



# Alaska Climate Change Strategy

Photo: J. Hardesty

## Other Economic Activities Technical Working Group (EA TWG)

**Presentation for the Adaptation Advisory Group  
September 23, 2008**



## Focus of the EA TWG

- **Impacts of climate change on aspects of the economy that are not directly dependent on living ecosystems**

# EA TWG Members

- **John Binkley** AK Cruise Association and AK Railroad Corporation
- **Tim Bradner** AK Journal of Commerce and AK Economic Report
- **Paul Dubuisson** ConocoPhillips
- **Ed Fogels** AK Department of Natural Resources
- **Stan Foo** Barrick Gold Corp
- **Richard Glenn** ASRC and Whaling Captain
- **Karl Hanneman** Teck-Cominco Pogo Mine
- **John Hellén** Pioneer Natural Resources
- **Larry Hinzman** International Arctic Research Center
- **Elden Johnson** Alyeska Pipeline
- **Tom Krzewinski** Golder & Associates
- **Peter Larsen** The Nature Conservancy
- **Crawford Patkotak** ASRC, Barrow City Council Member
- **Keith Silver** Nana Management Services
- **Orson Smith** University of Alaska Anchorage
- **Dale Summerlin** ConocoPhillips
- **Brad Thomas** ConocoPhillips
- **Michael Cerne** Coast Guard District 17

# Effects of Climate Change in Alaska

- Shorter winters
- Longer and warmer Arctic summers
- Sea level rise
- Coastal erosion
- Thawing permafrost
- Retreating sea ice/glaciers
- Increased forest fires

# Examples of Vulnerabilities, Impacts, and Opportunities

- Reduced operation windows for gas and oil exploration during winter (permafrost thaw)
- Pipeline damage (permafrost thaw)
- Economic activities curtailed due to polar bear denning on land (less ice)
- Waste pits breached (sea level rise)
- Stability and seepage issues for tailings dams (permafrost thaw)
- New shipping lanes (less ice)
- Navigation issues (melting glaciers)
- New tourism possibilities (less ice, higher temperatures)

# EA TWG Topic Areas

( # of Options as of Aug 18, 2008)

- Oil & gas (8)
- Mining (9)
- Ocean transportation (6)
- Rural non-road transportation (3)
- Other economic sectors (14)
- Tourism and recreation (11)
- Boundaries and ownership (7)
- Energy demand (1)
- Evolving AK's jobs and economy (4)
- Information collection and dissemination (5)

# EXAMPLES of EA TWG Options

- Oil & Gas: Model coastal vulnerability to establish criteria for pipeline coastal transition set-backs and burial depths and develop shoreline change adaptation public policy, guidance for preventive and mitigative measures, and knowledge of who pays for what
- Mining: Review current regulations and compliance criteria for managing tailing dams and disposal sites and determine if changes are necessary

# Examples of EA TWG Options

- Ocean Transportation: Plan, finance, and build basic shipping infrastructure, including port planning and design, to support increased shipping, fishing, mining, offshore drilling, tourism
- Other Economic Sectors: Encourage private insurers, as investors, and the state pension funds to consider climate impact prevention in the prudent investment of portfolios and to invest in climate science as a 'present value of avoided costs' strategy

# Examples of EA TWG Options

- Information Collection and Dissemination:  
Provide resources for good Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and GIS data, and current and high resolution imagery to establish a more robust information infrastructure to plan and adapt

# EA TWG Next Steps

- **October 14** (Conference call): Discuss aggregation of options and initiate discussion of criteria for priority balloting process
- **Oct 27** (In person meeting): Continue discussion of criteria and conduct initial balloting. Discuss results, integrate options as appropriate, outline next steps, finalize list of options to present to Adaptation Advisory Group on November 7<sup>th</sup>.