

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Regional Planning Entities in Alaska

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Regional approach to CMSP

- Strong partnerships with Federal, State, tribal & local authorities & existing regional governance structures
- Allows for engagement w/other nations
- Ensure frequent & transparent engagement of partners, public & stakeholders
- Build upon existing MSP efforts at regional, State, tribal & local level
- Likely involvement of existing regional governance structures
- Use Large Marine Ecosystem approach

Regional Planning Body

- States & federally-recognized tribes to create regional planning bodies – coinciding w/regional planning areas
- Membership: Federal, state & tribal authorities, & indigenous community reps w/ jurisdictional responsibilities or other interests (resource mgmt, science, security, transportation, & public health)
- State representation through, or as part of , existing regional governance structures created by States (Gulf of Mexico Alliance, West Coast Governors Health , etc)

Stakeholder engagement

- Establish stakeholder advisory body
- Or, use existing body
- Representative balance of major social, cultural, economic, environmental, human health, and security interests

Alaska has numerous existing regional entities

- AK Coastal Mgmt Program
- North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- North Slope Science Initiative
- Alaska Ocean Observing System board
- North Pacific Research Board
- AK Marine Ecosystem Forum
- Federal-State Executive Climate Change Roundtable

AK Coastal Mgmt Program

- Statutory authority
- Nearly coast wide coverage: 28 of 33 coastal districts participating by developing new plans w/enforceable policies
- Public process for district coastal plans
- Reviews activities in coastal zone: natural hazards, recreational, tourism use, energy, commercial fishing & seafood processing, subsistence, habitat, historic

North Pacific Fishery Mgmt Council

- Statutory authority
- 11 voting members: 6 from AK, 3 from WA, 1 from OR, and NMFS regional dir. 6 Alaskans are: reps of ADF&G, commercial & rec fisheries, fishing communities & general public. Also, 4 non-voting members: Coast Guard, USFWS, Dept of State, & Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission
- Oversee management of nation's fisheries in EEZ, primarily groundfish
- Science & technical & public advisory committees
- Meets 5-6 times a year
- Staff of 15 in Anchorage

North Slope Science Initiative

- Established in statute
- Oversight group: Federal, State & Borough land managers
- Science & technical advisory panel
- Improve scientific & regulatory understanding of North Slope ecosystems in context of resource development activities & climate change.
- ID data & information needs
- Limited to North Slope – onshore & offshore

Alaska Ocean Observing System

- Authorized in statute; AK region: MOA
- Board of Federal & State agencies, research entities, NGOs, private sector; meets twice a year; ex com meets more frequently
- Mission: network of coastal and ocean observations to ensure marine safety & security, protect environment, and improve economy;
- Coordinate ocean/coastal data, obs, forecasts. Policy neutral
- Data management and User/Stakeholder Advisory Committees

North Pacific Research Board

- Established in statute
- Board of federal & state agencies, academic & research institutes, public reps, WA and OR reps: meets at least twice a year
- Science Advisory Group
- Has fund available for grants for research in AK waters relevant to commercial fisheries and ecosystems

AK Marine Ecosystem Forum

- MOA
- 10 Federal agencies & 4 State agencies
- Improve coordination & cooperation between agencies on issues of shared responsibilities related to marine ecosystems
- Venue to share information: may not recommend actions or develop consensus advice
- Meets about every 8-10 months

Federal-State Executive Climate Change Roundtable

- Ad hoc group
- Senior level executives of Federal and State agencies
- Share information & facilitate cooperation among agencies
- Meets approx bimonthly
- Working groups address specific, identified needs: data integration, sea level rise, forecasting species & habitat change, down-scaled climate data & physical monitoring networks

Other entities

- PWS and CI Regional Citizens Advisory Councils
- Co-management Commissions (walrus, whaling, harbor seal, beluga, etc.)
- Regional Oil Spill Response Teams
- Other?

Contributing resources

- NOAA AK Regional Collaboration Team (with external partners)
- Alaska Sea Grant
- Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy
- AOOS data center, GINA
- US Arctic Research Commission
- Other?

Alaska Marine Policy Forum

- Hosted by Alaska Ocean Observing System and Alaska Sea Grant Program
- Bimonthly teleconference calls
- Share information about federal, state, local activities in a policy-neutral fashion
- Budget, legislation, policy, events
- Participants include AK congressional delegation staff, governor's office, University of AK lobbyist in Washington DC
- All are welcome; contact mccammon@aoos.org to be included

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