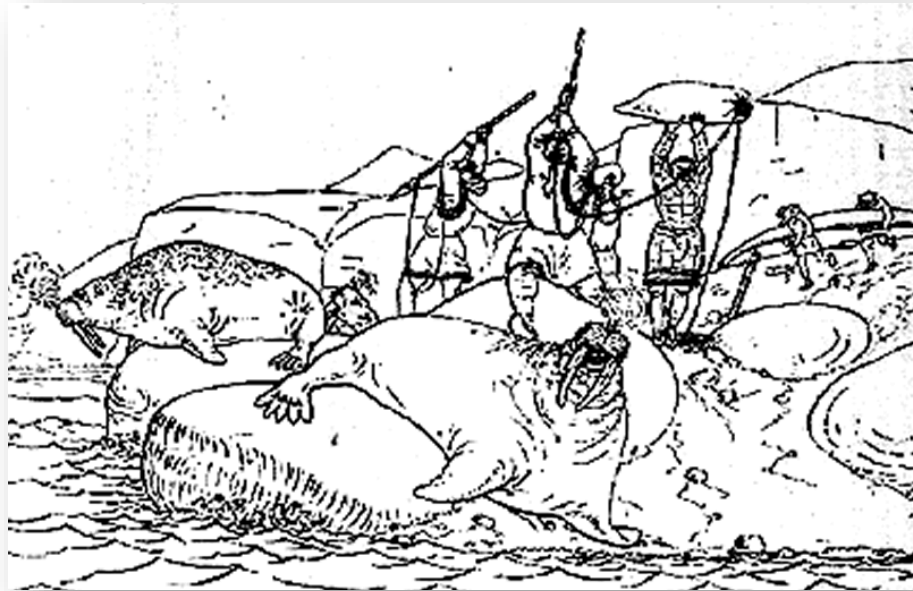
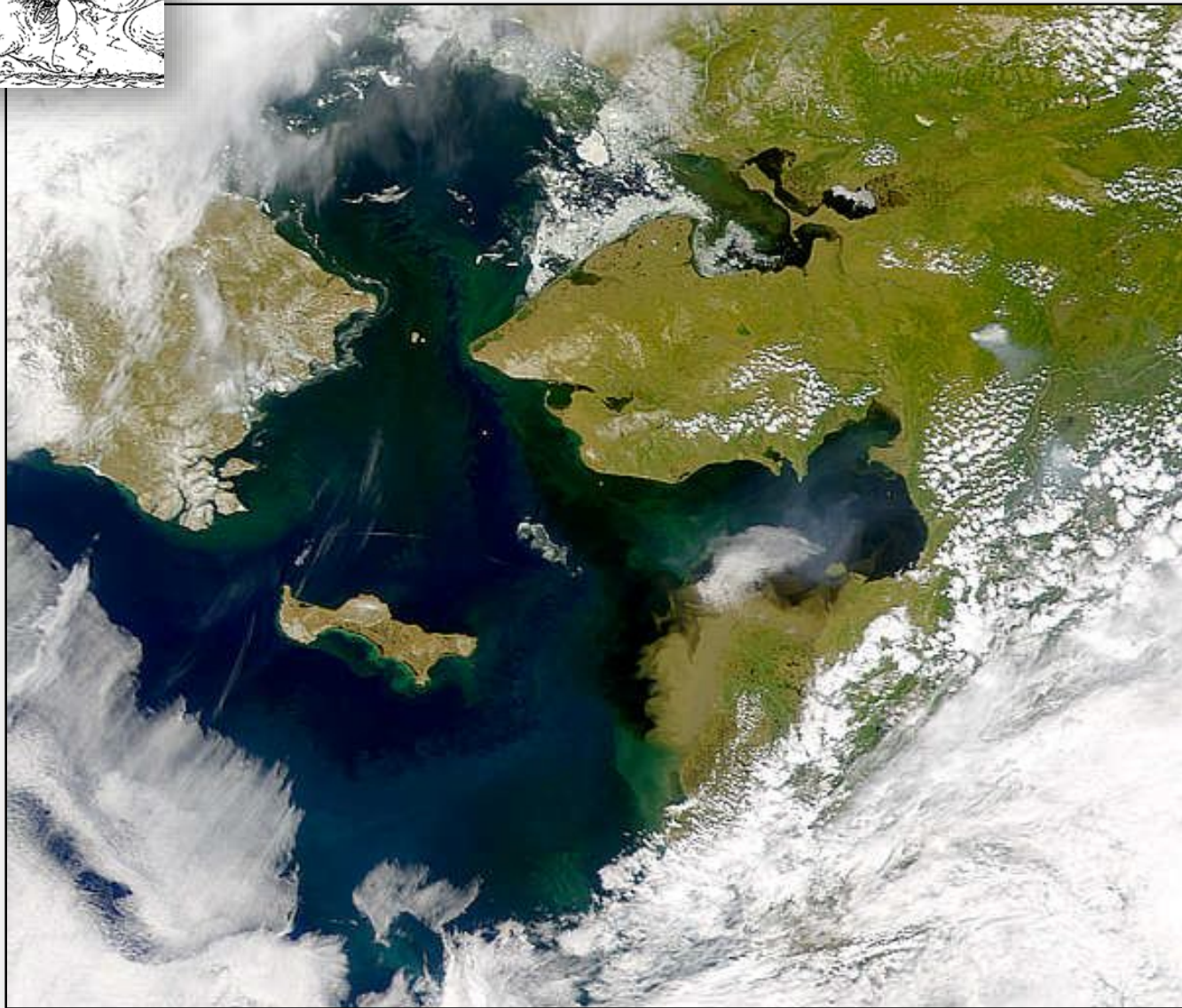


**GEO Blue Planet Symposium  
Maritime Awareness Session  
Collaborative Arctic Observations  
June 2, 2017**

Drawing by Henry Elliott, 1874



**Vera Kingeekuk Metcalf  
Eskimo Walrus Commission**







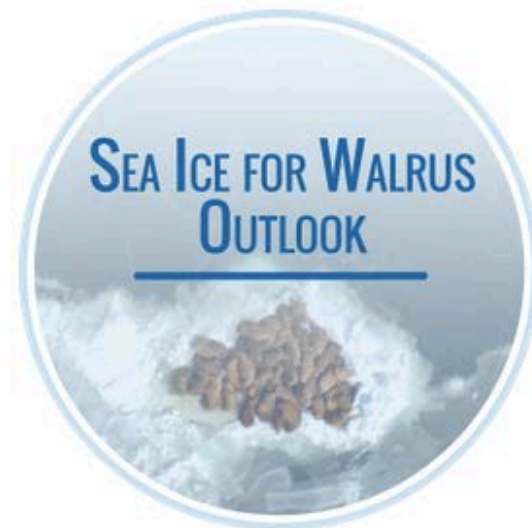


“This is our garden” –  
Paul  
Apangalook/Gambell,  
2012



The Sea Ice for Walrus Outlook (SIWO) is a resource for Alaska Native subsistence hunters, coastal communities, and others interested in sea ice and walrus. The SIWO provides weekly reports from April through June with information on weather and sea ice conditions relevant to walrus in the northern Bering Sea and southern Chukchi Sea regions of Alaska.

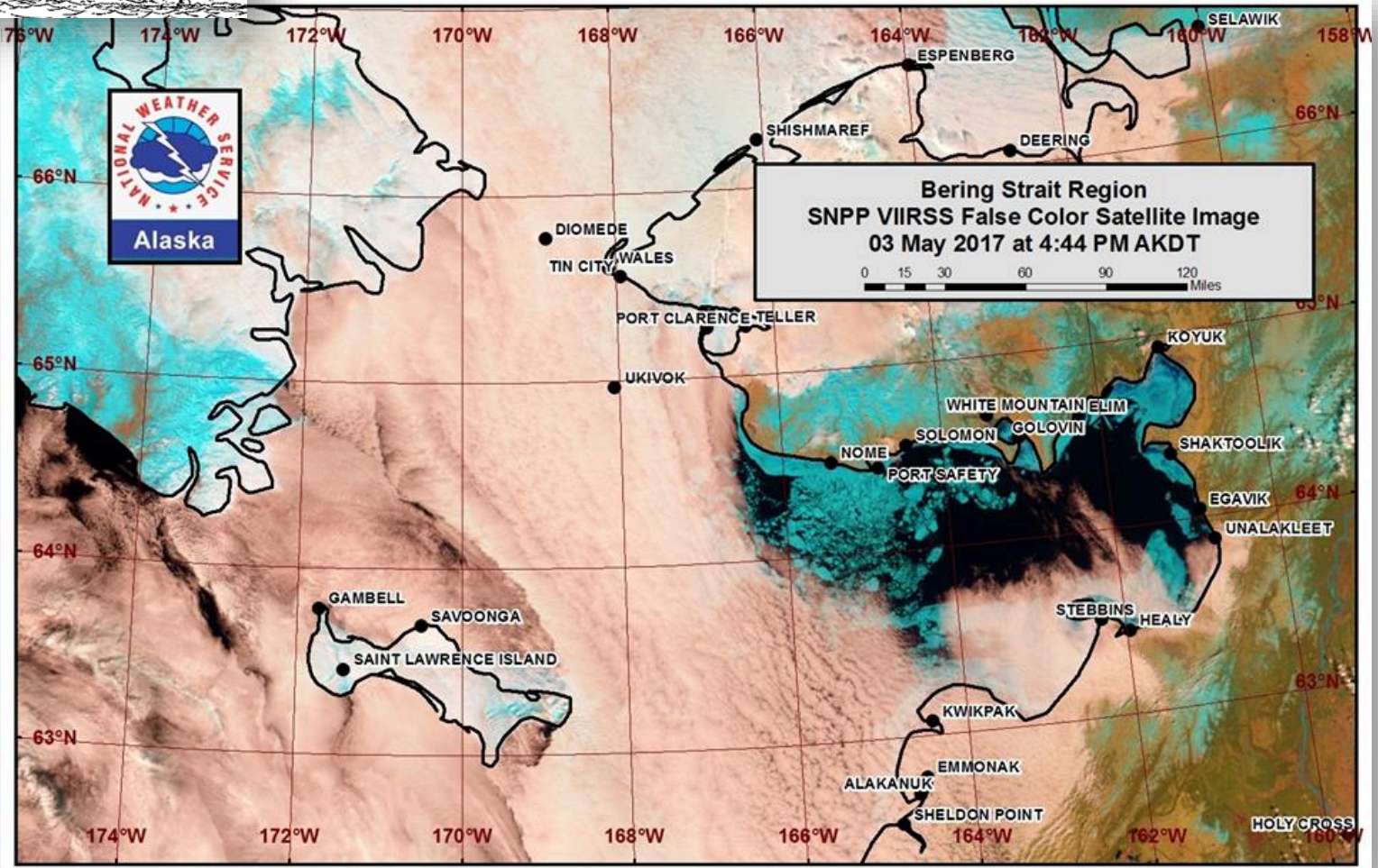
The Outlooks are produced with information on weather and sea ice conditions provided by the National Weather Service - Alaska Region and Alaska Native sea ice experts. SIWO partners include the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Arctic Research Consortium of the U.S. (ARCUS), and scientists at the National Weather Service and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Funding for SIWO is provided to ARCUS by the National Science Foundation's Division of Arctic Sciences (PLR-1304316). SIWO is considered a contribution to the Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH).

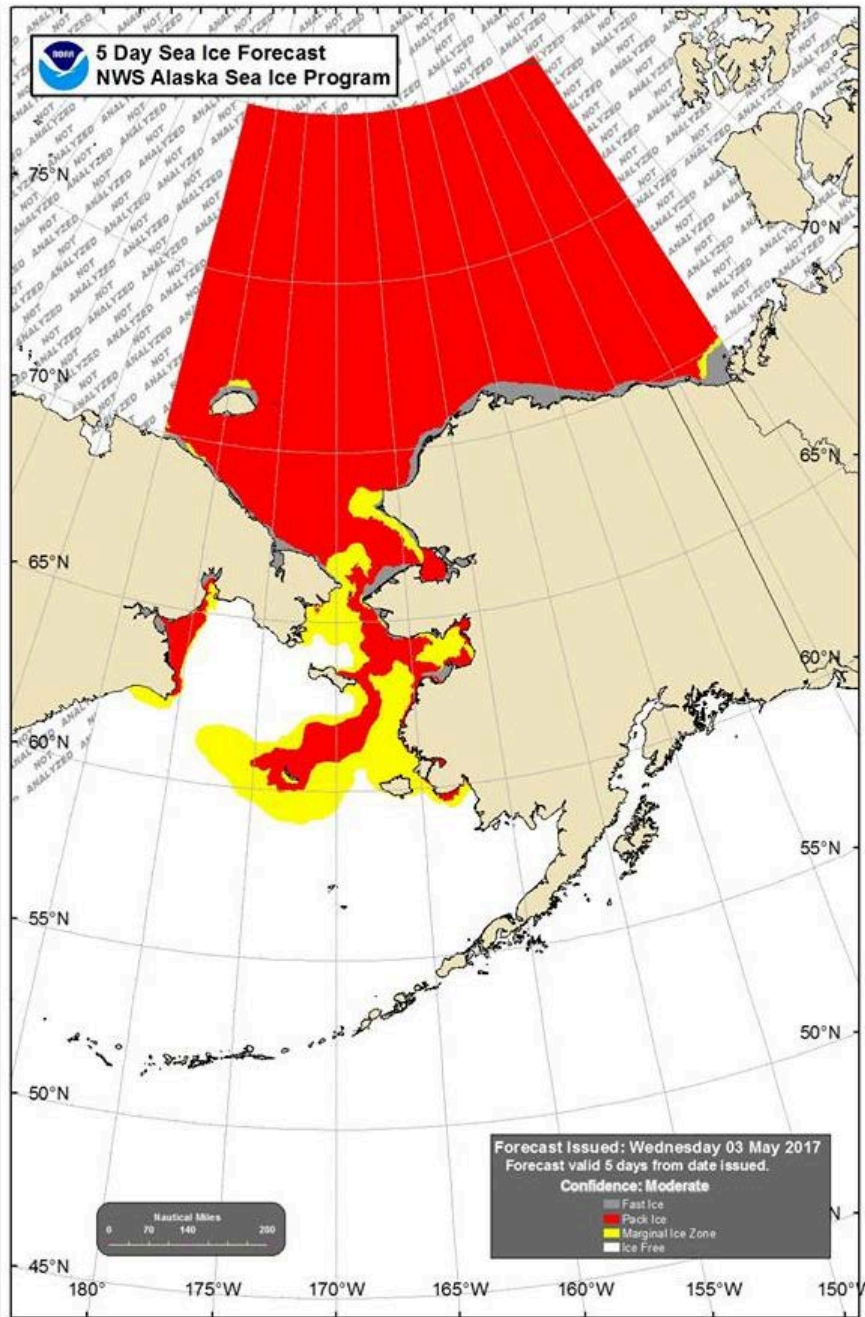


**Eskimo Walrus Commission**

*"To protect the pacific walrus population."*









## **Nome**

Shorefast ice extends up to 5 miles from the Nome area coast, but is generally around 1 mile closest to Nome. A small area of very open pack ice extends 3 to 5 miles beyond the shorefast ice, with big to giant floes of close to very close pack ice beyond that. There are several polynyas east and west of Nome with open water.

## **Wales to Shishmaref**

Shorefast ice extends to approximately 10 to 20 miles from the coast between Wales and Shishmaref. Beyond the shorefast ice is very close pack ice, with some open water beyond the shorefast ice near Wales.

National Weather Service Synopsis: May 5, 2017





Yesterday in Shishmaref, Curtis E. Nayokpuk reported "Freezing drizzle today and freezing fog and snow showers forecast. Winter conditions this past week with cold northerly winds, white out conditions and on average high midday temps in the teens. Even duck hunters mentioned ducks scarce and not flying due to spring melt last couple weeks now frozen again. Some boats ready but nowhere to launch."





ARCTIC WATERWAYS  
SAFETY COMMITTEE

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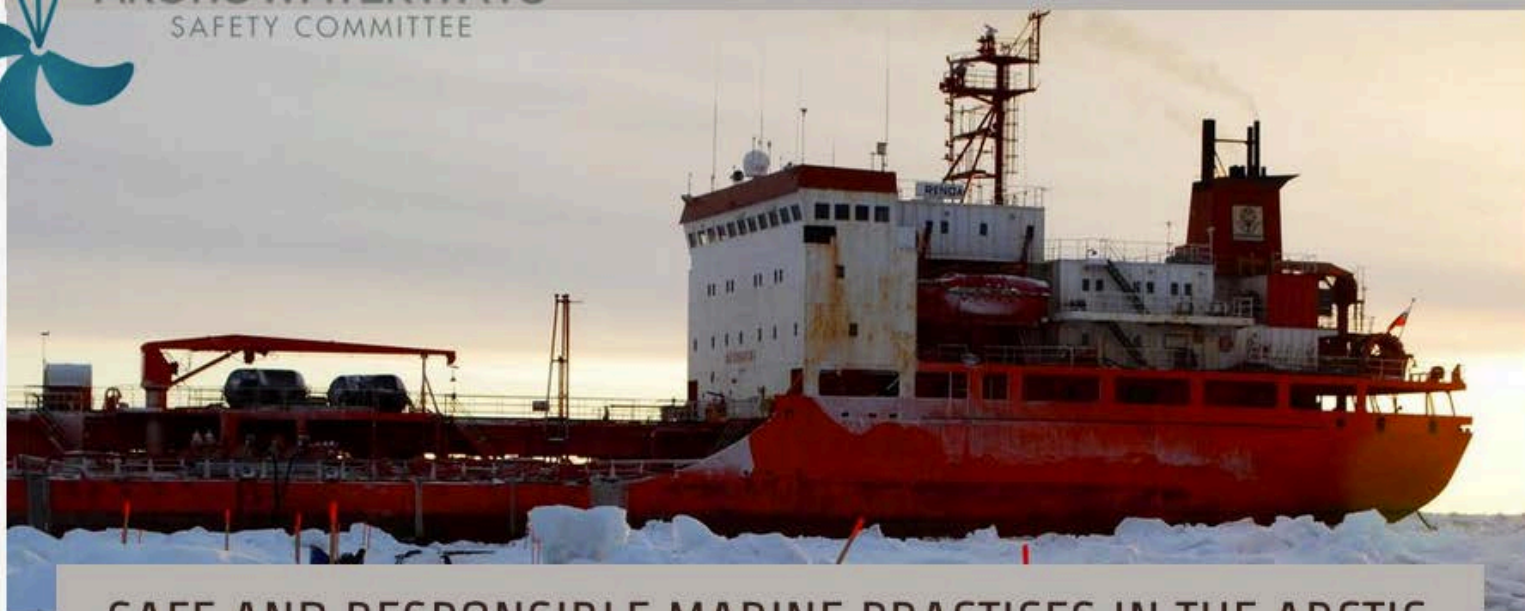
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## SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE MARINE PRACTICES IN THE ARCTIC

The purpose of the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee is to bring together local marine interests in the Alaskan Arctic in a single forum, and to act collectively on behalf of those interests to develop best practices to ensure a safe, efficient, and predictable operating environment for all current and future users of the waterways.



## WATERWAYS COMMITTEE

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### MEMBERSHIP

- Alaska Beluga Whale Committee
- Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
- Eskimo Walrus Commission
- Alaska Nanuuq Commission
- Ice Seal Committee
- Oil / Gas / Mining
- Tugs (Barges & Cargo)
- Research
- Tourism
- Fishing
- Alaska Marine Pilots
- Municipality of Nome
- Northwest Arctic Borough
- North Slope Borough
- Regional Tribal Organization (Rotating between Kawerak, Maniilaq, or ICAS)





U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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5700

## MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 01-16

June 14, 2016

### Voyage Planning Notice for Vessels Transiting the Bering Strait

This bulletin is an informational release to mariners planning to transit through the Bering Strait. The U.S. Coast Guard is conducting a Port Access Route Study to determine if ship routing measures are warranted in this region. While this study is still in progress, a number of issues potentially affecting safe navigation and the environment have been identified, including the quality of hydrographic survey information, dense concentrations of threatened or endangered species and marine mammals, and evolving communications protocols in the region. Mariners planning to navigate these remote and ecologically sensitive waters are encouraged to be diligent in voyage planning to avoid problems during the transit.

#### Hydrographic Survey Information:

Mariners are urged to be mindful of the quality and age of hydrographic survey data on which nautical charts are based and choose their route appropriately. Both paper and electronic charts provide information in their source diagrams about the hydrographic surveys the chart is based upon. Hydrographic survey data for much of the Bering and Chukchi Seas is in excess of 50 years old and may have been obtained with survey techniques that are not as reliable as today's multi-beam sonar. In 2015, a vessel operating in western Alaska struck an uncharted object and sustained significant damage. The accident investigation revealed the location to be approximately 20% shallower than charted depths. Mariners should choose transit routes well clear of shoal water to allow for sufficient under keel clearance, especially if operating in areas where chart source diagrams indicate the chart is not based on a recent hydrographic survey. For additional information on nautical charts and a detailed description of chart source diagrams, refer to the general information section of United States Coast Pilot 9.

The Coast Guard and NOAA have recently surveyed a four nautical mile wide navigation corridor that begins at the Northern terminus of the Unimak Pass Safety Fairway and extends Northward through the Bering Strait. The at-sea survey work was completed in 2015 and preliminary analysis of the hydrographic data has found no dangers to navigation or areas with depths of less than 10 fathoms. The new hydrographic surveys did reveal a number of areas where depths were inconsistent with the charted depths, but none at depths of 10 fathoms or less.

Nautical charts will not reflect these updated survey results until this data has been processed for publication, which may occur as soon as 2017. In the interim, the Coast Guard is making this newly surveyed potential navigation corridor known to the maritime community for their awareness and consideration in voyage planning. Coordinates of the area that has been recently surveyed are provided in enclosure (1).



Personal photograph during Indigenous Alaskan-Chukotkan Walrus Summit 2015



“We’re already seeing changes...”, Gambell comment, 2012



Photograph courtesy of Scott Toolie







“They say to us, never give up on the hunting areas out there. Whatever may have happened to us, whether it be an accident or almost being killed, we mustn’t be discouraged. It is where our food comes from.”

Winfred James, Sr.



**Igamsiqayuvikamsi!**