

# SeaLion Doppler Localization

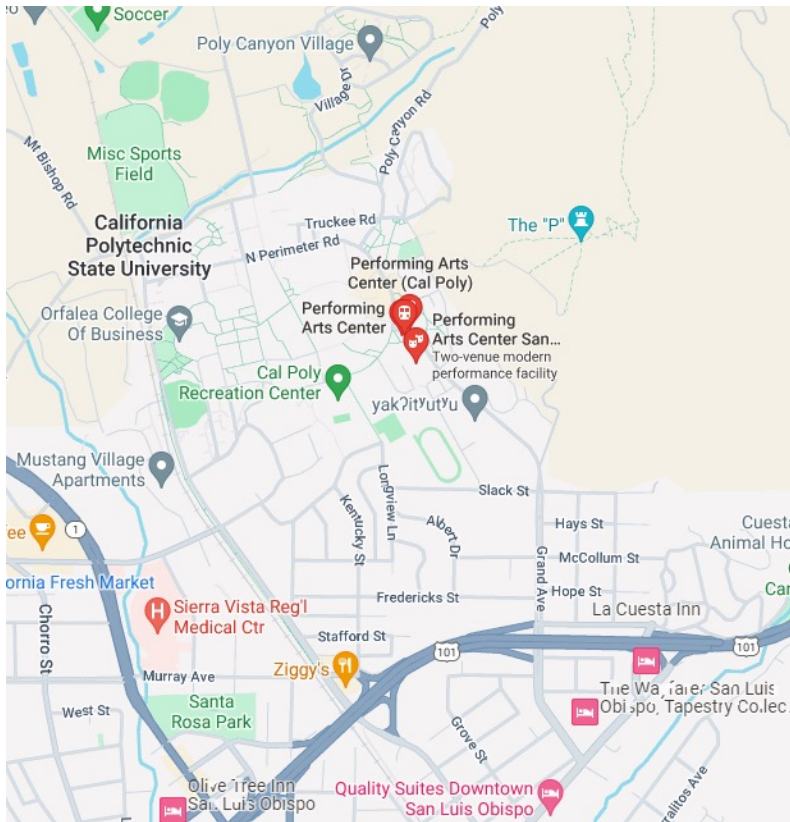
Prof Richard Freeman, CAPT Royce James, Prof Dan Burbank, Prof Richard Hartnett, LCDR Dahnyoung McGarry, Dr. Chris Mehta - United States Coast Guard Academy

Prof Pete Swaszek - University of Rhode Island

Prof Sharan Asundi, Jeries Abedrabbo, Chris Schappi - Old Dominion University



# How Do We Know Where We Are?



<https://www.google.com/maps/search/cal+poly+tech+performing+arts+center/@35.2990732,-120.6709303,15z?entry=ttu>

Cell Phone or GNSS Receiver allows access to GNSS Constellations

Six GNSS Constellations- GPS, GLONASS, BEIDOU, GALILEO, **QZSS** and **IRNSS/NavIC**

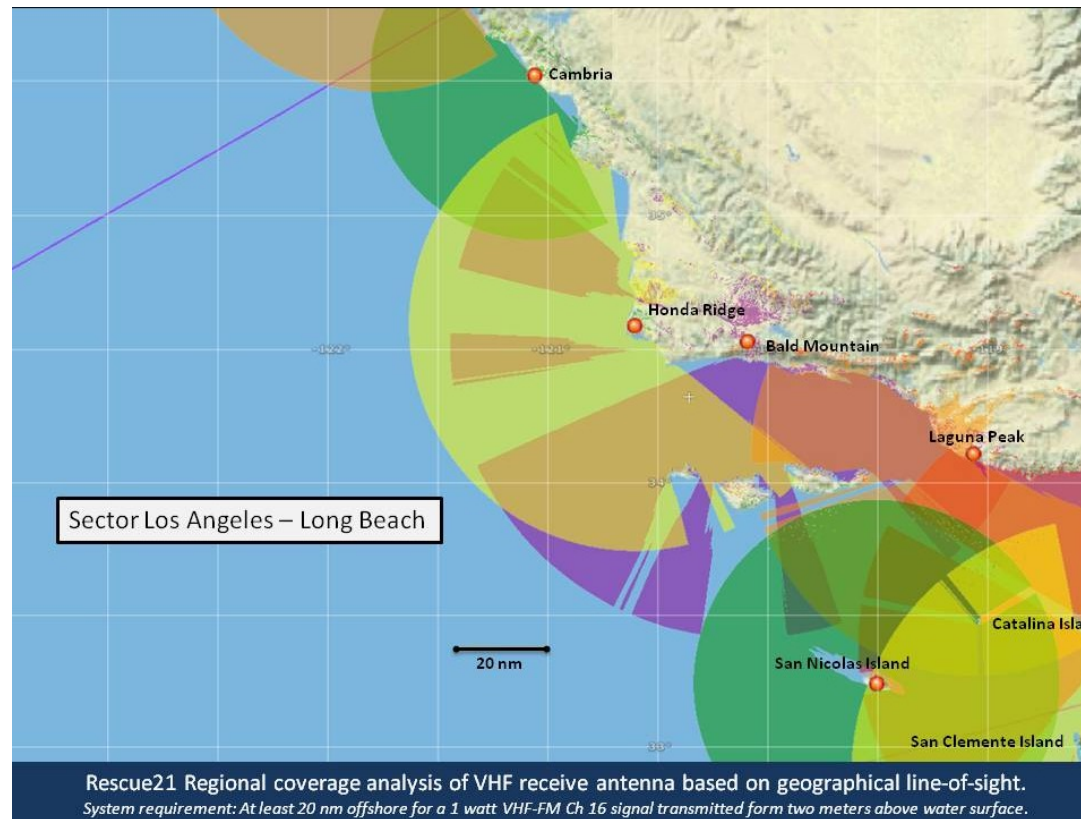
<https://www.gps.gov/systems/gnss/>

# RESCUE 21

US Coast Guard advanced command, control and direction-finding communications system

- Allows persons in distress to call for help
- USCG will triangulate a position for the call
- Dispatch resources to help caller
- Continental US, Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, USVI and major waterways

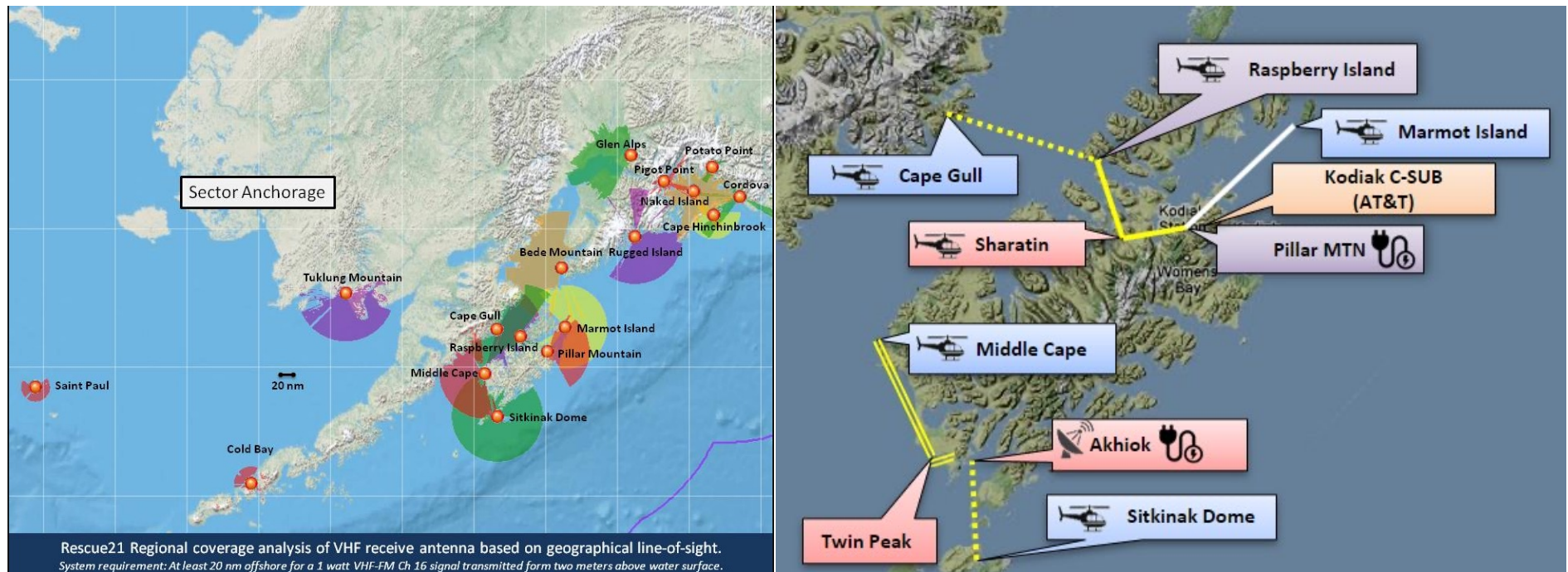
# District 11- Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach



# Is this true in the Arctic?

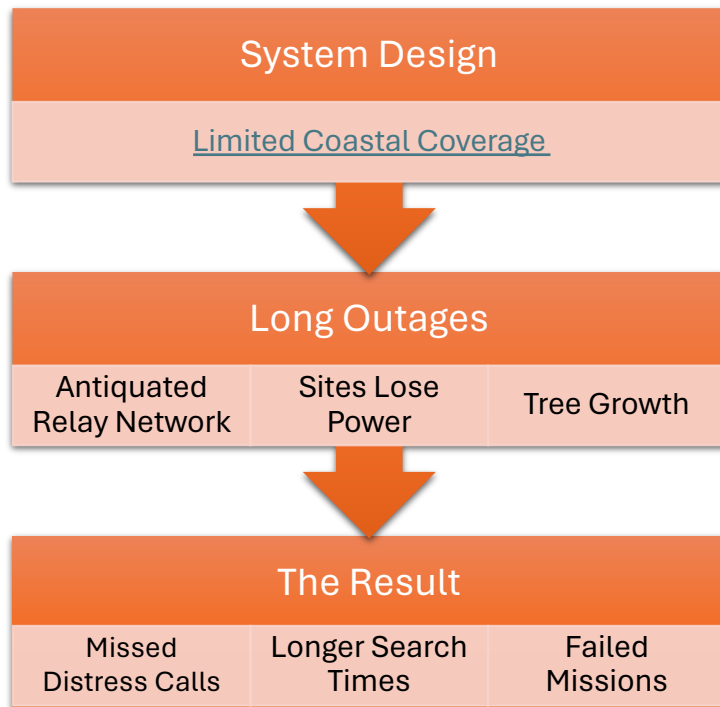
- All GNSS Satellites are closer to the horizon
- Terrestrial and Space Weather and Terrain will affect communications
- Line-of-Sight comms will be limited
- Cell Service is non-existent
- Satellite Service is an option
- EPIRBs/ELTs/PLBs operating on 406MHz may be picked up by Sarsat if activated

# Rescue 21 in Alaska





# Legacy Radio/RF Systems do not Meet Requirements



Rescue 21 RFF site in Alaska

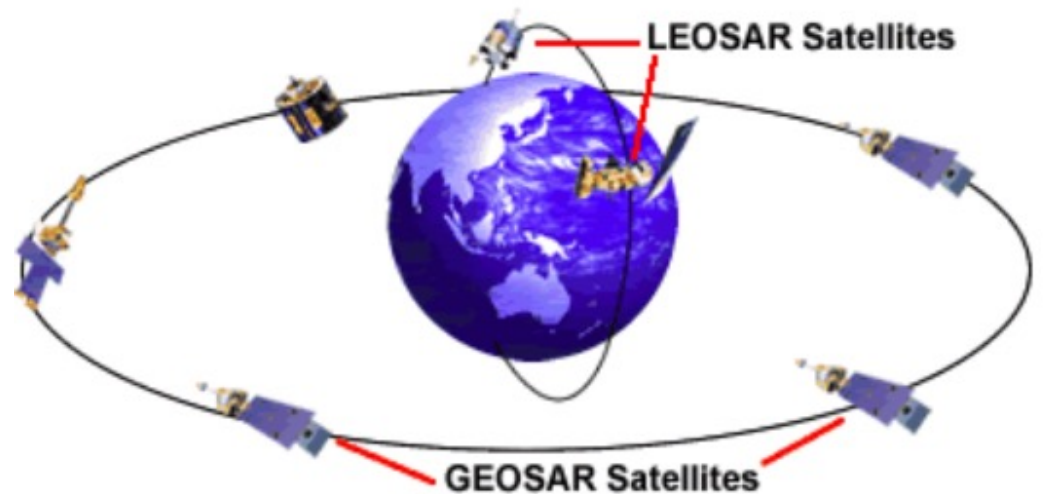
# Harsh Climates call for different Solutions

- Given the extreme climate of the Arctic, RESCUE 21 towers can be unavailable for long periods
- Access to towers is limited
- Why not consider a different solution??

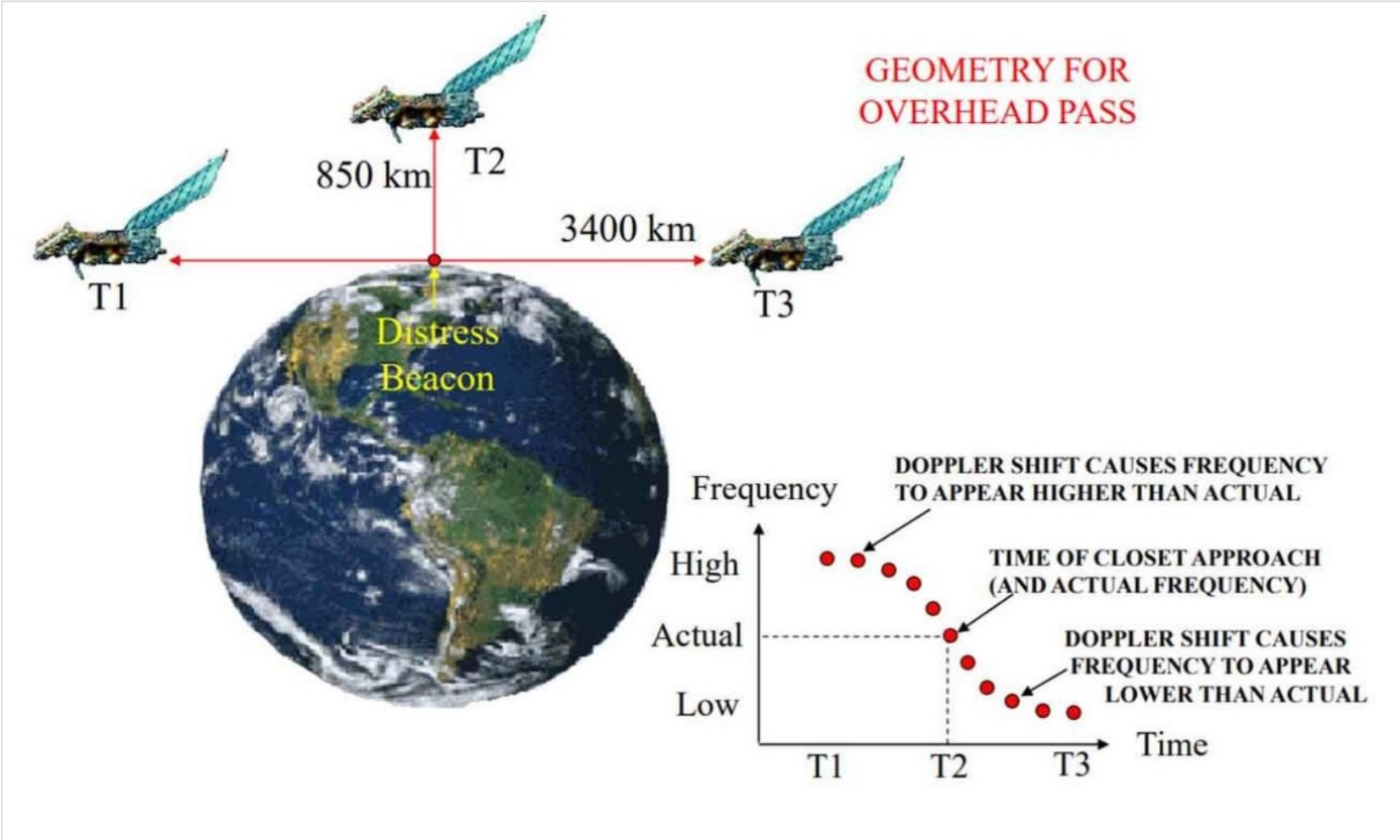


# Doppler Localization augmentation of RESCUE 21

- Doppler Localization has been published and researched since the early 60s
- Cospas-Sarsat relies on Doppler Localization to locate distress signals from beacons transmitting on 406.0 – 406.1MHz
- Why not develop a constellation of satellites to augment R21 in Alaska and the Arctic?



# Doppler Localization





# USCGA Doppler Localization Experiment

- Phase 1 (Downlink)
  - Reciprocal problem- known location for radio transmission and using satellites of opportunity
  - More Testing
  - Algorithm Refinement
- Phase 2 (Uplink)
  - Satellite Payload Construction (NET 2025 Launch)
- Phase 3 (Uplink, Multi-Satellite)
  - Coverage Analysis
  - Orbit Selection



Electrical Engineering & Marine Environmental Science Cadets monitor doppler shifts using Phase I method.

# Phase 1 Method

- Use a transmitting amateur radio satellite
- Measure doppler curve
- Pinpoint location

FUNCUBE-1 (AO-73)

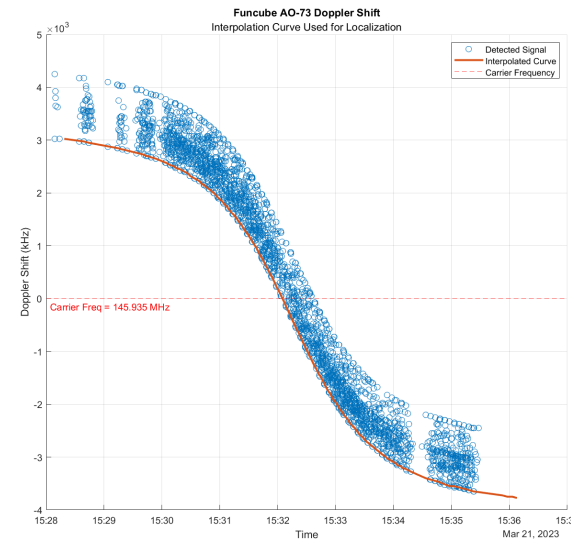
Telemetry Beacon: 145.935 MHz BPSK

300mW (During Illumination)



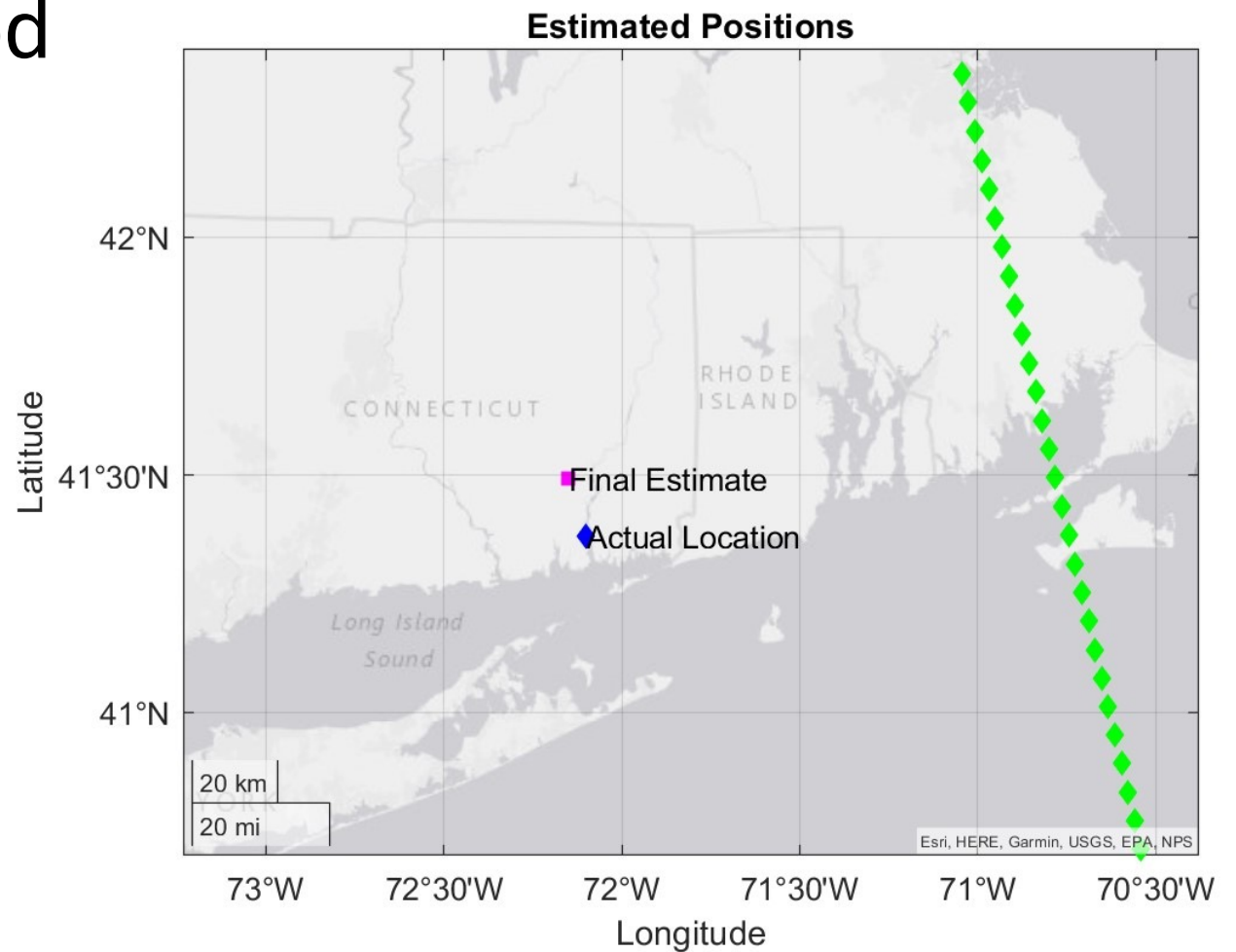
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# Phase 1 Method

- Use a transmitting amateur radio satellite
- Measure doppler curve
- **Pinpoint location**

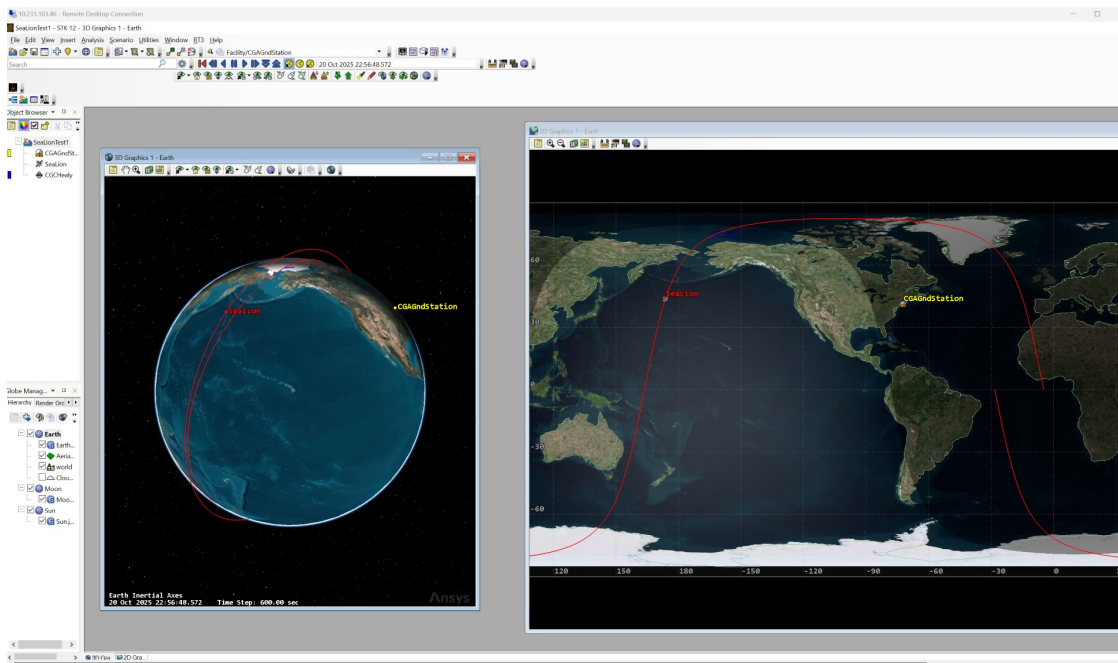


# Phase 2 Benefits

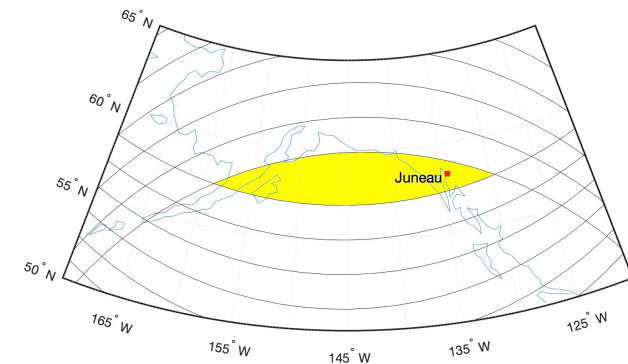
- Doppler localization is established technique (1978)
- Better estimates of Satellite location mean better estimate of mayday location (GPS from Iridium and satellite TLE)
- Higher-power transmissions from dedicated research satellite
- Expand the bandwidth from UHF to VHF-FM

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- Reduces search area using first & last measurements
- Intersection of circular footprints
- Potential for grid search methods







# Mission SeaLion's Upgrade to a Multi-Year, Polar Orbit

## Generates **New Coast Guard-Relevant Mission Objectives**



### Primary Mission Objectives (PMO)

- Validate operation of Impedance Probe as primary payload
- Establish S-band communication link with the MC-3 network
- Transmit spacecraft and payload data to CGA and partner MC-3 ground stations
- Utilize CubeSat Design Standards for spacecraft design and build
- **Demonstrate RF application for Artic SAR localization**

### Secondary Mission Objectives (SMO)

- Validate operation of the Ms.S as a secondary payload
- Validate operation of DeCS experiment as secondary payload

### Tertiary Mission Objectives (TMO)

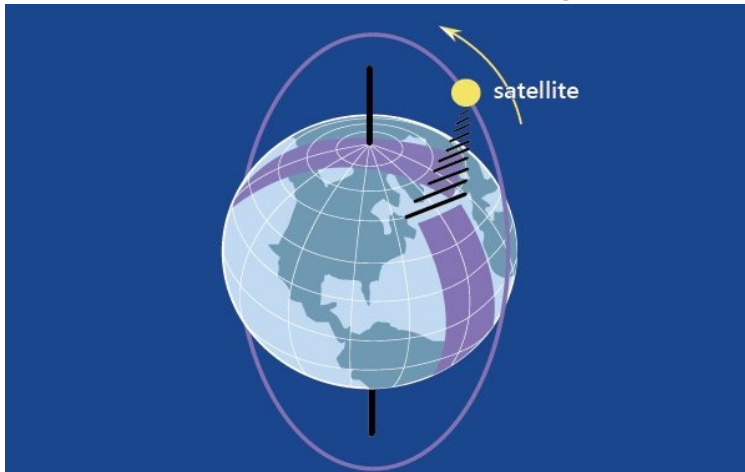
- **Demonstrate Comm Relay for CG Units operating in the Artic**
- Validate on-orbit deployment and functioning of custom developed UHF antenna system
- Gather DeCS experiment in-orbit performance data by capturing structural behavior through accelerometer and temperature sensor





# SeaLion CubeSat Meets Arctic AOR Coverage Needs

- Sun-synchronous orbit
- Inclination: 97.6 deg
- Altitude: 550-400 km
- Footprint: 3000 km diameter (6-7 min pass)
- Orbital period: 1 hour 24 min which results in ~15 Arctic overflights per day
- Ground tracks range from latitude 82.4S to 82.4N and shift westward 21 deg per orbit



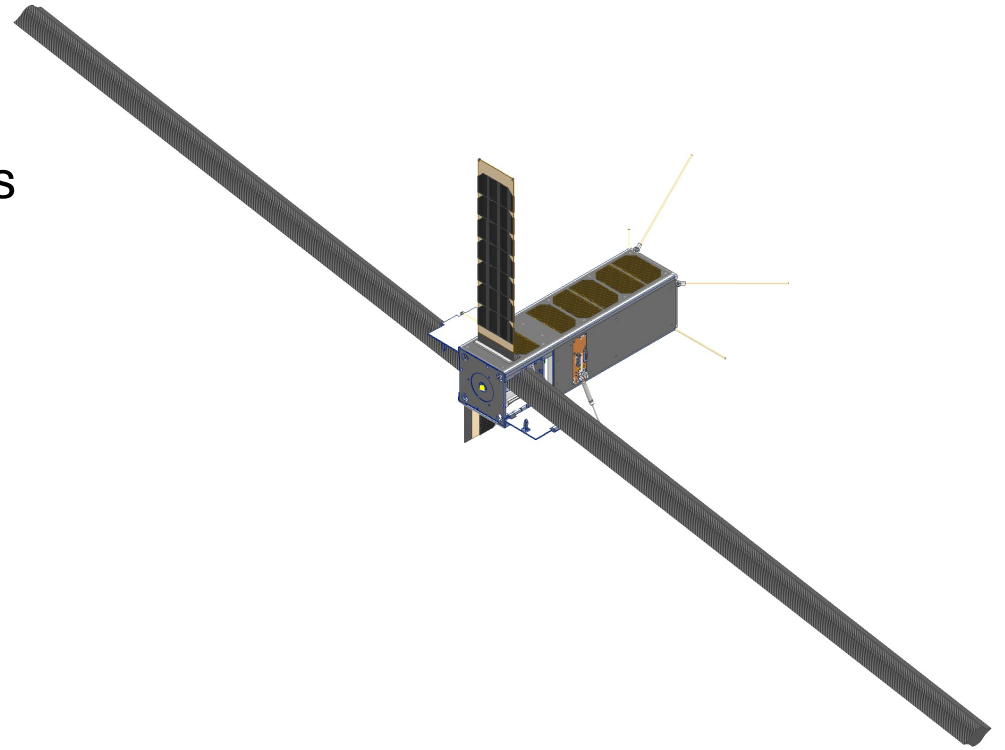
# Accelerating Phase 2 Research

- Initial field test
- Simulate distress call on CH 16 (156.8MHz) from USCGC Healy
- Use SeaLion to measure Doppler and compute Healy's location
- Via Software Defined Radio on SeaLion
- Remove doppler suppression- we want to hear the shifted signal



# Phase 3 Approach

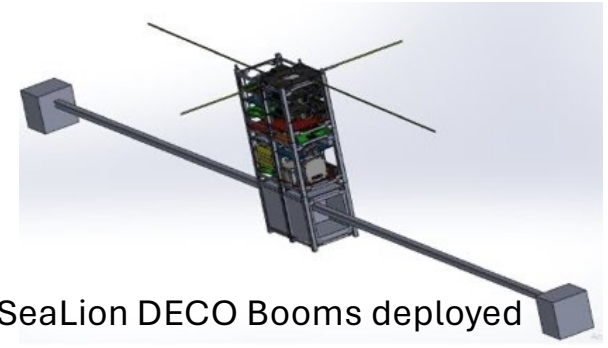
- Multiple Satellites- SeaLion II
- Potentially relay calls via Satellites
- Simulate Distress calls



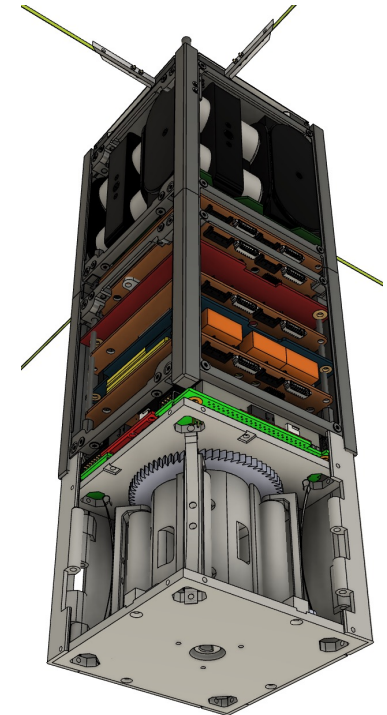
CAD rendering of SeaLion with antenna, solar panels, and boom deployed

# Outstanding Design Questions

- Do we use vendor SDR or purpose – built GNU radio SDR?
- Can we implement using current quad monopole antenna or do we need to add a fifth one?
- Can we map Space Weather (Plasma Temperature and Density) over localized radio signals?
- What is the maximum tumble rate Iridium can tolerate?



SeaLion DECO Booms deployed



SeaLion Internal Components

# Resources

McGarry D, Hartnett R, Swaszek P, Chan B, Evans B, Kenna A, Potential LEO Satellite Augmentation of Rescue-21 in Alaska, The Institute of Navigation ION-GNSS 23 , Denver, CO, Sept 2023.

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/images/marcomms/cgcomms/Rescue21/SECLALB.jpg>

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/images/marcomms/cgcomms/Rescue21/SecAnchorage.jpg>

<https://www.cospas-sarsat.int/en/system-overview/detailed-cospas-sarsat-system-description>

<https://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/search-and-rescue-satellites/>

<https://media.defense.gov/2023/Aug/11/2003279773/1920/1080/0/230809-G-HT254-1007.JPG>