

Arctic Waterways Safety Committee

<http://www.arcticwaterways.org/>

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

Anchorage, December 10-11, 2015

Meeting Preamble

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.

Workshop Objectives

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.

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Area of responsibility in mauve

The mission of the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee is to implement lawful best practices to ensure a safe, efficient, and predictable operating environment for all Arctic waterway users.





Organizational Structure

Officers			
Willie Goodwin <i>Chairman</i>	James Boyer <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jack Omelak <i>Treasurer</i>	Wendie Schaeffer <i>Secretary</i>

Subsistence Hunters
Willie Goodwin <i>Alaska Beluga Whale Committee</i>
Harry Brower *George Noongwook <i>Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission</i>
John Goodwin <i>Alaska Ice Seal Committee</i>
Jack Omelak *Charles Brower <i>Alaska Nanuuq Commission</i>
Vera Metcalf *Charles Brower <i>Eskimo Walrus Commission</i>

Industry
David George, Shell <i>Oil and Gas</i>
Greg Pavellas, Crowley Jim Dwight, Bowhead <i>Tug & Barge</i>
TBD <i>Regional Economic Development</i>
TBD <i>Commercial Fishing</i>
TBD <i>Tourism</i>

Other
Mayor Denise Michels <i>City of Nome</i>
Wendie Schaeffer <i>Northwest Arctic Borough</i>
Paul Fuhs <i>North Slope Borough</i>
Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak <i>Regional Tribal Organization</i>
James Boyer <i>Alaska Marine Pilots</i>

Executive Secretary
Jenny Evans

Sub-Committees & Chairmanship
Subsistence: Harry Brower, Jr. Standards of Lightering and Barge Operations: Jim Dwight & Greg Pavellas Science: Dr. Martin Robards Infrastructure: Paul Fuhs & Denise Michels

Ex-Officio Observers
David Pikul, <i>State of Alaska</i> ; Capt. Ed Page, <i>Marine Exchange of Alaska</i> ; CDR Hector Cintron, <i>U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage</i> ; Dr. Martin Robards, <i>Science/NGO</i> ; Bob Poe, <i>University of Alaska</i> ; OSRO/Marine Salvage

* Alternates



Save the Date!



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to Mitigate Impacts of Research Vessels on Alaska Native
Subsistence Hunts in the High Arctic

December 10 & 11, 2015

Dena'ina Center, Anchorage, AK

Additional details will be sent soon

Please contact Candace Nachman
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Jenny Evans (jennykevans@gmail.com)
with questions



Photo credit: NOAA



Photo credit: Chuck Heath Jr.

Excepts from Invitation letter

Dear Colleague: We wish to invite you to join us as an Observer at the Arctic Waterways Safety Committee's (AWSC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) "Workshop on Strategies and Communication Protocols to Mitigate Impacts of Research Vessels on Alaska Native Subsistence Hunts in the High Arctic", to be held at the Dena'ina Center, Anchorage, AK, 10-11 December 2015 ... For these reasons, we are inviting a limited number of experts from Marine Mammal Hunter Organizations, regional governments and local representatives, NOAA, BOEM, NSF, the USCG, UAF, the Navy, and the arctic marine research community to attend the Workshop as Participants and key discussants. Invitations have been sent separately to these Participants. To ensure broad representation of all stakeholder organizations and groups, we are extending this invitation to a limited number of additional individuals with important expertise and experience to participate in the meeting as Observers...

Willie Goodwin, Chair, Arctic Waterways Safety Committee
Harry Brower, Jr., Chair AWSC Subsistence Subcommittee
Martin Robards, PhD, Chair AWSC Science Subcommittee
Douglas DeMaster, PhD, Director, NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center