

North Slope Science Initiative

Interim Report

Ken Taylor, Executive Director

October 4, 2005

During the month of August, NSSI activities focused on getting the Science Technical Group charter approved and the Federal Register notice published. The U.S. Federal Register Notice announcing the Notice of Intent to Establish and Call for Nominations for the North Slope Science Initiative Science Technical Group was published Sept 12, 2004. A BLM Press Release on the same day announced the notice and urged interested parties to contact me or access the NSSI website for an information packet. The announcement has been advertised on the websites and newsletters of several Pan-Arctic Scientific Programs (Arctic Research Consortium of the United States and World Climate Research Programme Climate and Cryosphere Project) and at the recent American Society of Fisheries National (ASF) national conference in Anchorage. I encourage you all to advertise this announcement in your own as well as other forums to assure that we receive a broad pool of nominees. The federal register notice and News Release is available on the www.northslope.org. Nominations to this group will be open for 45 days.

Henri Bisson, McKie Campbell, Wayne Regelin and I met with Senator Stevens to brief him on the NSSI. He was both receptive and supportive of this initiative.

I traveled to the Bering Glacier to attend the BLM Resources Advisory Committee meeting and to meet with Altarum Institute staff who are contracted by BLM to develop and support the NSSI website. We discussed several improvements to it, and we will meet with them again in October to receive training to enable us to directly manage web information.

NSSI staff attended a one day oil and gas industry seminar sponsored by British Petroleum August 16th. This is an annual seminar and extremely informative for agency staff with little expertise in this area. There is no charge for this seminar, and those of you with new staff working in the North Slope oil and gas arena should encourage them to attend next year.

On September 10-15, Ann Claerbout attended the ASF meeting held in Anchorage at the Egan Convention Center, the Center for Performing Arts and the Hilton Hotel. The event gathered over 2,500 fisheries scientists and other wildlife and environment experts. Select sessions attended included "Fishery Management - Practical Approaches to Ecosystem-based Fishery Management and the Role of Science", where there was discussion about ecosystem based management and what that means and how fishery managers can make practical application of this concept in daily management. The session "Historical and Cultural Importance of Alaska Fisheries" focused on community fisheries and included summaries from the Alaska Native Science Commission Regional Meetings. Several sessions provided examples of how agencies, scientists and representatives of traditional

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knowledge were working to incorporate science and local knowledge into fisheries management.

On September 13-15, I attended the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) International Symposium on Oil and Gas Development in the Arctic in St. Petersburg, Russia. This symposium focused on current and future arctic oil and gas development, both onshore and offshore, and its implications for the arctic environment, its ecosystems, and its human inhabitants. Seventy-six podium and poster presentations represented the following session topics: 1) Oil and Gas Activities in the Arctic Past, Present and Future, 2) Socio-economic Aspects of Arctic Oil and Gas Development, and Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives, 3) Effectiveness of Regulations and Emergency, Preparedness and Response, 4) Sources, Inputs, Concentrations and Fate of Petroleum Hydrocarbons and PAHs in the Arctic Environment. I presented the NSSI poster entitled "North Slope Science Initiative- Managing Oil and Gas through Science on Alaska's North Slope" to an international audience of researchers, land managers, and industry. Several U.S. federal, state, and local agencies and research institutions were in attendance, including representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior Minerals Management Service, Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, BP Exploration, Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope.