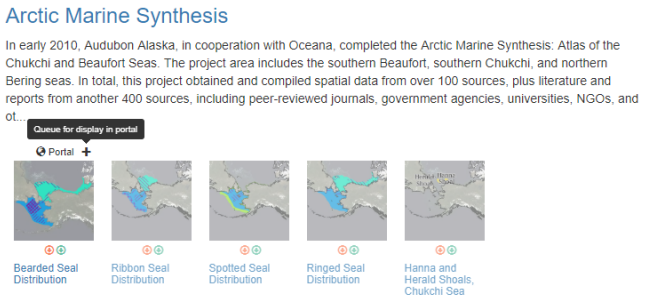
Bering Strait Spill Response Teaching Tool (BSRTT) Tutorial

This tutorial provides a step-by-step overview for the BSRTT. This tool allows users to find, visualize, and integrate data from federal and state agencies, Alaska Native communities, oil-spill-response agencies and conservation organizations.

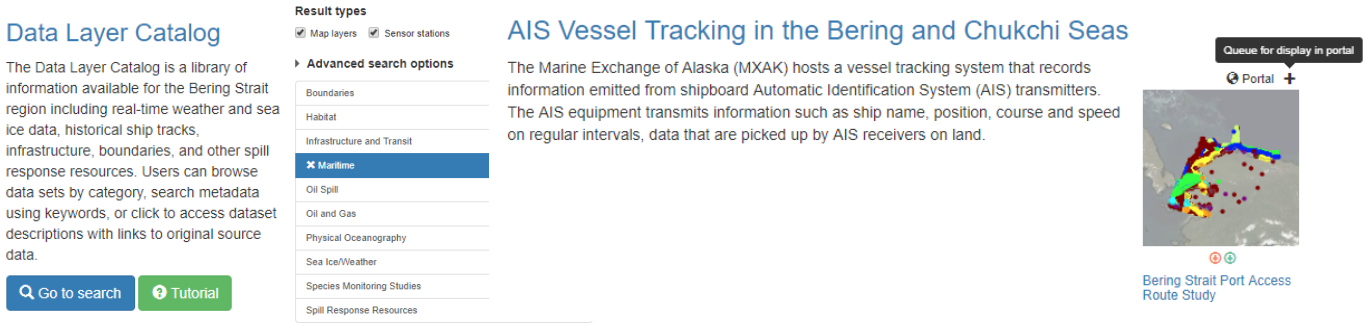
Finding Data Layers

Go to "CATALOG 🔍" in the top right of the home page.

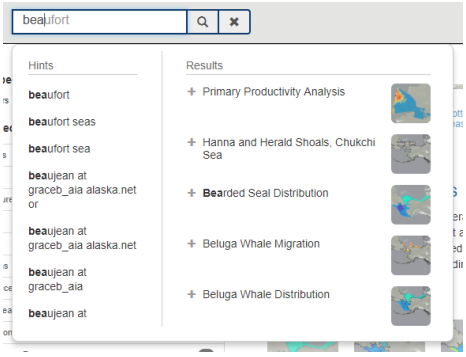
The catalog has different categories, including Habitat, Oil and Gas, and Sea Ice/Weather, and advanced search functions like a spatial filter. There are also multiple layers options to choose from within some data layer sets, which you will see as smaller maps below the name of the layer.



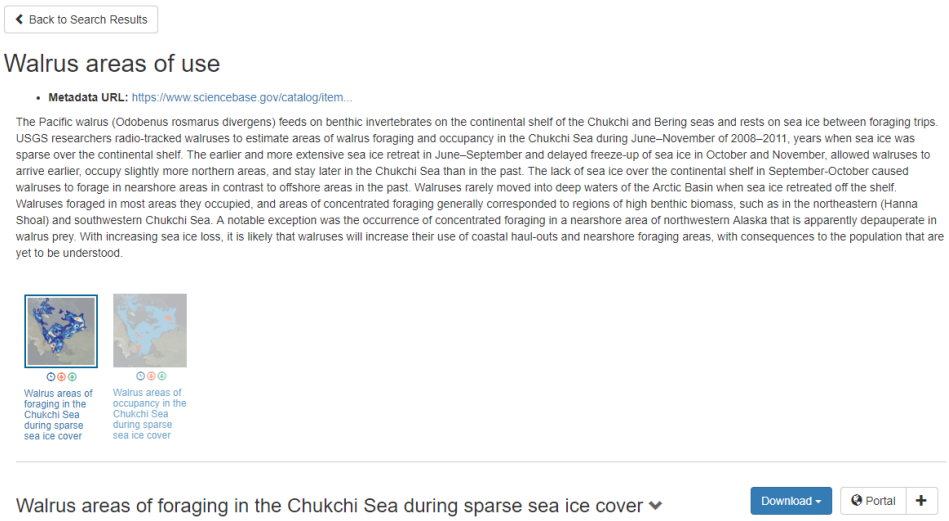
To search for a data layer, start at "GO TO SEARCH" from the home page of the BSRTT. Choose a category like "Maritime" and choose a layer like the vessel traffic layer by again clicking the "+" to add the layer.



You can also quickly add a data layer by typing in the catalog search bar, found at the top of every page on the BSRTT. Add the "Bearded Seal Distribution" layer by clicking the "+" next to the layer name.



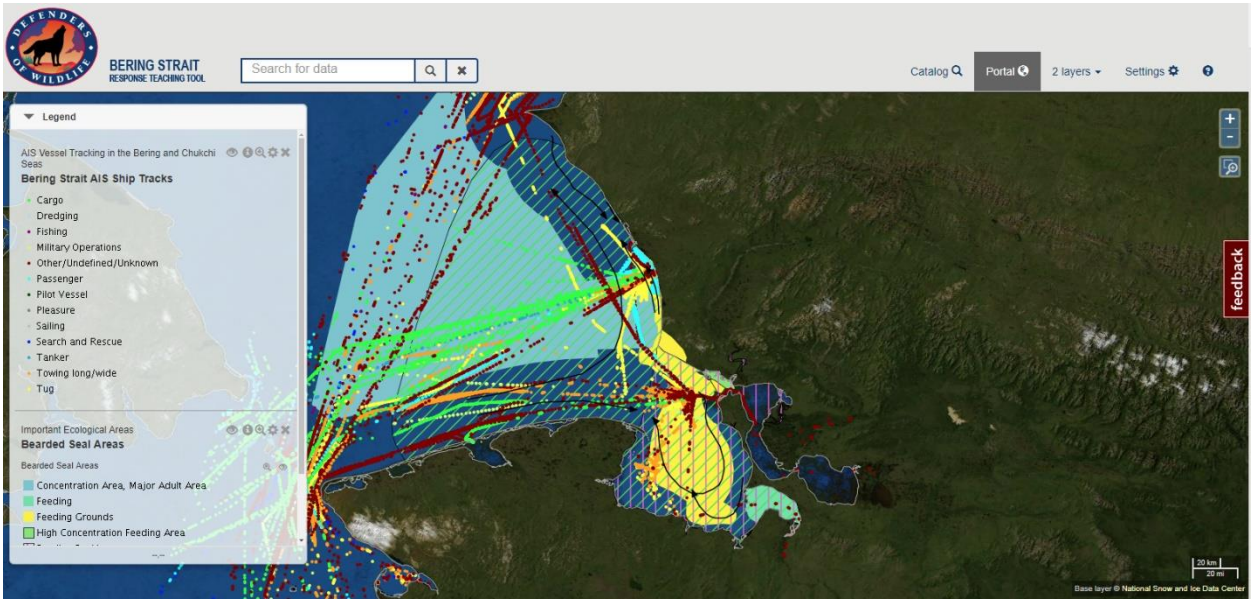
Click on the data layer's name to get more information, learn how the data was collected, the source, and other metadata, and download the data.



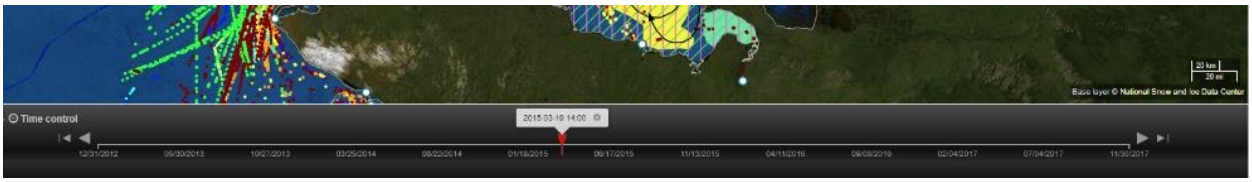
Viewing Data Layers on the Interactive Portal

After adding the data layers you wish to explore, click the "PORTAL 🌍" button on the top right of the page.

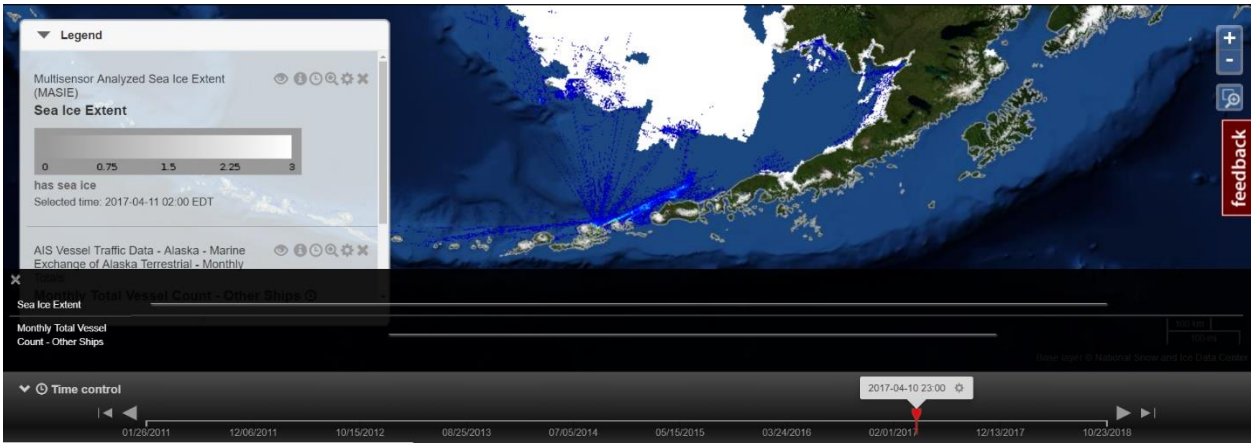
The LEGEND on the left side of your portal will show you what you are looking at, and allow you to hide, remove, or learn more about your layers. To zoom in or out, use the "+" and "-" controls near the top right of the portal or scroll up or down with the wheel of your mouse.



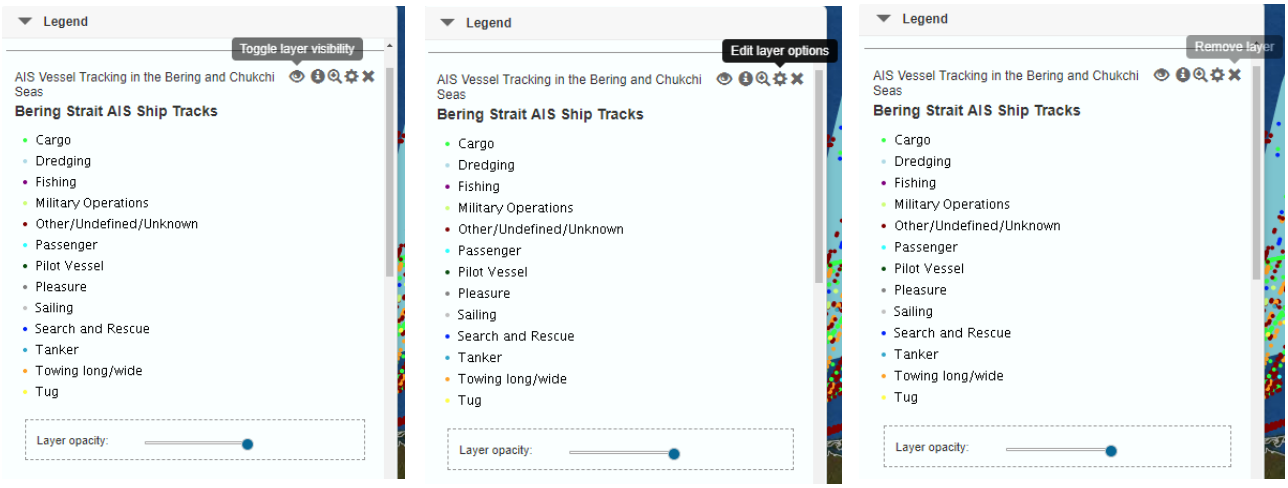
Some data layers have a timeline associated with them and a “time control” bar will appear on the bottom of the portal. You can compare data over time by sliding the red bar back and forth to different dates.



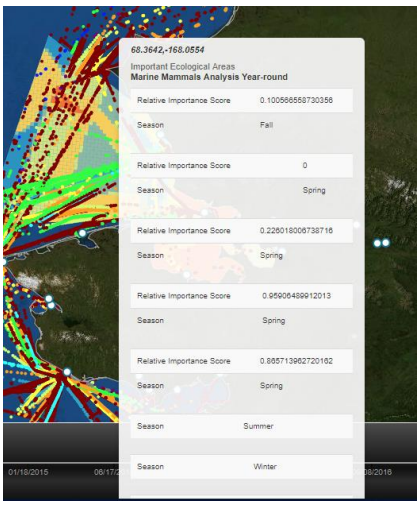
If you are working with two sets of data that each have a timeline associated with them they will each have a time control bar. You can click the arrow on the top left of the time control bar to see where the two timeline data sets overlap.

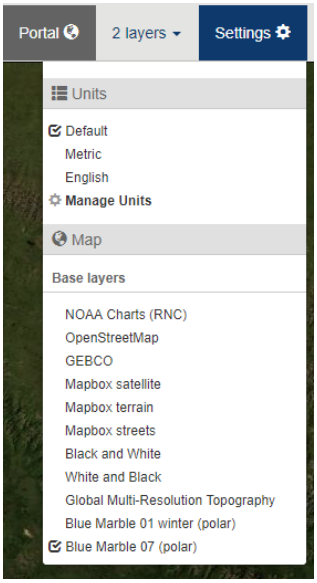


In the LEGEND, you can edit layer options, like opacity, so you can also view multiple layers on top of each other. You can also temporarily hide a layer or remove it altogether.



By hovering over the map, you can view location, data layer, and the value of your layers. This example shows Bering Strait AIS Ship Tracks and Marine Mammal Analysis.





If you would like to change the base map to show roads, topographical features, or satellite imagery underneath the layers you have added, go to "SETTINGS" in the top right and pick the base layers of your choosing. You can also change units to metric or English.

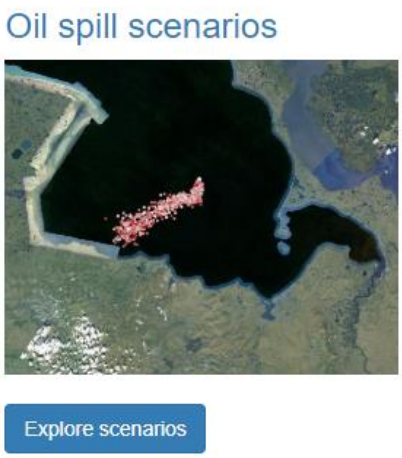
(A note about settings: At this time, the mapping protal does not preserve the settings of the time and opacity sliders when you toggle between the catalog and the portal. You also cannot reorder data layers in the legend without removing the layer and adding it back in the order in which you wish to view the layers. Raster layers (gridded data shown as multiple boxes) will always be placed below vector data (lines, points, polygons) both on the map and in the legend.)

Downloading Data

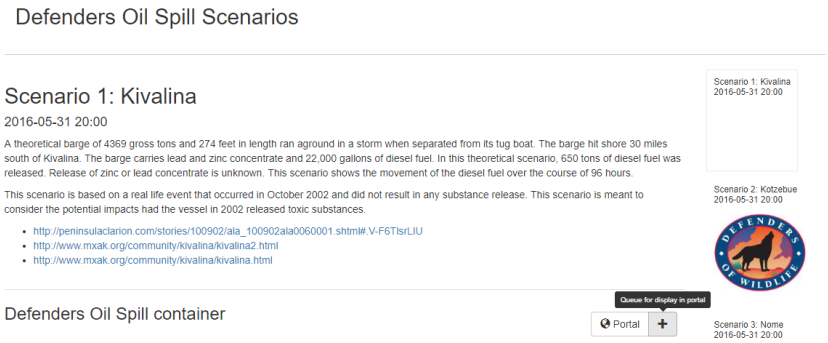
While all data is available for download by following their metadata link to more information, most data is easily downloaded right from the BSRTT. View the layer information page and scroll down and hit download.

Oil Spill Response Scenarios

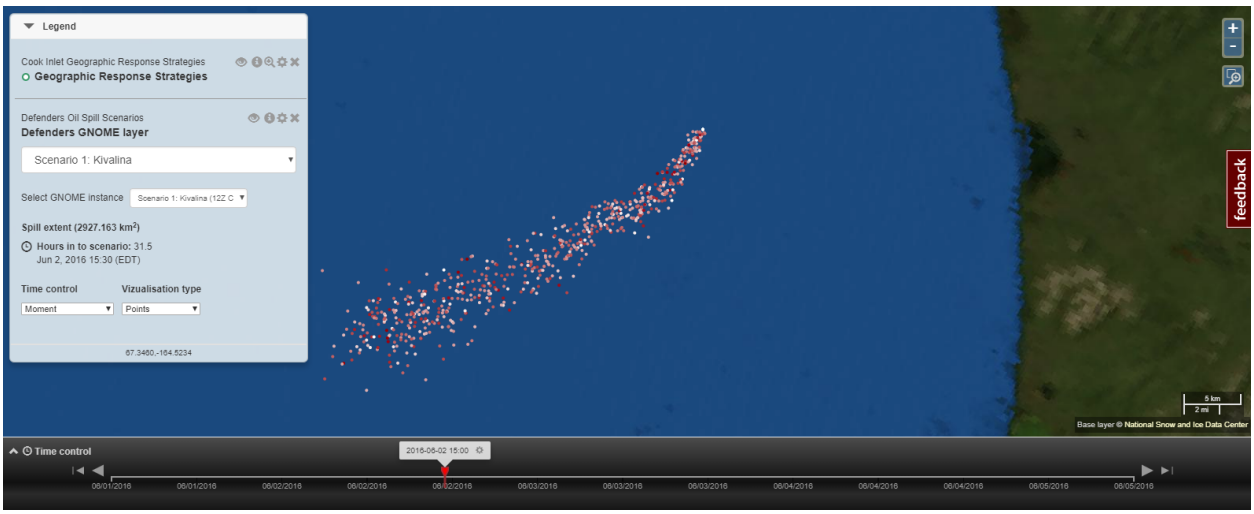
Oil spill response scenarios can be found on the homepage by clicking “EXPLORE SCENARIOS” or from the data layers catalog under the category “OIL SPILL.”



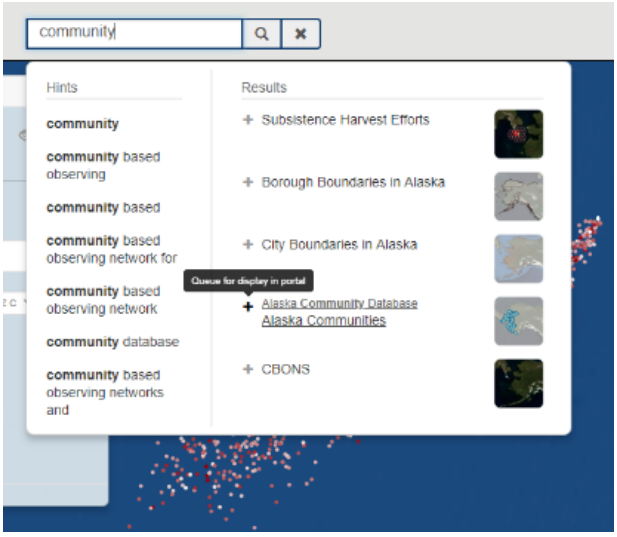
There are five illustrative oil spill scenarios to choose from on the right side of the page. The first scenario you will see will be the Kivalina scenario. Select any scenario and then add the scenario by the “+” sign and go over to your portal. These scenarios are based on real life events and are meant to illustrate the potential impacts of a spill.



As you drag the bar along the bottom of your portal, the map will show the movement of oil, projected using real weather data from June 2016. The color gradient shows not moving oil (white) to oil moving rapidly (red).



Add the “equipment,” “community,” and “geographic response strategies” layers (by typing in the search bar and clicking the “+”) to begin visualizing a response strategy to this spill.



The equipment layer shows equipment resources and requirements for use at different locations. Hover over an equipment space to view equipment details.

Clicking on a community will open a new window to the Alaska Community Database where you can find resources including first responders and medical facilities.

The response strategies layer shows the options for focusing response efforts based on equipment and community resources. Clicking one of these will open the geographic response strategy PDF in a new window.