

Dear Colleague,

I'm pleased to invite you to our upcoming meeting titled, "Enhancing Decision-Making Through Integrated Climate Research: Alaska Region Meeting" on February 18th and 19th, 2004 in Anchorage, Alaska. The workshop is sponsored by NOAA's Office of Global Programs (OGP), Climate and Societal Interactions Division, Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program. We are fortunate to have multiple Alaskan partners for this meeting, including co-sponsorship by the National Weather Service, Climate Services Division in Anchorage; USGS-Alaska Science Center; and the National Park Service-Alaska Region. In addition, the steering committee for this workshop is comprised of RISA researchers from the western U.S. and numerous Alaskans from academic, government, and NGO communities.

The purpose of this workshop is to 1) identify the needs in Alaska, in a variety of sectors, where climate information could help decision-makers expand their range of response options in the face of climate change and variability; 2) document opportunities for integrated, multi-disciplinary research on issues important to regional stakeholders; and 3) share the RISA program methodology with Alaskan researchers and stakeholders in order to initiate new collaborations and potential partnerships.

NOAA/OGP currently funds eight RISA programs at universities across the United States. RISA researchers from Washington, Colorado, Arizona, and Hawaii will participate in this event by sharing their research experience in the area of climate science for decision-making. While these presentations and interactions in breakout sessions will surely prove interesting, the primarily goal of the meeting is to use the RISA context to understand issues related to climate change and variability that are truly unique to Alaska, and to learn from Alaskan researchers and stakeholders. Please note on the agenda that we are looking for additional presentations by Alaska researchers on the topics suggested, and welcome you to submit your presentation theme to us if you are interested in sharing the results of your research.

The information gathered during this workshop (one of a series of meetings to be held in the US) will help NOAA/OGP prioritize future program development and communicate critical regional needs for this type of funded research to our agency. Your participation will greatly enhance the breadth and scope of the input we seek to draw from. We hope to be able to accommodate around 80 participants, with roughly equal numbers of Alaskan researchers and decision-makers coming from federal, state, local, and tribal governments, as well as NGO's interested in science research. Please be aware that this is not a strict science research meeting, and that stakeholders from a variety of sectors are sought, including: land and natural resource management; public health; transportation/infrastructure and safety; costal erosion; ocean science and health; community development; fisheries; forest management/fire control; subsistence, etc.

Please see the attached agenda and registration form. Some travel assistance is available, particularly to Alaskan participants, and I encourage you to **submit your registration form to me by January 19th if you would like to receive travel assistance**. Additionally, a block of rooms as been reserved at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage, and the special rate will be available on a first come, first serve basis. We will also need to cap the total participation to around 100 people, as this is intended to be a working meeting and active participation is sought, so please register as early as possible. You should also feel free to forward this invitation to anyone you feel would be interested in this workshop.

For more information on NOAA/OGP, see our website at www.ogp.noaa.gov.

For information on the RISA program, go to www.risa.ogp.noaa.gov (work in progress)

Please contact me if you have any questions, or require additional information. I look forward to seeing you in Anchorage.

Sincerely,
Juniper Neill

Program Officer
NOAA/OGP

Juniper.neill@noaa.gov
301-472-2089 ext. 176