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# How to look ahead while seeing where you are.

Last summer a Coast Guard ship with a team of scientists on board dropped anchor in the West Beaufort Sea off Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Their mission — to fill a void in man's knowledge of our Arctic environment.

In this region of ice and snow, little is known of the marine creatures that inhabit the water beneath the ice. And we know little about the few mammals and birds that survive the harsh, polar climate.

For the last two years, the Smithsonian Institution, in cooperation with the Coast Guard, has been involved in this important research, a project that has been partly underwritten by Humble. The thrust of the study is to determine the "here and now" status of the West Beaufort Sea's fragile life chain. Whatever is learned will serve as a kickoff point for future study.

This team of qualified men is studying the sea's bottom, water chemistry, hydrology, fish and invertebrate populations, snow analysis and

marine bird and mammal populations. They are filling in some of the blanks in man's knowledge of the earth's vast Arctic regions.

Humble supports many studies such as this that promise to reveal much about man's present and future environments. By contributing to this Arctic study, we have again assisted in gathering basic scientific data on the web of life. We are thinking ahead by acting now, so that we may continue to have the knowledge we need to protect the environment. It's Humble's way of making certain that we can develop Alaska's resources while safeguarding the ecology of the great land.

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