



Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

Unalaska Meeting Highlights

August 28 & 29, 2013 at the Grand Aleutian Hotel

COMMISSION MEETING | DAY ONE

August 28, 2013: Informational Presentations and Public Testimony

Chaired by Sen. Lesil McGuire and Rep. Bob Herron

With 19 of 26 Commissioners and 2 Ex Officio members present, the Commission Co-Chairs and Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell provided welcoming remarks.

COMMISSION PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a brief summary of the presentations and public testimony. For a full review of the meeting video recording, PowerPoint presentations, and written testimony visit:

<http://www.akarctic.com/?p=213>.

Piloting Alaska's Northern Waters

By Captain Christy President of Alaska Marine Pilots

As the largest marine piloting area in the state, Alaska Marine Pilots President, Captain Christy presented to the Commission details about maritime escorts and rescues which the organization has been actively engaged in over the past several years. In emphasizing their ability to serve the arctic, Captain Christy stated on behalf of the Alaska Marine Pilots:

"We know our backyard. Collectively our pilots have decades of experience in sailing these waters. Our job is to protect Alaska. Our mandate is to protect life, property, and the marine environment ensuring the safe and efficient flow of commerce. We answer to the State, not the shipping companies...We know the coastal communities we serve and we can be a link between local and traditional knowledge...It is in our best interest to help Alaska successfully navigate changes coming to the arctic." - Captain Clay Christy, Alaska Marine Pilots President

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City of Unalaska: Planning for the Future

By Chris Hladick City Manager and AAPC Local Government Representative

The City of Unalaska City Manager Chris Hladick discussed how the City is in its third decade of implementing the City's 'Comprehensive Plan' which covers details based on the assumption of increased Arctic activity (shipping, impacts of cargo coming over the pole, and offshore development) in the region. Hladick shared that there are currently three docks on the City's planning docket so far. He also emphasized the City's strong partnerships with marine pilots, the Dutch Harbor Port Director, and City of Unalaska Planning Department, to evaluate marine traffic patterns and to plan potential port revisions. The City is also evaluating master plans for water and sewer underway to serve future needs and developments in the City, charrettes planned for land use and housing, electricity and power to provide to a growing industry, community, and city. Serving as the AAPC Local Government Representative, City Manager of Unalaska Chris Hladick provided insight to the Commission on the preparation and planning process happening on the local level.



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Alaska's Arctic Response Capacity

By Commissioner Larry Hartig, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Alaska Department of Conservation (ADEC) Commissioner Larry Hartig presented to the Commission information on the State of Alaska's Arctic Response capacity; he detailed the State's geographic response strategies and future needs for protecting the environment in the Arctic. In explaining the future challenges of the state's Arctic Response Capacity, Hartig asked the Commission to keep an eye out on the dwindling State of Alaska Oil Spill Response Fund of \$50M and to further address international traffic traveling through the arctic.

“Our biggest challenge is international traffic going across the Great Circle Route. [This traffic does not] have to follow U.S. laws. On the international scene, through IMO or Arctic Council, we need to get voluntary agreement measures to create response systems and make vessel traffic safer.” – Commissioner Larry Hartig, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

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Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) with Emphasis on the Unimak Pass

By City of Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquardt

Mayor Shirley Marquardt provided to the AAPC, information about the development, purpose, and function of the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment Advisory (AIRA) panel. Created with settlement money brought forward after the year 2007 M/V Seledang Ayu Oil Spill, AIRA was established to focus on accident scenarios, causation analysis, and ultimately ways to protect marine safety. *“For us, our charge is marine safety,”* Marquardt stated. She also explained that through the work of the AIRA panel, risk reduction opportunities were evaluated and the “problem children” of maritime disasters were identified: power groundings, collision, occlusion, fire, and most common problem of all – drift groundings. In response to these problems, Marquardt explained that AIRA has discussed and continues to focus on implementing plans through partnerships between the ADEC, United States Coast Guard (USCG), Alaska Marine Pilots (AMP), and the City of Unalaska to further enhance towing capabilities, rescue missions, IMO Polar Code interpretations, ‘very antiquated’ maritime charts, and funding for maritime equipment.



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International Maritime Organization Polar Code

By Marc Zlomek, Coast Guard Liaison to the U.S. Department of State

Marc Zlomek of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and liaison to the USCG provided a summary of the IMO Polar Code. Due to the increasing attention and unique challenges of the arctic environment, Zlomek discussed the progress of previous and current efforts in shaping an IMO Polar Code. With the objective to focus on marine safety (vessel safety, personal safety) and environmental stewardship, IMO Polar Code has currently drafted guidelines that include mandatory (part a) and non-mandatory (part b) provisions. About IMO provisions, Marc described:

“...Topics would include a range relating to ship structure and stability, equipment carriage, such as lifesaving, navigation, communication equipment, etc., crew training, operations, environmental protection provisions, discharge provisions - what is acceptable, what is not acceptable to discharge, and polar class ship certificates...Icebreaker vessel training and accreditation for mariners are covered in the current work draft.” – Marc Zlomek, Coast Guard Liaison to the U.S. Department of State

Zlomek stated that after the IMO Polar Code is fully vetted through the review process with industry, environmental organizations and other agencies – the code would be implemented through the Arctic and Antarctic environments by existing conventions, SOLAS and MARPOL. It is the ultimate goal to have an IMO Polar Code document by summer 2014.

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Cooperative Arctic Oil Spill Prevention and Response

By Captain Barkley Lloyd, President of the Alaska Clean Seas, Oil Spill Response Organization

Since 1979, the Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) has operated as a non-profit cooperative. Captain Barkley Lloyd, President of ACS, presented to the AAPC on the extensive research and development network that his organization has in order to work on oil spill prevention and response. ACS has approximately 100 vessels in the arctic, engages in law enforcement activities, maintains embedded partnerships with industry - from a workforce of about 175 personnel – provides weekly training for a volunteer force of 450 people, and training in the villages on the North Slope and worldwide. Emphasizing the readily available operations, Captain Lloyd stated:

“We provide spill response services, much like a professional fire department, where we’re around the clock – 24/7, 365. When a spill occurs, we’ll be called out for the North Slope, the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the first 167 miles of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.”
– Captain Barkley Lloyd, President of Alaska Clean Seas

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City of Unalaska Fisheries Report

By Frank Kelty, City of Unalaska Resource Analyst

Frank Kelty, City of Unalaska Resource Analyst who spent 30 years in the Alaska seafood industry and nearly 20 years as an elected official in Unalaska, provided a fisheries overview of the Bering Sea Fisheries. He also discussed potential species resource management in the arctic, such as Nome snow crab, and arctic cod. After providing background on the fisheries economy, laws governing the industry, geographic areas of fish resources, empirical data fisheries species, Kelty urged the AAPC to consider: research funding, support for the coast guard's mission, transportation and shipping developments of new polar shipping routes, season tugs, barge freight service, supporting local developments are all important issues that need to be looked at. Another issue Kelty brought forward was:

“...if the pie shrinks and more money is funneled to the arctic for research and stock assessments, what's going to happen to the Bering Sea Area where we have the nation's largest fisheries that so many coastal communities are dependent on, the State of Alaska for the revenue they produce, and the nation as a whole?”
– Frank Kelty, City of Unalaska Resource Analyst

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Future Needs and Plans for Ocean Observing in the Arctic

By Zdenka Willis, Director of National Integrated Ocean Observing System (NIOOS), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The Director of the National Integrated Ocean Observing System (NIOOS) Zdenka Willis, presented to the Commission how the Alaska- aspect of NIOOS, the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS), operates. Willis explained to the Commission how AOOS functions utilizing state, local, tribal governments, academia, industry, and agency stakeholders to work together and complement the Federal ocean observing capabilities. Goals of AOOS in the Arctic include: ocean and coastal observations in the U.S. Arctic to make Arctic data more accessible and useful and the development of information products for stakeholders and decisions makers. Willis explained that the AOOS webpage is a 'one-stop shop' data portal with real time information, satellite imagery, model output, such as climate models, and digital sea ice atlases. For more information visit: www.aos.org.

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USCG Arctic Strategy

By Captain Greg Sanial, Chief Response

As the arctic changes, the USCG must fulfill their statutory requirements to provide safety, security, and stewardship of federal waters. With over 150 years of work in the arctic, the USCG has recently released a United State Coast Guard Arctic Strategy, which will guide future operations that will be taking place through efforts known as Arctic Shield. Captain Greg Sanial Chief of Response for the USCG District 17 emphasized the three pillars of improving awareness, modernizing governance



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and broadening partnerships. One of the ways that the Coast Guard can increase awareness is to get more eyes on the arctic by getting input from aircraft in Kotzebue for patrols, the missions of Cutters (Healy, Polar Star), CG Patrol boats, and buoy tenders who are conducting missions and exercises. Modernizing governance work has led to the development of an arctic policy board (internal CG), and other efforts to protect US sovereignty and sovereign rights. To broaden partnerships the CG serves as an expert resource for all partners, consults closely with Alaska Natives during operations, exercises and conferences.

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Aleut International Association

by Jim Gamble

As one of six Permanent Participants at the Arctic Council (AC), the Aleut International Association (AIA) was represented at the Unalaska AAPC meeting by President James Gamble. Gamble spoke about the purpose of AIA and expressed his further interest in engaging the AAPC with his organization and their work on the AC. AIA has a seated at all the tables at the AC, including the ministers table – Gamble encouraged the State of Alaska and the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to pay more attention to the efforts of the Permanent Participants as this might be an opportunity to contribute to the work of the Arctic Council. Some ideas he shared included hosting an Indigenous Peoples’ Secretariat in Alaska or Alaska legislative involvement in Permanent Participant delegations.

“Moving towards the [Arctic Council] U.S. Chairmanship, which will happen from 2015 to 2017 – the State of Alaska has such a tremendous opportunity – we are able to sit down multilaterally with international level officials from seven other Arctic Nations to talk with them on a one-on-one basis about government action in the arctic. The Permanent Participants need help with all this. We need resources, of course that means money, but it also means other things - we also need expertise, we need voices of the region ... AIA needs help to present the voices of the Aleutian Pribilof and Commander islands to the world.” – President James Gamble of the Aleut International Association

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Ounalashka Corporation Arctic Development

By CEO Richard Miller

Chief Executive Officer of the Ounalashka Corporation (OC) Richard Miller represented the shareholders of OC and reminded the Commission that the Unangan people or the Corporation will be here now and for many years going forward as they have successfully and sustainably maintained land and marine resources of Unalaska in the past. His goal is not only to help shareholders benefit economically through corporation land investments and preserve their cultural ways of life, but to also create job opportunities for the shareholders and community of Unalaska at large. In addressing future partnerships with city, state, and private sector for future Arctic developments, Miller emphasized:

“We want to be part of the solution. When we think of the future, we think about hundreds of years because we will still be here.” – Richard Miller CEO of the Ounalashka Corporation

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Statement on the Arctic

by Denise Rankin, President of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

As President of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, Denise Rankin spoke on behalf of the sovereign tribe whose descendants have inhabited the region for 8,000 years. Rankin shared with the Commission the history of the Unangan people under changing times, from furs, gold rush, Coast Guard, war, trade, to the more recent sensation and search for routes through the Northwest Passage - some of these times in history have forced relocation for the indigenous peoples. Through this history, Rankin communicated to the AAPC the importance of keeping people safe and cultures alive for generations to come. She also stressed concerns about Arctic development specifically increased vessel traffic and need for response assets, funding for research and safety mechanisms, and need for more affordable energy.

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The Aleut Corporation and the Arctic

By Janet Reiser, Aleut Corporation Director of Business and Resource Development

As Business Director for the Aleut Corporation, Janet Reiser amplified the message that the “Aleutians [are] a Gateway to the Arctic”. Strategically located, Reiser explained how the Corporation is looking for opportunities for development and is currently seeking ways to support oil and gas exploration and marine shipping. With 71K acres of surface lands and 1.6 M acres of subsurface land under their jurisdiction, Reiser emphasized how the Aleut Corporation is open for business and will put private money into public opportunities in Unalaska. Reiser highlighted Adak where there are established infrastructure systems - 500K underground barrel storage, real estate, and warehouses – in addition to a deep water, year-round ice-free port, lots of land, and large plane runway access, available for future development and operations.



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PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Below is a brief summary of the comments made during the public testimony period.

Vince Tutiakoff, previous Aleut Corporation President, current Ounalashka Corporation Board Chairman and employee at the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, came forward to address the Commission on his concerns for the future of Unalaska. “Unalaska has been very much involved with what has happened in the Aleutians the past 200 hundred years”. He urged community and Alaska Native leaders take to heart that we be involved in this process at the local, state, national and international levels. Tutiakoff also made a point to:

“Get on the airwaves – we should be talking about how the Arctic is going to impact peoples’ way of life – educate!” – Vince Tutiakoff, Alaskan Native Unagan Leader of Unalaska

David Karabelnikoff, a third generation Alaskan Native college graduate, spoke to the Commission to emphasize education opportunities in the arctic for young Alaskans.

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National Arctic Strategy Implementation

Dr. Brendan Kelly, from the White House Office of Science and Technology, provided an overview of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. Commissioners engaged in discussion with Dr Kelly about the development of an Implementation Plan for the NSAR. Questions were raised concerning the process for receiving and responding to input from Alaskans, how the many other recent federal Arctic plans (IARPC, Integrated Arctic Management) would or would not align implementation efforts with the NSAR, and how budgets might be impacted by the NSAR. It became clear, as it did at the June 14th Anchorage NSAR listening session, that the State of Alaska and the AAPC could have a leading role to play in the development of the Implementation Plan for the Arctic Region.

Commissioners agreed to send a letter to key Federal officials requesting the following actions from the Federal National Arctic Strategy leads:

- Align the Federal Implementation Plan timeline so that our Preliminary Report findings (to be completed in January 2014) can inform the development of the Implementation Plan.
- Identify a coordination mechanism and dedicated liaison between the Federal Implementation development process and the State of Alaska, including consistent communication with the AAPC Co-Chairs and the Arctic Advisor in the Office of the Governor.
- Develop a mechanism for incorporating Alaska’s Arctic Policy recommendations into the Federal process, including a method for addressing challenges and opportunities.



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COMMISSION MEETING | DAY TWO

August 29, 2013: Commission Discussion, Policy Team Reports, Guiding Principles Session
Chaired by Sen. Lesil McGuire and Rep. Bob Herron

COMMISSION DISCUSSION

State of Alaska's Arctic Background Document

The Co-chairs made opening comments related to process:

- Requests to State Agencies: Please everyone note that when we are requesting Arctic-related information from any state agency, we should direct that request through Commissioner Stefanie Moreland.

- Marine Transportation is moving from the Fisheries Policy Team into Security/Coast Guard policy team. Note also these changes: Representative Austerman will chair the Security, Coast Guard and Marine Transportation group. This leaves Fisheries and Wildlife as a group that will be chaired by Senator Hoffman, as originally planned and also on the policy teams sheet in the binders.

Policy Team Captains (or their designees) briefly summarized their sections. The full Commission participated in discussion of the background document, providing suggestions and comments for each policy section listed below:

- Oil, Gas, Resources: Sen. Giessel
- Science, Research and Energy: Rep. Kerttula
- Governance: Rob Earl, Rep. Herron Staff
 - Indigenous Issues: Liz Moore
- Marine Transportation: Peter Garay
- Security, Coast Guard: Rep. Austerman
- Fisheries: Sen. Hoffman
- Planning and Infrastructure: Nils Andreassen (PowerPoint)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES SESSION

Commissioners worked through a Guiding Principles exercise facilitated by Christian Muntean of Vantage Consulting. We agreed that the guiding principles below are 80% complete in Unalaska.

- We, all Alaskans, will continue to commit to economically & environmentally vibrant communities through balanced resource development and respect for the place we live.
- Promote policies for sustainable communities while respecting and considering Alaskan's cultures, practices and traditional values.
- Establish, support and maintain personal security emphasizing an individual's basic needs, which include food, shelter, health, energy, (water & sanitation) and safety.
- Alaskans lead & collaborate transparent & inclusive decision-making that achieves balanced outcomes that benefit Arctic Peoples & all Alaskans.



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COMMISSION DISCUSSION

After the Guiding Principles work session, the Commission reconvened to reflect on their work together and to discuss the path forward to producing a quality Preliminary Report in January 2014.

Co-Chair Herron invited Nils Andreassen to review and lead discussion of the AAPC Commission Work Plan including the definition of the Arctic and the 4 components that will together constitute the Preliminary Report – background document, guiding principles (vision for Alaska’s Arctic), list of recommendations to the State of Alaska, and list of recommendations to the Federal government.

Questions were raised about how the AAPC is defining the Arctic (ARPA definition) and whether the AAPC has a common understanding of what will be delivered to the Alaska State Legislature as part of their Preliminary Report in January 2014. Discussion included questions about the enabling legislation and communication with the Federal Government and plans for moving forward after the Unalaska meeting.

Co-chair Herron heard the request for more Commission discussion in Fairbanks and that this meeting should be 2 days instead of one as originally planned. Everyone agreed to work on the key issues for their policy areas for the Fairbanks meeting.

COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS – updated October 1, 2013

1. Distribute AAPC Guiding Principles vision statements to Commissioners so that the AAPC Policy Teams can reflect on these as they work on the background sections and draft recommendations. Completed 09.16.13
2. Interpret the enabling legislation for AAPC
 - According to the enabling legislation, does the AAPC have authority to address the Federal Government? Do we need to suggest language to the Alaska State Legislature for an approach to the Federal Government?
3. Clarify what is meant by State and Federal AAPC List of Recommendations
4. Suggestion to structure the State and Federal AAPC List of Recommendations so they are appropriate for a broad audience.
5. Change the meeting in Fairbanks from one day to two days of meetings. Completed 08.30.13
6. Send a Letter to the President of United States on National Strategy for the Arctic Region Implementation Plan. Completed 09.05.13
7. Process for Requests for information from State of Alaska Agencies: Please note that when we are requesting Arctic-related information from any state agency, we should direct that request through Commissioner Stefanie Moreland so she can connect you with the more knowledgeable and experienced State resources.
8. Nikoosh Carlo, the new Executive Director, will have one-on-one conversations with all the Commissioners and Ex-officio members. Completed 09.30.13