



State of Alaska
Governor's Climate Change Sub-Cabinet

**Adaptation Advisory Group Meeting
Meeting #6**

**Economic Activities Technical Working Group
EA TWG**

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Economic Activities TWG

- The EA TWG has developed recommendations for actions that will help address the effects of climate change on a wide range of Alaska's economic activities, including:
 - Oil and gas
 - Mining
 - Tourism and recreation
 - Ocean transportation
 - Rural and non-road transportation
 - Energy supply and demand
 - Boundaries and ownership
 - Sustainable jobs and economic development
 - Information collection and dissemination

Overview of Options

- EA TWG #1: Develop data to better understand needs around potential expansion of economic activities within the Arctic
- EA TWG #2: Use data to develop and evaluate economic scenarios for Alaska based on the impacts of climate change
- EA TWG #3: Invest in data to improve the availability and quality of on-the-ground knowledge related to coastal areas and floodplains to respond to and address economic challenges and opportunities

EA TWG #2: Develop and Evaluate Future Scenarios for the Alaska Economy

- Sectors of the Alaska economy are likely to vary in their responses to climate changes
- An assessment of current and potential future economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats is needed to better understand actions that will help ensure a healthy Alaskan economy
- **The Governor's Subcabinet should allocate funding to conduct a project that develops and evaluates economic scenarios for Alaska based on potential effects of climate change - addressing both existing and new economic sectors**

EA TWG #2: The Scenario Project Outline

- Based on existing work - establish range of climate change assumptions to include
- Identify status of and expected trends in the Alaska economy - jobs by sector, rates of change, contributions to the state economy, etc.
- Identify factors other than climate that affect the economy - migration, demographics, education, etc.
- Develop scenarios focusing on the above variables that define a range of futures for Alaska (e.g., significant growth in existing/new sectors, loss of jobs)
- Outline needed actions/activities to prepare for the possible futures defined by the scenarios

EA TWG #1: Evaluate Capability Needs for Potential Expansion of Arctic Economic Activities

- Less ice could mean more economic development in the Arctic: more ports, ship traffic, resource activities, infrastructure, etc. (these opportunities may be identified through development of the scenarios)
- The potential increase in facilities/activities will require increased attention and potential economic opportunities to address environmental and health/safety protections
- **The Governor's Subcabinet should allocate funding to authorize a project to examine environmental, health, and safety needs to both promote the economy and in response to potential economic development in the Arctic**

EA TWG #1: Evaluate Capability Needs for Potential Expansion of Arctic Economic Activities

- Funding would support a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) that could be led by AK-DOT with a team of other responsible and interested entities (e.g., USCG) to identify needed services and protections
- The CIP would identify and analyze Arctic requirements for services and capabilities and identify opportunities to share costs, facilities, equipment, and responsibilities among agencies and recommend actions based on immediate, mid- and long-term needs
- Costs for the CIP depend on scope and breadth of interest

EA TWG #3: Improve Availability of Mapping, Surveying, Charting and Imagery Data

- The ability to respond to the effects of a changing climate requires improved knowledge about components of the physical environment—elevation, sea levels, coastal conditions, etc.
- **The Governor's Subcabinet should provide funding for an accurate and high-resolution statewide digital base map focused on coastal areas and floodplains that includes a digital elevation model and acquisition of digital imagery.**

EA TWG #3: Improve Availability of Mapping, Surveying, Charting and Imagery Data

- An existing Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI), led by DNR, with DOT, Military and Veterans Affairs, U of A, USGS, and BLM, provides a vehicle for implementing the option
- Multiple entities have roles and are likely willing to commit resources (federal, state, and private)
- Two initial major components include:
 - Development of a more accurate digital elevation model (DEM)
 - Acquisition of real-time accurate imagery
- Access to data to a maximum number of users must be ensured

Thank you!

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