?? Woolpert Contracted by NOAA for Hydrographic Survey, Bathymetric Data in Nome, Alaska

## **Description**

Press release from Woolpert

The \$7M contract supports everything from commercial fishing and shipping to coastal resilience and nautical charting needs at this vital U.S. transit route.

The <u>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</u> has signed Woolpert to a \$7 million contract to perform hydrographic surveying and collect bathymetric data in and around Nome, Alaska. These data will support commercial fishing, shipping channels, coastal resilience, scientific research, and <u>Seabed</u> 2030, a collaborative project that aims to map the world's ocean floor by 2030.

This project will update National Ocean Service nautical charting products and services and will support Seabed 2030.

Name is adjacent to the Bering Strait and central to America's marine presence in the Arctic. In Nome is adjacent to the Bering Strait and central to America's marine presence in the Arctic. Image courtesy of Ruben Ramos, Getty Images

<u>Woolpert</u> will collect data over 1,874 square nautical miles in Northern Norton Sound, which stretches from Golovin Bay through Nome to Cape Woolley on the eastern edge of Alaska. Nome is adjacent to the Bering Strait and central to America's marine presence in the Arctic. The region serves as a major transit route for shipping traffic to the Port of Nome, which has supplied food, construction materials, equipment, and other goods for over 60 Alaskan communities for more than a century.

Regional hydrographic data was most recently collected in the 1930s. This project will update <u>National Ocean Service</u> nautical charting products and services and will support the Seabed 2030 Project. This collaborative effort between the Nippon Foundation and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans aims to integrate and share all available bathymetric data to produce a definitive map of the world's ocean floor by 2030.

Woolpert has collected topographic, bathymetric, and hydrographic data in and around Alaska for decades and has an office in Wasilla. Multiple hydrographic survey vessels will be used to collect these data, including two large live-aboard ships and two Wave Adaptive Modular Vessels (WAM-Vs). The WAM-Vs will be used primarily in a force multiplication strategy in coordination with the larger vessels performing this work. A combination of the right tools and experience are critical for this contract.

"Hydrographic surveying in Alaska can be logistically challenging, and moving equipment requires a range of vehicles and aircraft," Woolpert Certified Hydrographer Dave Neff said. "Local knowledge and

relationships are highly beneficial for any project in Alaska. Our work over the years both as Woolpert and eTrac, a Woolpert Company, has given us the scope and confidence to cost-effectively execute, while managing inherent regional risk. We're at home in Alaska, and we are excited to provide these needed data for Nome and all who rely on the region for goods and services."

This project will get underway in June and is expected to conclude in September.

## **About Woolpert**

Woolpert is the premier architecture, engineering, geospatial (AEG), and strategic consulting firm, with a vision to become one of the best companies in the world. We innovate within and across markets to effectively serve public, private, and government clients worldwide. Woolpert is a Global Top 100 Geospatial Company, a Top 100 ENR Global Design firm, earned six straight Great Place to Work certifications, and actively nurtures a culture of growth, inclusion, diversity, and respect. Founded in 1911 in Dayton, Ohio, Woolpert has been America's fastest-growing AEG firm since 2015. Woolpert has over 2,000 employees and more than 60 offices on five continents. For more, visit woolpert.com.

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