



A new Arctic marine ecosystem study coming in 2016 will explore how changes in sea ice and climate are affecting Arctic marine food webs and subsistence ways of life.



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The North Pacific Research Board, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the North Slope Borough/Shell Baseline Studies Program are contributing \$8 million towards developing an Arctic marine ecosystem research program.

Over the next 5-7 years, this coordinated, interagency effort comprised of experts from the marine science field (e.g., oceanography and sea ice, plankton, fisheries, marine mammal science) will explore how the ecosystem functions currently, and how changes in sea ice and climate are likely to affect Arctic marine food webs and subsistence ways of life in the future.

This is a highly-cooperative marine research program, securing commitments to coordinate and cooperate with 22 existing research projects funded by 15 federal agencies and state/private

organizations. Additional opportunities for partnership will be sought throughout the life of the program.

A call for pre-proposals was issued in May 2015, and the scientific community responded. A total of 79 pre-proposals from more than 70 institutions were submitted by July 31, 2015. The pre-proposals themselves included a total of over \$20 million of in-kind support. The amount requested was more than ten times the amount offered.

The pre-proposal response from the scientific community sends a clear message that additional money for Arctic research is needed. Teams of qualified investigators with innovative ideas are poised to address pressing ecological questions, while recognizing the need to leverage resources to capitalize upon limited research funds.

Final funding decisions will be announced in May 2016. For more detailed information, and to stay informed about the program, visit

www.nprb.org/arctic.