

Alaska Marine Policy Forum

Summary from Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Host: Molly McCammon

Notes by Holly Kent

The Alaska Marine Policy Forum is a bimonthly teleconference for Alaskans to network and share information about marine policy, budgets, and legislation at state, national, and international levels, sponsored by Alaska Sea Grant and the Alaska Ocean Observing System. Contact Sue.Keller@alaska.edu to be added to the list to receive a reminder and agenda for the next call, and summary notes following each call.

Alex Schenk, Sen. Sullivan's office

- Alex introduced Tom Mansour who is the US Coast Guard fellow working in the senator's office on marine issues, including the issue of marine sanctuaries and their impacts on local economies with Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director for the Aleutians East Borough. Tom's email contact is: Thomas_mansour@sullivan.senate.gov.
- Sullivan chaired a recent hearing on the marine debris issue with several witnesses testifying including Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).
- The Save Our Seas Act on Marine Debris was held up by the health care issue but they do not expect any opposition.
- Hearings for the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act are scheduled to begin next week with a field hearing to be held in Alaska on August 23.

Ephraim Froehlich, Sen. Lisa Murkowski's office

Charlotte Regula-Whitefield, Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow

Juan Ramirez, USCG Fellow

- The budgets for programs important to Alaska including the National Sea Grant Program, National Estuarine Research Reserves and other science programs are doing well in the Senate Appropriations subcommittee process.
- Senator Murkowski and staff will be in Alaska for the month of August. Let Ephraim know if there are any events that they should attend.

Barbara Blake, Lt Governor Mallott's office

- The Lt Governor will be touring rural communities in August to talk about fisheries issues including both commercial and subsistence issues.
- The Alaska Sea Grant State Fellow, Danielle Meeker, is working in the Lt. Governor's office and is helping with fisheries, transboundary, and climate change issues.
- Lt Governor Mallott will be in Canada next week for a series of high level discussions including fisheries and transboundary issues.
- King salmon stocks increased enough this month to open a commercial harvest of incidental kings for the Lower Yukon Area.
- Barbara has taken back the lead on transboundary issues and is engaged with the DC leadership and Canadian officials. She has been trying to keep up with all the changes that are happening in the administration, State Department, EPA, etc. while the Lt. Governor is looking forward to an Ottawa visit with Senators Murkowski and Sullivan this fall.

Representative Paul Seaton, Homer

- He is busy with budget talks and also reports that the invasive species bill is moving through the state legislature.

Presentation on the statewide Adapt Alaska effort by Daniel Ahrens, NOAA Hollings intern working with Amy Holman at NOAA. PowerPoint slides are attached as a PDF

Doug DeMaster, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NOAA

Doug announced that NOAA's Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute in Juneau will be hosting a 10th anniversary celebration and open house on August 19, 2017 from 1-4 PM. The UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences will also host an open house in partnership.

- AFSC will be hosting the NMFS Science Board meeting Aug 22-24 in Juneau.
- AFSC circulated a press release today about the discovery of a green deep-sea sponge that shows promise for cancer research.

Molly McCammon, Alaska Ocean Observing System

- Molly reminded folks about the upcoming Oceans' '17 conference hosted by MTS and IEEE from September 18-21 with 400 presentations, 20 special sessions, and 13 workshops.
- The Alaska Ocean Acidification Network published an information sheet on the [Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Alaskan species](#) which has seen great circulation. The OA network has a list of experts available to give presentations for communities and groups. If interested, contact [Darcy Dugan](#) to arrange for a speaker for your group.
- AOS will be hosting an Animal Telemetry Network workshop from December 5-6, 2017; more details will be available for the next call.

Next Alaska Marine Policy call: September 27, 2017, 1 pm Alaska time

Upcoming Events

September 18-21 [Oceans' '17 conference](#), Anchorage

December 5-6 Animal Telemetry Network Workshop, Anchorage

Navigating the Steps to Resilience: A Case Study of Communities and Programs in Alaska

Daniel Ahrens

2016-2018 Hollings Scholar

Mentors: Amy Holman, NOAA Alaska

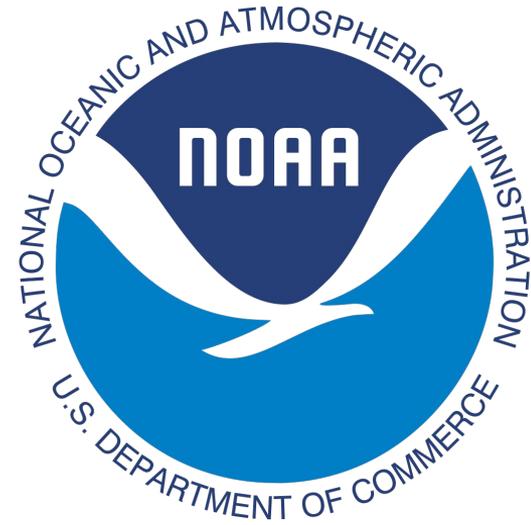
Regional Coordinator

Karen Murphy, Western Alaska Landscape

Conservation Cooperative

Aaron Poe, Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands

Landscape Conservation Cooperative



Alaskan
communities

Relocation
Histories

Steps to
Resilience

Scientific
Tools

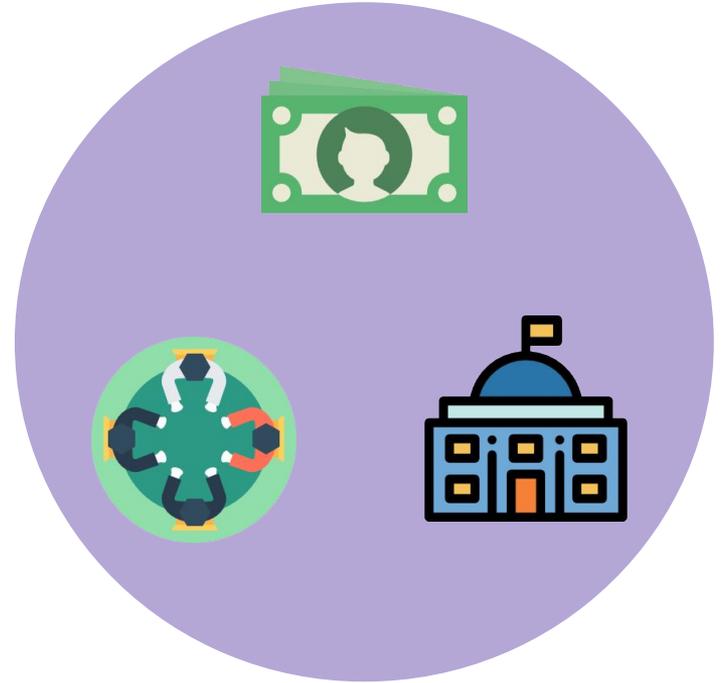
A Path
Forward

Climate Change in Alaska

Climate Impacts



Institutional Barriers



Alaskan
communities

Relocation
Histories

Steps to
Resilience

Scientific
Tools

A Path
Forward

Village Relocation



Newtok, AK (NY Times)

- Climate impacts at most severe
- Typically erosion, flooding, storm surge
- Threaten safety of village
- Poses threat to social cohesiveness of village
- Reviewed histories of 31 villages

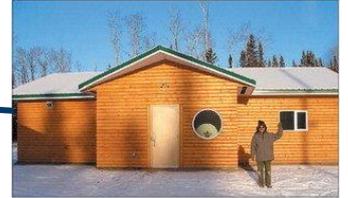
Case Studies in Relocation



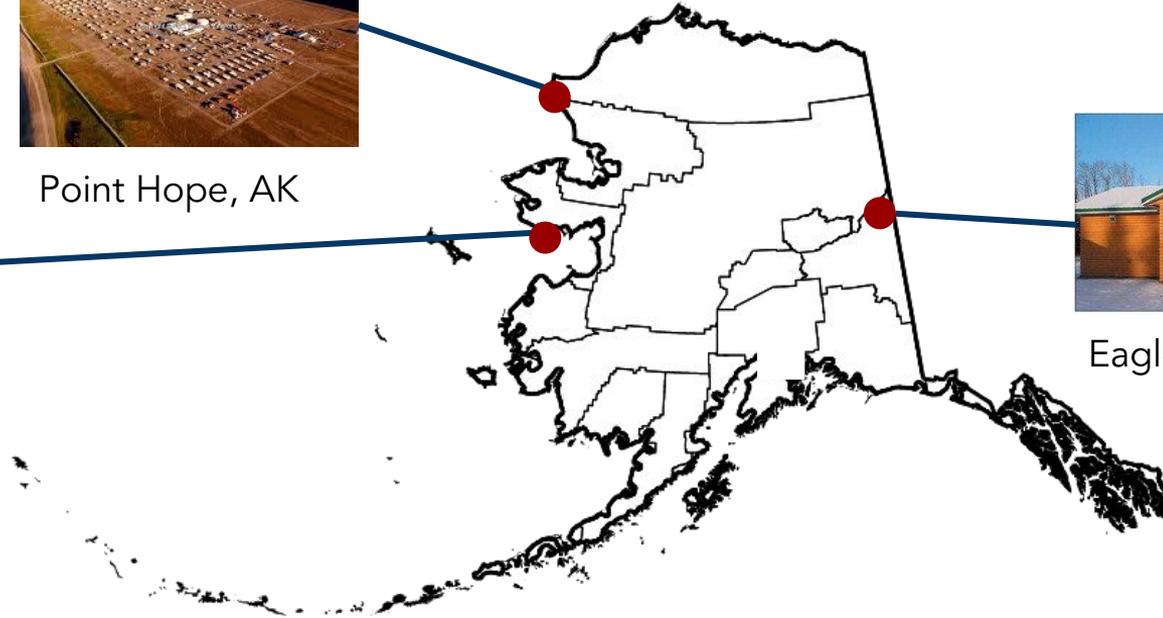
King Island, AK



Point Hope, AK



Eagle Village, AK



Relocation: Obstacles and moving Forward

Lessons Learned:

- Relocation is important, social cohesion is key
- Having active community planning processes, leadership, and consent in the process is important
- Maintenance of cultural traditions is important

Obstacles:

- Funding is scarce, both at federal and state levels
- Difficult to make case for funding
- No lead agencies tasked with it, communities must guide efforts among federal agencies



Steps to Resilience: A National Framework

1. Explore Climate Threats
2. Assess Vulnerability & Risks
3. Investigate Options
4. Prioritize Actions
5. Take Action



Adapt Alaska: From Information to Action

- Emerging statewide effort to connect federal, state, tribal, academic, non-profit and other key players in climate resilience
- Led by Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Alaska Sea Grant, and Alaska Ocean Observing System
- Hosted workshops around the state
- One part of effort is identifying tools to communities through US Climate Resilience Toolkit and future Adapt Alaska website
- Wrote descriptions of 15 tools for inclusion



Alaskan
communities

Relocation
Histories

Steps to
Resilience

Scientific
Tools

A Path
Forward

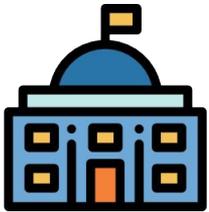
What makes a tool successful?



Built with strong community feedback and support



Accessible, Actionable, and Valuable



Supports sovereign decision-making practices

Bering Watch



- Many environmental programs need to monitor ecological data, but have inconsistent data collection tools and standards
- Communities would also like to see the data of other monitors in order to understand
- BeringWatch provides data standards and techniques for local environmental programs to record data in a QA/QC shared database
- BeringWatch was developed by the Aleut Community of St. Paul

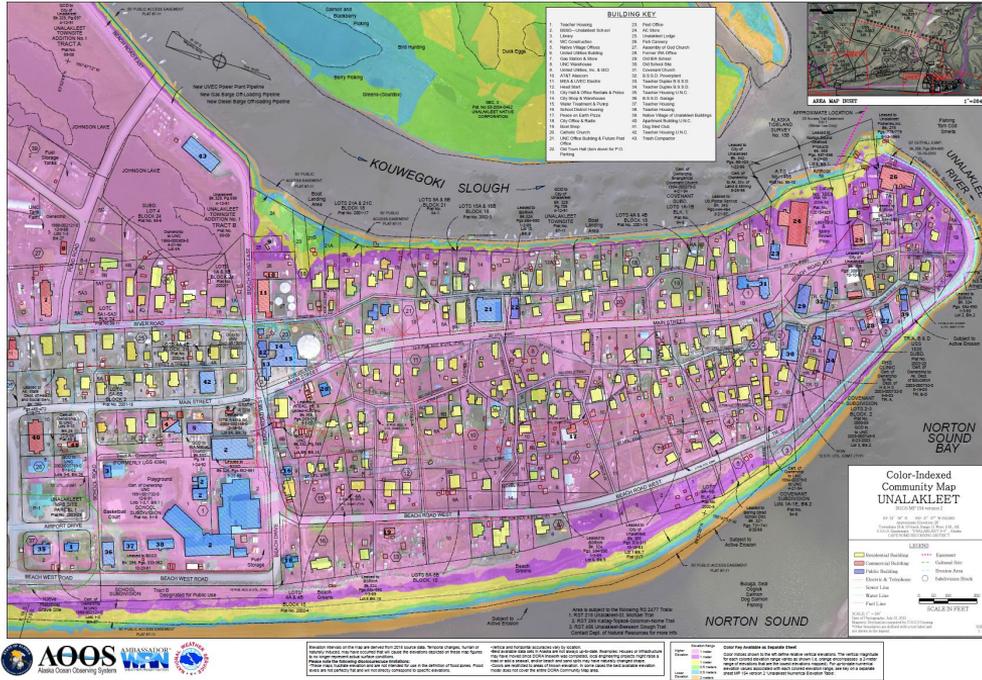


Stakes for Stakeholders

- Many communities in Alaska have significant riverbank and shoreline erosion concerns
- Low-cost erosion monitoring system
- Three systems: (1) stake sites, (2) stake and time-lapse camera sites, and (3) emery rod cross-shore profile sites
- Local ownership of system
- Data is generated to consistent standards
- Good data can allow access to funding, make case for grants



Community Inundation Maps



- Flooding affects many communities in Alaska
- Maps show inundation at different water levels
- Enables communities to evaluate the effect of forecasted water levels on local infrastructure
- Visual keys allow for clear communication
- Information allows community to assess risk and decide best path forward



Alaskan communities

Relocation Histories

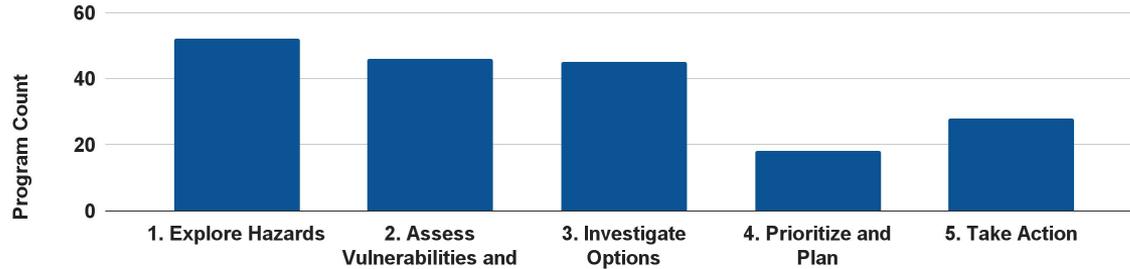
Steps to Resilience

Scientific Tools

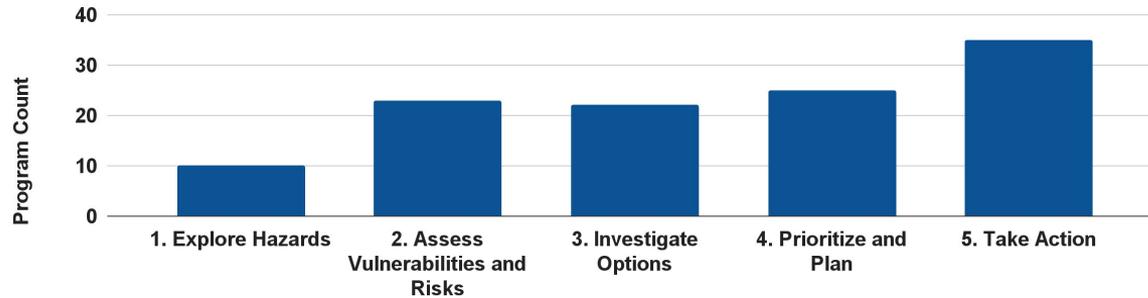
A Path Forward

Tracking Tools to the Steps to Resilience

Scientific Tools (Adapt Alaska) by Resilience Step



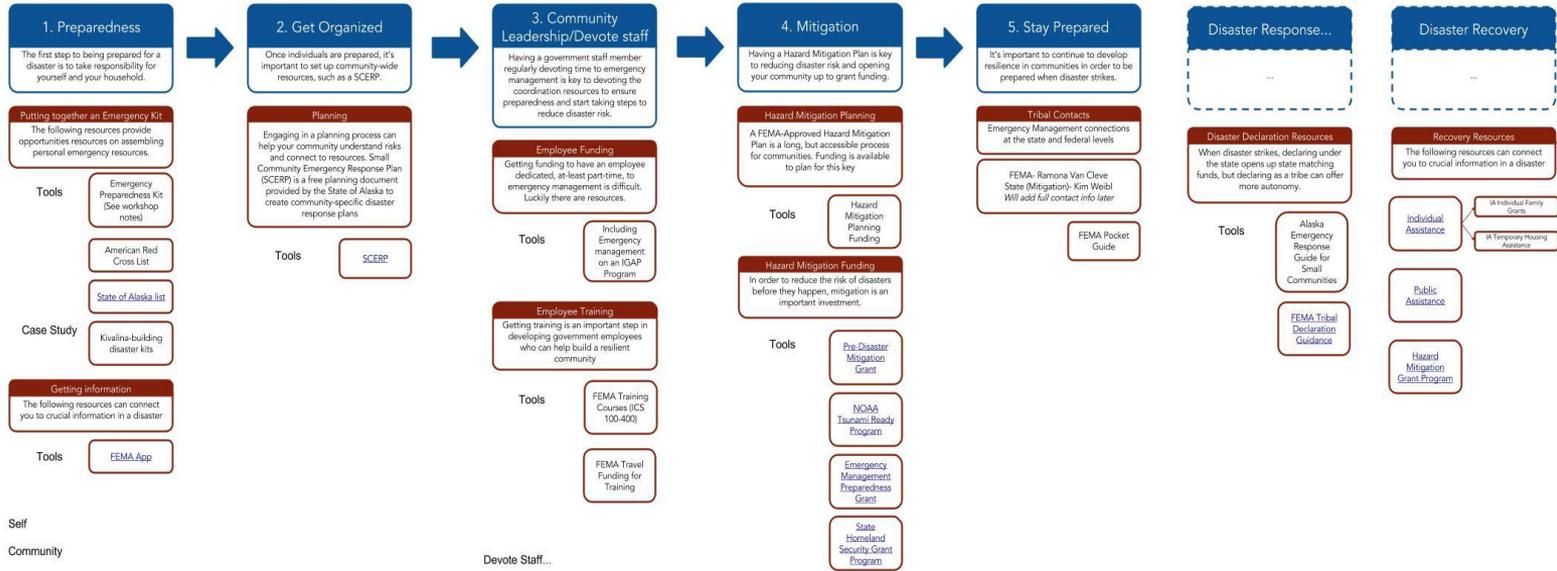
Federal Funding (AESC) Programs by Resilience Step



- Adapt Alaska Program listing focused on exploring and understanding hazards
- AESC Catalog of Programs focused on actions and federal programming available
- Without investing in both, either money is left on the table, or ill-advised investments are made



How to connect tools to steps? (e.g. EM)



Alaskan communities

Relocation Histories

Steps to Resilience

Scientific Tools

A Path Forward

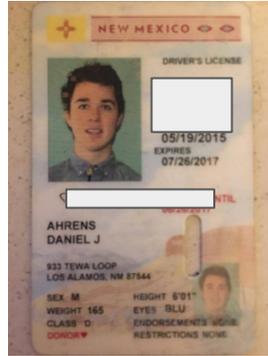
Conclusions

- Essential to have entities that coordinate processes and stakeholders
- Building community and networks is key, sharing best practices is a first step
- Tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and indigenous knowledge should be a part of each and every process

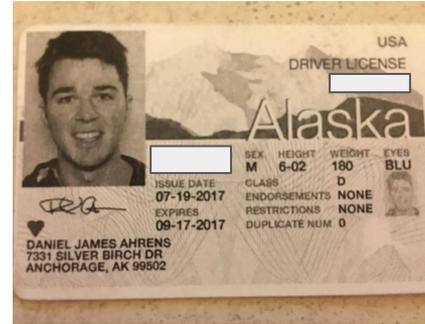


Acknowledgements

Before Hollings Internship



After Hollings Internship



Thanks to: Amy Holman, Aaron Poe, Karen Murphy, Leanna Heffner, Sally Cox, Ann Granvier, Vanitha Sivarajan, Karen Pletnikoff, and the rest of the LCCers!

Icons provided by flaticon.com

King Island Imagery- https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/41/King_Island_3_2010-09-08.jpg/230px-King_Island_3_2010-09-08.jpg

Eagle Village Image-

<https://bloximages.newyork1.vip.townnews.com/newsminer.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/2/59/259b851b-85b8-5812-af78-31a7cc66ec57/50f72a306dc23.image.jpg>

Point Hope-Shorezone

Tool Images provided courtesy of authors



Alaskan
communities

Relocation
Histories

Steps to
Resilience

Scientific
Tools

A Path
Forward