

# Alaska Climate Change Strategy



**NATURAL SYSTEMS ADAPTATION  
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

# Natural Systems TWG



- **Focus**: Analyze and recommend options for adapting to impacts on climate change on Alaska's natural biotic ecosystems and resources, and uses of those resources.
- **Status**: Working on development of Catalog of options that represents the expertise and recommendations of the full TWG.
- **Next steps**: Catalog and selection criteria are key objectives of TWG teleconference in late September and October 27 meeting in Anchorage.

# Examples of Policy Areas



- **Agriculture**
- **Forestry & wildfire**
- **Invasive species**
- **Habitat & dependent species**
- **Water conservation**
- **Sea- and river-ice forecasting**
- **Fish and wildlife management**
- **Commercial fisheries**
- **Tourism**
- **Public education**

# Example – Agriculture (DRAFT)



- **Policy**: Invest in production of food and expansion of markets for products grown in Alaska under conditions of longer warmer seasons.
- **Examples of potential actions:**
  - ◆ Start-up funding for communities that become warm enough to establish successful gardens.
  - ◆ Ensure long-term availability of agricultural land near communities (e.g. through land trusts).
  - ◆ Pursue USDA classification of Alaskan produce as food (not horticulture), to be eligible for subsidies.

## Example – Tourism (DRAFT)



- **Policy**: Fund information outreach to potential tourists about longer summers and milder winter recreational opportunities.
- **Policy**: Provide funding to communities to assess consequences of altered tourism patterns and provide incentives for necessary changes in services.

## Example – Habitat & Species Protection (DRAFT)



- **Policy**: Establish a task force of agency, NGO and community representatives to identify habitats and species at risk to climate warming and to develop strategies for protection of these habitats and/or migration of these species.
- **Examples of potential actions:**
  - ◆ Request that US Fish and Wildlife Service develop a plan to conserve species and habitats at risk of climate change.
  - ◆ Fund management experiments in habitats more likely to become more common with climate warming (e.g., to enhance habitats' suitability for species conservation.)