

# Environmental Health and Justice in the Arctic: MDP Practicum & Documentary Film

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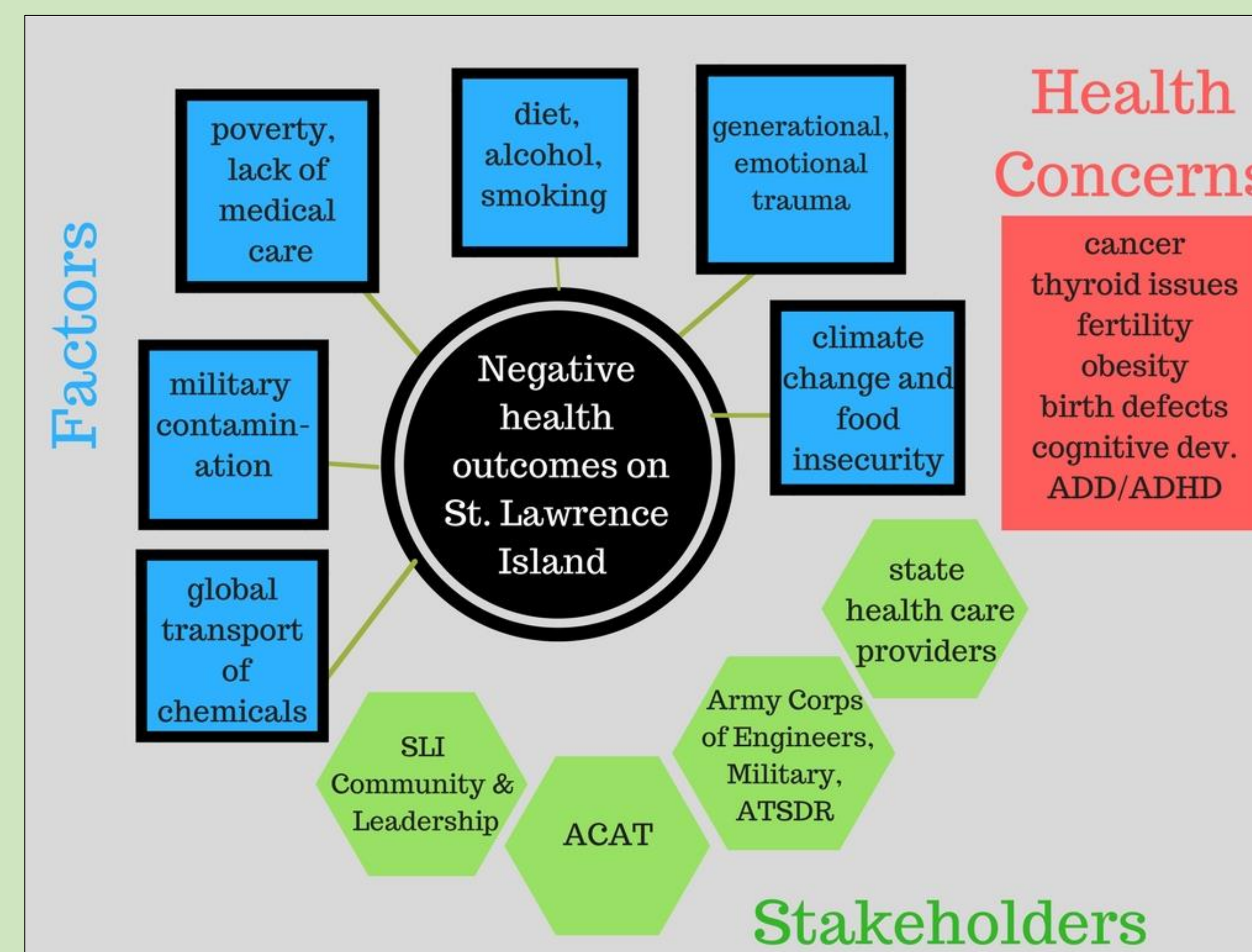
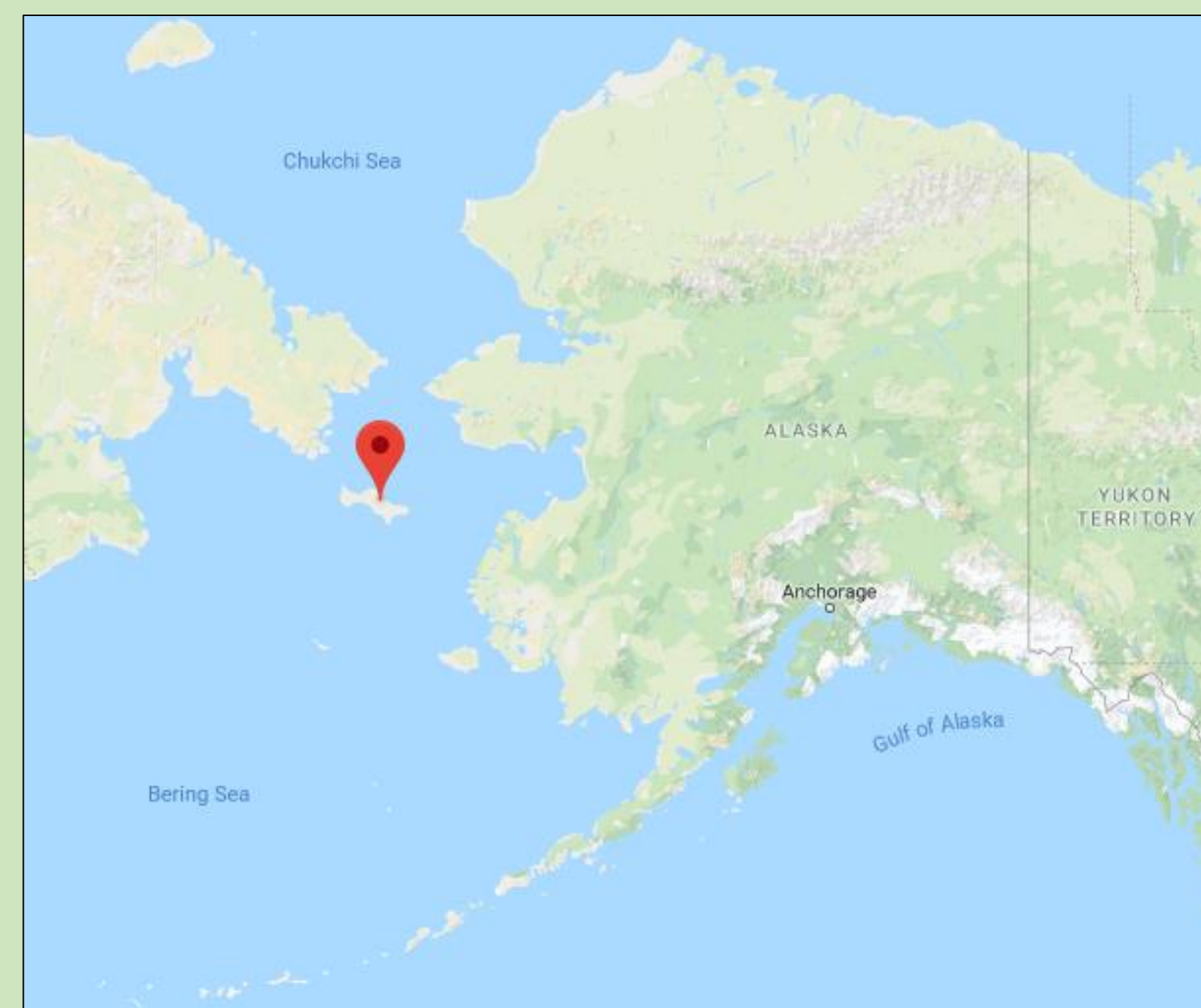
**Location:** Anchorage, AK and St. Lawrence Island, AK

## Development Challenges Addressed:

- Environmental health and justice, with attention to St. Lawrence Island
- Environmental and scientific communication in media as a means for advocacy

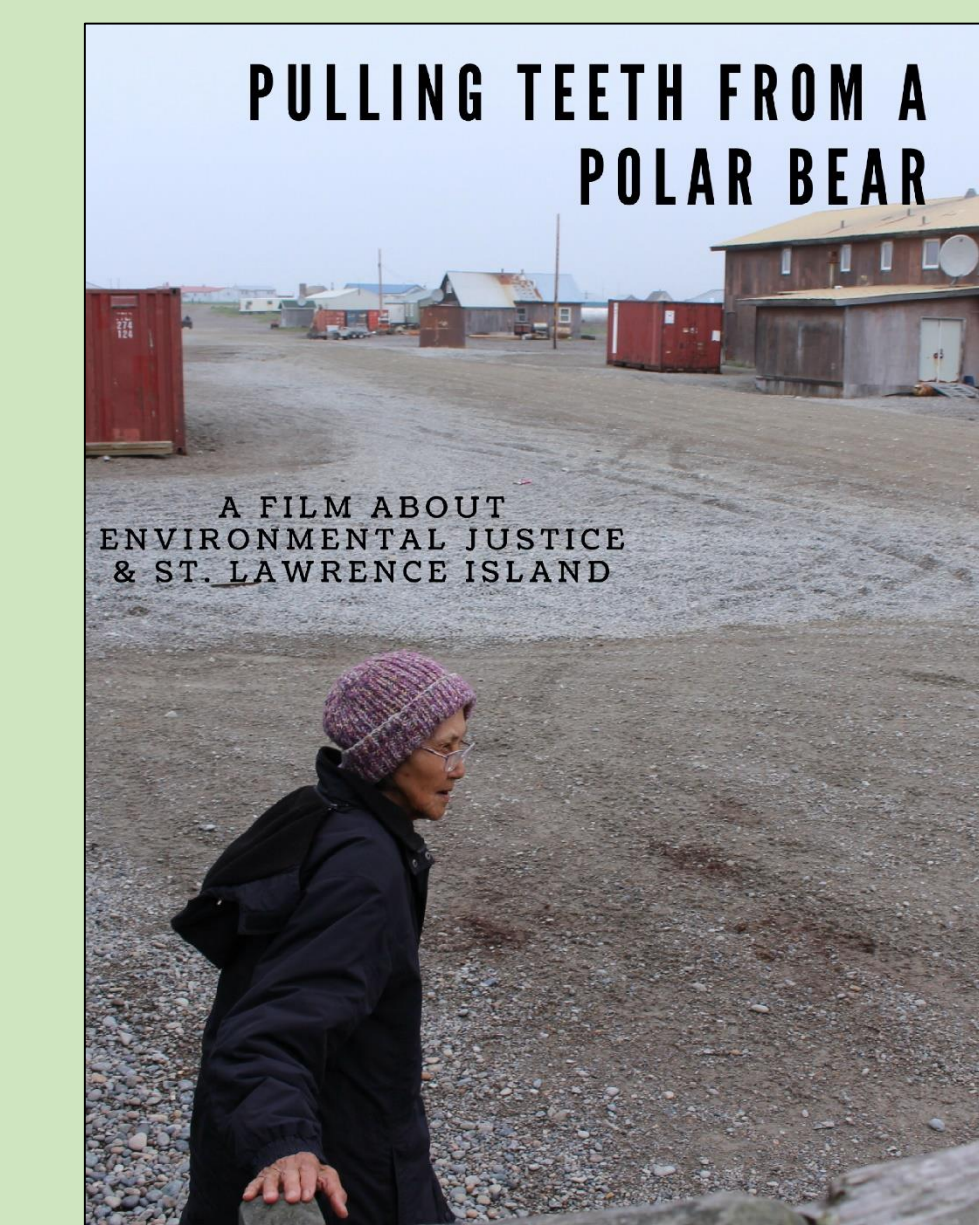
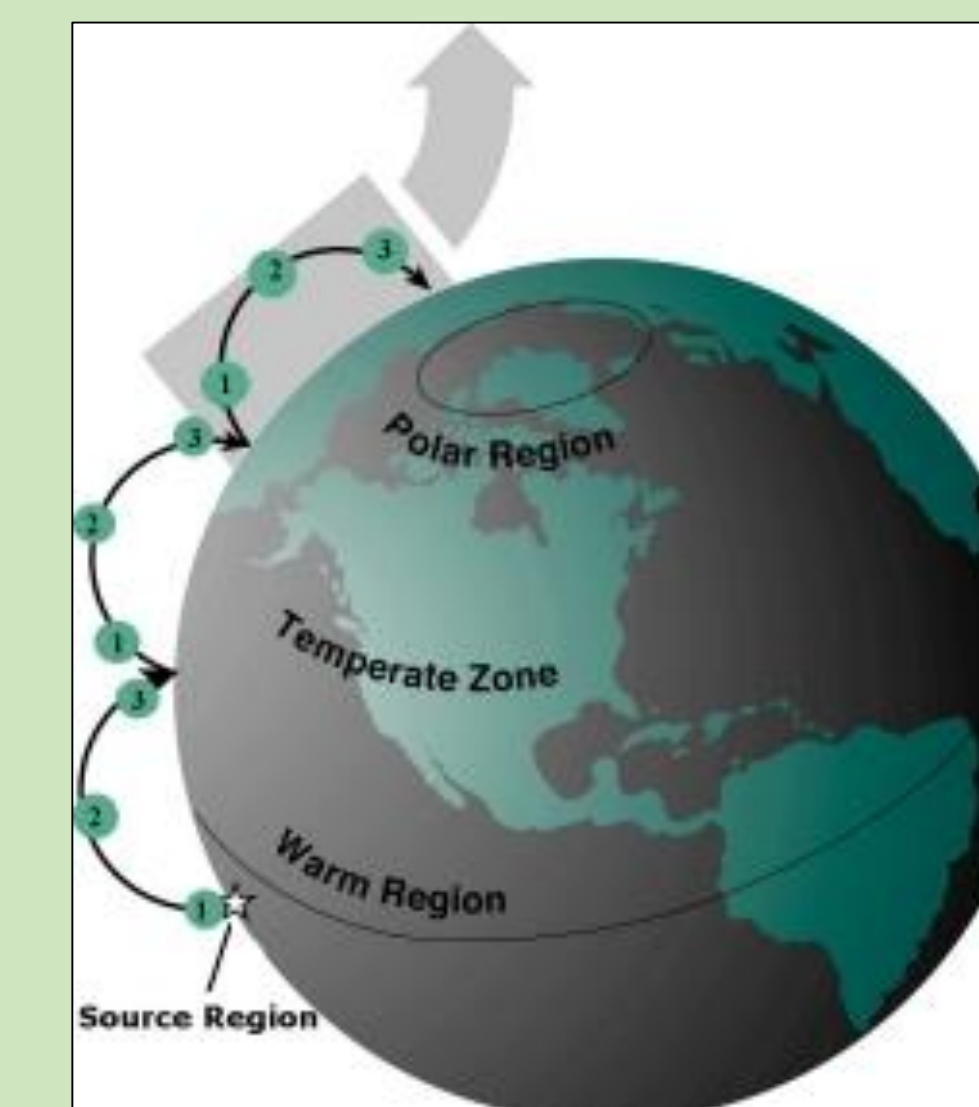
## Project Objectives:

1. Analyze how and to what degree people, specifically Alaska Natives, are impacted by toxic chemicals in their communities.
2. Review how the conservation community and ACAT engages with different stakeholders to advocate for their cause. How do they collaborate and convey messages?
3. Develop materials that can be used to engage with different stakeholders on behalf of the cause and the organization.
4. Learn about the different elements of environmental advocacy and conservation.



## Project Activities

1. Created a documentary about St. Lawrence Island and the environmental health problems in the community.
2. Interviewed members of the conservation community about public engagement, messaging, and communication strategies.
3. Analyzed personal testimonies of indigenous women about environmental contamination on their land and in their communities.
4. Created informational video about toxic exposure in daily life.



## Host Organization: Alaska Community Action on Toxics

*Our mission is to ensure justice by advocating for environmental and community health. We believe that everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. Driven by a core belief in environmental justice, ACAT empowers communities to eliminate exposure to toxics through collaborative research, shared science, education, organizing, and advocacy.*

**Acknowledgements:** Dr. Tara Sabo-Attwood (Committee Chair)

Houston Wells (Committee Member)

ACAT Staff: Pamela Miller, Samarys Seguinot-Medina, & Vi Waghiyi

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- Government agencies (such as ATSDR) are conservative and sometimes out-of-date on their scientific processes.
- Chemical contamination is likely coming from additional sources, such as chemical distillation and global transport.
- St. Lawrence Island residents, and other native Alaskan communities, are experiencing high rates disease but lack medical infrastructure.
- Community Elders feel as though their ecological, scientific, and historical knowledge is not properly acknowledged or utilized in reports.
- Develop a plan for climate change mitigation and possibility of refugee and resettlement initiatives .
- ACAT provide support for class-action lawsuit against polluters for contaminating the Arctic people without their consent.
- ACAT could advocate for increased use of participatory data collection and community science initiatives in government projects and reports, such as ATSDR report.
- Increased support for public health initiatives such as smoking cessation, preventative health screenings, and nutrition.