

Alaska has been part of the Arctic since Statehood, and its peoples have thousands of years of experience and knowledge of working and living in an Arctic environment. While it is certainly the case that the Arctic is changing, and that international attention on the Arctic is growing, the state of Alaska is well-positioned to continue responding to this corresponding increase in activity. The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission recognizes the many efforts already underway and led by state agencies. While many of these, arguably, could be expanded or adapted to better respond to the challenges and opportunity in the Arctic, the Commission hopes to highlight those areas where the state of Alaska is invested and working to address.

Therefore, the Commission encourages continued focus on the state's efforts to:

1. Support self-reliance for local residents on food from the ocean and inland waters, land and to ensure food security of the people and communities, including the expansion of local food production.
2. Evaluate risks from climate change related to erosion to community infrastructure and services and develop feasible responses, including supporting community efforts to adapt and relocate when necessary.
3. Support culturally-based educational systems that include indigenous languages of the Arctic.
4. Lead joint federal, state, and local government agency collaboration to achieve greater access, coordination and predictable regulatory standards to ensure permitting certainty and robust environmental protection.
5. Work to mitigate risks from increased marine transportation throughout the Bering Sea with specific attention to BSAI fisheries.
6. Support the development and maintenance of affordable and safe housing, including working with interested parties within the United States and other Arctic nations to investigate alternative approaches that are less costly to build, operate and maintain housing and utilities in Arctic communities.
7. Prepare the local workforce to participate in all aspects and phases of Arctic development including research, monitoring, regulatory oversight, project development, construction, operation, remediation, and reclamation, to include: ice navigation, marine mammal observation, spill response, SAR, pilotage, and engineering.
8. Support for Alaska Training Institutes to develop world-class training in Arctic operations, including the Alaska Maritime Training Center at Seward.
9. Coordinate with universities, research institutions, industries, trade groups, local communities, tribes, regions and, when appropriate, neighboring Arctic nations, to identify future needed baseline data collection, research and monitoring and to enhance sharing and accessibility of scientific data to better inform state and federal permitting and protect the environment. Collaborate with industry and federal agencies to continue to update hydrocarbon and mineral resource mapping and estimates in the Alaskan Arctic.
10. Find long-term energy solutions for residential, public and commercial purposes, including by supporting the development and maintenance of affordable and reliable sources of energy in Arctic communities, focusing efforts on remote locations, cold-weather design and engineering, and exploration of local and/or renewable sources; supporting specific programs such as the Emerging Energy Technology Fund; and increasing collection and dissemination of comprehensive community consumption, cost, and power supply data.

11. Support a single system to monitor vessel traffic in the Arctic, which could also transmit information on ice and weather, ship's speed, and closed or sensitive areas for navigation.
12. Support research and development of new technologies and use best practices to reduce the risk of hazardous releases in the Arctic, to include local knowledge and information sharing.
13. With the participation of local and indigenous peoples, continue to support the development of a cohesive and comprehensive Arctic wildlife policy, including the identification and assessment of climate-related impacts and threats at the community level.

As part of its efforts to efficiently and effectively deliver services to Alaskans, and in thinking of future governance, the Commission supports the state's activities that:

1. Pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in the Arctic Council, including involvement in Working Groups and by building partnerships with Permanent Participants.
2. Strengthen efforts to incorporate traditional and local knowledge into its work at the international, national, and state-levels.
3. Promote science-based decision-making that incorporates local and traditional knowledge of Alaskans and encourages adaptive approaches guided by ongoing research and monitoring, and development of methods for more effectively integrating traditional knowledge into conventional research and natural resource management.
4. Achieve transparency and community/local inclusion in decision making.
5. Encourage regional planning efforts that allow local stakeholders to identify and communicate to state and federal agencies priorities for education, infrastructure, and development.
6. Consider adapting successful models to development agreements with local governments and tribes regarding the use of traditional knowledge and culturally sensitive practices in research and permitting programs.
7. Advance integrated planning and forward thinking to identify opportunities that leverage future industrial and civil infrastructure development projects to serve regional needs.