



# **NOAA and Federal Arctic Policy in 2013**

**A Presentation to the  
NOAA Science Advisory Board**

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# Outline



- Purpose
- NOAA's Role in Federal Arctic Policy
- NOAA's Role in Arctic Permitting
- NOAA's Arctic Strategy and Team



# Purpose



*To provide an overview of current federal Arctic policy drivers and NOAA's place in this policy landscape.*



# United States Executive Agencies Active in Arctic Policy



- Executive Office of the President
  - Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
  - Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)
- United States Department of State (DOS)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of Commerce (DOC)
- Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- Other U.S. Executive Agencies Active in Arctic Policy
  - Department of Energy (DOE)
  - Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - Department of Transportation (DOT)

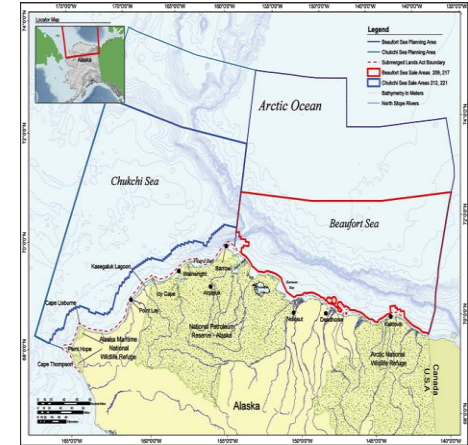




# State of Alaska Agencies/Boroughs



- Governor of Alaska
- Administrative Offices:
  - AK Department of Fish and Game
  - AK Department of Natural Resources
  - AK Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
- Alaska Legislature
- North Slope Borough, AK
- Northwest Arctic Borough, AK
- \*AK Arctic Policy Commission





# Federal Drivers for US Arctic Management and Science



- Arctic Research Commission and Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (1984)
- National Ocean Policy (2010)
- NOAA's Arctic Vision and Strategy (2011)
- Interagency Working Group on Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska (2011)
- IARPC 5 Year Research Plan (2012)
- Integrated Arctic Management report (2013)
- USCG Arctic Strategy (2013)
- CMTS Arctic MTS Report (In Development)
- US National Strategy for the Arctic Region (2013)





# National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR) – NOAA's Role



## Line Of Effort 1:

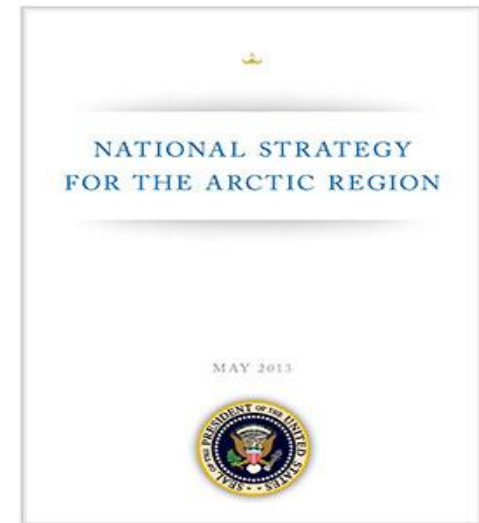
- Advancing United States Security Interests.

## Line Of Effort 2:

- Pursuing Responsible Arctic Region Stewardship.

## Line Of Effort 3:

- Strengthening International Cooperation.

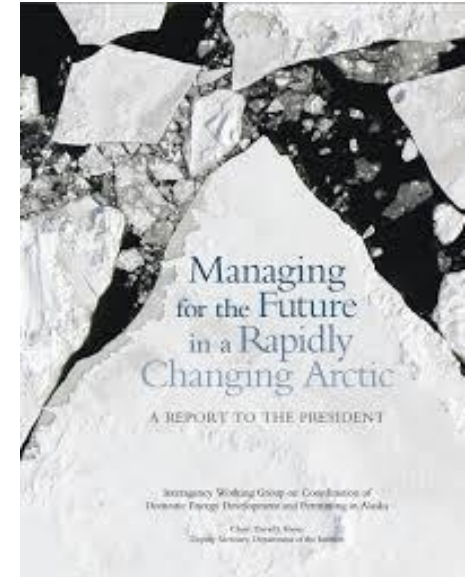




# Integrated Arctic Management (IAM)- NOAA's Role



- Goals:
  - Resilient ecosystems,
  - Sustainable cultures and economies,
  - Stable operating environment for industry
- Whole government approach
- Direct and meaningful partnerships
- Science-based decision making
  - Adaptively managed
  - Ecosystem scale
  - Cumulative impacts measured







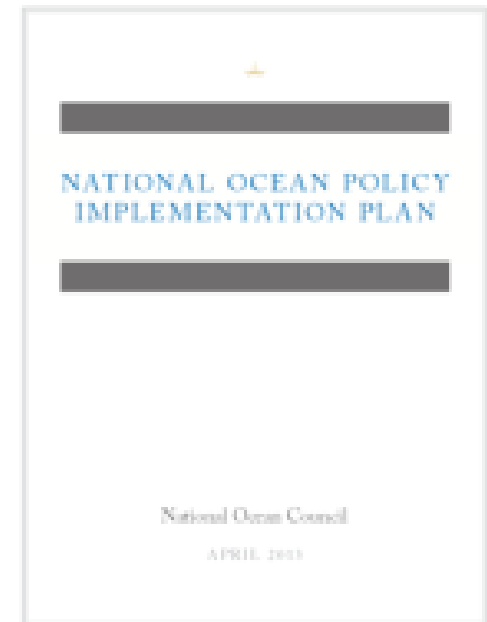
# National Ocean policy – NOAA's Role



In the National Ocean Policy's 26 Arctic milestones, 23 list NOAA as a responsible agency.

4 areas emerge:

- Enhance Communication Systems
- Improve Environmental Incident Prevention Response
- Improve Sea Ice Forecasting
- Improve Mapping and Charting





# Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) - NOAA's Role



The IARPC 5 year plan lays out seven research focus areas. Of these seven, three are most pertinent to NOAA:

- Sea Ice and Marine Ecosystems (includes oil spill research).
- Observing Systems (includes sea ice research).
- Regional Climate Models.



# ARCTIC COUNCIL – NOAA's Role



## **Specialty Groups:**

- Oil Spill Task Force – New Agreement on cooperation on marine oil pollution, preparedness and response in the Arctic
- Ecosystem Based Mgmt. Experts Group

## **Working Groups (of 6):**

- Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP)
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)



# Marine Transportation System Arctic Report – NOAA's Role



The CMTS Report on US Arctic MTS has detailed reporting on what will be needed for marine transportation in the Arctic.

All of the requirements are pertinent to NOAA:

- Ports and Associated Facilities (refuge for ships)
- Geodetic Control; Hydrographic Surveys and Nautical Charts; Shoreline Mapping
- Communications
- Marine Weather and Sea Ice Forecasts
- Areas of Heightened Ecological Significance
- Information Infrastructure (Navigation)
- Response Services



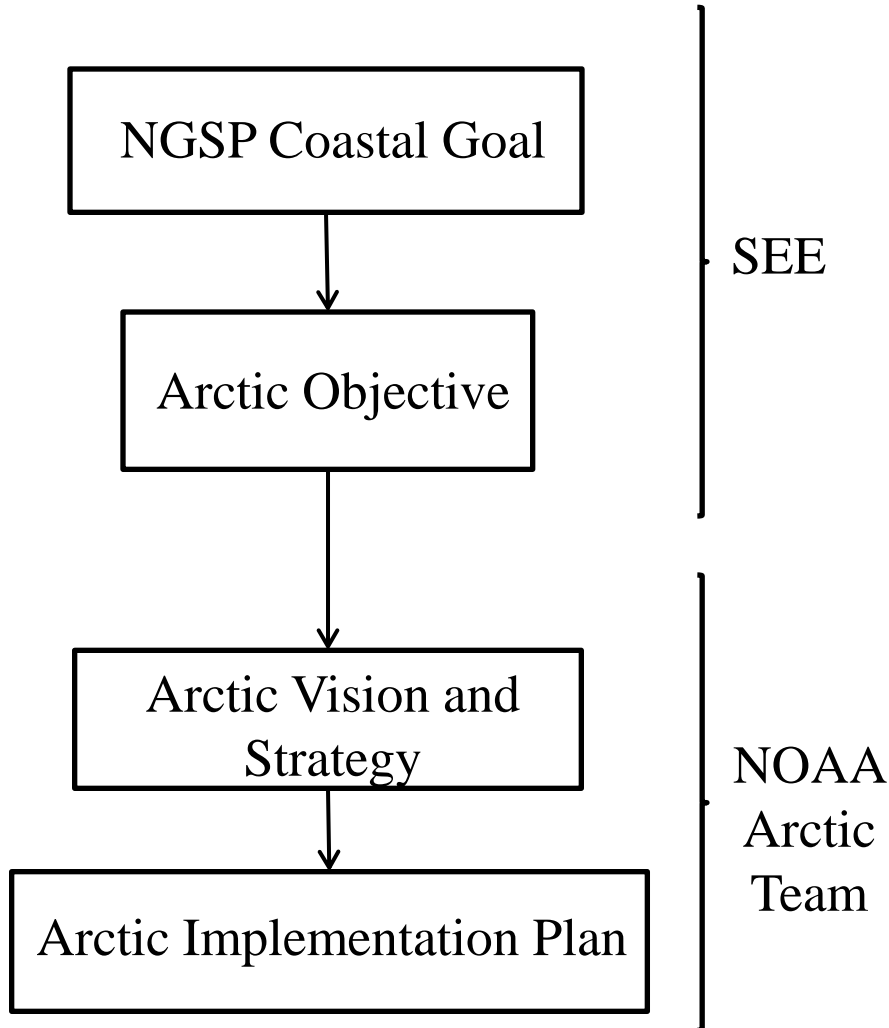
# Arctic Oil and Gas Permitting Overview



- Many agencies have a role
  - DOI regulates oil and gas activities
  - NOAA Fisheries manages the impacts of oil and gas activity on marine mammals & ESA species
  - NOS/ORR reviews oil spill response plans
- Alaska Interagency Working Group
- 2013 Permitting Activities
- Arctic Environmental Impact Statement



# Responding to Change: NOAA's Integrated Arctic Vision



- **NOAA envisions an Arctic where:**
  - Conservation, management, and use are based on sound science, and support healthy, productive, and resilient communities and ecosystems,
  - The global implications of Arctic change are better understood and predicted.



# NOAA's Arctic Goals



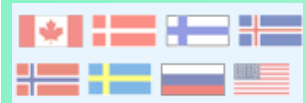
**Forecast Sea Ice**



**Strengthen Foundational Science to Understand and Detect Arctic Climate and Ecosystem Changes**



**Improve Weather and Water Forecasts and Warnings**



**Enhance International and National Partnerships**



**Improve Stewardship and Management of Ocean and Coastal Resources in the Arctic**



**Advance Resilient & Healthy Arctic Communities & Economies (Navigation & Emergency Response)**



# Next Steps: Where Our focus Should Be



- Focus on unique strengths and mandates.
- Prioritize data and resource needs and focus on attainable sources & strategy to obtain them.
- Strengthen research advisory roles for major funding sources (i.e. NSF, BOEM, NPRB, LCCs).
- Identify and prioritize efforts with highly effective partners





# Backup Slides





# Current Arctic Ecosystem Research



- Synthesis of Arctic Research (SOAR)
- Pacific Marine Arctic Regional Synthesis (PacMARS)
- Pacific-Arctic Gateway Ecosystem Study (PAGES)
- Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey (Arctic EIS)
- Aerial Survey of Marine Mammals
- ShoreZone
- Arctic Coastal Ecosystem Survey (ACES)
- Loss of Sea Ice-Ice Seal Surveys (LOSI)
- Chukchi Sea Environmental Studies Program (CSESP)
- Hanna Shoal Ecosystem Survey
- Marine Arctic Ecosystem Surveys (MARES)
- Bering Aleutian Salmon International Survey (BASIS)
- Russian-American Long Term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA)
- Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO)
- U.S. Canada Transboundary Fish Survey



# Research Funding Overview



- Industry
  - Joint Industry Programs
  - Outside contracts (universities, institutes)
- NOAA (in-house: OAR, OR&R, AOOS etc.)
- North Pacific Research Board
- Oil Spill Recovery Institute
- BOEM/BSEE
  - Strong partnership between NMFS and BOEM on research
  - Science Program, Coastal Marine Institute
- NSF Polar Programs
- NGOs & Private Foundations (Oak Fdn., TNC)