

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

**Enhancing Decision-Making through Integrated Climate Research:
Alaska Region Meeting**

Sponsored by

Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program

NOAA/Office of Global Programs (OGP), Silver Spring, MD

Captain Cook Hotel

Anchorage, Alaska

February 18-19, 2004

Co-Sponsored by: National Weather Service-Alaska Region, USGS-Alaska Science Center, & National Park Service-Alaska Region

Wednesday, February 18th

7:30-8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast, *Aft Deck*

Introduction and Program Context

8:30-8:40 **Welcome & introduction**, Juniper Neill, Program Officer, NOAA/OGP

8:40-8:55 **Guest presentation: Community at Risk, Shishmaref, AK.** Tony Weyiouanna Sr., Village Transportation Planner & Luci Eningowuk, Erosion and Relocation Coalition

8:55-9:00 **Workshop rationale and goals**, Harvey Hill, RISA Program Coordinator, OGP/UCAR

9:00-9:20 **Decision support research: priorities from the U.S. Climate Change Science Program**, Susan Avery, Director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), University of Colorado, Western Water Assessment (WWA)-RISA

9:20-9:40 **RISA program overview**, Jonathan Overpeck, Director, Climate Assessment of the Southwest (CLIMAS)-RISA

Morning Chair: Patricia Anderson, Cooperative Institute for Atmospheric Research (CIFAR)

The Alaskan Context

9:40-10:15 **Co-sponsor panel: priorities for climate information** - Research, Service, and Management – Mark Shasby, USGS-AK Science Center; Gary Hufford, NWS-Climate Services, AK; Judy Gottlieb, NPS, Alaska Region

10:15-10:45 **The Alaskan context: climate change and variability in the arctic and sub-arctic regions; risks, vulnerabilities, and opportunities**, Gunter Weller, U. of AK, Fairbanks, CIFAR

10:45-11:00 Break

11:00-1:00 **Research case studies-the climate connection?**

11:00-11:20 **Ann Jensen, Ukpea_vik Inupiat Corp. Science Division**
Climate and Arctic Subsistence: Bowheads in Barrow & Bearded Seals in Greenland

11:20-11:40 **George Divoky, UAF, Institute of Arctic Biology**

The response of a seabird to three decades of warming in the Western Arctic: a biotic proxy responds to meteorological and oceanographic change

11:40-12:00 **Larry Hinzman, UAF, Water & Environment Research Center**

Impacts of climate change on hydrological processes in Arctic and Subarctic regions

12:00-12:20 **Terry Chapin, UAF, Institute of Arctic Biology**

Climate-fire-human interactions: Consequences of climate change for rural communities and fire managers

12:20-1:25 **Buffet lunch, Quarter Deck** (please note guest speaker moved to after lunch)

Afternoon Chair: Gunter Weller, CIFAR

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA)

1:25-2:05 **Overview of the ACIA and future directions**, Bob Corell, Senior Fellow, Atmospheric Policy Program, American Meteorological Society

2:05-2:30 **Climate and Human Health Connections: Insights from the ACIA and implications for Alaska**, James Berner, M.D., Director-Community Health Services, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Breakout Sessions

2:30-2:40 **Climate information needs/adaptation response opportunities: framing for breakout sessions**, Eileen Shea, East-West Center, U. of HI, Pacific RISA

2:40-4:10 **Concurrent Breakout Sessions: Identification of “tractable” areas for integrated research**

Session 1: Climate and Human Health Risks / *Facilitator: Suzanne Marcy, US EPA*

Session 2: Climate Links to Regime Shifts: Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems / *Facilitator: James Overland, NOAA/PMEL*

Session 3: Climate Influences on Rural/Native Subsistence / *Facilitator: Judy Gottlieb, NPS-Alaska Region*

Session 4: Transportation, Infrastructure & Safety: Climate Adaptation Concerns/Strategies / *Facilitator: James Partain, NWS-AK*

Session 5: Observations & Data Management/Integration: Critical Links to Decision-making / *Facilitator: Molly McCammon, AK Ocean Observing System*

Guiding questions: current research gaps and capacity requirements; stakeholder climate information drivers. *Breakout rooms: Club Room II, Quadrant, Resolution, Easter Island, Voyager*

4:10-4:20 Break

- 4:20-5:20 **Reports back to plenary (10 minutes each), Aft Deck**
- 5:20-5:30 **Summary wrap-up**
- 5:30-7:30 **Reception, Quarter Deck**

Thursday, February 19th

- 7:30-8:30 Breakfast Buffet, *Adventure Room*

Morning Chair: Philip Mote, U. of WA, Climate Impacts Group (CIG)- RISA

- 8:30-8:40 **Goals for Day 2, Endeavor Room**

Rural Alaskan Concerns

- 8:40-9:20 **Panel: Issues for Alaskan Stakeholders.** Larry Mercurieff, AK Native Science Commission; Orville Huntington, US Fish & Wildlife Service, *Aft Deck*

RISA Research: Sharing methodology in the Alaskan context

- 9:20-9:40 **Feedback on breakout results and discussion: implications for integrated, multi-disciplinary decision-support research,** Philip Mote, CIG
- 9:40-11:10 **Panel & discussion, RISA in the western US:** Gregg Garfin, CLIMAS, U. of AZ; Lara Whitely Binder, CIG, U. of WA; Robert Webb, Western Water Assessment (WWA), U. of CO; (team composition, stakeholder involvement, key science results and applications)
- 11:10-11:25 Break
- 11:25-12:00 **Climate and Alaska Fisheries: the impacts of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and implications for fisheries management,** Nate Mantua, Climate Impacts Group, U. of WA, RISA
- 12:00-1:15 **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:15-1:45 **Climate variability & change impacts on coastal communities: mitigation and adaptation,** Eileen Shea, East-West Center, U. of HI, Pacific RISA

Afternoon Chair: Jonathan Overpeck, Climate Assessment of the Southwest (CLIMAS) RISA Climate Information Resources

- 1:45-2:05 **NOAA/NWS Climate Services-Alaska,** Gary Hufford
- 2:05-2:25 **Western Regional Climate Center, Reno, NV,** Kelly Redmond

Arctic Research and Policy Implications

- 2:25-2:50 **Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH) and opportunities for collaboration with ongoing research,** John Calder, NOAA's Office of Arctic Research, Silver Spring, MD
- 2:50-3:15 **Pan-Arctic to the Village: How can the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment contribute to local policy and decision-making?** John Walsh, International Arctic Research Center, U. of AK Fairbanks

Feedback to the RISA Program

- 3:15-3:30 Break
- 3:30-4:10 **Open discussion: Regional adaptive capacity...prioritize key climate sensitive sectors and areas for the use of climate information by decision-makers**
- 4:10-4:50 **Open discussion: Drivers for stakeholder relevant climate research...current capacity and identified gaps**
- 4:50-5:00 **Implications for NOAA/OGP program planning**, Claudia Nierenberg, NOAA/OGP/Climate & Societal Interactions Division Director
- 5:00-5:10 **Closing remarks & follow-up plans**