

Proposed Community Outreach Plan for Arctic FMP

Background on the need for a community outreach plan

At its June 2007 meeting, the Council notified the public that it intends to draft a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Arctic. As part of the development of that FMP, the Council intends to conduct an outreach program. As specified in the Council's motion:

Staff should consult with stakeholders to the extent practicable, including Arctic communities, outlining the Council's intent and objectives and seeking input and suggestions for future marine resource management in the Alaskan Arctic EEZ.

Prior to its June 2007 meeting, the Council received letters from the Native Village of Kotzebue, and the Maniilaq Association, which represents twelve communities located in Northwest Alaska.¹ The correspondence from these entities noted concern with the Council's lack of communication with communities living adjacent to the Arctic EEZ about the potential development of an Arctic FMP. Their comments on potential alternatives for an Arctic FMP were combined with a request for the Council to pursue "full consultation and input from affected communities and residents"², as well as a request to be considered for a role on an Arctic Plan Team to further develop an Arctic FMP.³

In addition, one of the Council's work plan priorities is to increase Alaska Native and community consultation, and an outreach plan is currently being developed for review by the Council. As stated in the work plan, it is intended to be implemented through two specific goals: 1) develop a protocol or strategy for improving the Alaska Native and community consultation process; and 2) develop a method for systematic documentation of Alaska Native and community participation in the development of management actions. This outreach program for the Arctic FMP, then, is part of the Council's evolving outreach efforts to improve communications with Alaskan Natives and rural communities.

Native & community outreach plan

The following are suggestions for an outreach plan to be implemented during the development of the Arctic FMP. Council staff would oversee this plan and maintain ongoing and proactive relations with Native and rural communities.

Identify coastal communities within the North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, & Nome Census Area that are adjacent to the action area (Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea)

Identify regional and village corporations, community governments, or other community or Native entities in each of those communities (e.g., regional nonprofits, etc.). See attached draft list.

Identify contact information for each of those entities.

Contact (by letter) and solicit input from each entity identified as being potentially affected by the proposed action, prior to the release of the preliminary analysis. Send letter in August 2007. Include in letter:

- New brochure on Council process: Navigating the North Pacific Council Process
- June 2007 Council motion on Arctic FMP
- Schedules for action
- Summary of action (1 pg flyer) that can be easily distributed in community

[NOTE: The Ecosystem Committee recommends that staff postpone sending letters and instead make verbal (telephone) contacts with key individuals at the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs, Maniilaq, and Kawerak. Staff would discuss with these individuals how best to communicate with villages and other entities in the Arctic, and how to get the word out

¹Member villages of the Maniilaq Association include Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, Shungnak, and Pt. Hope.

²Letter from H. Bolen, Maniilaq Association to S. Madsen, NPFMC. May 25, 2007.

³Letter from A. Whiting, Native Village of Kotzebue to S. Madsen, NPFMC. May 25, 2007.

on the Council's intent.]

Convene meetings as necessary and appropriate during the development of the analysis. This step may only be necessary if it is determined that the action has significant, unique, or substantial direct effects on a particular community. This could also be prompted by strong desires from individual communities that they have an opportunity for face to face discussion of the proposed action outside of the Council meetings or FMP Team meetings. [NOTE: The Ecosystem Committee mentioned that staff might consider outreach via the Alaska Federation of Natives annual meeting and participation in an upcoming Arctic Research Commission meeting.]

If an Arctic FMP Team is formed, consider representation from an Alaska Native and/or community entity representing each of the three boroughs in the action area. [NOTE: The Ecosystem Committee recommends that an Arctic FMP Team not be appointed at this time; rather, the Ecosystem Committee would guide development of the Arctic FMP. The Team would be appointed at such time in the future when the Council wishes to consider the framework under which a fishery might be opened in the Arctic, to develop the process that would determine what species might be fished, and to identify when, where, and who would be allowed to participate in any fisheries that were opened.]

Contact (by email, fax, or letter) and solicit input from each entity identified as being potentially affected by the proposed action, prior to the Council's scheduled final action (tentatively June 2008). [NOTE: The Ecosystem Committee recommended making verbal contact with a few key individuals first to seek their recommendations for communications. This may involve letters or other communications with a broader audience.]

After a decision by the Council, follow-up with the potentially affected entities (by email, fax, or letter) as to the results of the Council's action. Convey that the Council's action is a recommendation to the Secretary of Commerce, and further input can be provided to the Secretary.

Document this consultation process in a short summary in the Secretarial review draft of the analysis supporting the action. Include a summary of the process undertaken to solicit input from affected entities, including solicitations for input, public meetings, and the distribution of documents. Include a brief summary of the participants and issues discussed at meetings.

	Borough	Regional Native Corp.	Regional Native Non-profit (health & social services)	Regional Development Org.
Northwest Arctic Borough Communities	Northwest Arctic Borough P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, AK 99752	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49 Kotzebue, AK 99752	Maniilaq Association P.O. Box 256 Kotzebue, AK 99752	NW Arctic Economic Dev. Comm. P.O. Box 1110
	Village Council (IRA)	Village Native Corp.	City Government	
Ambler	Native Village of Ambler P.O. Box 47	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Ambler P.O. Box 9	
Buckland	Native Village of Buckland P.O. Box 67	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Buckland P.O. Box 49	
Deering	Native Village of Deering (IRA) P.O. Box 36089	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Deering P.O. Box 36049	
Kiana	Kiana Traditional Council P.O. Box 69	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Kiana P.O. Box 150	
Kivalina	Native Village of Kivalina (IRA) P.O. Box 50051	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Kivalina P.O. Box 50079	
Kobuk	Native Village of Kobuk Traditional Council	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Kobuk P.O. Box 5120	
Kotzebue	Kotzebue IRA Council P.O. Box 296	Kikiktagrak Inupiat Corporation P.O. Box 1050, 373A Second	City of Kotzebue P.O. Box 46	
Noatak	Native Village of Noatak (IRA) P.O. Box 89	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	N/A	
Noorvik	Noorvik Native Community P.O. Box 209	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Noorvik P.O. Box 146	
Selawik	Selawik IRA Council P.O. Box 59	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Selawik P.O. Box 99	
Shungnak	Native Village of Shungnak P.O. Box 64	NANA Regional Corporation P.O. Box 49	City of Shungnak P.O. Box 59	
	Borough	Regional Native Corp.	Regional Native Non-profit (health & social services)	Regional Development Org.
Nome Census Area Communities	N/A	Bering Straits Native Corp. P.O. Box 1008	Kawerak, Incorporated P.O. Box 948	Bering Strait Dev. Council P.O. Box 948
	Village Council	Village Native Corp.	City Government	CDQ Group
Diomedede	Native Village of Diomedede (IRA) P.O. Box 7079	Diomedede Native Corporation P.O. Box 7040	City of Diomedede P.O. Box 7039	Norton Sound Econ. Dev. Corp.
Shishmaref	Native Village of Shishmaref P.O. Box 72110	Shishmaref Native Corporation General Delivery	City of Shishmaref P.O. Box 83	N/A
Wales	Native Village of Wales P.O. Box 549	Wales Native Corporation P.O. Box 529	City of Wales P.O. Box 489	Norton Sound Econ. Dev. Corp.
	Borough	Regional Native Corp.	Regional Native Non-profit (health & social services)	Regional Development Org.
North Slope Borough Communities	North Slope Borough P.O. Box 69	Arctic Slope Regional Corporation	Arctic Slope Native Assoc., Ltd. P.O. Box 1232	N/A
	Village Council (IRA)	Village Native Corp.	City Government	
Alpine	N/A	N/A	N/A	<i>Alpine is an unpopulated, seasonal use community. It</i>
Anaktuvuk Pass	Village of Anaktuvuk Pass P.O. Box 21065	Nunamiut Corporation P.O. Box 21009	City of Anaktuvuk Pass P.O. Box 21030	
Atkasuk	Atkasuk Village P.O. Box 91108	Atkasuk Corporation Tikiqlyk & Akpik St	City of Atkasuk P.O. Box 91119	
Barrow	Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (IRA)	Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation P.O. Box 890	City of Barrow P.O. Box 629	
Kaktovik	Native Village of Kaktovik P.O. Box 130	Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation 010 A Street	City of Kaktovik P.O. Box 27	
Nuiqsut	Native Village of Nuiqsut P.O. Box 169	Kuukpik Corporation P.O. Box 89187	City of Nuiqsut P.O. Box 148	
Point Hope	Native Village of Point Hope P.O. Box 109	Tigara Corporation 2121 Abbott Road	City of Point Hope P.O. Box 169	
Point Lay	Point Lay Tribal Council (IRA) P.O. Box 59031	Cully Corporation 405 East Fireweed Suite 203	N/A	
Prudhoe Bay	N/A	N/A	N/A	<i>Unincorporated. Oil drilling site.</i>
Wainwright	Village of Wainwright P.O. Box 143	Olgoonik Corporation P.O. Box 29	City of Wainwright P.O. Box 9	
Other community contacts	Inuit Circumpolar Conference 429 L Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Eskimo Walrus Commission P.O. Box 948 Nome, AK 99762	Alaska Native Science Commission Patricia Cochran, Executive	Barrow Arctic Science Consortium Glenn W. Sheehan, Ph.D.,	Harry Brower, Jr., Chair Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

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NOTICE



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is Developing a Fishery Management Plan for the Arctic

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is developing a fishery management plan (FMP) that recognizes the unique resources of Arctic waters and the potential for continued climate warming trends. The Council does not currently have a fishery management plan for the Arctic region; this proposed plan would cover Federal marine waters (3 – 200 nm off Alaska) of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. The plan will guide the Council with respect to ecosystem-based management decisions affecting Arctic waters in the future. To date, very little commercial fishing has occurred in this region. The Council intends to be precautionary and prohibit commercial fisheries in Arctic waters under this plan until adequate knowledge is acquired upon which to make sound decisions. The proposed analysis includes an option to allow existing small scale commercial fisheries in this region, such as a reported small commercial red king crab fishery in the southern Chukchi Sea. The Council does not intend to affect local, small-scale commercial fisheries. Otherwise, no commercial fishing would be allowed under the authority of the new Arctic FMP.

The Arctic FMP will:

- create a policy that directly affects commercial fishing in Federal waters

The Arctic FMP will NOT:

- affect management of birds or marine mammals such as whales, seals, or polar bears
- regulate subsistence or personal use harvests of any fish, shellfish, bird, or marine mammal

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The Council is interested in hearing from local residents and communities, as well as agencies, organizations and the general public, during the development of the analysis and prior to decision-making. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Council and/or attend upcoming Council meetings with their concerns and suggestions as the Council proceeds with this effort.

Proposed Timeline:

- December 3 – 11, 2007, Council meeting in Anchorage – Additional review of FMP outreach plan
- February 4 – 12, 2008, Council meeting in Seattle – Preliminary review of FMP analysis and draft FMP
- April 1-8, 2008, Council meeting in Anchorage – Initial review of FMP analysis and draft FMP
- April to June 2008 – Ongoing public review of FMP analysis and draft FMP language
- June 2 – 10, 2008, Council meeting in Kodiak – Final review of FMP analysis and Council approval of FMP
- After the June 2008 meeting, the Council would send its recommended FMP to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval. Prior to approval by the Secretary, a public comment period would be noticed in the Federal Register.
- 2009 – Anticipated date when the Arctic FMP would be effective

As they are completed, working drafts of the analysis and FMP will be available at www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc.