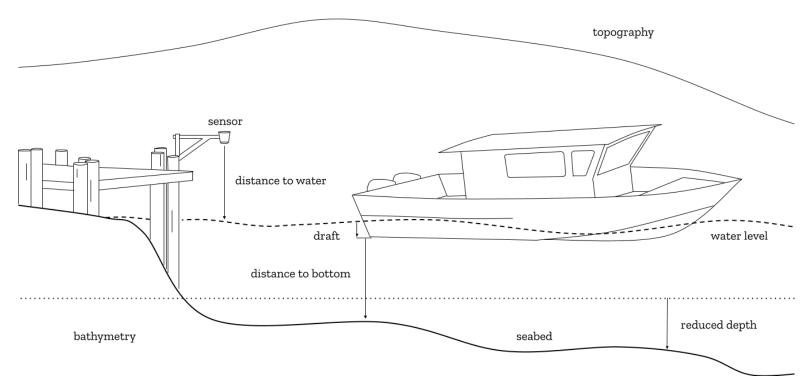


## **Single Beam Survey Track Lines (2023-24)**





Water Level Sensor



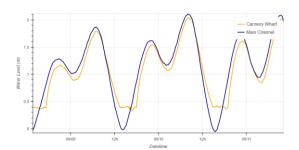
Schematic of measurements and offsets to obtain corrected depths

$$Depth_{NAVD88} = (H_{NAVD88}) - (+D_{water}) + (-D_{draft}) + (-D_{bottom})$$



## **Station Datum**

- Vertical Reference frame
- Accuracy & Validation
- Hyperlocal data

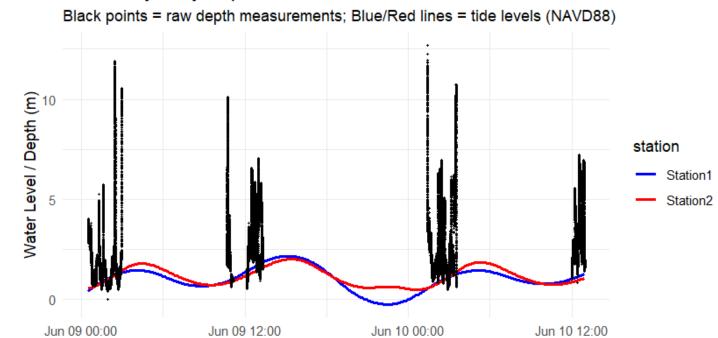






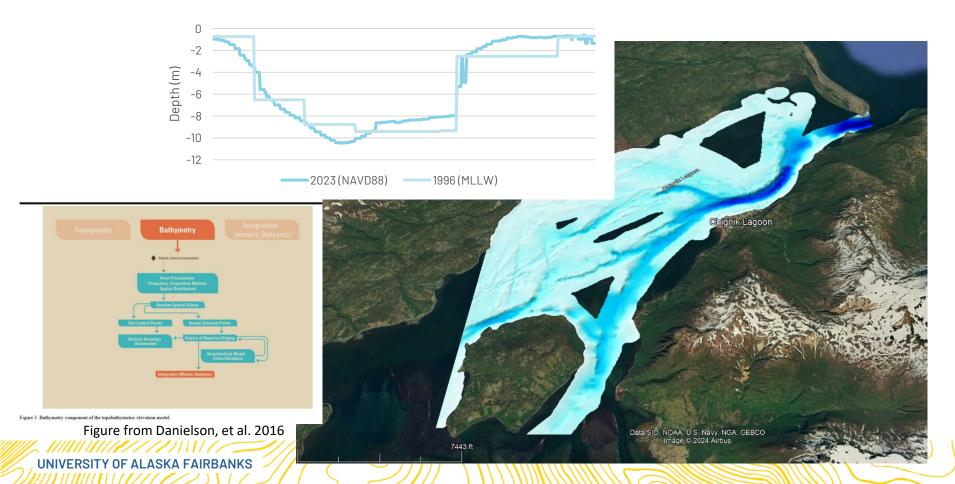


#### Raw Bathymetry Depth with Tide Station Water Levels



Time

#### **Methods**



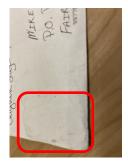
#### **Takeaways:**

#### **Benefits**

- Local data ownership
- Affordable, intuitive equipment
- Low recon, mobility & acquisition costs
- High temporal resolution

#### Challenges

- Quality control
- Postprocessing
- Gaps
- Proprietary equipment & services
- ...Data transfer





#### Better the dot, the better the fishing?

