NOAA and Federal Arctic Policy in 2013

A Presentation to the NOAA Science Advisory Board

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23 July, 2013
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)
- 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)
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
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 and Response
- Improve Sea Ice Forecasting
- Improve Mapping and Charting
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.
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)
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.

NGSP Coastal Goal

Arctic Objective

Arctic Vision and Strategy

Arctic Implementation Plan

SEE

NOAA Arctic Team
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 (Navigation & Emergency Arctic Communities & Economies 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)