

# State of Alaska Arctic Policy and Priorities

Prepared for the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

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# Alaska is America's Arctic

- Alaska policy is Arctic policy,
  - guided by State of Alaska Constitution, Department mission statements, statute, regulation, and expenditures.
- Changes in the Arctic present important opportunities, not just new challenges.
- The State of Alaska, communities, and federal government must work to develop a
  - strong partnership to manage the nation's Arctic future;
  - common outlook based on opportunity.

# Alaska's Interests in a Changing Arctic

- **Safety and security.**
- **Responsible development and utilization** of Alaska's abundant natural resources
  - for the benefit of our citizens and strength of our nation, and
  - to safeguard our fish, wildlife, and natural environment.
- Confronting challenging socioeconomic, **health**, and food security issues.
- Building a framework for **safe and reliable Arctic maritime transportation.**
- Ensuring Alaska and its Arctic residents have a **voice** in informing policies and priorities.

# Critical Needs in the Arctic

**Infrastructure, mapping, and science** to support:

- *Safety and security*
  - National security
  - Communications
- *Transportation*
  - Access (roads, ports, aviation facilities)
  - Shipping, towing, search and rescue, oil spill response
- *Communities*
  - Sustainable, healthy communities
  - Health, food security, sanitation
- *Resource management*
  - Energy (efficiency, production, affordable, OCS revenue sharing)
  - Fisheries
  - Effective permitting and environmental regulatory oversight

# Key for Adaptation in a Changing Arctic

*The State of Alaska, local governments, and federal government must collaborate to address critical needs.*

# Path to Improved State-Federal Coordination

1. Early communication when issues first arise.
2. Genuine consultation and cooperation concerning data needs and research methodology and priorities.
3. Consideration of State, regional, and local management tools if management needs arise.
4. State review of draft federal proposals that address or affect State management authorities and jurisdictions with meaningful opportunity to inform federal documents.

# Federal Arctic Initiatives with Inadequate Collaboration

- *Arctic Policy*
  - Arctic Interagency Workgroup Permitting Working Group and their *Integrated Arctic Management (IAM)* report, in print for the President
  - National Security Staff Arctic Strategy, in prep.
- *Coastal and land-use*
  - ESA listings based solely on 100-year projections for habitat
  - Land management decisions (NPR-A Working Group, ANWR)
  - Beringia MOU (U.S.-Russia transboundary protected area in Bering Strait region)
- *Ocean*
  - Draft *National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*
  - Draft *U.S. Arctic Marine Transportation System Overview and Priorities for Action* report

# State Participation in Ongoing Interagency Initiatives

- *Security*
  - NORTHCOM Arctic Strategy Team
- *International policy*
  - Arctic Council (U.S. delegation, SAO, work groups, task forces)
  - International Whaling Commission and fisheries negotiations
- *Science and research*
  - North Slope Science Initiative
  - Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
  - Alaska Ocean Observing System
  - North Pacific Research Board
  - Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable
- *Resource management*
  - North Pacific Fishery Management Council

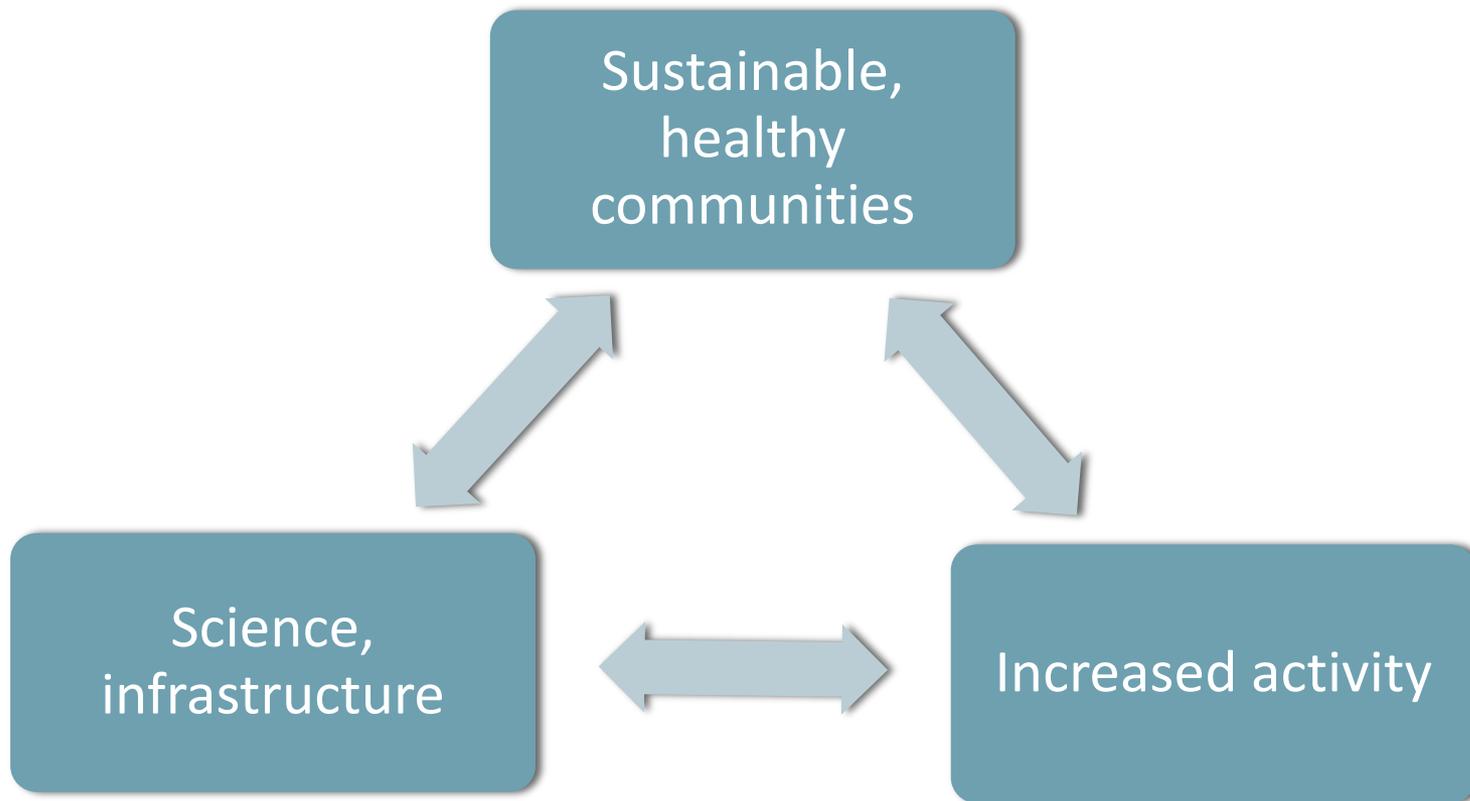
# Recent State Input

- Arctic Council – search and rescue agreement, oil spill response agreement, workgroups, priorities for 2015-17 U.S. Chairmanship.
  - Suggested Arctic Council focal areas:
    - sustainable communities (jobs, lower cost energy),
    - sanitation,
    - suicide prevention,
    - safe and reliable shipping.
- IAM – call for improved communication and coordination.
- Integrated Arctic Research Policy Committee *Arctic Research Plan: FY2013-2017*.
- Safe and reliable shipping – engaging in domestic and international policy to address risks of increased vessel traffic in Bering Sea and Arctic waters.
- Arctic Fishery Management Plan (FMP) – extend domestic policy to Arctic Donut Hole.

# State Projects Addressing Emerging Arctic Issues

- DOT-U.S. ACE Alaska Deep-Draft Arctic Port System Study
- DCCED shipping study
- Arctic search and rescue resources, disaster response, recovery planning
- AIS (automatic identification system) vessel monitoring
- Oil spill response
- Barrow airport expansion
- Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative
- Roads to resources
- Coastal erosion, community relocation
- Broadband task force, planning
- Village safe water
- Coordination to address suicide intervention

# Summary Key Linkages



# Thank You

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