

COLLABORATIVE OBSERVATIONS OF THE ARCTIC SHOREZONE: A TRAVERSE FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

COAST-X 2026

WHAT IS COAST-X?

COAST-X 2026 is a long-distance, community-engaged snowmachine traverse, led by UAF researchers Benjamin Jones and Phillip Wilson, designed to document coastal change, permafrost thaw, and winter travel conditions across Alaska's western and northern coasts. Our goal is to better understand how Arctic coastal systems are changing and what that means for communities, infrastructure, and future mobility.

WHAT ARE WE INTERESTED IN OBSERVING?

Along the route, observations are paired with local perspectives, emphasizing lived experience alongside scientific measurement.

We are interested in:

Snow, ice, and sea-ice conditions

Environmental change visible at the community scale

Permafrost and coastal erosion

River crossings and coastal travel hazards

HOW ARE COMMUNITIES INVOLVED?

Our goal is to **build relationships** and improve our **place-based understanding** of the Arctic Shorezone through:

- 1 School visits & community discussions
- 2 Conversations with local travelers & leaders
- 3 Sharing observations back to communities
- 4 Amplifying Indigenous knowledge & expertise

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Arctic coastal communities are experiencing:

-  Rapid permafrost thaw
-  Changing snow and ice conditions
-  Increased coastal erosion and storm surge flooding
-  Impacts to winter travel, logistics, and infrastructure

FOLLOW THE TRAVERSE



coast-x.alaska.edu

