The legacy of the Bering Sea Project: archival and preservation of the project data for current and future research [1]

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Abstract:
The Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program (BSIERP) developed and supported by North Pacific Research Board, and the Bering Sea Ecosystem Study (BEST) supported by the National Science Foundation addressed changes in the critical marine ecosystem of the Northern Pacific Bering Sea. More than one hundred scientists over a six year period engaged in field data collection, original research, and ecosystem modeling. The resulting 359 datasets set a new paradigm for critical information needed to answer key questions about these changes. The Earth Observing Laboratory (EOL) of the National Center for Atmospheric Research provided data management support to the BEST and BSIERP investigators, bringing their efforts together for archival into the Bering Sea Project Data Archive.

This poster gives an overview of the comprehensive data management support strategy that EOL provided for the Bering Sea Project: from early involvement with the science team in order to determine their requirements; to developing a specification for metadata and documentation; from the onboard ship support and implementation of the cruise Field Catalogs on ten different ships over four years; and developing online tools for submitting metadata and data; to geolocating Local and Traditional Knowledge stories with place names on a map. The lasting legacy is a database that cross references each unique investigator dataset, providing easy access to the metadata and data. EOL will assume long term stewardship of this unique data archive, and the poster will serve as a resource for how the archive has been conceptualized and organized.

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