

**10/02/15
Healthy Arctic
Communities:
Perspectives on
State Agency
Involvement by
6 State
Departments**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>10-02-15 Healthy Arctic
Communities Perspectives on State Agency Involvement by 6
State Departments</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDA29</COMM></TARGET>

Talking point for Joint Arctic Committee Chairs

Thursday, October 2 from 1-4 PM, LIO Auditorium, First Floor, 716 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage

HERRON: Welcome to the joint hearing of the Senate Arctic Committee and the House Economic Development, Tourism, and Arctic Policy Committee. It's 1:05 PM. Present are: Representative Tilton (Yes), Wool (Yes), Ortiz (Yes), Stutz?, Johnson?, Millett~~X~~ and myself Chair Herron.

MCGUIRE: And from the Senate: Co-Chair Giessel, Senator Hoffman, ??, and myself Co-Chair McGuire.

HERRON: Today we'll be hearing from the Walker Administration on the progress they are making on AAPC Line of Effort #3: Healthy Communities. These are Strategic Recommendations 3A-H. You can see the Recs on the back page of the Agenda.

For those on-line, the presentations and the Agenda are available on BASIS. We're going to hear four presentations covering 6 state agencies. After that, maybe around 3 PM, we will open the floor to public testimony on anything related to these recommendations.

Presentations:

- AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation (Recommendation 3A)
 - Bill Griffith
- AK Dept of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development / Alaska Energy Authority (Recs 3B, 3C, and 3D)
 - Commissioner Chris Hladick
- AK Dept of Fish and Game (Recs 3E and 3F) / AK Dept of Law (Rec 3G)
 - Glenn Haight, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 - Brad Meyen, Alaska Department of Law
- AK Dept of Labor & Workforce Development (Rec 3H)
 - Mike Andrews
- Public Testimony on AAPC Recommendations 3A-3H

Beth Kerttula, Director of the National Ocean Council

Mark Brzezinski, Executive Director, Arctic Executive Steering Committee

Vivian Korthius, AVCP?

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Special Committee on the Arctic
House Special Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and
Arctic Policy

Senator Lesil McGuire, Co-Chair
Senator Cathy Giessel, Co-Chair

Representative Bob Herron, Chair



Senator Lesil McGuire, Co-Chair
Senator Cathy Giessel, Co-chair
Representative Bob Herron, Chair

October 2, 1:00-4:00 PM – Anchorage LIO

The agenda is focused on the AAPC Implementation Plan Line of Effort #3, recommendations 3A-3H. www.akarctic.com

Testimony

- AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation (Recommendation 3A)
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- AK Dept of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development / Alaska Energy Authority (Recs 3B, 3C, and 3D)
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- AK Dept of Fish and Game (Recs 3E and 3F) / AK Dept of Law (Rec 3G)
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<<See Overleaf (P.2) for Recs 3A-3H>>

AAPC Implementation Plan
Strategic Line of Effort #3:
“The state of Alaska will support healthy communities”

Strategic Recommendations 3A-3H

- 3A – (DEC) Foster the delivery of reliable and affordable inhome water, sewer, and sanitation services in all rural Arctic communities.
- 3B – (AEA) Reduce power and heating costs in rural Alaskan Arctic communities.
- 3C – (DCCED-DCRA) Support long-term strategic planning efforts that utilize past achievements, leverage existing methods and strengthen local planning that assesses and directs economic, community and infrastructure development, as well as environmental protection and human safety.
- 3D – (DCCED & DEC) Anticipate, evaluate and respond to risks from climate change related to land erosion and deterioration of community infrastructure and services; and support community efforts to adapt and relocate when necessary.
- 3E – (DFG) Develop and support public education and outreach efforts that (a) enhance the understanding of Arctic conservation including biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources and management of natural resources and (b) promote public participation in development of fish and wildlife management plans within existing management systems and policies.
- 3F – (DFG) Enforce measures that protect and help further understanding of food security of Arctic peoples and communities.
- 3G – (Dept of Law) Identify and promote industry, community and state practices that promote sustainability of subsistence resources while protecting against undue ESA listings and broad-brush critical habitat designations.
- 3H – (Dept of Labor) Create workforce development programs to prepare Arctic residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development.

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Implementation Recommendation 3A



Joint Meeting of the House
Committee on Economic
Development, Tourism, and
Arctic Policy and the Senate
Committee on the Arctic

October 2, 2015

Bill Griffith

Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation

Recommendation 3A

2

Foster the delivery of reliable and affordable in-home water, sewer, and sanitation services in all rural Arctic communities

Progress in Alaska Village Sanitation

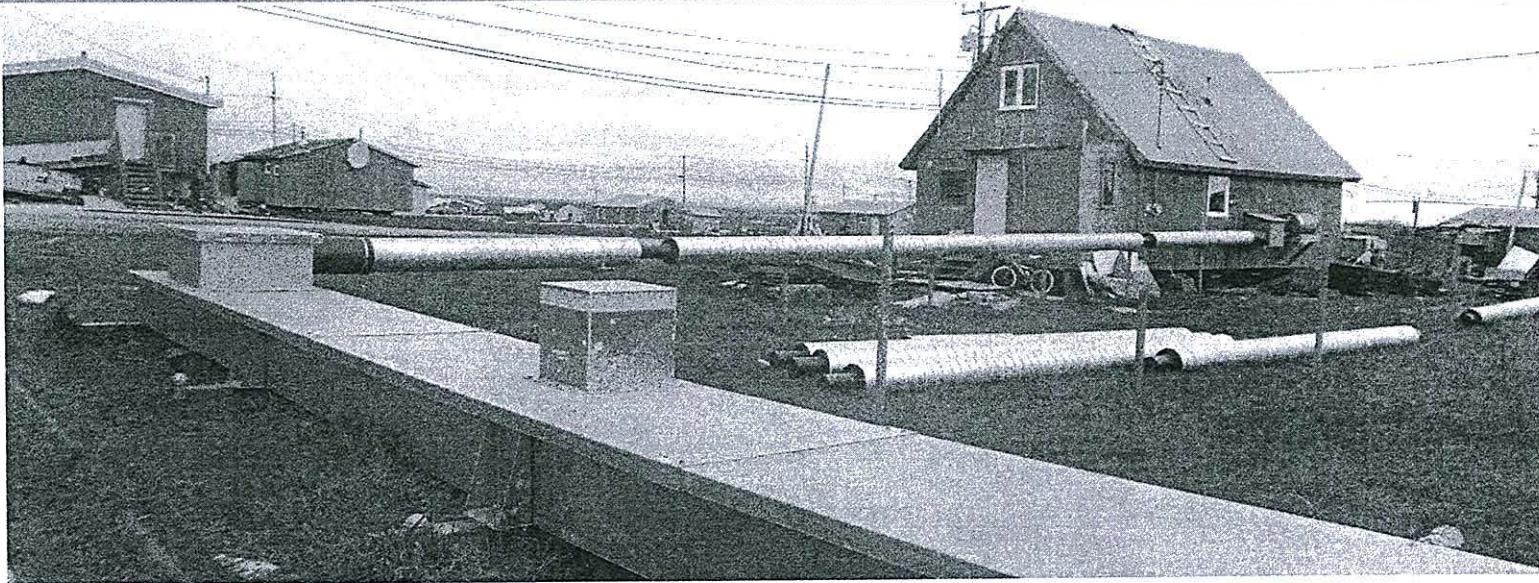
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- For half a century, we've focused on getting rid of the honey bucket.
- Much progress has been made:
 - ▣ 30 years ago, fewer than 25% of rural Alaska households had running water and flush toilets.
 - ▣ In 1996, 55% of rural homes had piped or covered haul service.
 - ▣ Today, approximately 85% of rural homes have indoor plumbing (over 90% if regional hubs are included in the calculation).

“Centralized” Approach Since 1970

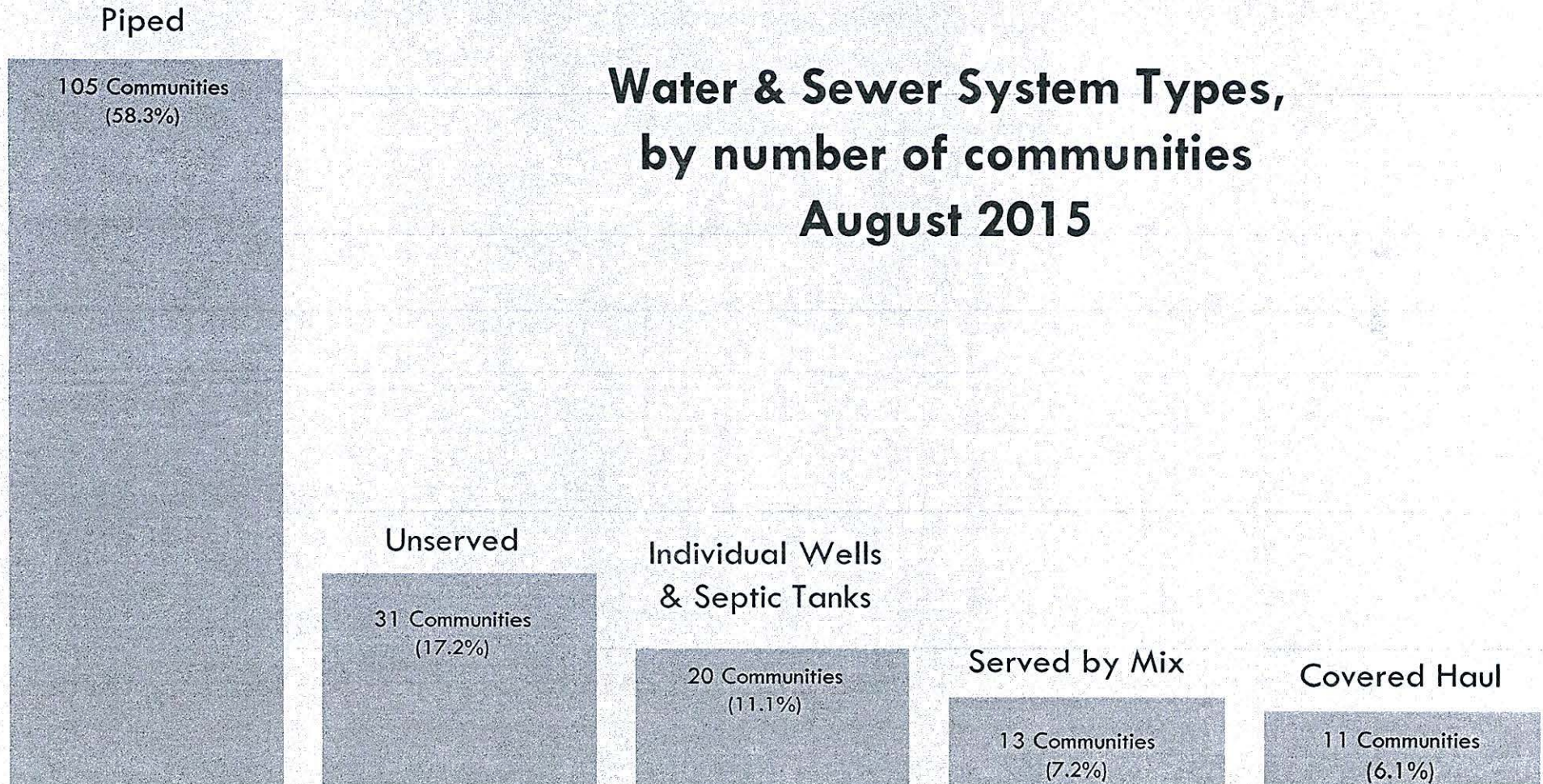
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- 100% water treatment to full regulatory compliance (regardless of ultimate use)
- Storage of large quantities of water, usually requiring heat addition
- Distribution of treated water to individual homes via pipes or haul vehicle, usually requiring heat addition
- Collection of all household sewage for lagoon disposal, usually requiring heat addition

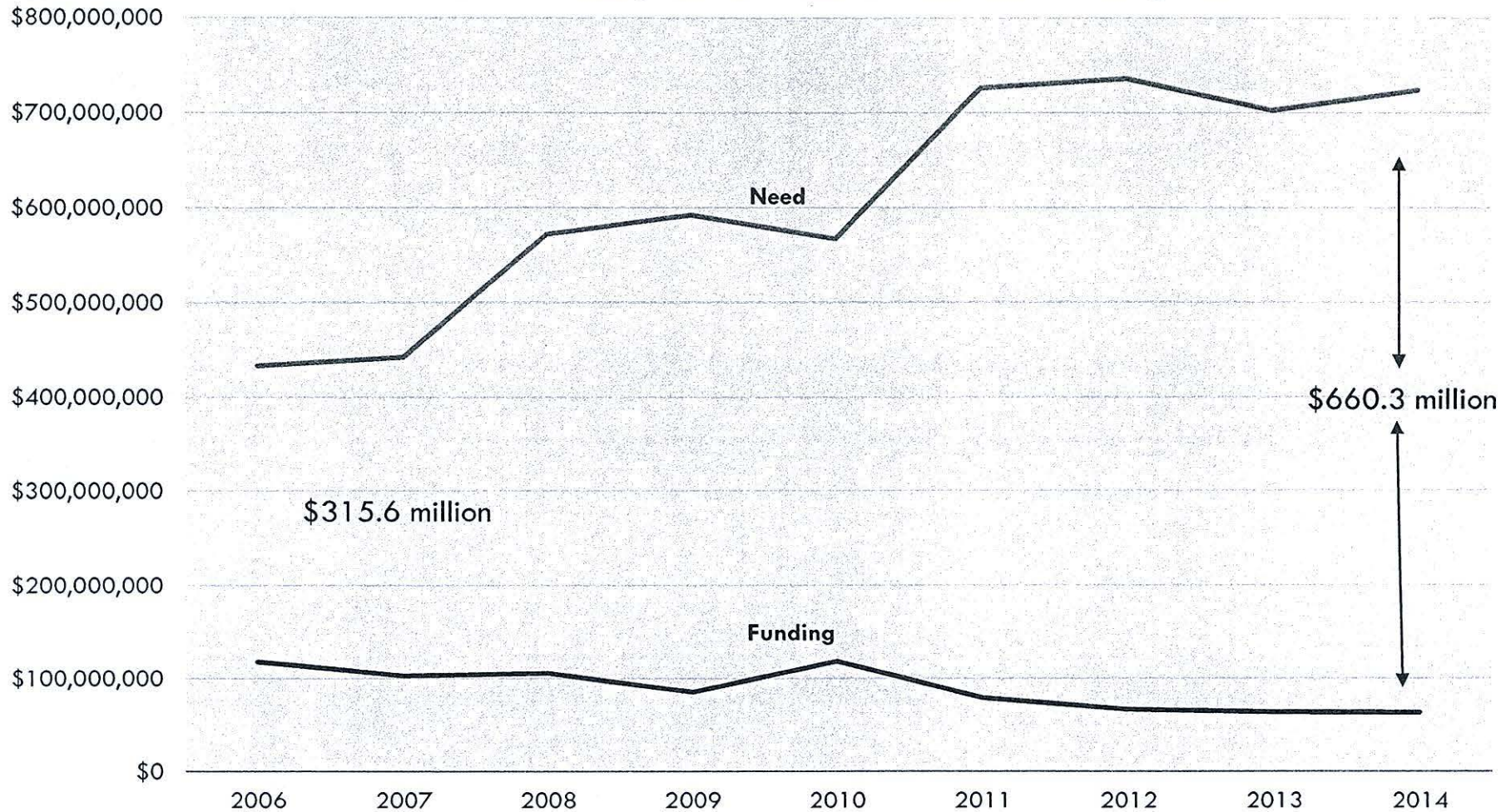
Rural Alaska Sanitation

**Water & Sewer System Types,
by number of communities
August 2015**

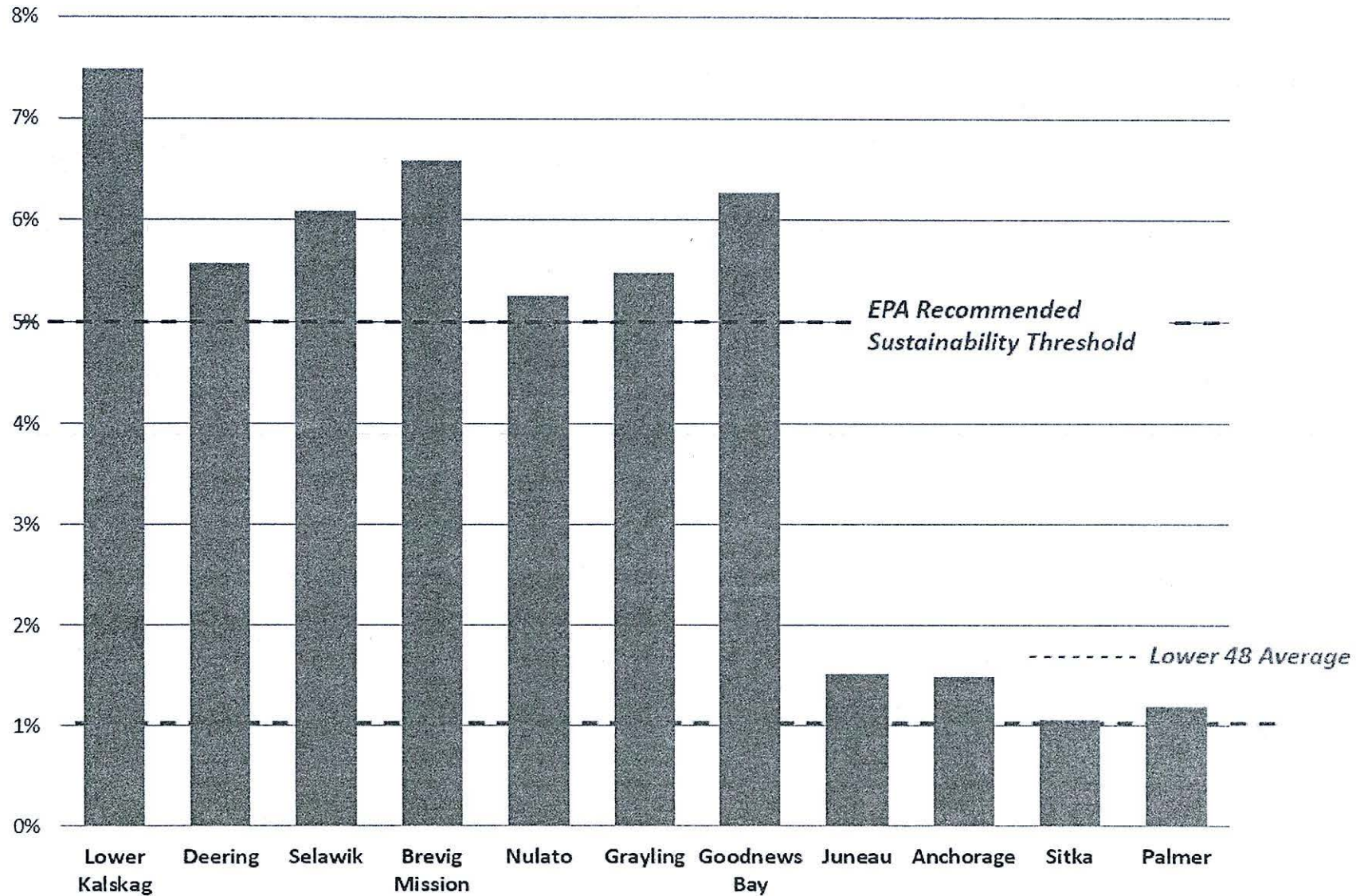


The Growing Gap Between Critical Needs and Available Funding

Total Rural Sanitation Funding vs. Health-Related Infrastructure Funding Need



Water and Sewer User Fees as a Percentage of Median Household Income



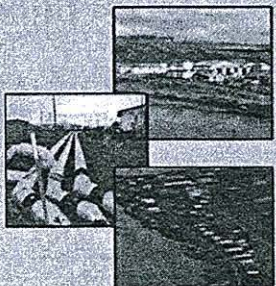
Bottom Line

- Conventional, community-wide piped systems and truck haul systems are expensive to construct, maintain and replace.
- Many communities cannot afford the high operation and maintenance costs associated with piped or haul systems.
- Available funding is not adequate to serve remaining homes and make needed improvements.
- Innovative approaches are needed in order to address health problems associated with water and sewer system deficiencies.

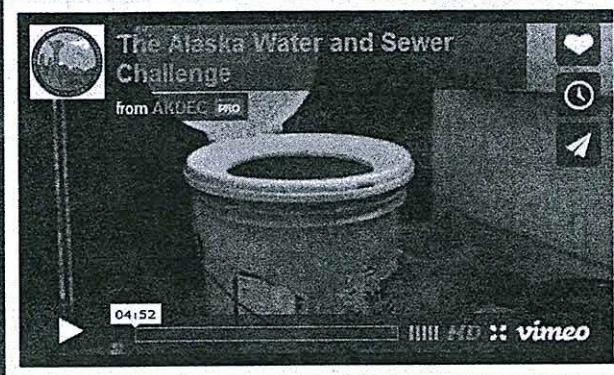
“The Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge”

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HOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS RURAL ALASKA PHOTO GALLERY PRESS RELEASES CONTACT US



ALASKA WATER AND SEWER CHALLENGE



The Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge

from AKDEC 2010

04:52

vimeo

THE ALASKA WATER AND SEWER CHALLENGE

To improve the health of rural Alaska residents, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is spearheading a research and development effort to find better and more affordable ways to deliver drinking water and sewage disposal services to rural Alaska.

THE PROBLEM

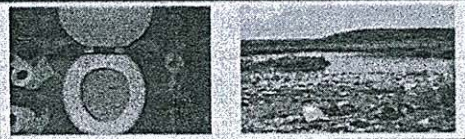
- ▶ Over 4,500 rural Alaska homes lack running water and a flush toilet. Many more depend on aging and deteriorating piped and haul systems.
- ▶ Lack of in-home water and sewer service in rural Alaska causes severe skin infections and respiratory illnesses. Residents of Southwest Alaska suffer rates of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) that are among the highest in the world.
- ▶ To correct this public health problem, agencies have funded conventional, community-wide piped and truck haul systems. Although these systems work, they are expensive to construct and many communities cannot afford their high operational costs.
- ▶ Funding to build systems has declined severely while costs have risen sharply. The deficit between available funds and needs is over \$660.3 million.
- ▶ A different approach to delivering these services is needed.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Some communities in rural Alaska use a household toilet facility known as a “honey bucket”. A plastic bag lined bucket collects urine and feces. Then, plastic bags of feces from honey buckets are disposed in a sewage lagoon.

- ▶ For more images of existing conditions, visit the Photo Gallery.

RURAL ALASKA PHOTO GALLERY



THE SOLUTION

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has initiated a new project to encourage wide research to develop innovative and cost

Key Components of Alaska Water & Sewer Challenge

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- Private sector driven – with ownership of intellectual property retained by project teams
- Performance targets include sufficient water for health, affordable operation and capital cost, constructability, and long-term operability
- Evaluation criteria also includes efforts to gather user input from communities, innovative approach to design



Alaska Rural Water and Sewer: Other Ongoing and Recommended Initiatives



International Conference on Water and Sewer Service in Rural Arctic Communities

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- In conjunction with the U.S. chairmanship of the Arctic Council, DEC has proposed this conference.
- Conference would take place in Anchorage, in the fall of 2016.
- Engineers, scientists, researchers, educators, policy makers from across the Arctic would come together to compare challenges, approaches and ideas.
- Pilot systems being developed by the Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge would be demonstrated.

Statewide Study: Assess feasibility of piped water and sewer in all remaining unserved villages

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- Funded jointly by EPA and State of Alaska.
- Includes around 40 villages with no household services or small haul system service.
- Includes capital and operating cost estimates.
- Identifies issues such as limited water source, lack of local gravel source, access constraints, etc.
- Project oversight by Village Safe Water Program
- Feasible systems will be considered for future funding.

Connections between increased water use and improved health

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- Recent studies have shown that lack of in-home water and sewer service in rural Alaska causes severe skin infections and respiratory illnesses.
- More studies are needed to better understand the amount and different uses of water in the home that have the greatest impact on health improvement.
- Improved public education and outreach about this connection is also needed, in order to foster best water use practices in homes.

Technical Service Providers: Essential to keeping existing systems running

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- The Remote Maintenance Worker (RMW) and Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA) programs provide essential training and technical assistance to rural water and sewer system operators and managers throughout Alaska.
- These programs are funded primarily by federal assistance grants, which are subject to federal appropriations specific to Alaska.
- Without federal funding, these programs would be dependent entirely on state funding.

Long-Term Initiatives for Legislative Consideration

- Local contribution for water and sewer improvements (currently prohibited by VSW statute): A small local contribution would help villages focus on only the most critical improvements, and help make possible a “micro-loan” program for smaller capital projects.
- A state-funded subsidy for water and sewer improvements would provide enhanced incentive for operation and maintenance, and extend the life of existing infrastructure – saving millions in replacement costs.

Questions?

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Bill Griffith
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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Update on Implementation of Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Recommendations 3B, 3C, and 3D

Joint Meeting of the House Committee on Economic Development,
Tourism, and Arctic Policy and the Senate Committee on the Arctic
October 2, 2015

Commissioner Chris Hladick

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic
Development



Recommendation 3B

Reduce power and heating costs in rural Alaskan Arctic communities



Implementation of 3B – Current Efforts

Collaboration between ACEP, AEA, and AVEC resulted Microgrid Statement of Needs.

Build on our integration successes - new technology goals:

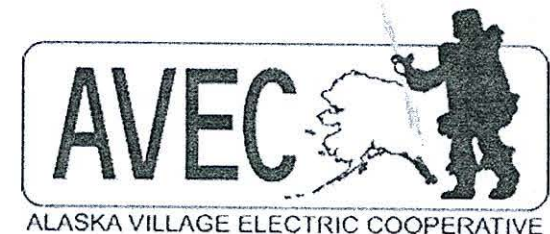
- Fuel sipping by more efficient diesel operation
- Improved power reliability
- Deployment of larger more cost effective renewable assets
- Effective control of interruptible loads
- “Diesels off” – an ultimate goal

Grid Bridging System comprised of:

- Power Bridge System – includes short-term energy storage
- Distributed Control System - ensures the system components work together



ACEP
Alaska Center for Energy and Power





Implementation of 3B – Future Considerations

- Administrative Order 272 - On January 16, 2015, Governor Walker directed the Commissioner of DCCED to take the lead in *“facilitating collaboration and coordination among governmental and other entities involved with consumer energy”*
- Alaska Affordable Energy Strategy (SB 138)– AEA was tasked with planning and making recommendations to the Legislature on infrastructure needed to deliver affordable energy to areas in the state that do not have direct access to a North Slope natural gas pipeline by January 1, 2017



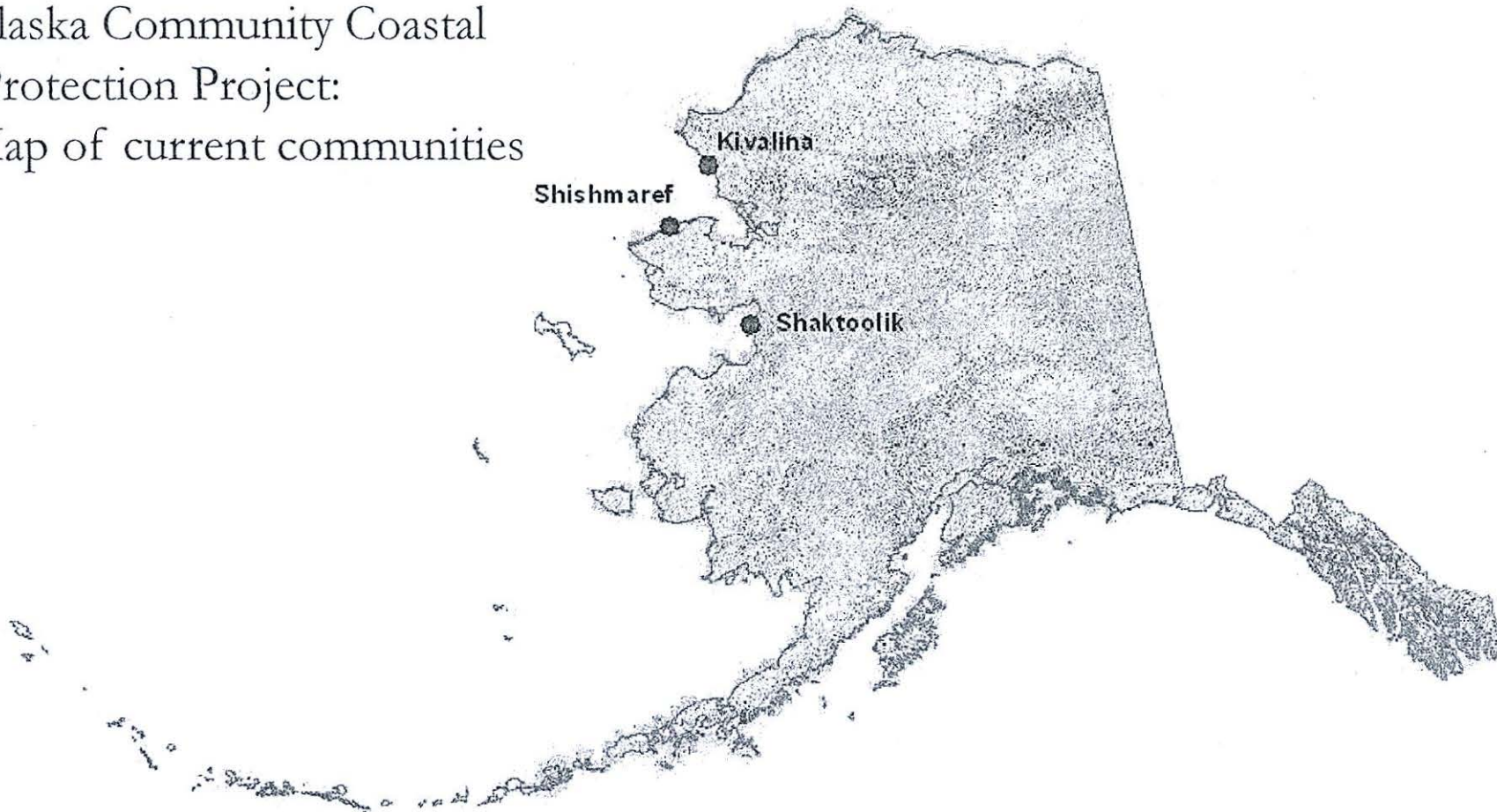
Recommendation 3C

Support long-term strategic planning efforts that utilize past achievements, leverage existing methods and strengthen local planning that assesses and directs economic, community and infrastructure development, as well as environmental protection and human safety.



Implementation of 3C – Current Efforts

Alaska Community Coastal
Protection Project:
Map of current communities





Implementation of 3C – Current Efforts

- Strong Community Leadership
 - Funding and technical support for full-time Community Coordinator ensures the planning effort is locally driven
- Agency Support and Collaboration
 - Organization of interagency working groups (state/federal agencies and regional organizations) provides coordinated assistance to community to identify and achieve solutions and approaches
- Effective Long-Term Planning
 - Planning team works with community and inter-agency working group to develop a long term strategic management plan to accomplish the community's recommended actions



Implementation of 3C – Future Considerations

- Plans for future implementation:
 - Strategic Management Plans seen as effective process for increasing community resilience
 - Model can be applied to other imperiled communities
 - No funding for additional funding efforts has been identified

- Suggestions for legislative action:
 - Alaska Arctic Policy Commission's Implementation Plan recommends funding to support future DCRA planning efforts.

- Ideas for making greatest use of limited funding:
 - Continue to pursue federal/other funding opportunities as they become available.



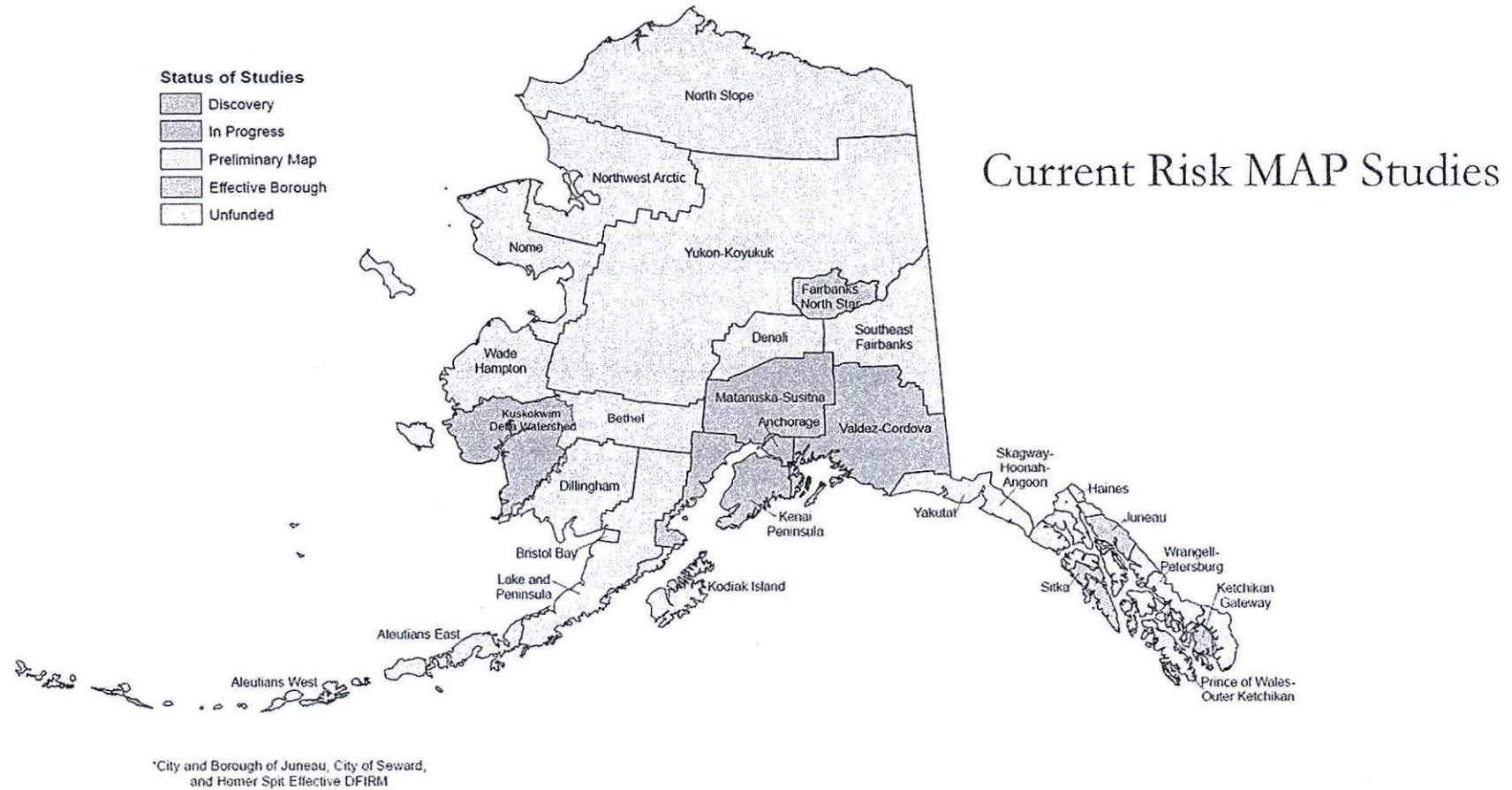
Recommendation 3D

Anticipate, evaluate and respond to risks from climate change related to land erosion and deterioration of community infrastructure and services; and support community efforts to adapt and relocate when necessary.



Implementation of 3D – Current Efforts

The Alaska Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) program is funded by FEMA and implemented by DCRA.

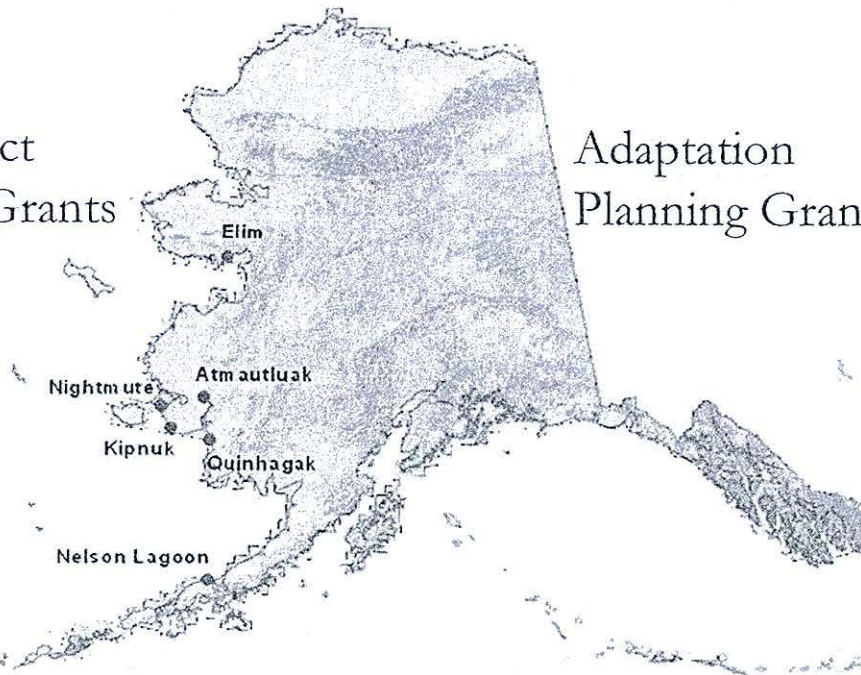




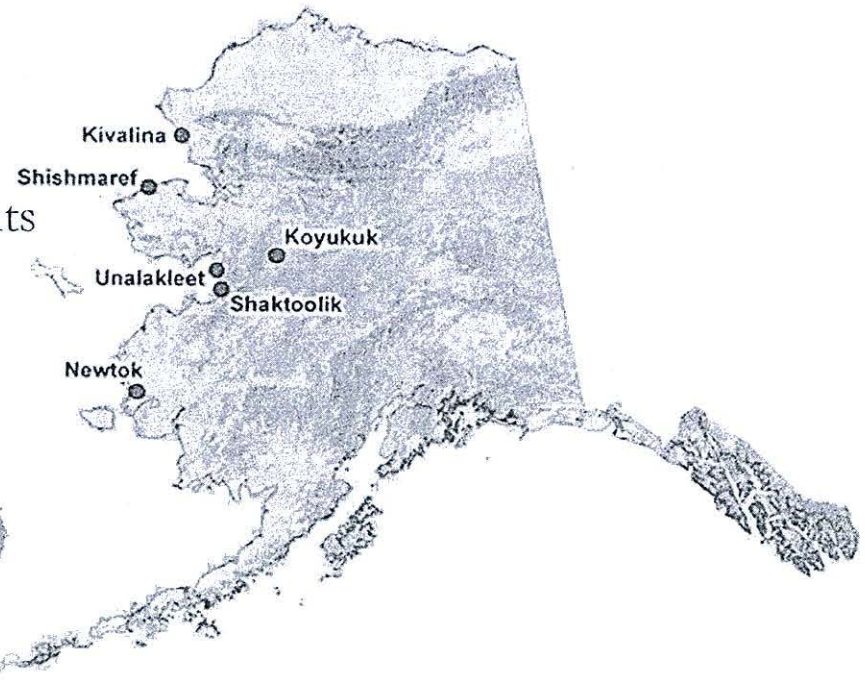
Implementation of 3D – Current Efforts

The Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program is implemented through technical assistance and two funding sources, Hazard Impact Assessments, and Community Adaptation Planning Grants.

Hazard Impact
Assessment Grants



Adaptation
Planning Grants





Implementation of 3D – Future Considerations

- FEMA's risk MAP funding does not require match dollars, this is a program we can grow without increasing allocation of State dollars
- The Alaska Climate Change Impact Mitigation Program is a strong model, but hasn't received new funding since 2011. The Denali Commission has been tasked with identifying a designated funding stream responsive to climate change impacts requiring community relocation
- Continue to pursue federal and alternative funding opportunities as they become available



Closing Remarks

Questions?

Commissioner Chris Hladick

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Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Recommendations 3E, 3F and 3G

Joint Meeting of the House Committee on Economic
Development, Tourism, and Arctic Policy and the Senate
Committee on the Arctic

Glenn Haight, Alaska Department of Fish and Game – 3E and 3F
Brad Meyen, Alaska Department of Law – 3G
October 2, 2015



Support Healthy Communities

3E – Education & Outreach

3F – Food Security

**3G – Endangered Species
Listings**



Strategic Line of Effort 3E

Develop and support public education and outreach efforts that (a) enhance the understanding of Arctic conservation including biodiversity and the sustainable use of biological resources and management of natural resources and (b) promote public participation in development of fish and wildlife management plans within existing management systems and policies.

Education and Outreach 3E

Education and outreach are integral to effective fish and wildlife management.

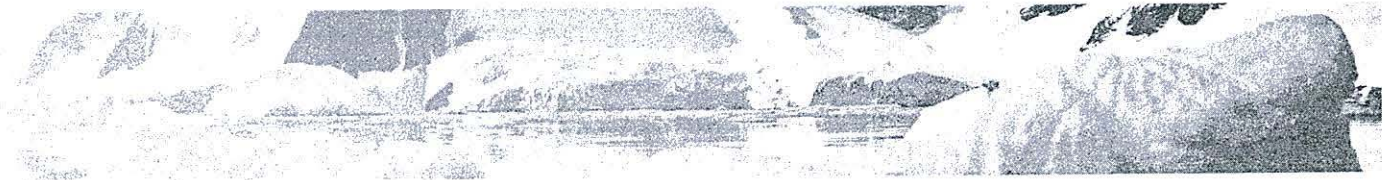


ADF&G works to:

- Connect people to fish and wildlife
- Promote awareness of Alaska fish and wildlife law
- Build support and advice for conservation, management and research efforts



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OF
FISH AND GAME**



Education and Outreach 3E

Generate & strengthen people's connection with the natural environment.



ADF&G Education in Action

- Locally relevant hunter education
- Student, educator and parent resources
- Teacher workshops and webinars
- Events and programs
- Alaska Natural Resource & Environmental Literacy Plan



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Education and Outreach 3E

Engage Alaskans in learning about and getting involved in issues they care about.



Community Engagement

- Western Arctic & Teshekpuk Caribou Herds
- Moose of the Upper Koyukuk
- Sheefish in the Kobuk River
- Dolly Varden in the Wulik & Noatak Rivers
- Marine Mammal programs in the Chukchi, Bering, and Beaufort Seas



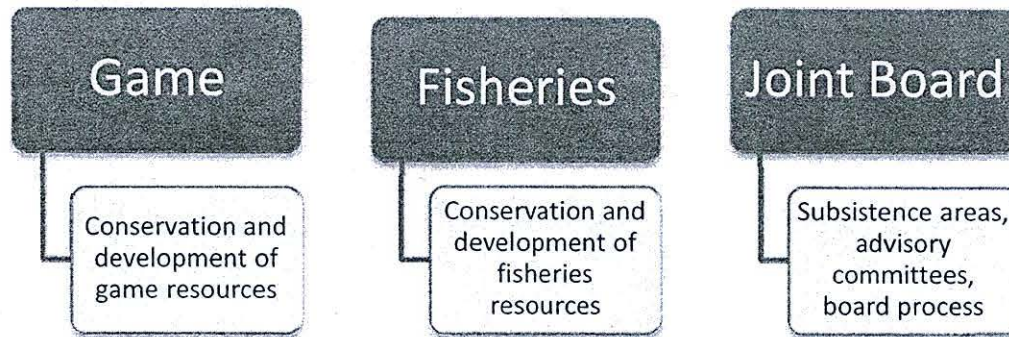
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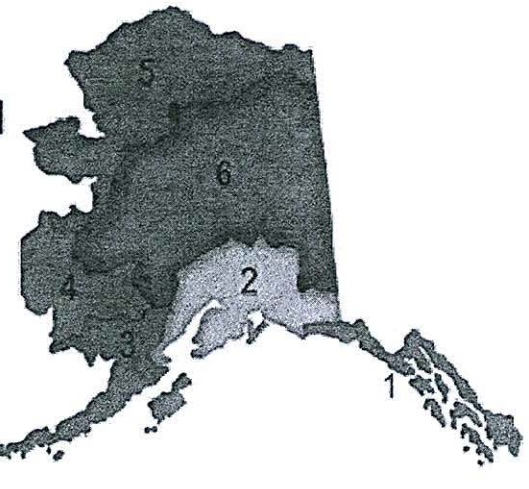
Education and Outreach 3E

Publically led fish and game management system.

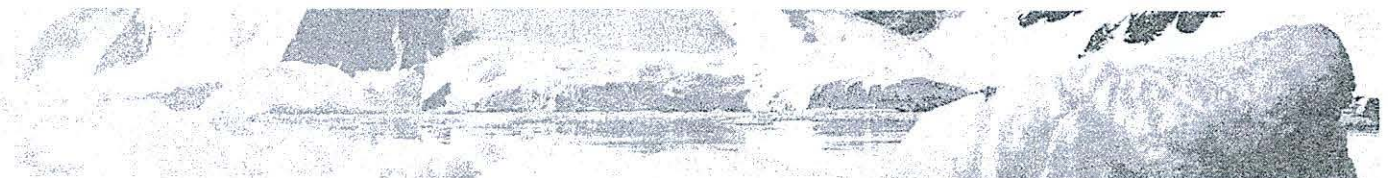
Boards and Advisory Committee System



1. Southeast
2. Southcentral
3. Southwest
4. Western
5. Arctic
6. Interior



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Education and Outreach 3E

Publically led fish and game management system.



Role of Advisory Committees

- Develop regulatory proposals
- Make recommendations on proposals
- Provides local forum for input
- Cooperate and consult with interested persons and organizations



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Strategic Line of Effort 3F

Enforce measures that protect and help further understanding of food security of Arctic peoples and communities.

Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.



Photo courtesy of Cyrus and Joanne Harris

Subsistence foods

- Researched and measured
- First priority in consumptive uses
- Are managed for sustainability



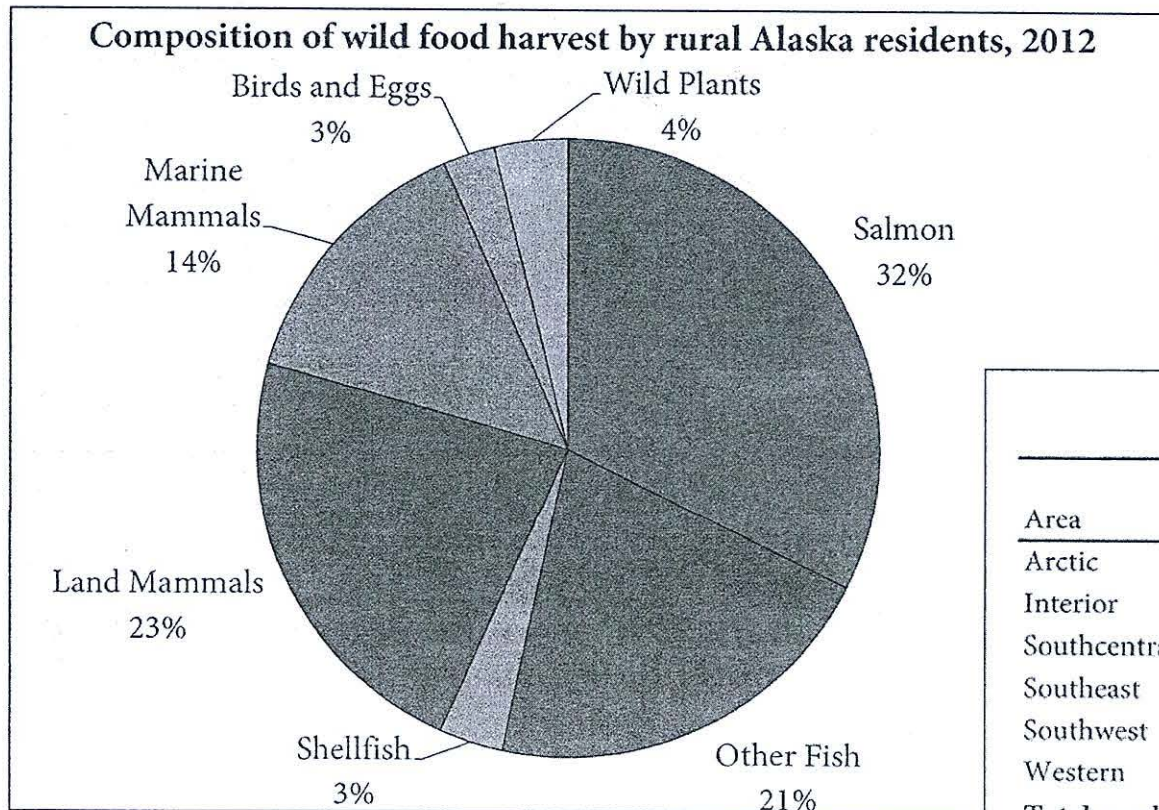
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Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.

Subsistence Food Use



Percentage of households participating in subsistence activities in rural areas

Area	Harvesting game	Using game	Harvesting fish	Using fish
Arctic	63%	92%	78%	96%
Interior	69%	88%	75%	92%
Southcentral	55%	79%	80%	94%
Southeast	48%	79%	80%	95%
Southwest	65%	90%	86%	94%
Western	70%	90%	98%	100%
Total rural	60%	86%	83%	95%



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Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.



Subsistence Research

- Targeted research and analysis includes understanding:
 - Food security, adapted for Alaska's nutritional and cultural environments
 - Food sharing networks
 - Subsistence foods contaminants
 - Subsistence patterns and trends



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Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.



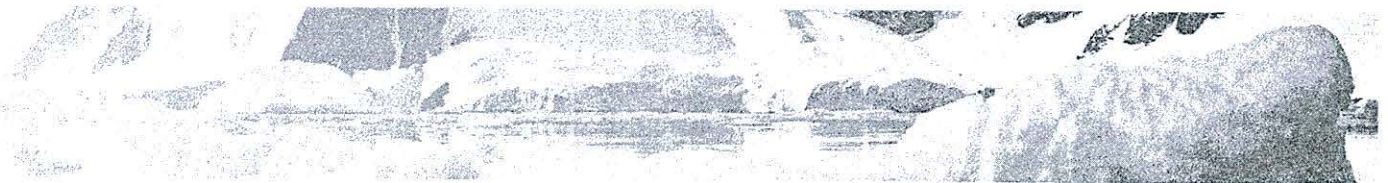
Subsistence is the Priority

- Subsistence use measured
- Subsistence use and amount approved by Boards of Fisheries and Game
 - Through customary and traditional use findings, and amount necessary for subsistence level
- First among consumptive uses

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Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.

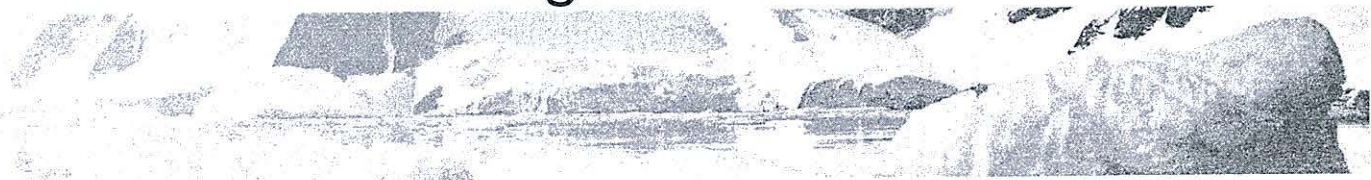


Resource Management

- Resources managed for sustainability.
- Resides with the Divisions of Wildlife Conservation, Sport Fish, and Commercial Fisheries.
- Annual assessments on critical stocks.
- Game led through intensive management.

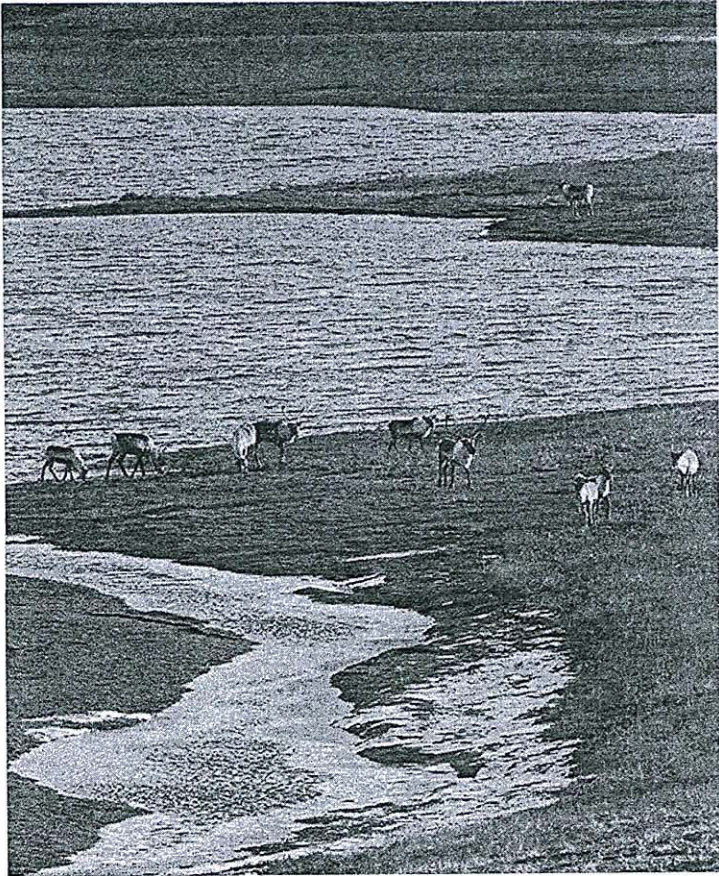


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Food Security of Arctic Peoples 3F

Providing and protecting fish and wild game as important food resources.



Food Security & Climate Change

- Provide fish and wildlife data for climate change analyses
 - Changes in fish and wildlife distribution
 - Changes in timing of fish and wildlife migrations
- Document local knowledge of climate change impacts to ecosystems and the subsistence cultural landscapes



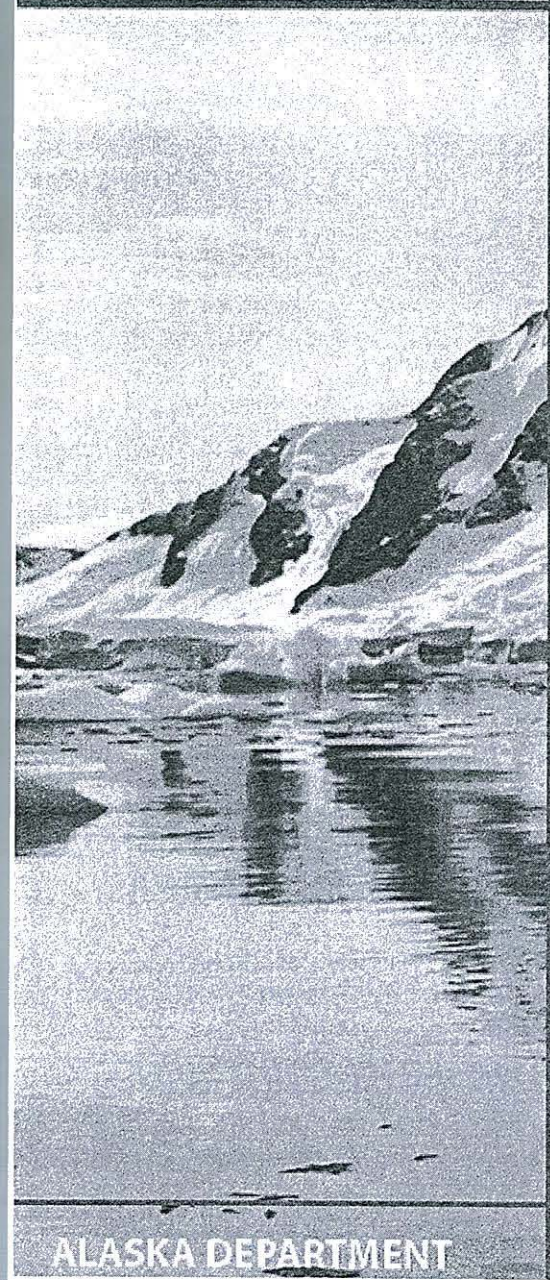
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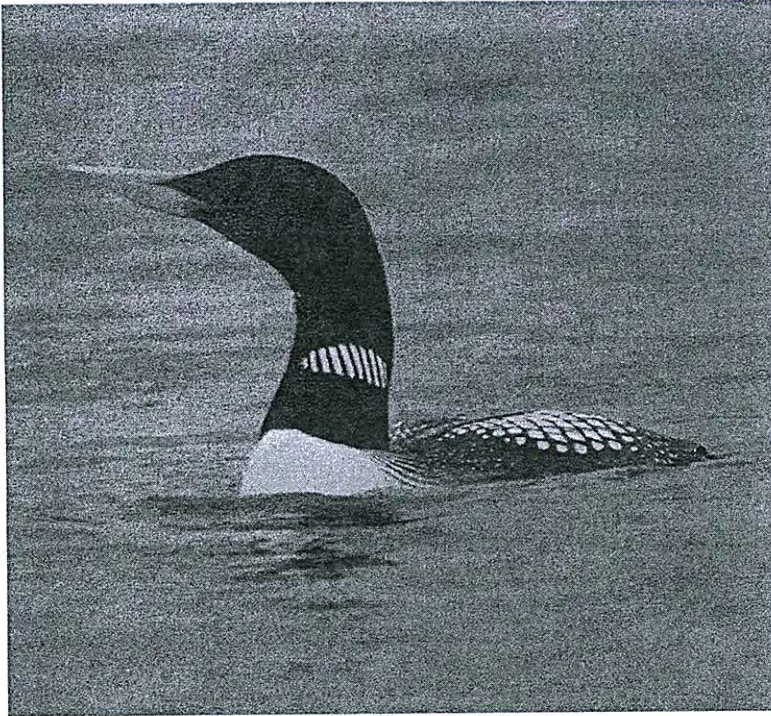
Strategic Line of Effort 3G

Identify and promote industry, community and state practices that promote sustainability of subsistence resources while protecting against undue ESA listings and broad-brush critical habitat designations.



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities



Yellow-billed loon former Candidate ESA species
– nests on North Slope

Protecting against undue ESA listings

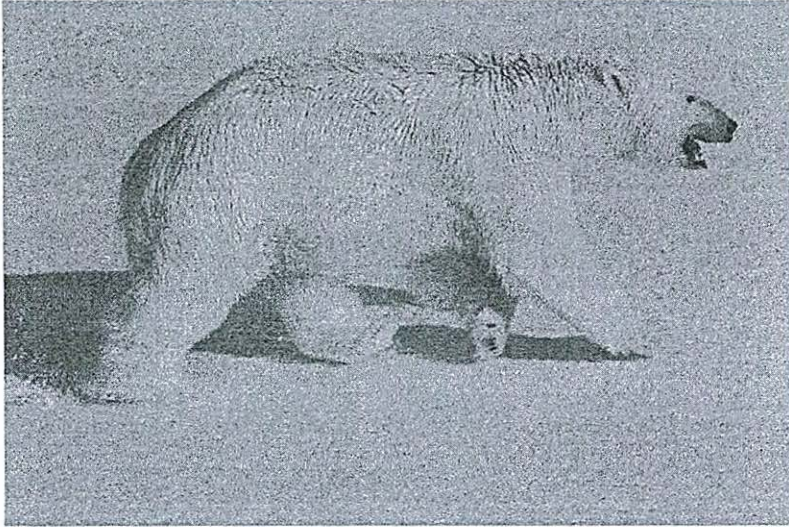
- Conduct research on *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*
- Close collaborative partnership between the Departments of Law and Fish & Game
- Influence federal decision making



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
FISH AND GAME

Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities



Response to Listing

- Conduct research
- Participate in technical reviews
- Work with Department of Law



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FISH AND GAME



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

Endangered Species Act Primer

- Public petition or agency initiate review
- 90-Day findings
- 12-Month status review and 12-month finding
- Proposed decision with economic impact analysis
- Final decision and critical habitat designated
- Establishment of recovery team and develop recovery objectives



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OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

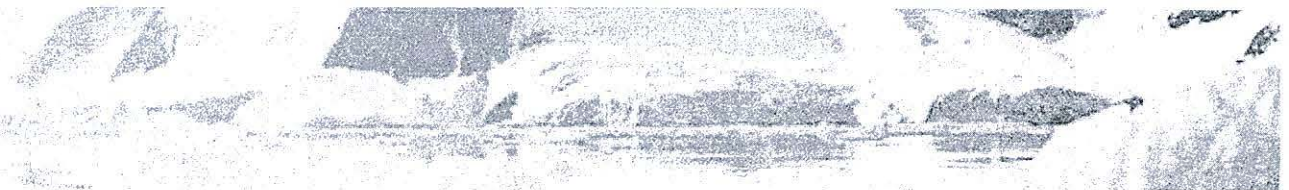
Endangered Species Act related activities

Endangered Species Act State Role

In passing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, Congress documented its intent to establish a cooperative process between federal agencies and states.



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

State Role in 1994 Policy

Provides that during consultation, Services to:

- Section 7—Inform State agencies of any Federal agency action likely to adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat
- Request an information update from State agencies prior to preparing final biological opinions



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

Section 4(i)Response to States

- The Secretary shall submit to the State agency a written justification for [the] failure to adopt regulations consistent with the agency's comments.”
- Polar Bear Critical Habitat Case – Won, Now in 9th Circuit on Appeal by USFWS and others
- Bearded Seal Listing Case—Won, Now in 9th Circuit on Appeal by NMFS and others
- Ringed Seal Listing Case—filed March 6, 2015

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LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

Polar Bear Critical Habitat Case, 4(i)

- Court disagreed that FWS had properly responded to Alaska's concerns under 4(i)
- "Because questions involving the Service's response to state agency comments are procedural issues, the Court's review differs from that under the arbitrary and capricious standard."



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

Polar Bear Critical Habitat Case, Section 4(i)

- “The Court here does not analyze the sufficiency of the Service’s justification for its responses to Alaska State Fish and Wildlife Management Agency’s (“ADF&G”) comments, which is given over to Service discretion, only the procedure the Service followed in carrying out its responses.”



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

Bearded Seal Listing Cases

- Listed by NMFS based on 100-year model
- Numerous in population
- Science showing impact lacking
- State filed extensive comments
- Lack of meaningful response
- Won in 2014 NMFS Appealed to 9th Circuit
- Ringed Seal Case filed March 2015



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OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

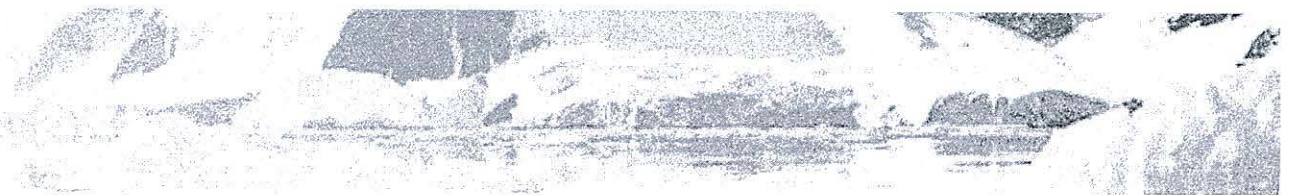
Endangered Species Act related activities

State Collaboration

- Build partnerships
 - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - Western Governor's Association
 - Include Native Organizations, Industry, Local Governments, and Private Landowners
 - Participate in a state-federal ESA Joint Task Force
- Take concerns to Congress



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
LAW



Sustainable Resources & ESA 3G

Endangered Species Act related activities

Collaboration--Ringed Seal Example

- State of Alaska cooperated with industry, local governments, Alaska-Native regional corporations, and a regional tribal government in northern Alaska, all as plaintiffs in the listing challenge.
- Ringed Seal Case filed March 2015



ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF
LAW





Conclusion



Thank you.

Questions?

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND GAME**

Linda Hay

From: Rob Earl
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Linda Hay
Subject: FW: Arctic Presentation Follow Up
Attachments: DOLWD Letter and Presentation.pdf

Could you do me a favor and please print this and put it in the MASTER file for the last EDA mtg 10.2.15?

Thanks!
ROB

ROB EARL
Staff to Representative Bob Herron
907.269.0126 office
907.952.1810 cell

From: Latham, Anna M (DOL) <anna.latham@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Rob Earl
Subject: FW: Arctic Presentation Follow Up

Dear Rob,

Attached is the Arctic presentation follow-up. I'm sorry the paper copy never reached your office!

Best,
Anna

Anna Latham
Legislative Liaison
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Office of the Commissioner
Phone: (907)465-4531
Fax: (907)465-2784

From: Latham, Anna M (DOL)
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Earl, Rob (LAA)
Cc: Drygas, Heidi L (DOL); Andrews, Mike C (DOL); Peterson, Darwin R (GOV); Wilcox, Lacy J (GOV); McClanahan, Natasha S (GOV)
Subject: Arctic Presentation Follow Up

Dear Rob,

Attached is a letter responding to questions posed during the Department of Labor and Workforce Development presentation at the Anchorage LIO on October 2nd. Please distribute to committee members. I mailed hard copies to Sen. Giessel, Sen. McGuire, and Rep. Herron as well.

Thank you,

Anna

Anna Latham

Legislative Liaison

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Office of the Commissioner

Phone: (907)465-4531

Fax: (907)465-2784

A photograph of a snow-capped mountain range with an oil rig in the foreground. The mountains are rugged and covered in snow, with some rocky outcrops visible. The oil rig is a tall, dark structure with a central tower and various platforms and pipes. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Developing Alaska's Arctic Workforce

Joint MTG- House Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Arctic Policy
and the Senate Committee on the Arctic

October 2, 2015

Presentation by Mike Andrews

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development



**Alaska Arctic Policy Commission
Recommendation 3H**

“Create workforce development programs to prepare Arctic residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development”



State Arctic Policy Priorities

- **Promote economic and resource development**
- **Address the response capacity gap**
- **Support healthy communities**
- **Strengthen state-based science and research agenda**

(SJR 10, passed by the Alaska legislature in 2013)



Workforce Planning Areas Identified by the Arctic Council

- **Emergency and environmental response**
- **Search and rescue**
- **Telecommunications**
- **Maritime**
- **Transportation**
- **Ports, roads and civil construction**
- **Oil and gas development and facility operations**

Alaska has several relevant Industry Sector Workforce Plans in place

“Create Workforce Development Programs to prepare Arctic Residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic Development”

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

- Construction
- Health Care
- Mining
- Oil & Gas
- Maritime
- Career & Technical Education

All Industry Workforce Plans are Aligned with Alaska’s Career & Technical Education Plan



Arctic Labor Market

- **Nome area unemployment: 13.4% (includes most Bering Sea Alliance communities)**
- **Northern Arctic workforce:**
 - 26.9% non-Alaska residents**
 - 38.4% Alaskans from other part of state**
 - 34.7% local residents**

("Northern Arctic" means Norton Sound communities, St. Lawrence Island, and North Slope)



Arctic Labor Market: Oil Industry

- **Oil industry is largest Northern Arctic employer, providing approximately 9,000 jobs in the region**
- **Only 2% of oil jobs are held by local residents**
- **39% of jobs held by non-Alaskans**
- **59% of jobs held by non-local Alaskans**



Labor Market: Government & Mining

- **Local government is Northern Arctic's second largest industry**
- **83.1% of workers are local residents**
- **Red Dog Mine has 435 permanent and 18 temporary employees**
- **Approximately 80% of workers are Alaskans**



Workforce Development: Key to Addressing Arctic Policy Priorities

- **Alaska has decades of experience training an Arctic workforce**
- **Alaska has a public workforce system capable of meeting challenges of increased Arctic activity**
- **Attracting Alaska's students to education and training that prepares them for a career in the Arctic is a large challenge**



Renewed Focus on Alaska Hire

- **Alaska Hire is a top priority for Governor Walker and Commissioner Drygas**
- **A new Zone of Underemployment determination promotes local hire on public funded construction**
- **Expand apprenticeship training in Mining, Maritime, Oil & Gas, and Health Care**
- **Enforcement against worker misclassification and labor trafficking**



University of Alaska – the Leader in Arctic Workforce Development

- **University of Alaska including campuses in Nome, Kotzebue, Bethel, Dillingham, Interior and Aleutians**
- **University of Alaska's Process Technology Associates Degree for mine operations**
- **Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health Certificates and OSH Associates Degrees**



Arctic Regional Training Centers

- **Kotzebue – Alaska Technical Education Center**
- **Nome – Northwest Arctic Career and Technical Education Center (NACTEC)**
- **Barrow – Ilisagvik College**
- **King Salmon – Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center (SAVEC)**
- **Bethel – Yuut Elitnaurviat**



Fairbanks Pipeline Training Center

- **Training to build large diameter pipelines for oil/gas**
- **Civil construction; heavy equipment operation, mechanics, construction truck driving, surveying**
- **Ice road construction and long-haul trucking**
- **Industrial welding and pipefitting**
- **52 acre training field, 9 acre campus with classrooms, shops and dormitory**
- **UAF – Process Technology & Occupational Safety degree programs**



AVTEC Training for Maritime Workforce

- **Maritime training programs:**
 - **Master of Not More than 200 Tons**
 - **Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vehicles**
 - **Qualified Member of Engine Dept. Oiler**
- **27 Coast Guard approved shorter courses**
- **AVTEC has only Coast Guard approved Class A full mission control bridge simulator in Alaska**
- **Industrial construction**



Key Arctic Workforce Planning Principles

- **Career & Technical Education planning for Arctic economic and workforce development**
- **Directly involve industry, regional employers, educators and community representatives**
- **Training programs must be focused and designed for sustainability**



Research Based Planning

Perform an Arctic Region Economic & Workforce analysis of:

- **the projected occupational demand, cross industry skills, and emerging occupations**
- **the current and projected skills gaps, to determine the region's priority occupations**
- **Local workforce demographics**

Provide a report with recommendations to the Legislature's Arctic Policy Council - Spring 2016



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Labor and
Workforce Development**

Office of the Commissioner

Post Office Box 111149

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Main: 907.465.2700

Fax: 907.465.2784

October 9, 2015

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
The Honorable Lesil McGuire
Co-Chairs Senate Special Committee on the Arctic
716 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

The Honorable Bob Herron
Chairman, House Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Arctic Policy
P.O. Box 886
Bethel, AK 99559

Dear Co-Chairs Giessel and McGuire and Chairman Herron,

On behalf of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), thank you for opportunity to participate in the joint meeting of the House Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Arctic Policy and the Senate Committee on the Arctic. I'd like to take this opportunity to respond to the questions that were posed to Mike Andrews, Director of Employment Training Services, during the presentation.

What percentage of Alaska Marine Highway employees are residents/ non-residents?

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities provided the following statistics. Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) staff queried their scheduling and training database on October 7, 2015, which reflected that 95.1% of all AMHS employees were Alaska residents; 4.9% were non-residents.

Clarify "local-residents". What is the definition? Who collected the data?

The definition of "local resident" used during the presentation is a person who lives in the region and applied for a Permanent Fund Dividend in one of the two previous years. On slide 6, for example, the 38.4 percent of Alaskans from other parts of the state are people from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai, or other parts of the state, who work in the Northern Region. The Northern Region encompasses the North Slope Borough, the Northwest Arctic Borough, and the Nome Census Area in DOLWD data sets.

Data on slides 6 and 7 (attached) came directly from the DOLWD, Research and Analysis section. This data can also be found in the annual publication of Non-Residents Working in Alaska.

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
The Honorable Lesil McGuire
The Honorable Bob Herron
October 9, 2015
Page 2

What is worker misclassification?

Worker misclassification is when employees are misclassified as independent contractors. Misclassified employees are often denied access to critical benefits and protections to which they are entitled, such as minimum wage, overtime compensation, family and medical leave, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, and safe workplaces. Employee misclassification generates substantial losses to federal and state government in the form of lower tax revenues, as well as to the state unemployment insurance and workers' compensation funds.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Cashen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Cashen
Deputy Commissioner

Enclosure

**State of Alaska Legislature
House Economic Development, Tourism and Arctic Policy
Joint with Senate Arctic Committee
Hearing**

**October 2, 2015 (Friday)
1-4pm**

Teleconference Testimony

by

**Vivian Korthuis, Vice President of Community Services
Association of Village Council Presidents**

On

**Alaska Arctic Policy Commission
Implementation Plan
Line of Effort #3, Recommendations 3A-3H**

Good afternoon.

My name is Vivian Korthuis. I am the Vice President of Community Services for the Association of Village Council Presidents serving the 56 Tribes in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony on these specific recommendations in Line Effort # 3 – Support Healthy Communities.

The Arctic is our homeland. The AVCP Region is the Arctic. Our villages are the Arctic. Our people live in the Arctic. Everything we do in our region-is Arctic. The food we eat from the land, air and sea is Arctic. Our families and our children are Arctic families. Our past and our future is Arctic. We are not going anywhere because this is our home. We have a vested interest and an obligation to speak to and be involved, in every aspect, of any discussion about us, for us, and for our future.

The role of the tribes and tribal organizations is key to the Arctic. AVCP and the 56 Tribes in the YK Delta have a role in any discussions about our homeland. Healthy Communities is a goal that every one of the villages in the AVCP region is working towards. We know we will not reach this goal alone.

AVCP has specific programs, such as the Healthy Families Program, which originates from our region and people that need to be supported and expanded because ultimately, we are all working towards making a better future for all our children. This is an example, specifically, of how AVCP wants to “implement” an Arctic Strategy. There are many other examples of what AVCP can share, if given the opportunity.

The following AVCP recommendations speak to Line Efforts 3 (a) to 3 (h) specifically. Each of these specific recommendations can no doubt be expanded upon. We also know that these are not the only things that can be implemented in our villages. I encourage this committee to have discussions with and obtain direct leadership from all the Tribes in our region because it will only make the implementation of these strategies stronger.

Line Effort	Alaska Arctic Policy Implementation Plan Recommendation	Association of Village Council Presidents Recommendation
3 (a)	Foster the delivery of reliable and affordable in-home water, sewer, and sanitation services in all rural Arctic Communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support Holistic Approach to Sustainable Northern Communities by matching funds of \$450,000 to the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC). 2. State of Alaska Departments are requested to participate in Holistic Approach Model. 3. Request Letter of Commitment from DEC and DCCED Departments to the Holistic Approach Model.
3 (b)	Reduce power and heating costs in rural Alaska Arctic communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support CCHRC Integrated Truss Method of Construction which will reduce power and heating costs in rural Alaska. 2. Support the Yukon Kuskokwim Energy Freight Corridor Project. 3. There are 3,000 homes on the YK Delta that need immediate replacement. Support AVCP Pilot Project with CCHRC utilizing the integrated truss system.
3 (c)	Support long-term strategic planning efforts that utilize past achievements, leverage existing methods and strengthen local planning that assess and directs economic, community and infrastructure development, as well as environmental protection and human safety.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AVCP has a Resource Center where partners such as USDA, EDA, DOE, CCHRC, and others have signed an MOA to work together to support communities in the region to plan, develop and implement projects. Need State of Alaska Agencies participation in Resource Center by MOA or direct funding agreement. 2. AVCP projects are developed with partnerships. The Western Alaska Emergency Response Center Project needs the support and commitment from State of Alaska

		<p>and Federal Government to succeed. There is no Emergency Response Center along the Bering Sea Coast and this project would create one.</p> <p>3. The Village Public Safety Officer Program needs to be expanded to meet the goal of having a public safety presence in every village.</p>
3 (d)	Anticipate, evaluate and respond to risks from climate change related to erosion and community infrastructure and services; and support community efforts to adapt and relocate when necessary.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support community efforts in relocation. 2. Utilize traditional knowledge and research in community planning.
3 (e)	Develop and support public education and outreach efforts that (a) enhance the understanding of conservation of Arctic biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources and management of natural resources and (b) promote public participation in development of fish and wildlife management plans within existing management systems and policies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AVCP villages need to be involved in Co-Management of resources. 2. We also need to be involved in any mitigation related to food security.
3 (f)	Enforce measures that protect and help further understanding of the food security of Arctic peoples and communities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize traditional knowledge and research.
3 (g)	Identify and promote industry, community and state practices that promote sustainability of subsistence resources while protecting against undue Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings and broad-brush critical habitat designations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AVCP is the lead tribal advocate for all subsistence initiatives for our people. We ask that we have a place at the table where all resources in our region are discussed including protection and mitigation plans that may negatively affect food/subsistence resources.
3 (h)	Create workforce development programs to prepare Arctic residents to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the creation of a Tribal Employment Center at AVCP. 2. Support the Regional Aviation Airframe and Power Plant and Flight School. 3. Assist and support in creating Career Pathways Program at AVCP for specific industry jobs.

Thank you.



5761 Silverado Way
Suite O
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
T (907) 561 3478
F (907) 561 5123

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission
Joint Meeting of the House Committee on
Economic Development, Tourism, and Arctic Policy
and the Senate Committee on the Arctic

October 2, 2015

Dear Alaska Arctic Policy Commission:

Fugro Pelagos, Inc., (Fugro) is a global surveying and mapping organization with a permanent office located in Anchorage, Alaska. Our Anchorage office employs 10 year-round staff and an additional 10 seasonal staff. Working throughout the state, we acquire and process information about the land and sea to inform a wide range of coastal, land-use and natural resource management activities.

Today, I am writing to state Fugro's support of the Commission's work and policy statements expressed in its 2015 Report. The work our company conducts in Alaska goes hand in hand with many objectives stated in the report. I want to specifically comment on Line of Effort #2:

- Addressing the Response Capacity Gap. 2(b) Support efforts to improve and complete communications and mapping, nautical charting, navigational infrastructure, hydrography and bathymetry in the Arctic region.

In Alaska, Fugro has a long history of contributing to nautical charting and topographic mapping through NOAA, USGS and corresponding State of Alaska agencies. In addition to being a data provider, we are also a user, relying on nautical charts and topographic maps to plan and execute Arctic geophysical and geotechnical work for offshore and onshore energy and infrastructure clients. We understand first-hand the role accurate and up-to-date charts and maps play in performing projects safely, efficiently, and with minimal impact to the environment.

Our comments aim to underscore additional benefits baseline geophysical data can provide. Indeed, there are numerous applications important to federal, state, and local government agencies. We feel these applications provide straight forward and compelling reasons for increased cooperation that could optimize efforts by federal, state, academic, and private, sector actors in Alaska.

In addition to obvious benefits, baseline cartographic and topographic data also leads to:

- Improving climate change and ocean circulation models
- Helping evaluate the potential for ocean energy
- Improving our understanding of ecosystem dynamics
- Identifying submerged faults and improve our understanding of tsunami potential
- Feeding into tsunami inundation models
- Enabling more effective regulation of offshore development
- Improving maritime safety
- Improving our understanding of sediment transport and delivery



FUGRO PELAGOS, INC.

- Supporting fisheries habitat assessment
- Supporting the identification and location of marine protected areas

This range of additional uses speaks to the broader need of an **integrated coastal mapping** requirement in Alaska. Unfortunately, there is no current program—state or federal—that is clearly focused on acquiring coastal data in Alaska, from the shallow nearshore to the backshore, in a consistent manner. The expanded nautical charting effort now being discussed at the Federal level offers an ideal opportunity for the kind of intra- and interagency collaboration (Federal, State, Local) needed to lead this effort in Arctic Alaska, a region undergoing rapid change due to climate change.

As we see it, two of the greatest obstacles to implementing a coastal mapping program in Alaska are size and funding. Alaska comprises over 34,000 miles of coastline, the most of any state in the United States by far. NOAA has developed an Arctic Action Plan supporting the national strategy for the Arctic region, but unfortunately, funding has not increased to support the priorities of this plan. Strategies for overcoming these obstacles include:

- **Making use of existing and planned data:** Nautical charting is an excellent starting point for an integrated coastal mapping program. Nautical chart updates in Alaska have been ongoing since the 1990s with survey sites dominated by vessel-based multibeam echosounder data, backscatter imagery of the seafloor, and high resolution bathymetry. These are the highest quality data possible and will serve numerous end-user needs in the survey areas.
- **Utilizing multiple survey technologies:** Since many of the areas targeted by the plan for new nautical charting have not been surveyed in modern times, it may be beneficial to perform reconnaissance surveys utilizing wide area satellite-derived bathymetry to determine which areas are suitable to serve as transportation corridors and which survey techniques (airborne lidar bathymetry or vessel-based multibeam bathymetry) would be best employed for the given area/conditions. In addition to providing cost-saving reconnaissance functions, the satellite-derived bathymetry would provide less-detailed, but still highly valuable data over the entire area's shoreline and into shallow waters.
- **Regionalizing the effort:** In parallel with the proposed nautical charting efforts, focusing coastal mapping efforts to the Arctic region in the near term would enable a "proof of concept" that could be built on in years to come.

Even with the above strategies, more funding will be needed to see a much-needed coastal mapping program take shape in Alaska. This may seem a daunting task, but there are models of past success, most prominently the California Seafloor Mapping Project. Fugro worked alongside multiple state, local, and federal agencies to help see the California program succeed from concept to completion. We are confident the same is possible in Alaska and we firmly believe that now is the time to make this vision a reality and help prepare the United States as an Arctic nation to manage vessel traffic safely, to support responsible resource development, to prepare for emergencies, to safeguard the environment, and to understand the effects of climate change so that we can safeguard coastal communities from changes in the ocean environment.

Sincerely,
Rada Khadjinova

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rada Khadjinova".

Alaska Division Manager