



The US Arctic Policy and the Role of Science for Decision Making
Professor Larry Hinzman
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Alaska Fairbanks

With contributions from John Farrell and Fran Ulmer, US Arctic Research Commission



The Washington Post

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D.C. sets limits on legalized marijuana

House warning received after mayor, police chief offer enforcement plan

BY ADAM C. DANNE AND PETER MERRITT

City leaders declared Tuesday that marijuana possession will be legal in the District at 12:01 a.m. Thursday — but warned the public that many pot-related activities will remain illegal, including selling the drug, growing it outdoors, possessing it in federally subsidized housing and smoking it anywhere in public.

In reports to the D.C. Council, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser and Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier offered their first public guidance on legislation that would take effect, what it will mean and how it will be enforced — since the federal measure was overwhelmingly approved in the fall.

Uncertainty remained, however, about whether Initiative 71 would be the law of the city since Thursday. Last Tuesday, Republican congressional leaders sent Bowser a letter urging her to reconsider pot regulations, which the letter described as a “knowing and willful violation of the law.”

In an interview, Bowser, 50, said she is confident the federal law, approved by the president, confirms what she said.

POST CONTRIBUTED BY AN



As ice melts, the future fades

Climate change may force Alaska natives to abandon their village

BY CELIA MOONEY

It is a small town, tucked away in a remote part of Alaska, where the state government is trying to figure out how to deal with the loss of a village. The village is Kivalina, Alaska. The town is on a fragile barrier island along the Chukchi Sea, an inlet along the Arctic Circle. For generations, the Inupiat, Inuits of the region have hunted, fished, and lived in the village. But now, the ice is melting, and the future is fading.

“It is a small town, tucked away in a remote part of Alaska, where the state government is trying to figure out how to deal with the loss of a village. The village is Kivalina, Alaska. The town is on a fragile barrier island along the Chukchi Sea, an inlet along the Arctic Circle. For generations, the Inupiat, Inuits of the region have hunted, fished, and lived in the village. But now, the ice is melting, and the future is fading.”



Village President Milla Hester, left, and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Kivalina, Alaska.

Senate opens a path for DHS

BILL WOULD AVERT SHUTDOWN But McConnell plan gets cool reception in House

BY DAVID KAMARINSKY AND BRAD BODEN

The Senate moved closer Tuesday to a deal to avert a partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, but the proposal faced an uncertain future in the House, where Republican leaders conspicuously refused to endorse it.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told reporters he was prepared to move swiftly to avert funding for DHS through the fiscal year to a bill that is not contingent on Republican demands to repeal President Obama's executive action on immigration.

Under McConnell's proposal, the House would vote first on the funding measure and then hold a separate vote on a bill to make Obama's executive action law permanent. McConnell hopes to persuade conservatives who are determined to confront the president on what they see as abuse of his executive authority.

“I don't know why they're not in about this,” McConnell said. “This is an agreement that respects both sides of the street.” If successful, the proposal will break a two-month deadlock over funding for the agency that is responsible for border security, airport security checks and a range of other functions.

But House Speaker JOHN A. Boehner (R-Ohio) did not

Arctic change driver: economics

- Increasing global demand for resources
- Arctic is resource rich
- Region increasingly accessible via technology advances & climate change



“The opening of the ‘fifth ocean,’ the Arctic, for longer periods of time, will provide new access to resources, migration of fishing stocks and eventually new trade routes, that can’t be overstated.”

- Former Chief of Naval Operations
Adm. Gary Roughead (retired)



Arctic has much of world's remaining “undiscovered” fossil fuel

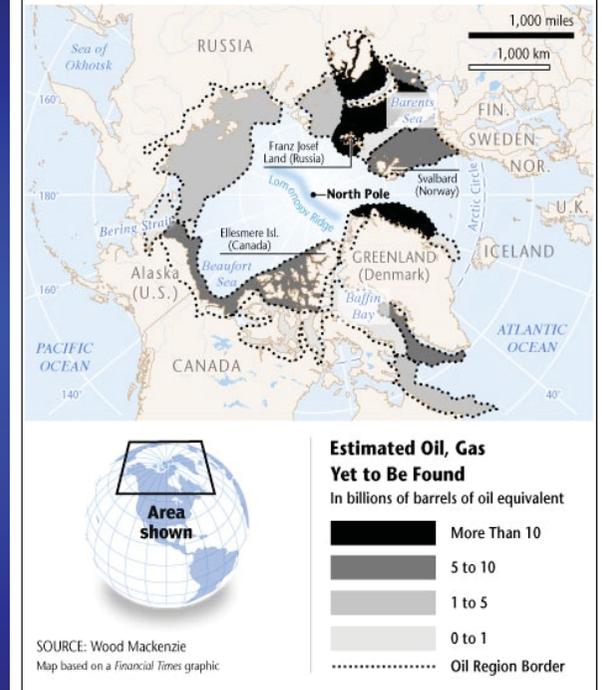
13% oil

30% natural gas

20% natural gas liquids

2009 USGS CARA report

Arctic Oil and Gas Potential

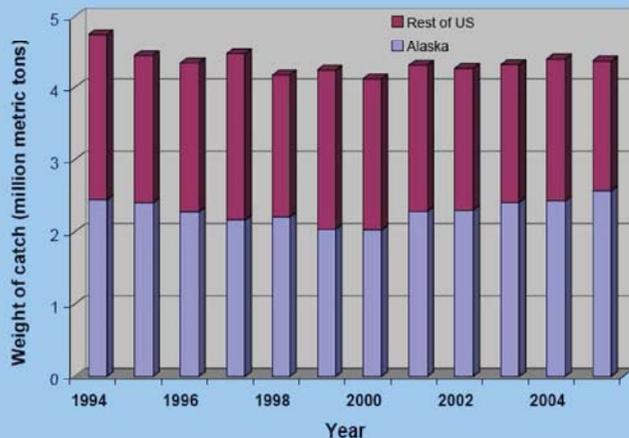


Alaska Feeds the Nation

Largest private sector employer in Alaska

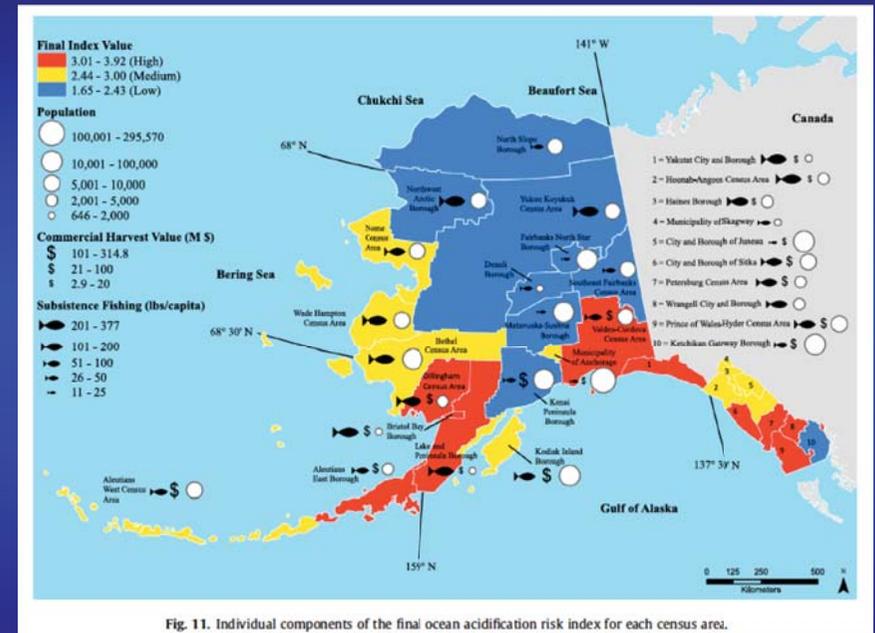


US Domestic Commercial Fisheries



Dr. Mike F. Sigler, NMFS, 6/29/09 talk Ice-Diminished Arctic

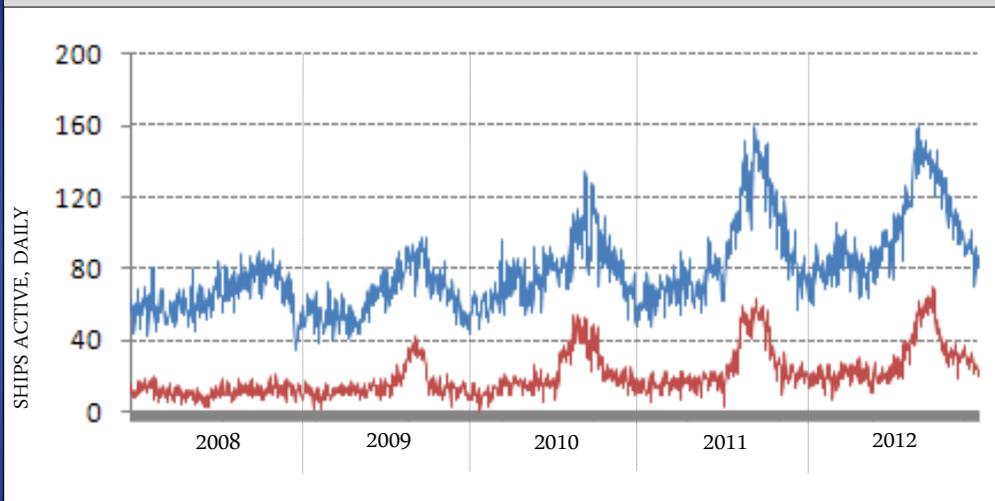
Ocean acidification risk assessment for AK's fisheries



Mathis et al., Progress in Oceanography, 2015

Cargo and Tanker Ships Active in the Arctic

[daily totals, 2008-2012]



Unclassified/: Office of Naval Intelligence

Unclassified/: Office of Naval Intelligence

Federal actions on Arctic research & policy



Obama reassigns Arctic research coordination from NSF to NSTC

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 22, 2010

1. Start with law (ARPA, 1984)
2. Improve it (White House takes over leadership, 2010)
3. Implement it (IARPC's 2013 Arctic Science Program Plan)
4. Obama Administration actions

- Arctic Policy (Jan. 2009)
- Arctic Strategy (including science plan, May 2013)
- Arctic Implementation Plan (Jan. 2014)
- Executive Order 13689 (Jan. 2015)



6 research themes in USARC's new "Goals" report to President Obama and Congress

- Environmental Change
- Human Health
- Built Environment
- Natural Resources & Renewable Energy
- Cultures & Community Resilience
- Intl' Sci. Cooperation



Federal Arctic research policy/process



USARC set goals



IARPC adopts, creates & executes research plan



White House: OMB/OSTP coordinate & review budget



"The Commission shall, after submission of the President's annual budget request, review the request and report to Congress on adherence to the Plan."



Congress: Authorizes & Appropriates

Final Report

of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

January 30, 2015



State of Alaska's
Arctic Focus



The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

In April 2012, the Alaska State Legislature established the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic policy." The Commission has operated under the conviction that the state is an active and willing leader and partner in Arctic decision-making with its reliable expertise and resources.

Furthermore, the Commission has remained committed to producing a policy for Alaska's Arctic that reflects the values of Alaskans, provides a suite of options to capitalize on the opportunities and safeguard against risk. It is a policy that will stand the test of time and act as a living document.



The Alaska Arctic Policy Commission submitted to the Legislature for consideration an Arctic Policy based on these four vision statements:

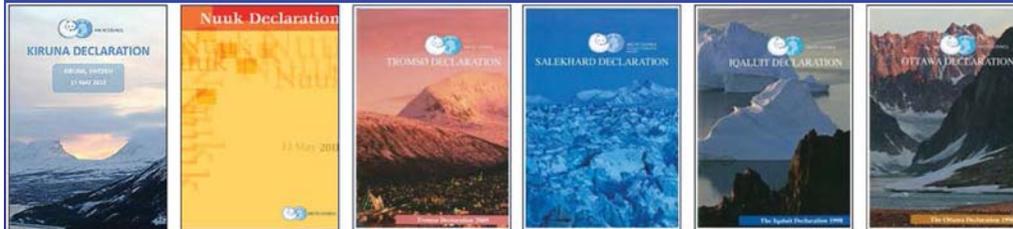
- Uphold the state's commitment to economically vibrant communities sustained by development activities consistent with the state's responsibility for a healthy environment.
- Collaborate with all levels of government, tribes, industry and nongovernmental organizations to achieve transparent and inclusive Arctic decision-making resulting in more informed, sustainable and beneficial outcomes.
- Enhance the security of the state through a safe and secure Arctic for individuals and communities.
- Value and strengthen the resilience of communities and respect and integrate the culture and knowledge of Arctic peoples.



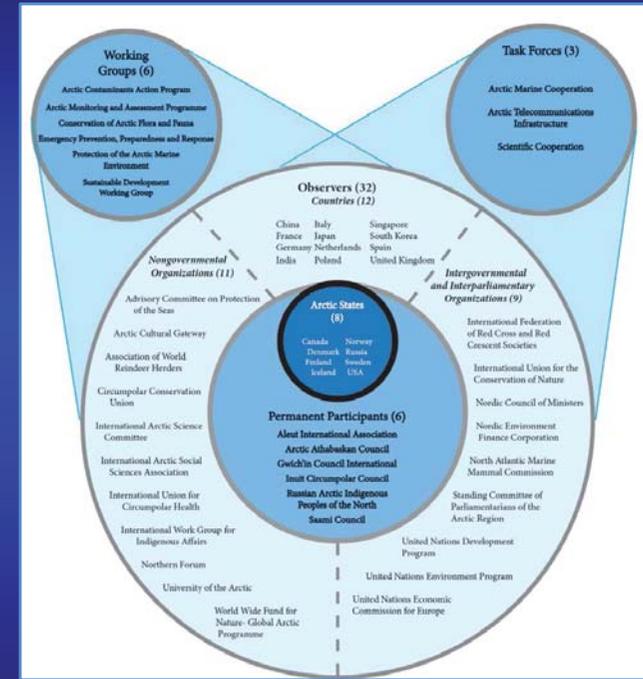
History and Mandate of the Council

The Ottawa Declaration (1996) formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues.

Particular emphasis on sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic; military security issues are specifically excluded from the Council's mandate.



Arctic Council Structure | U.S. Chairmanship



Arctic Priorities

- **Balanced thematic pillars** of the Arctic Council during the US Chairmanship 2015-17:
 - Improving Economic and Living Conditions
 - Arctic Ocean Safety, Security, and Stewardship
 - Addressing Impacts of Climate Change
- Arctic as a **region of stability**, peace and international cooperation
- **Arctic climate change** impacts locally and globally



U.S. Chairmanship Team

- Secretary of State John F. Kerry* – Chair of the Council
- Special Representative for the Arctic Robert J. Papp* – Coordinator of the Chairmanship
- Fran Ulmer* – Special Advisor on Arctic Science and Policy
- Ambassador David Balton* – Chair of the Senior Arctic Officials
- Julia L. Gourley* – Senior Arctic Official

Overarching Goals

- Continue strengthening the Arctic Council as an intergovernmental forum
- Introduce new long-term priorities into the Arctic Council
- Raise Arctic and climate change awareness domestically and across the world

3 Thematic Pillars: Balanced Approach

ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

- Renewable Energy
- Community Sanitation & Public Health
- Water Resources Vulnerability Index
- Freshwater Security
- Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Suicide Prevention & Resilience

ARCTIC OCEAN

- Search & Rescue Exercises
- Marine Environmental Protection
- **Marine Protected Areas Network**
- **Arctic Ocean Cooperation**
- **Arctic Ocean Acidification**

ARCTIC CLIMATE

- Short-lived Climate Pollutants
- Arctic Climate Adaptation & Resilience
- Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Map
- Early Warning Indicator System



Economic Development

- Harness the expertise and resources of the **Arctic Economic Council** to inform the Arctic Council's work to improve economic and living conditions in the region.
- Coordinate an Arctic-wide **telecommunications infrastructure assessment** to promote the build-out of commercial infrastructure in the region.
- Promote the development of **renewable energy** technology to spur public-private partnerships, improve energy affordability, mitigate public health risks and reduce black carbon output in Arctic communities.
- Facilitate collaboration between industry, researchers and public policy experts to increase access to and reduce the operating costs of in-home running **water and sewer** in remote communities.

U.S. Federal Government Involvement: Working Groups and Task Forces

Arctic Contaminants Action Program
Environmental Protection Agency

Emergency Prevention, Preparedness & Response
National Nuclear Security Administration

Arctic Monitoring & Assessment Program
U.S. Global Change Research Program

Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sustainable Development Working Group
Department of State

Task Force on Arctic Marine Cooperation
State/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Task Force on Telecommunications Infrastructure in the Arctic
State/National Telecommunications & Information Administration

Task Force on Scientific Cooperation
National Science Foundation

Chairmanship Project Leads

- **Search and Rescue** – U.S. Coast Guard
- **Marine Environmental Protection** – U.S. Coast Guard and Interior/Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
- **Marine Protected Areas** – Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- **Ocean Acidification** – Commerce/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and State/Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs
- **Short Lived Climate Pollutants** – State/Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change
- **Climate Resilience** – Interior/Office of Policy Analysis and State/Office of International Health and Biodefense
- **Pan-Arctic Digital Elevation Map** – Interior/U.S. Geological Survey
- **Climate Change Indicator System** - U.S. Global Change Research Program and State/Office of Global Change
- **Renewable Energy** – Energy/National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Interior and State/Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs
- **Sewer and Water Challenge** – HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Arctic Water Resource Vulnerability Index** – State/Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs
- **Arctic Freshwater Synthesis** – Energy/Office of Biological and Environmental Research
- **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention** – HHS/Office of Global Affairs

The opening of the Arctic presents opportunities and challenges that must be addressed through scientific enquiry and rational policies, both of which require international collaboration.

Increased access to resources could introduce unhealthy competition, environmental damage and greater need for international stewardship.

We must not forget the reason for greater access in the Arctic is a warming climate, which brings along a cascade of environmental and social consequences.