

# Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

## Improved access to natural resource data

### The Big Picture

Conservation planning for fish and wildlife species depends on reliable access to up-to-date information on species distribution. In Alaska, however, this information is not easily obtained, even by specialists. To meet this need, we are assembling web-accessible spatial datasets that describe species distribution. These products will inform near-term conservation management actions and serve as a baseline for measuring distribution change, regardless of the cause.

#### Project IDs:

Fishes – ARCT2010-03  
Eiders – ARCT2010-10  
Loons – ARCT2010-14

**Year Funded** – 2010

**Start** – July 2010

**End** – September 2011

**Budget** – \$101,078

#### Research Partners:

Bureau of Land Management  
Fish and Wildlife Service

**Supporting conservation planning by compiling geospatial data for species of management interest**

#### Description

The Arctic LCC and our partners are working toward creating the first comprehensive database describing the distribution and abundance of Alaska's two threatened eider species. We are also supporting updates to a yellow-billed loon observation database, and a resident and anadromous fish distribution and abundance.

#### Why We Are Interested

These projects target “high-value” data sets. Better access to eider data will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Endangered Species Act section 7 consultations and NEPA reviews that address these species. Better yellow-billed loon and fish distribution data will facilitate environmental planning and permitting processes, as well as informing water allocation decisions.



Left: Lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) & Right: A male spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*).

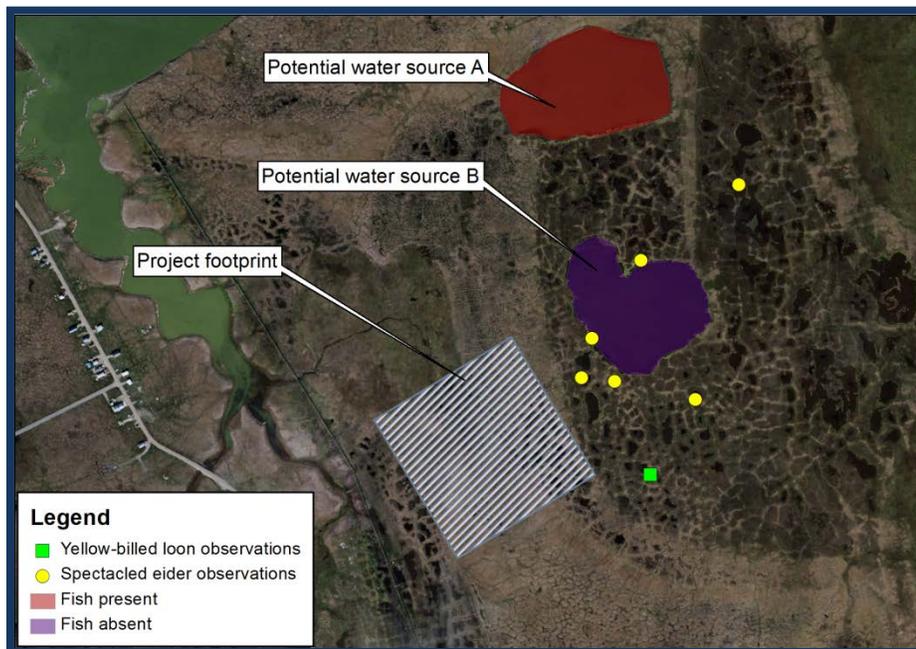


## What Will Be Done

Development of these databases requires gathering, re-formatting, and compiling data from many sources including state and federal agencies, private research firms, and individuals. When complete, these datasets will be made available through a website that can be accessed by all and viewed in either tabular or map views.

## Expected Outcomes

These projects represent our first steps towards our goal of improving access to natural resource data. We intend to provide the technical and/or financial support necessary to keep these datasets as current as possible.



Example of how these three datasets could be combined and used to evaluate the environmental impacts of a potential project.

## Timeline

July 2010 – August 2011: Data acquisition and synthesis.

September 2011: Spatial and tabular data will be made available to resources managers, industry, and the general public.



The mission of the Arctic LCC is to identify and provide information needed to conserve natural and cultural resources in the face of landscape scale stressors, focusing on climate change, through a multidisciplinary program that supports coordinated actions among management agencies, conservation organizations, communities, and other stakeholders.

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Improved access to natural resource data will facilitate environmental review and planning for development projects, helping to streamline permitting processes and achieve more effective conservation.

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To learn more about this project and other Arctic LCC projects visit: [arcticlcc.org](http://arcticlcc.org)  
or contact Greg Balogh, Coordinator at [greg\\_balogh@fws.gov](mailto:greg_balogh@fws.gov)  
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