



Workshop on Strategies and Communication Protocols to Mitigate Impacts of Research Vessels on Alaska Native Subsistence Hunts in the High Arctic

Convened under the auspices of both the Science and the Subsistence Sub-committees of the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee and by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposal: Given the importance of the marine environment of the High Arctic Region (US waters including and north of St. Lawrence Island in the western Arctic) to the local residents and regional governing bodies, State of Alaska, and Federal government, increasing efforts have been directed at better understanding how climate change and global warming affect the large marine ecosystems of the Bering Strait and the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. This increased interest in the marine ecosystem of the High Arctic has resulted in increased vessel traffic, including vessels that conduct marine research. As has been well established by both traditional knowledge and western science, vessel noise and other forms of disturbance to wildlife have the potential to adversely impact subsistence hunting, as well as populations of living marine resources. Federal law requires that Federally-permitted or funded research programs mitigate this potential interaction to reduce to acceptable levels impacts to wildlife and indigenous food security.

The objective of the workshop is to facilitate collaboration between representatives of coastal subsistence communities and the Federal research community (including international), for the purpose of developing a protocol that sets forth: 1) procedures for communicating and obtaining feedback on potential impacts of research being conducted in the marine ecosystem of the High Arctic, including dates and methodology; 2) where there is a potential for adverse impacts to the availability of marine mammal resources for subsistence taking, or the safety of maritime hunting activities, appropriate processes to ensure Principal Investigators meet directly and work collaboratively with leaders of marine mammal hunter groups and affected communities on voyage times and routes relative to marine mammal subsistence hunting areas and seasons; and 3) appropriate processes to enable Principal Investigators to communicate research results back to local community members. The protocol will be developed as a Standard of Care for the forthcoming Arctic Waterways Safety Plan (see arcticwaterways.org).

Venue: Dena'ina Convention Center, Board Room, Anchorage, AK

Dates: 1pm, Dec. 10, 2015 — 1pm, Dec. 11, 2015

This will be the initial meeting of a two-part workshop. The purpose of this first meeting is the development of a draft protocol, as described above. A second meeting is proposed to be scheduled to finalize the protocol after participants have had the opportunity to obtain feedback from their constituents.



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Draft Agenda

December 10 & 11, 2015

Dena'ina Convention Center | Anchorage, Alaska

Dial In Number: 866-906-0040

Participant Code: 6070948#

Thursday, December 10

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| 1:00 – 1:10 | Welcome and introductions — Ryan Wulff, Meeting Chair |
| 1:10 – 1:15 | Invocation — Willie Goodwin, Chair ABWC, AWSC |
| 1:15 – 1:30 | Review Agenda and Meeting Purpose and Scope: Discuss Science Research-Marine Mammal Subsistence Harvest Conflicts; Identify Mitigation Measures; Agree to Draft Protocols for Implementation of Mitigation Measures — Ryan Wulff |
| 1:30 – 2:00 | Overview of Marine Mammal Subsistence Harvest Locations and Times: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Alaska Beluga Whale Committee (ABWC)— Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC)— Alaska Nanuuq Commission (ANC)— Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC)— Ice Seal Committee (ISC) |
| 2:00 – 2:30 | Overview of Sources of Research-Related Conflicts <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Harry Brower, AEWC— Dr. Doug DeMaster, NMFS— Susan Hargis, USCG |
| 2:30 – 3:15 | Introduction to Models/Existing Protocols and Venues for Addressing Subsistence Harvest Conflicts <ul style="list-style-type: none">— Willie Goodwin: Red Dog Mine Conflict Avoidance Agreement— Harry Brower, Chair AEWC, AWSC Subsistence Subcommittee: Open Water Season Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) |
| 3:15 – 3:30 | Break |

- 3:30 – 4:45 Presentations on the Current Status of Maritime Research Engagement by Each Research Agency, Including Time Frames for Initiation of Local Engagement Prior to Development of Cruise Protocols Through Logistics of Real-Time Engagement
- NOAA
 - BOEM
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Science Foundation
 - USGS
 - ADF&G
- 4:45 – 6:00 Chairman-Led Discussion to Outline Development of Communication Protocols to Mitigate Impacts of Research Vessels on Alaska Native Subsistence Hunts in the High Arctic

Friday, December 11

- 8:00-8:30 Coffee
- 8:30-8:35 Invocation
- 8:35-9:00 Recap and Summary of Thursday
- 9:00 – 10:30 Group Discussion: Draft Voyage Planning Protocols for Research Vessels
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:30 Public Comment from Observers
- 11:30-12:30 Group Discussion: Draft Voyage Planning Protocols for Research Vessels (continued)
- 12:30-12:45 Discussion of Next Steps: Time and Location of Workshop Meeting Two; Action Items, and other issues
- 12:45-1:00 Closing Remarks and Adjourn