



Alaska Climate Change Strategy

**Natural Systems
Technical Working Group (NS TWG)**

**Presentation for the Adaptation Advisory Group
November 7, 2008**

- Natural Systems TWG has met 4 times
 - June 16 & 30, September 29, October 27-28
- 14-16 regular participants, including several AAG members.
- July 2008 initial catalog
 - Based on work of other states
 - Had 225 adaptation policy options related to natural systems
 - Needed focus and Alaska emphasis

Revised Catalog

**Drafted by NS TWG members, discussed October 27-28.
Now redrafting for balloting in early November.**

- Part I - Concise summary of expected effects of climate change on Alaska's habitats and the fish and wildlife that depend upon those habitats. Potential changes in:
 - Marine habitats and dependent species
 - Terrestrial habitats and dependent species
 - Freshwater habitats and dependent species
- Part II - Catalog of relevant adaptation options State could take to adapt to changes in Alaska's natural systems
 - At Policy or Program level, with examples of "extended actions" that could be taken to implement
- Research & Monitoring Recommendations - relevant to Natural Systems, to forward to Research Working Group

Current Status

- Revised draft catalog issued by November 7
- Balloting week of November 10-14
- Next TWG meeting November 14 - will discuss results of balloting
- TWG will report Natural Systems adaptation recommendations to Adaptation Advisory Group at December AAG meeting

Examples of DRAFT NS adaptation options...

1. **Fish and wildlife harvest regulations:** Conduct a comprehensive critical review of the State's fish and wildlife management policies and practices, and make required changes in law, to allow for the timely, coordinated and effective adjustment of state and federal fishing and hunting regulations to adapt to effects of climate change.
2. **Commercial Fishing:** Support adoption and implementation of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Arctic Fishery Management Plan and adopt a similar plan for State waters that exercises a precautionary approach to establishment of new commercial fisheries.

3. **Forestry:** Invest in economic development and infrastructure to attract and facilitate development of industrial capacity to use insect- or fire-damaged timber, and underutilized and new sources of wood biomass.
4. **Water conservation:** Establish policies regarding water rights, and reserve water in streams and watersheds to maintain essential fish habitat and to meet future water needs of Alaskan communities.