

Project Team

Aleutian Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Western Alaska LCC, Arctic LCC and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, are coming together to cohost this project with support from a growing number of local partners including Kawerak Inc., Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, and Bristol Bay Native Association. A Core Team will help direct the project as it unfolds.



Western Alaska LCC



Project Technical Assistance

The project team hired a group of consultants led by Agnew::Beck to assist with this project. This team, referenced in the chart to the right, will provide technical assistance to the project by facilitating the ongoing dialogue between the LCCs and coastal stakeholders, and by developing the 3-5 Feature Information Tools/Products and the Resource Workbook.

Project Core Team

Aaron Poe	Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Amy Holman	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Verner Wilson III	Bristol Bay Native Association
Wendy Loya	Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Douglas Burn	Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Jeremy Littell	U.S. Geological Survey
Joel Reynolds	Western Alaska Land Conservation Cooperative
Karen Murphy	Western Alaska Land Conservation Cooperative
Karen Pletnikoff	Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
Melissa Good	Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Rose Fosdick	Kawerak, Inc.
Henry Huntington	Huntington Consulting
Davin Holen	Sea Grant, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Project Management + Coordination

Agnew::Beck Consulting

Meeting Logistics + Facilitation

Agnew::Beck Consulting
AECOM

Communication Strategy

Agnew::Beck Consulting
AECOM
Alaska Ocean Observing System
Axiom Data Science
Center for Environmental Visualization

Science Communication + Technical Expertise

Alaska Ocean Observing System
Axiom Data Science
Center for Environmental Visualization
Transboundary Ecologic

Series of Events

Key to this effort will be a series of conference appearances and workshops in four hub communities across Western Alaska where project partners, communities, and resource managers can dialogue about these products, talk about what stakeholders are already doing to respond to coastal threats, and refine informational products and tools to better support stakeholder efforts.

October 24-28, 2015	Alaska Tribal Conference of Environmental Managers (ATCEM)
December 1-4, 2015	BIA Tribal Providers Conference
January 25-29, 2016	Alaska Marine Science Symposium
February 8-12, 2016	Alaska Forum on the Environment
May 10-11, 2016	Bering Strait (Nome) Workshop
August 16-20, 2016	Unalaska Workshop at Aleutian Life Forum (through APIA)
September 21-22, 2016	King Salmon Workshop (through APIA)
December 7-8, 2016	Kotzebue Workshop (through APIA)

Ideas or questions? Contact:

LCC Coalition Coordinator and Project Manager
Aaron Poe, Science Coordinator
Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative
907.786.3834
aaron_poe@fws.gov

APIA Coordinator and Project Manager
Karen Pletnikoff, Environment and Safety Program Manager
Aleutian Pribilof Island Association
907.276.2700
karenp@apiai.org

Project Manager, Technical Support
Heather Stewart, Senior Associate
Agnew::Beck Consulting, LLC
907.222.5424
hstewart@agnewbeck.com

Last Updated 07.11.2016

Promoting Coastal Resilience & Adaptation in Alaska

Coastlines are dynamic environments, constantly shaped by waves, winds, tides and storms. Yet sea level rise, warming waters and changes in storm patterns are affecting Alaska's coastal areas.

Changes in environmental conditions are affecting species migration patterns as well as the ability to access subsistence and natural resources. Coastal sea ice, which has traditionally protected coastal and riverine communities in much of Alaska, has diminished, increasing the vulnerability of coastal communities to storm surges, flooding and erosion. Thawing permafrost disrupts built infrastructure, and thawing ice releases pollutants along with fresh water flows.

Alaska's coastal communities now face the need to adapt to these changing conditions and engage in coastal resiliency efforts, ranging from preparedness planning to infrastructure protection and relocation strategies. Transboundary issues in international arctic waters are also coming to the fore, as communities and nations anticipate increased arctic commercial shipping and fishing, tourism, and access to potential new mining and oil fields.

Climate change and coastal resiliency issues are not new to Alaska. For decades, many different people and organizations have been monitoring changes and grappling with responses. Increasingly, observation is not enough. People are demanding action.

Through this project, a growing group of partners aims to improve the quality and availability of data, information and tools that can help resource managers, local decision-makers and communities better respond to the changes and challenges facing coastal Alaska communities.

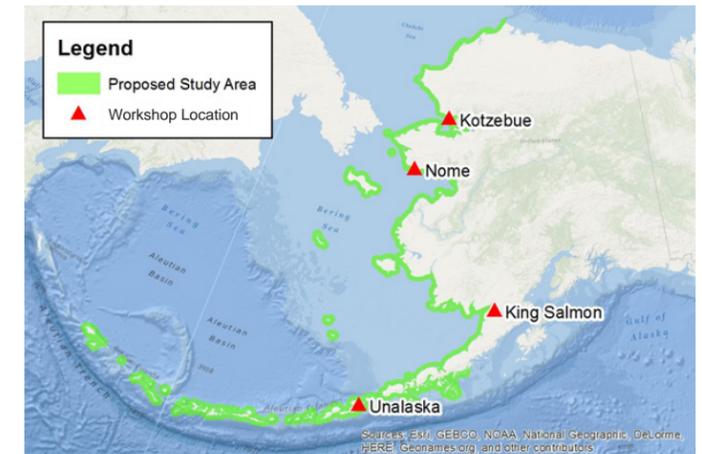


Photo by: ShoreZone



Photo by: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Photo by: U.S. Geological Survey

Overall Project Goal

Provide regional residents and resource managers with the information and tools they need to better respond to coastal climate change challenges, and to support healthy habitats and resilient communities.

Specific Objectives

Information, Tools, Strategies in Use Today

Learn about the climate change information and tools currently being used in the region. What else might be needed? What are communities and resource managers already doing to adapt to coastal change? Which innovations might be shared to help direct future investments and actions?

Broaden the Base of Knowledge

Share a wide range of useful coastal climate change tools and information.

Information and Tools Dialogue, Feedback and Refinement

Support a robust back and forth dialogue between regional communities, land managers, the LCC's and other information providers. Obtain feedback on currently available products. Identify and help refine a set of feature products that will:

- Bring out facts and trends on the most important topics.
- Analyze and translate existing information to be clear and understandable.
- Be accessible and readily used throughout the region.
- Provide information and tools that set the stage for action, so communities and managers can successfully respond to coastal climate change challenges.

Build a Durable, Collaborative Resilience Network

Working with partners, develop shared, longer term strategies for the continuing delivery of the coastal resiliency information, tools and resources needed in the region.

Project Process

Listen + Learn. Collect Data + Information. In recent years, Alaska's Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) and their partners have been listening and working with resource managers, local decision-makers, communities and other stakeholders to identify science priorities to address coastal threats, and develop tools that stakeholders can use to make informed decisions, including information on coastal erosion, marine shipping and coastal inundation.

2013-2015

Listen + Learn More: Stakeholder Outreach.

This project starts with a broad scan of the regional context, using an initial round of research plus interviews with coastal managers, regional residents, and stakeholders to ask: Who is most active in coastal resiliency issues? What impacts most concern stakeholders? What are current resiliency strategies? What other tools and products are available, being used, and needed? How best to launch and sustain a regional resiliency dialogue?

Fall 2015

Refine Data + Information. The project team will develop recommendations for improved resiliency tools and information, aiming to provide information on the right subjects, with the right formats and delivery methods. Starting from recent work by LCC's and their partners, the team will develop 3-5 "Feature Products", such as an interactive coastal erosion mapping tool, and a "Resource Workbook", with brief worksheets on diverse subjects, such as information to help villages get needed grant funding.

Fall 2015

Listen + Learn More: Sensing Sessions + Dialogues. Further Refine Products.

At a series of sensing sessions, project partners, communities and resource managers can dialogue about the draft products and provide feedback on how to improve the products, tie into other similar or complementary efforts, identify gaps and strategize about how to fill them.

Fall/Winter 2015-2016

Finalize Initial Tools and Products.

Project partners will finalize the tools and products, document identified gaps, identified response strategies, and recommendations for improving information supporting coastal resilience responses. This process sets the stage for a network of partnerships with a greater capacity to respond to coastal climate changes.

Fall 2016

Listen + Learn More: Workshop Dialogues.

A series of workshops in four hub communities across Western Alaska will provide more feedback on the products and strategies for improving coastal resilience responses. These recommendations may include strategies for sharing information at the local and regional scale, filling information gaps, capacity building, ongoing funding, and regional coordination aiming to build a coastal climate change network across northern and western Alaska.

Spring-Summer-Fall 2016

The result of these efforts will be more **collaborative resiliency response strategies** at the local, regional, and national levels. After this project is complete, partners will continue working with communities, community decision-makers, resource managers, scientists, and others to further develop well-coordinated partnerships to keep the information and other resources flowing when and where they are needed for effective action. These efforts may take the form of community or regional coastal climate change preparedness plans, regional and local fundraising, or specific resiliency actions.