

The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, as part of its two year effort to identify the current state of the Arctic and make recommendations for responding to change and activity, recognizes that it shares that region with others who have jurisdictional authority. The Bering Strait, for instance, is an international waterway; the federal government controls waters outside three miles and within its Exclusive Economic Zone; and federal agencies own and manage federal lands within much of the Arctic. The Commission has produced a number of recommendations – the bulk of which align with the National Strategy for the Arctic Region – that speak to those issues outside its authority, as they relate directly to the health and well-being of Alaskans.

Therefore, the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission recommends that the U.S. government and federal agencies consider:

1. Inclusion of state agencies in federal Arctic oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.
2. Addressing regulatory issues regarding the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska
3. Investment in or expanding policy related to refineries, the Cold Weather Training Center, unmanned aerial vehicles, robotics, radio broadcast and broadband spectra, and satellites.
4. Sufficiently funding the U.S. Coast Guard to carry out its assigned and emerging duties in the U.S. maritime Arctic without compromising its capacity to conduct all Alaskans missions.
5. Replacement of the U.S. Coast Guard's Polar Class icebreakers and ice-capable cutters.
6. Application of current domestic and international fisheries management programs to emerging fisheries of the Arctic region.
7. Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and submission of an extended Continental Shelf claim.
8. Establishment of IMO-endorsed shipping routes through the Bering Strait.
9. Development of policies to maximize the value and use of emerging fisheries and other marine resources to the benefit of residents of the Arctic.
10. Establishment of federal revenue sharing with impacted communities from resource development opportunities on the Arctic OCS.

Furthermore, in cooperation with federal partners, the state of Alaska, should:

1. Coordinate on theater-specific missions as identified by U.S. Northern Command/NORAD, U.S. Pacific Command, Joint Task Force Alaska, Alaska Command and others as necessary.
2. Update and enhance the Coast Pilot, a reliable and efficient source of information for mariners, ideally covering navigation of the Bering Sea and Arctic approach waters.
3. Improve and support, invest in and complete increased communications and mapping, navigational infrastructure, hydrographic and bathymetry with data shared using collaborative research, private-public partnerships, and local and traditional knowledge.
4. Support development and implementation of the IMO Polar Code that meets the state's interests and recognizes its priorities, while developing practical and voluntary measures that encourage best practices.
5. Encourage development of appropriately integrated systems to monitor and communicate Arctic marine information, and continue support for the Marine Exchange of Alaska.
6. Strengthen and implement cross-border SAR and oil spill response agreements with the Arctic states and through ongoing bilateral efforts with Canada and Russia.