



Ocean Observatories Initiative

Pioneer Array Micro-Siting Process Meeting

URI Coastal Institute – November 15, 2010

Jean McGovern, NSF

Al Plueddemann, WHOI

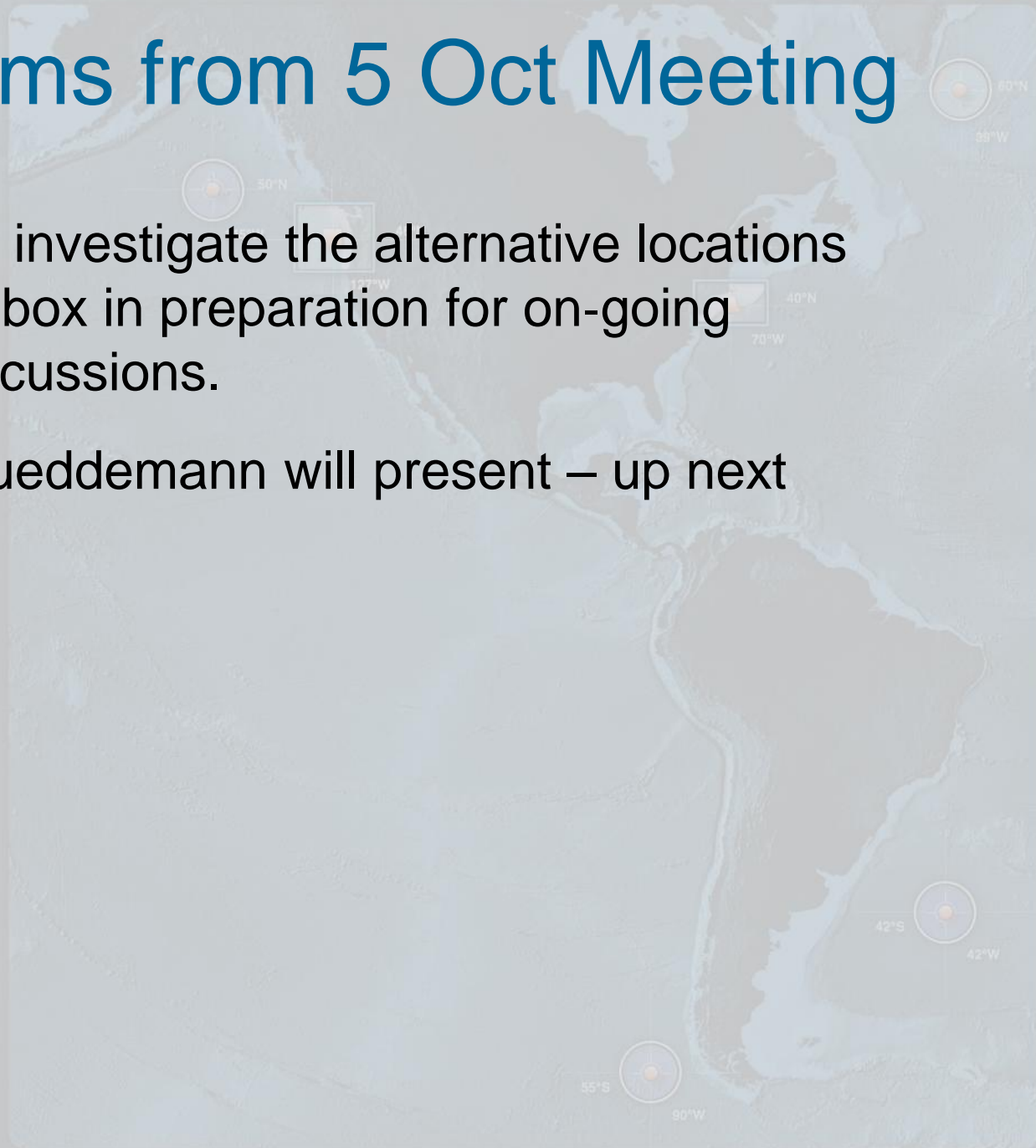


Action Items from 5 Oct Meeting

- NSF will address the comments related to the Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- A comment about the economic analysis was received during the comment period and this will be addressed.
- Marine mammal comments were also received and they will be addressed in the final document.
- Status: Project team is working on the responses to the comments.

Action Items from 5 Oct Meeting

- The project will investigate the alternative locations within the gray box in preparation for on-going micro-siting discussions.
- Status: AI Plueddemann will present – up next



Action Items from 5 Oct Meeting

- Micro-siting public meetings will continue as a series of public meetings. As this is a federal project, all meetings must be open to the public; NSF will not establish a separate committee. NSF wants to assure that all members of the public are invited to participate.
- Status: Today's meeting.

Action Items from 5 Oct Meeting

- NSF is stating that the agency has no interest in seeing fishing areas closed by deploying OOI, and will continue to emphasize this point with its US Coast Guard contacts, state officials, and the public.
- A 0.5 nm diameter buffer around these moorings will be requested.
- NSF contacted the US Coast Guard to get a first person, referenced answer to the questions about the affected area.

Action Items from 5 Oct Meeting

- Status: The response was as follows:
- USCG Waterways Management states that ***USCG has no statutory authority to close areas off to fishing or navigation beyond the 12 nm limit.***

USCG Details

- Pioneer moorings will be on the Light List (publication containing list of lights, sound, signals, buoys, and other aids to navigation) and Local Notice to Mariners (LNM).
- OOI's will work through the USCG, via the permit path, to get mooring locations on NOAA charts.
- OOI will work with USCG to develop guidance (to appear in LNM or chart annotations) regarding the suggested distance from Pioneer moorings to prevent gear entanglement (“areas to be avoided”, voluntary).
- OOI will give advanced notice to USCG of glider/AUV deployment, operating area, instructions if found and a point of contact.

Action Items from 5 Oct Meeting

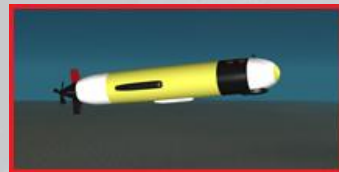
- The OOI website (oceanobservatories.org) will be used to communicate with the community. Public meeting notices, meeting summaries, and associated correspondence will be posted on this site.
- Status: Up and running. Go to:
Oceanobservatories.org,
then click on NSF Environmental Compliance

Pioneer Array

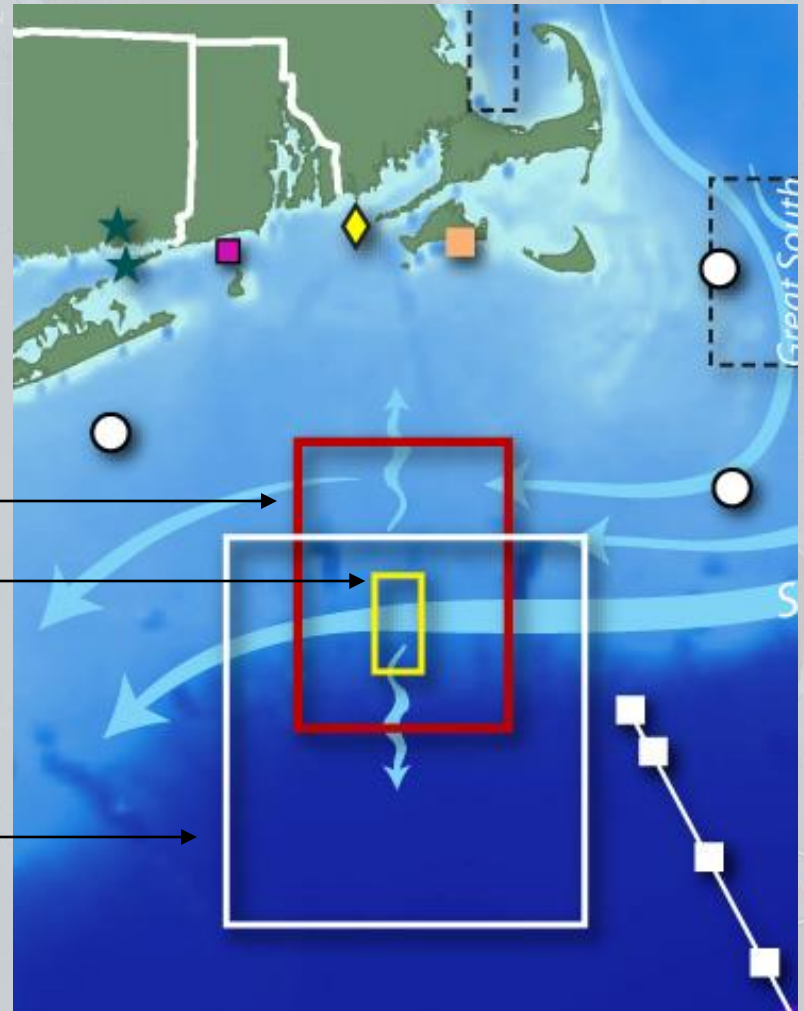
- Multi-platform, multi-scale
- Fixed and mobile assets
- Integrated with regional observing assets



moorings



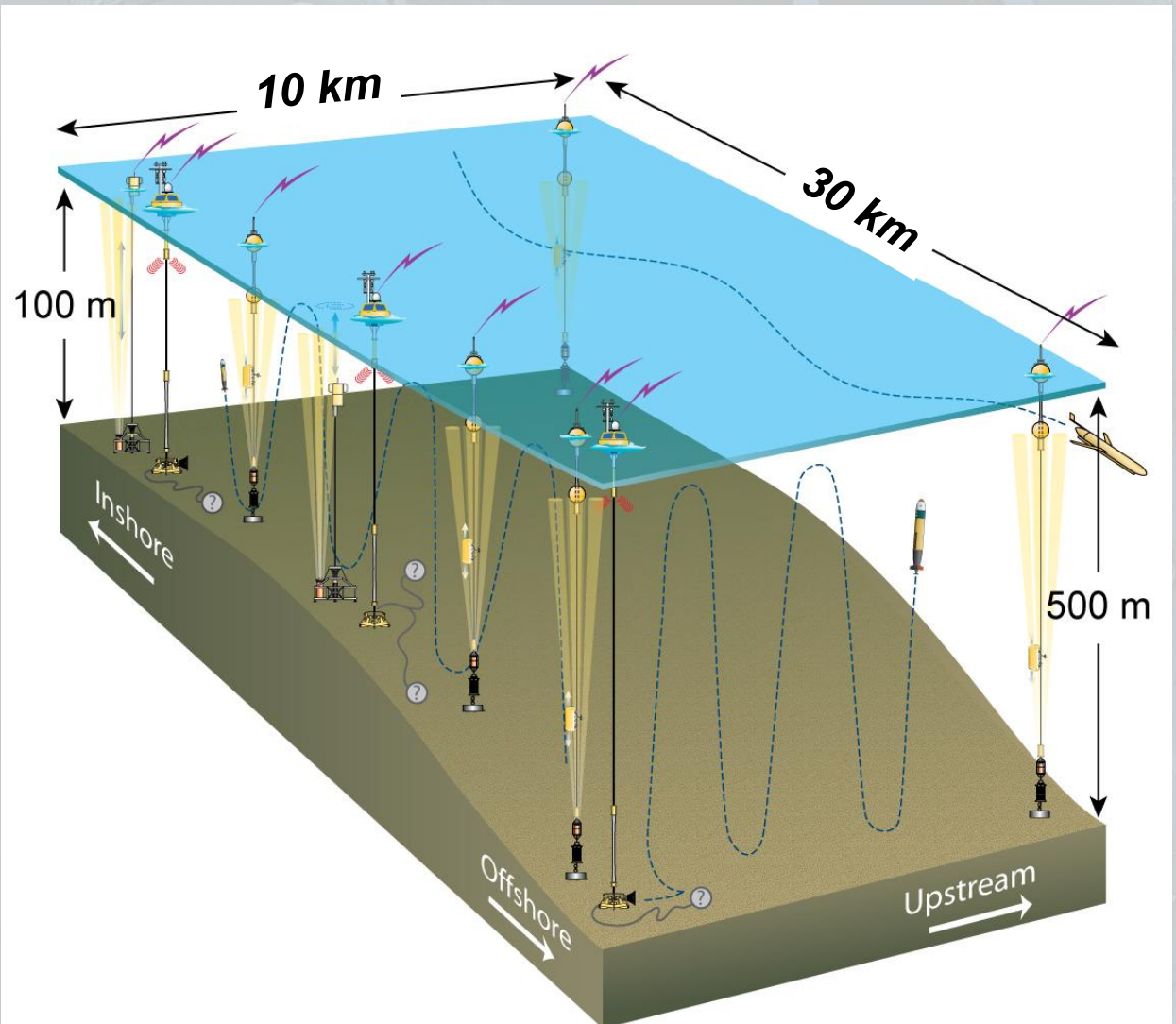
gliders



Plueddemann, Trowbridge and Sosik (WHOI)

Pioneer Array

- Full water column
- Cross-front resolution
- Power-generating buoys
- Multi-function nodes
- AUV docks



Pioneer Infrastructure*

Moored Array

30 x 10 km

Site spacing

6-8 km cross

10 km along

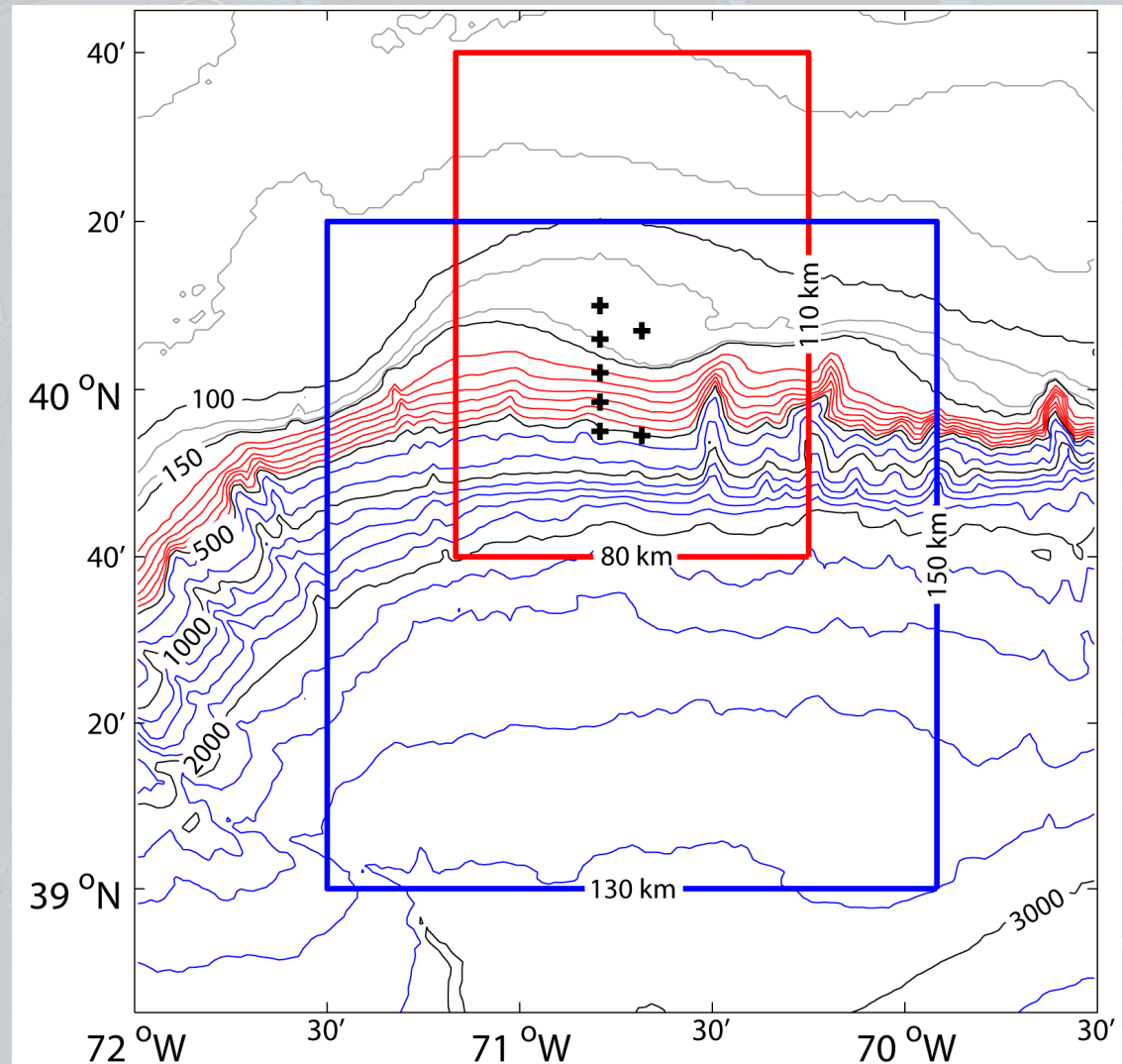
AUV Region

110 x 80 km

Glider Region

150 x 130 km

* Crosses indicate
representative
locations only –
precise locations
are not yet
determined



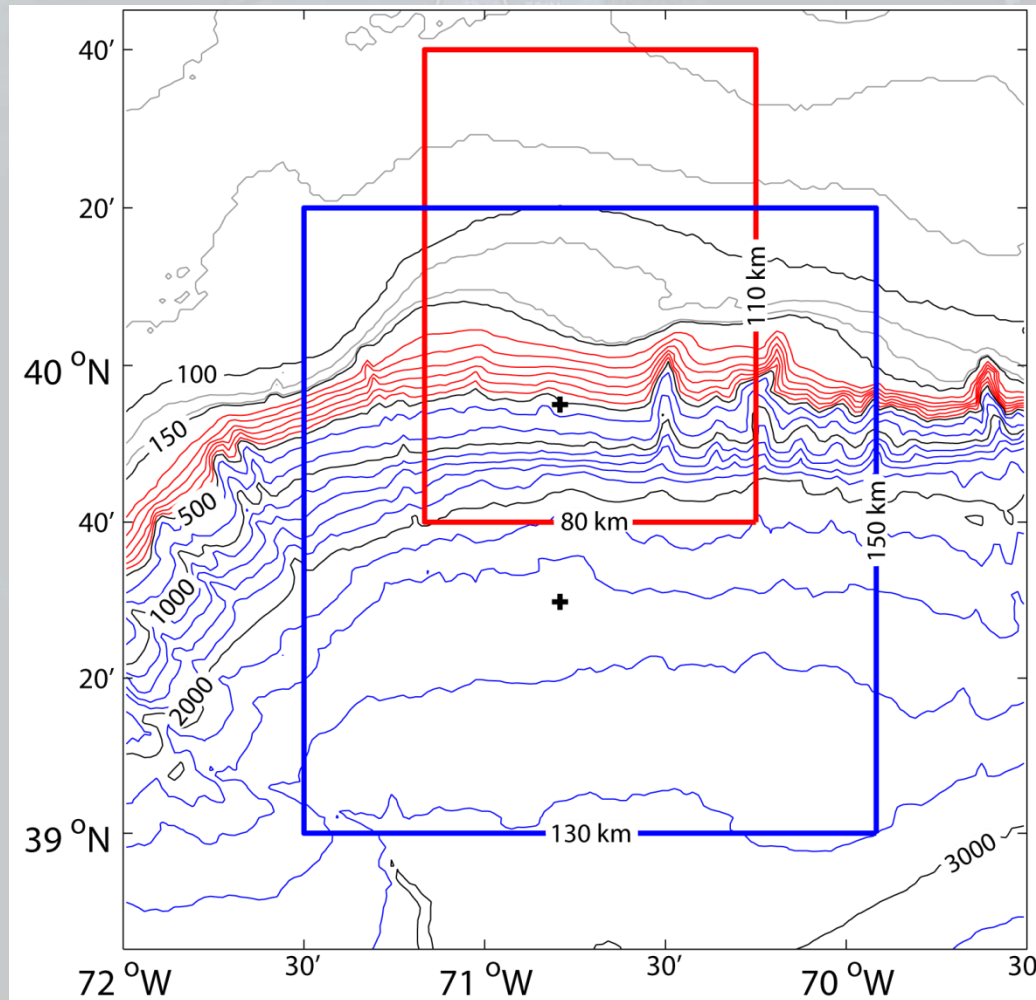
At-Sea Test: Summer 2011

Proposed Test

- Shelfbreak site, two moorings at 275 fathoms
 - Surface mooring
 - Wire-following profiler mooring
- Deep Ocean site, one mooring at 1356 fathoms
 - Hybrid profiler mooring
- Time frame
 - Deploy summer 2011, Recover Spring 2012



At-Sea Test Locations



Plueddemann (WHOI)

Pioneer Fixed Assets: Moored Array

North/South extent 15 nm
East/West extent 5 nm

Distance between moorings
3.5 nm to 6 nm

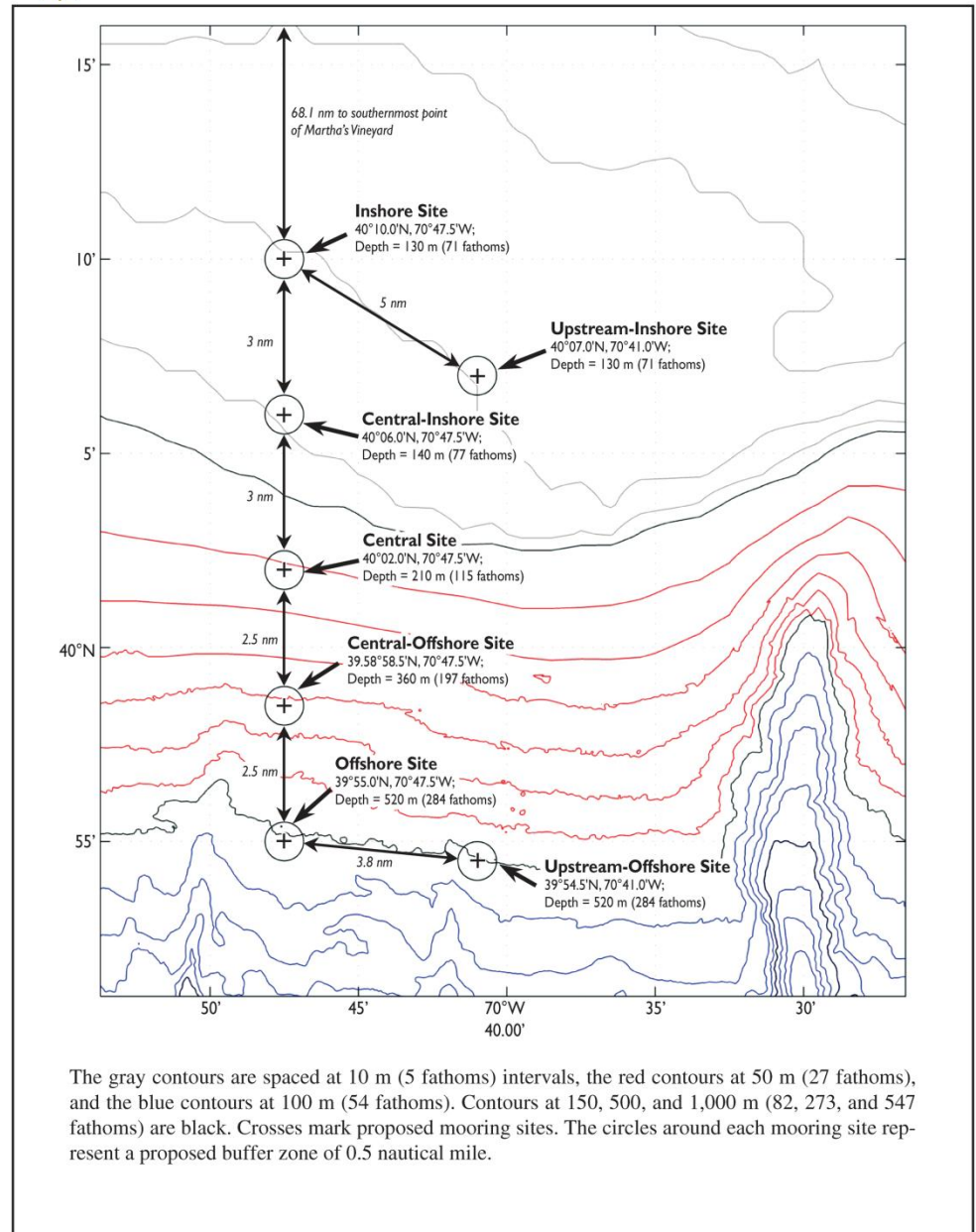
Buffer Zone Radius 0.5nm

Distance between Buffer Zones
2.5 nm to 5 nm – see chart

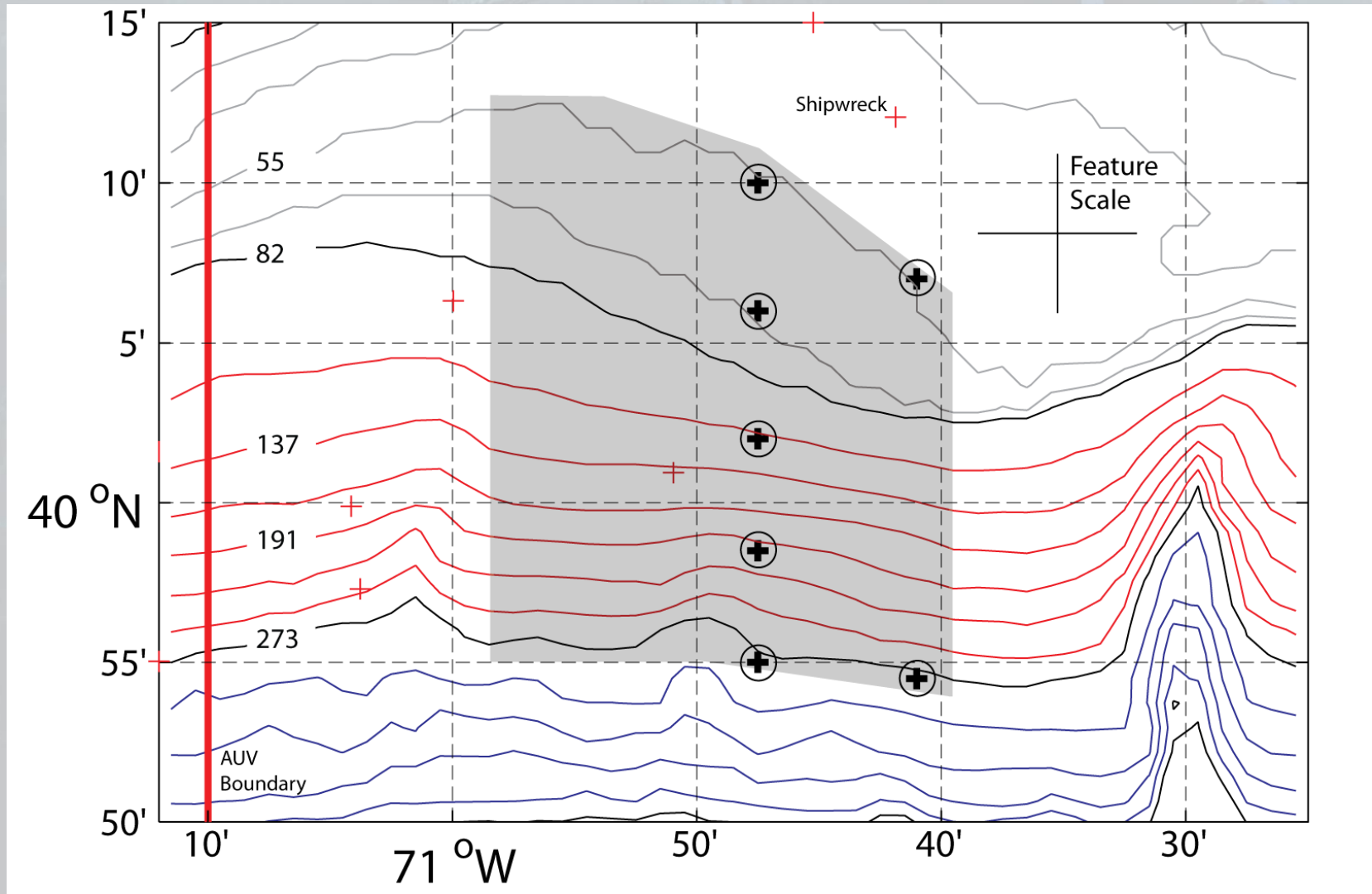
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Proposed Pioneer Array Mooring Locations

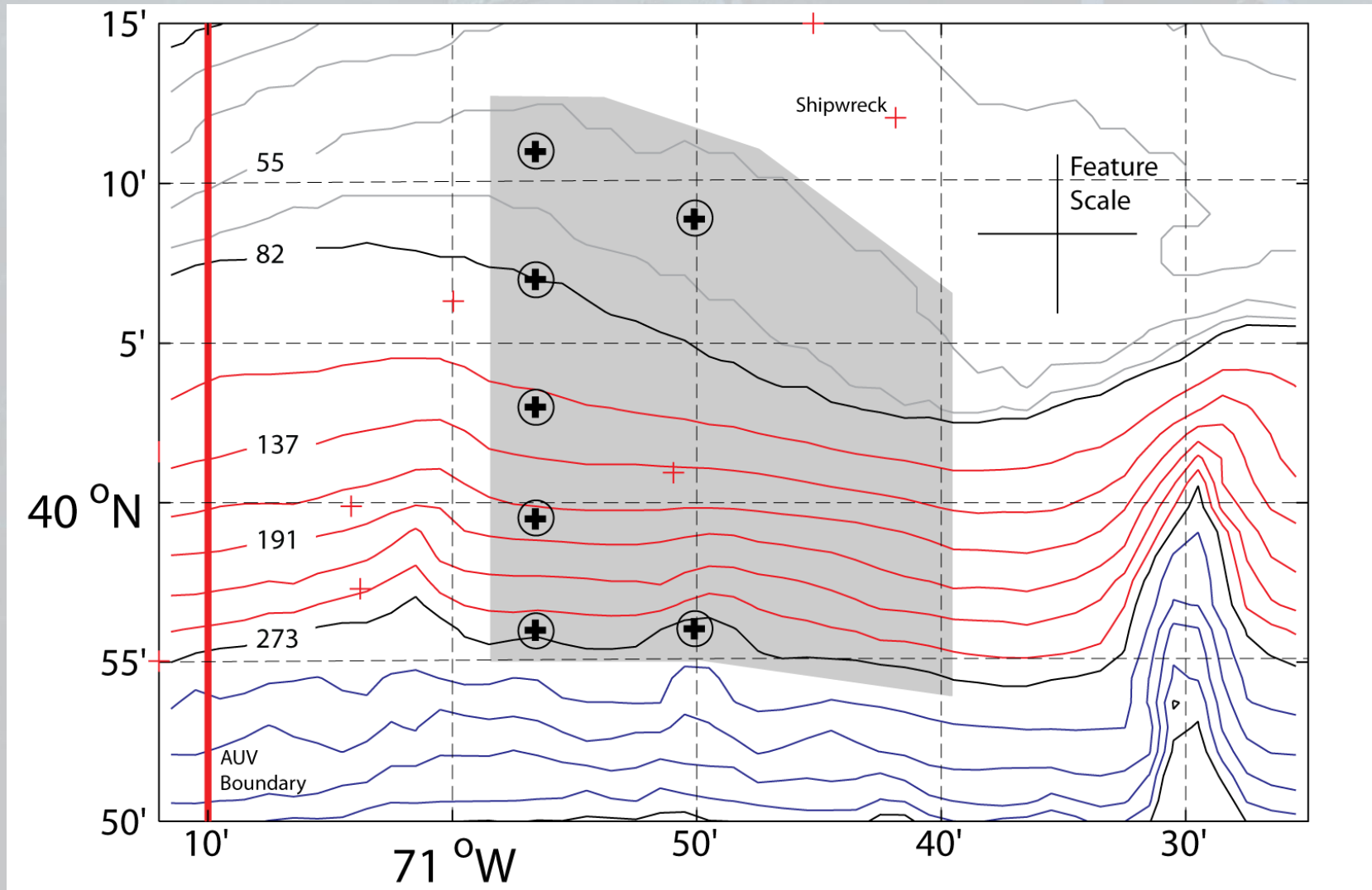


Moored Array Micro-siting



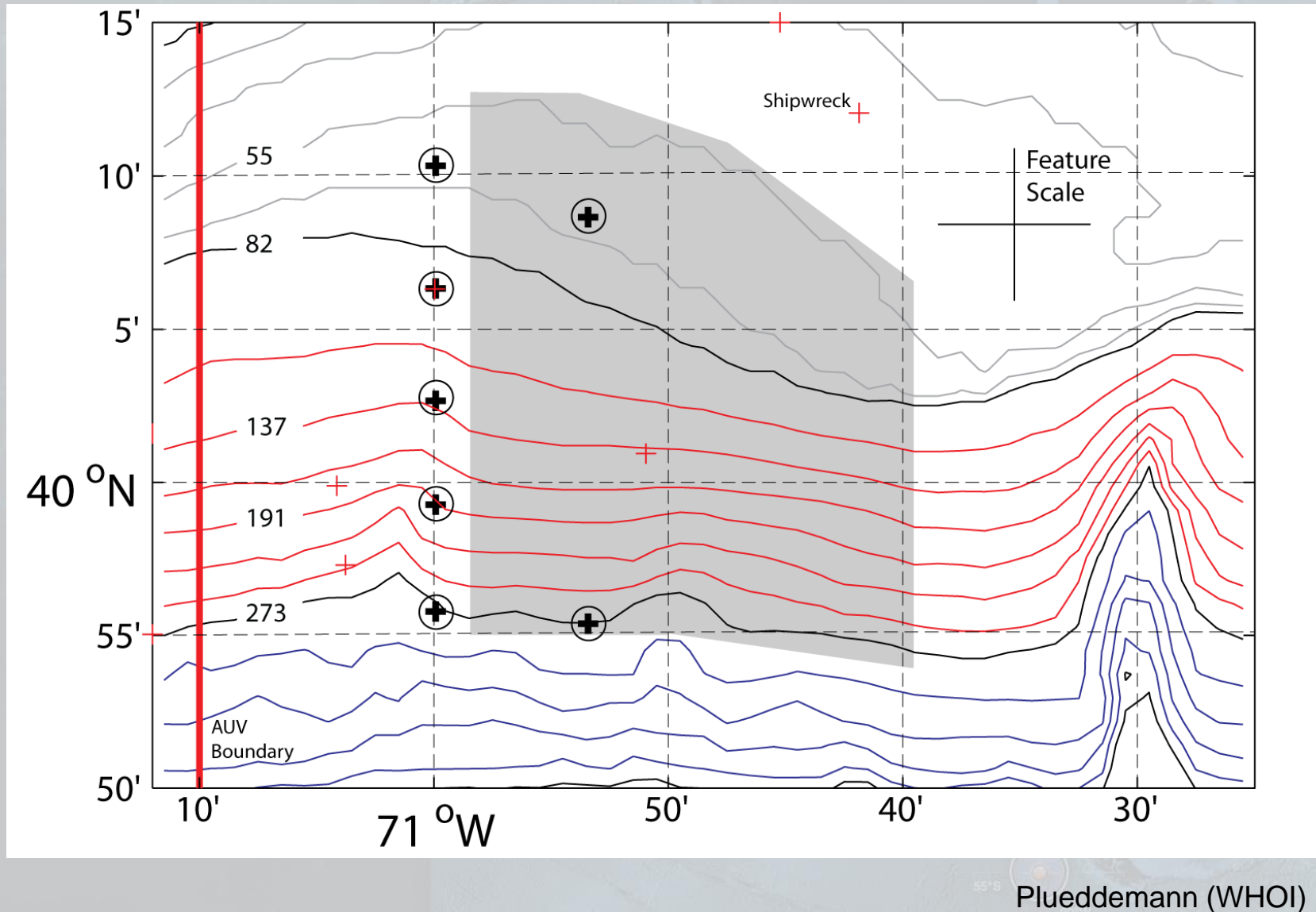
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Micro-siting Option 1: Move West

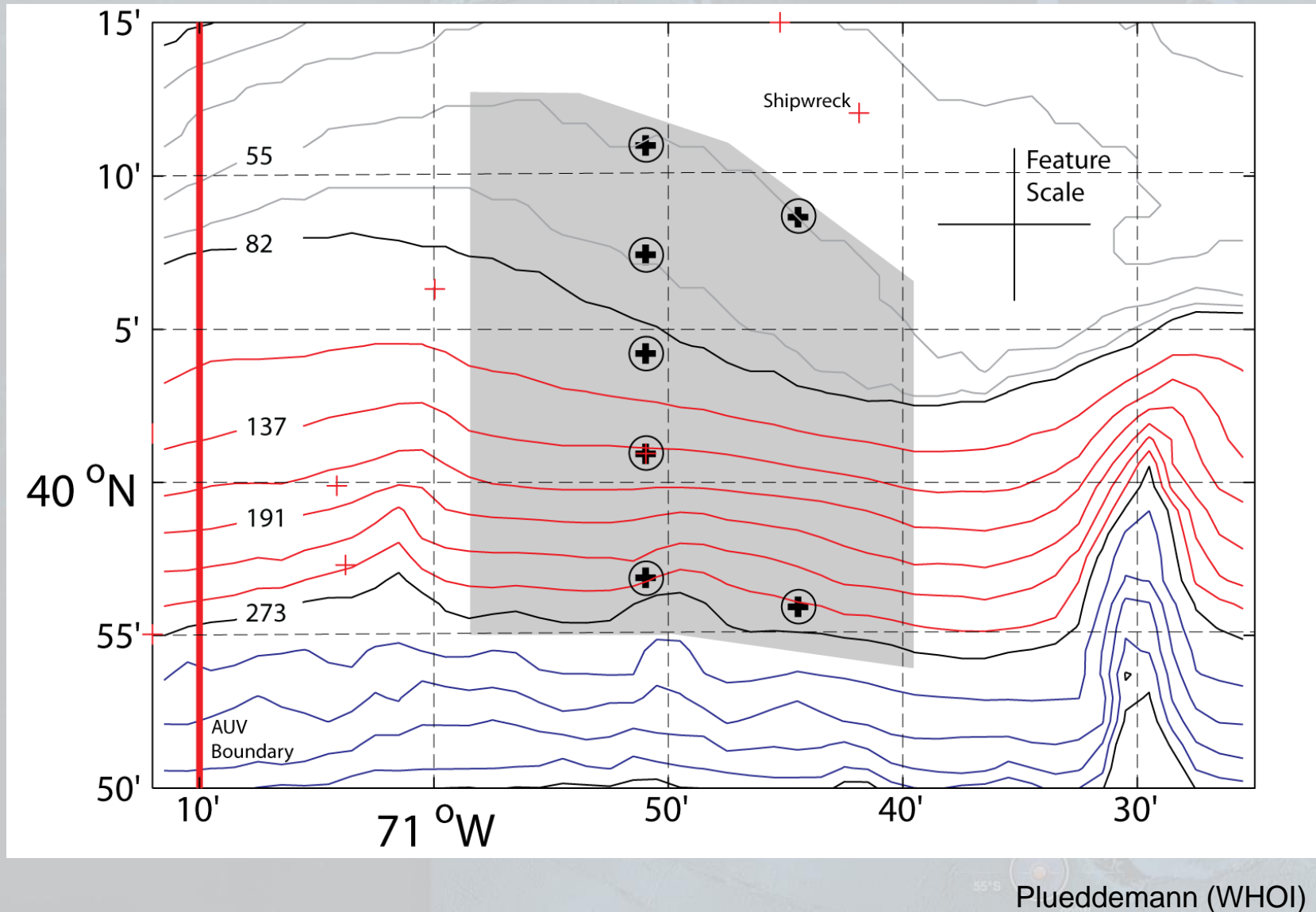


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Micro-siting Option 2a: Wrecks



Micro-siting Option 2b: Wrecks



END

