

**Health and Culture Technical Working Group Top 5 Options  
7 January 2009**

Option Number	Adaptation Option	TWG Members Drafting Option	Original option #
<b>Condensed policy options based on AAG feedback and TWG discussion</b>			
<b>1</b>	<p>Identify a central ombudsman agency, as well as responsible individuals, to support rural communities in dealing with complex issues requiring coordination among multiple state and federal agencies, local governments, NGOs, and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, the complexities of navigating the rules and mandates of multiple bureaucracies that must be engaged to deal with flooding, community relocation, infrastructure development, and other issues. Explore the development of Letters of Agreement or Cooperation between federal and state agencies that specify how they will be responsive to the ombudsman agency.</li> <li>• In partnership with local communities, conduct an assessment of the capacity of communities to design and implement programs and activities to prepare for the health (including mental stress) and culture risks of climate change, ensuring that the vulnerability of indigenous populations is explicitly addressed and identifying actions to address gaps in and constraints to adaptive capacity, as well as multi-agency strategies to address them.</li> <li>• In partnership with appropriate local, regional, and statewide organizations, develop on-going forums or dialogues between elders, scientists, health professionals, policy-makers and others to discuss current and projected changes in the climate and the impacts of these changes on culture, economy, and subsistence, including new subsistence opportunities and ways to reduce health risks in a warming climate. Ensure that information is provided regularly about measured and (updated) projected changes. In cooperation with the appropriate regional and statewide entities, methodically develop communication strategies and protocols, including the use of proactive forms of communication commensurate with the community such as radio, Native corporation newsletters, etc.</li> <li>• Safeguard subsistence resources through management of important species (e.g. increase monitoring of fish and animal health for emerging pathogens and introduction of new species). In partnership with appropriate regional and local entities, develop surveillance programs to identify changing range, densities and health of subsistence food species to ensure food safety and sustainability.</li> </ul>	<p>Don Callaway Father Thomas Sally Schlichting</p>	<p>1.5 1.4 11.1 4.5 13.2</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on subsistence activities and ways of life by engaging in activities such as facilitating subsistence peoples' interactions with state, federal, and international regulatory bodies such as the Federal Subsistence Board, the Marine Mammal Commission, ADEC, DNR, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Create a citizen-based reporting system to document, potentially on-line, changes observed in rivers/lakes/aquifers, fish, bird, and animal numbers, locations, and conditions as well as berry and other gathered food conditions.</li> </ul>		
<b>2</b>	<p>Augment surveillance and control programs for vector-, water-, and foodborne diseases likely to become greater threats because of climate change. Develop educational programs for the public, health care providers, environmental staff, and others on approaches to reduce emerging disease threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the ADEC watershed contamination protection laws and source water protection programs to include assessments and reporting mechanisms for climate-related impacts such as new pathogens or increased contaminant infiltration/runoff from waste impoundments/storage areas due to thawing permafrost, erosion, and increased flooding.</li> <li>Safeguard subsistence resources from emerging pathogens and introduction of new species. In partnership with appropriate regional and local entities, develop surveillance programs to identify changing range, densities and health of subsistence food species to ensure food safety and sustainability.</li> <li>Conduct regular surveys of the extent of exposure to toxics, including respiratory irritants (wildfire, dust, pollen, allergens), waste management, and food contaminants. Expand biomonitoring for toxic exposures, including of humans, animals, and fish.</li> </ul>	<p>Joe McLaughlin Jeff Demain Bob Gerlach</p>	<p>1.3 2.2 4.5 8.1 7.2</p>
<b>3</b>	<p>Require Health Impact Assessments be conducted for adaptation and mitigation options to ensure that they promote population health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support such assessments, work with local and regional entities to develop uniform indicators, data systems, and community monitoring programs to monitor climate change-related health and culture impacts.</li> <li>Develop educational programs as part of these assessments focused on public awareness, outreach, training, and capacity building for the general public, indigenous communities, and relevant professionals to increase understanding of the health and culture risks of and appropriate responses to climate change.</li> <li>Establish or augment community-based monitoring networks that sample environmental variables like ice thickness, monitor ongoing health issues such as mental stress, and other</li> </ul>	<p>Jim Berner Mike Bradley Mike Brubaker</p>	<p>1.1 1.2</p>

	<p>health, cultural, and environmental variables that are likely to be introduced, or become more common or widespread due to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When working with indigenous communities, the parameters should be developed first with appropriate regional entities and then refined with the individual community.</li> </ul>		
<b>4</b>	<p>Assess sanitation and solid waste disposal infrastructure and practices at risk from flooding, melting permafrost, and other risks, or that is otherwise subject to changed conditions that significantly reduce performance in environmental health protection and modify, rebuild, or move so as to maximize protection of human and environmental health. Assess whether this option could be included within option #2.</p>	<p>Lynn Zender Jeff Smith</p>	2.2
<b>5</b>	<p>In cooperation with appropriate local, regional, and statewide entities, complete an assessment of archaeological sites most at risk; convene archaeologists, anthropologists, Alaska Native elders, and others to discuss how best to respond to and prioritize sites at risk; develop a plan for the protection or recovery of the sites most at risk. Complete a statewide assessment of the gravesites most at risk; assist in identifying and opening new gravesites; convene a respectful discussion about gravesites and explore best practices; provide assistance for the relocation of existing at-risk gravesites. Secure funding at the federal, state, foundation and corporate levels for the protection or recovery of archaeological sites. Assess what elements of this option can realistically be addressed and whether they fit in any of the above categories or must remain separate.</p>	<p>Erin Harman Dave McMahan Alan Borass</p>	12.1