



# **Update to UNOLS AICC by US Arctic Research Commission**



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4/20/11  
NSF





## US ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



### What is the USARC?

- Independent federal agency of presidential appointees that works with Congress and Executive branch
- Sets nation's Arctic research goals and objectives
- Develops an integrated national Arctic research policy
- Helps create a national Arctic research program plan
- Facilitates cooperation among federal, state and local governments, and other nations with respect to Arctic research, both basic and applied





# US ARCTIC RESEARCH COMMISSION



- Fran Ulmer
- New USARC Chair
- UAF Chancellor
- Member of Oil Spill Comm.
- Former AK Lt. Gov., Juneau Mayor and State legislator



# Special issue on “Arctic Oceanography”

Co-sponsored by USARC, NSF, NOAA



## Guest Editors:

- Kelly Falkner
- Joe Ortiz
- Patricia Matrai
- Rebecca Woodgate

To be published  
September 2011  
V. 24, no. 3

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## US Arctic Research Commission



## Arctic Update

April 19, 2011

### Today's Events

The House and Senate have adjourned for the spring recess through May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Impact of Climate Change on Russian Arctic**, today. The Elliot School of International Affairs of the George Washington University will hold an address titled "Permafrost, Society and Climate Change: Implications for the Russian Arctic."

**What does the National Ocean Policy Mean for the Arctic Region?** Earlier today, the University of Alaska Fairbanks' "Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy" (ACCAP) hosted a webinar during which over 160 participants provided comments and

# Focus on 2 activities relevant to AIACC

1. IARPC

2. National Ocean Policy

# Revival of Interagency Arctic Research and Policy Committee (IARCP)

- Sets nation's Arctic research goals and objectives
- Now co-managed by NSTC/OSTP (Moran) and NSF (Kelly)
- Still chaired by NSF Director (Dr. Suresh)
- First principals meeting (since 2008) next week (AS/DAS level)
- IARPC agenda includes meaty subjects:
  - i. 5-year integrated Arctic research program plan (FY14-18)
  - ii. Arctic research budget cross-cut (OMB buy-in, A-11)
  - iii. FY12-13 initiatives
- Dovetails with HSPD66/NSPD25 Arctic Region IPC (NSS)

# Guts of the 5-year IARPC plan

## Research Initiatives:

- Integrate and continue to deploy a national Arctic observing system, aligned with international systems
- Understand ecosystem processes, ecosystem services, and climate feedbacks in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas
- Develop, deploy, and assess adaptation tools for building resilient Arctic communities

## Research Infrastructure:

- Survey of existing agency infrastructure and strategic plan for greater efficiency
- Identify gaps in infrastructure needs required to meet the goals of the research initiatives
- Proposed means for addressing these gaps through interagency cooperation and international partnerships.



- \$5M analysis of icebreaking requirements in DHS FY12 request

- Interagency working group defines terms of ref

- Scope...all agencies with icebreaking needs in polar regions.

**Department of Homeland Security  
Departmental Management and Operations  
Under Secretary for Management  
Justification of Program Changes  
(Dollars in Thousands)**

**Program Increase #1:** Icebreaking Acquisition Analysis  
**PPA:** Immediate Office of the USM  
**Program Increase:** Positions 0 FTE 0 Dollars \$5,000

Funding Profile

	FY 2010 Actual			FY 2011 Continuing Resolution			FY 2012 Request		
	Pos	FTE	Dollars (\$000)	Pos	FTE	Dollars (\$000)	Pos	FTE	Dollars (\$000)
Current Services Level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Program Increase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
<b>Total Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>5,000</b>

Description of Item

The Immediate Office of the Under Secretary for Management (OUSM) is requesting \$5M to provide funding for the completion of an analysis for icebreaking requirements in the polar regions.

Justification

The funding will support an interagency working group to define Terms of Reference and the approach to be used for the analysis of icebreaking requirements in the polar regions. The working group will be under the direction of the USM.

Impact on Performance (Relationship of Increase to Strategic Goals)

From numerous existing and ongoing studies, consensus is building that the U.S. will need sustained icebreaking capacity once the Arctic opens up (some years or decades from now) and well into the 21st century. Because the design and construction of a new polar icebreaker may take 10-20 years, it is important that icebreaker requirements be assessed now. The requirements determination will prioritize all federal icebreaker needs and develop alternatives with respect to performance (e.g., light- to heavy-duty, range), operational capabilities (e.g., escort, research, and defense) and operational models (e.g., commercial, civilian or military crewing). Acquisition of 21st century icebreaking capability will be based on these final requirements. The Department will reach out to all agencies with prospective icebreaking needs in the polar regions (both Antarctica and Arctic).

# New National Ocean Policy

- President Obama announced a new *National Policy* for Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (Exec. Order, July 2010)
- Prioritized *9 objectives for action* that seek to address the most pressing challenges, one of which is on the Arctic
- Established *a flexible framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning* to address conservation, economic activity, user conflict, and sustainable use of ecosystem services
- Created an interagency *National Ocean Council* to provide sustained, high-level, and coordinated attention to advance the National Policy

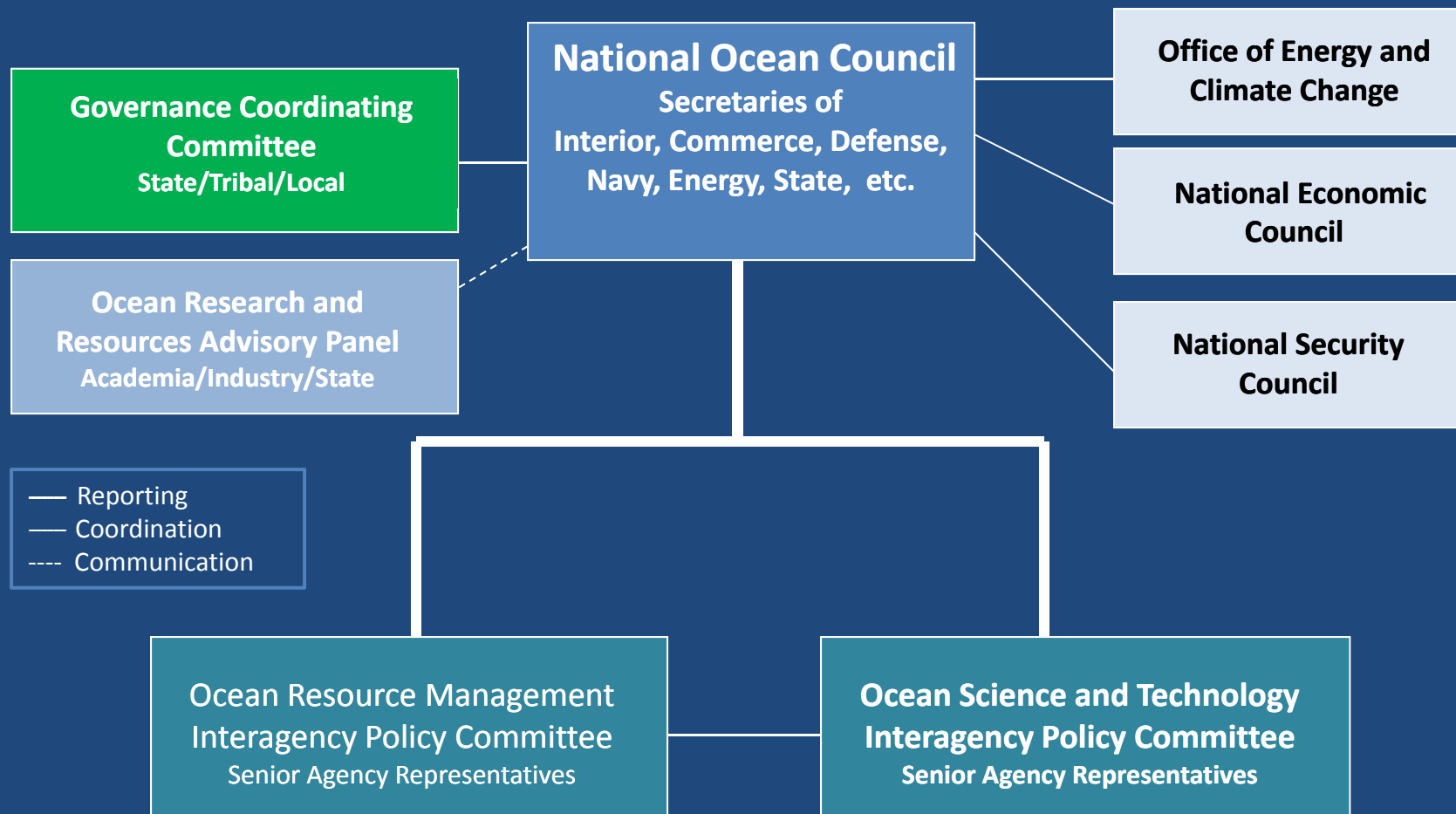
# Why Do We Need a National Ocean Policy?

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Provides a unifying framework to:

- Improve federal coordination and management efforts to ensure healthy marine environments, sustainable economic growth, jobs, and recreational opportunities
- Minimize duplication of effort, inefficiency, waste, and conflict
- Improve federal communication and coordination with state, local and tribal governments on matters related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and processes

# Wiring...



# NOP - Priority Objectives

- How Federal government does business:
  - Ecosystem-based management
  - Coastal and marine spatial planning
  - Inform decisions and improve understanding
  - Coordinate and support
- Areas of special focus:
  - Resiliency/adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification
  - Regional ecosystem protection and restoration
  - Water quality and sustainable practices on land
  - **Changing conditions in the Arctic Ocean**
  - Ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observations and infrastructure



# Strategic Action Plans

Plans will:

- Identify specific and measurable near-, mid-, and long-term actions to be taken;
- Include smaller-scale efforts to build on existing activities, as well as more complex, larger-scale actions;
- Identify leading & participating agencies;
- Identify gaps and needs in science and technology;
- Determine resource requirements including steps for integrating and coordinating budgets

## 7 Arctic themes being considered...

- *Develop an integrated Arctic Observing Network*
- *Improve understanding, forecasting, and prediction of Arctic change*
- *Advance Arctic mapping and charting*
- *Inform Arctic Marine Transportation Issues*
- *Promote stewardship of the Arctic marine environment and encourage sustainable development of resources*
- *Advance resilient and healthy Arctic communities and economies*
- *Enhance domestic and international policy and partnerships*

# Stewardship of Arctic marine environment

*Changes in weather/climate patterns*

*Baseline data collection*

*Buoys/moorings*

*Autonomous unmanned vehicles*

*DBO: change detection array*

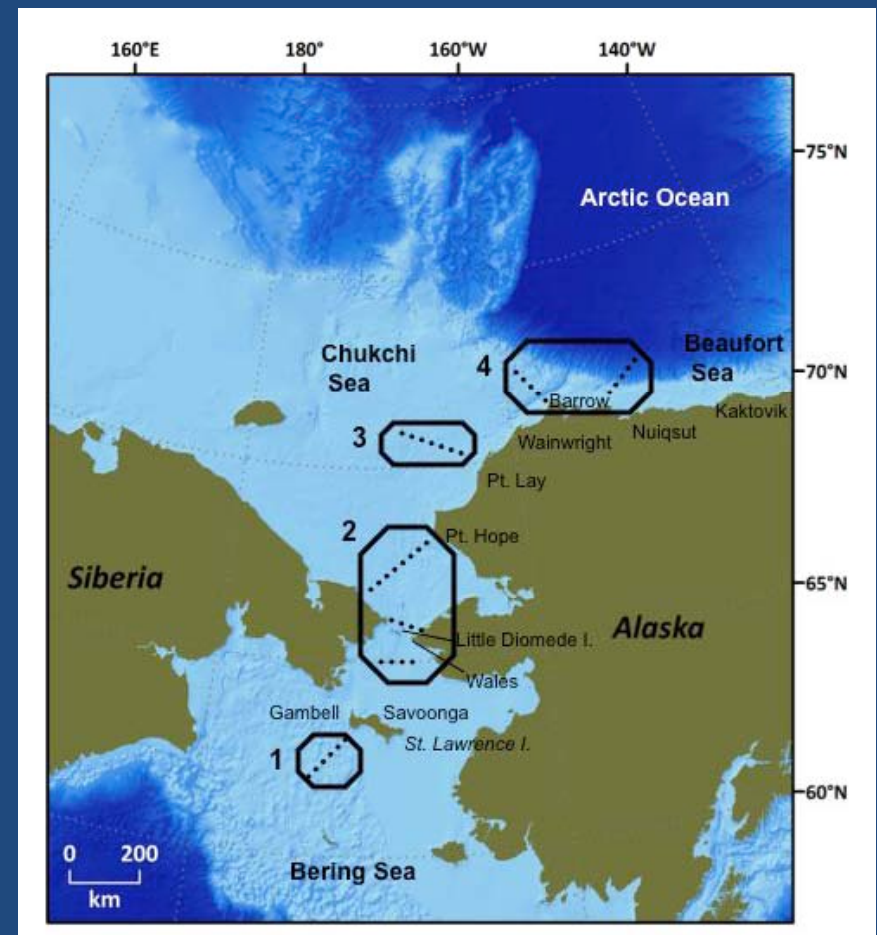
*Long term monitoring support*

*Pollution*

*Ocean Acidification*

*Other ?*

Distributed Biological Observatory



(Sue Moore, 2010)

# *Arctic marine needs*

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*Mapping and charting*

*Marine weather reporting*

*Ports*

*Marine communications*

*Search and rescue*

*Sea Ice forecasts*



## *What's the process/timeline?*

- Initial public comment on plans via website – **through April 29th**
- Release plan outline for public review and comment – **mid-May**
- Listening sessions and/or public meetings and website comment on plan outline– **May/June**
- Release of full draft plans – **September**
- Comment period/outreach on draft plan – **Sept/October**
- Final plans released – **January 2012**
- Plans monitored/updated for effectiveness – **ongoing/annually**



Send public comments to:

[www.WhiteHouse.gov/administration/  
eop/oceans/comment](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/comment)

