

Director's Report, North Slope Science Initiative
Activities from April 16, 2009 through June 10, 2009

Once again, both Denny and I have been a little overwhelmed since the April 15th Oversight Group meeting. After the April Oversight Group meeting, I remained in Fairbanks to coordinate the implementation of the Project Tracking System and Data Catalog. Robert Shuchman, Chair of the Data/Remote Sensing Subcommittee Science Technical Advisory Panel, Tom Heinrichs, Director of the Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA) and staff, spent two additional days going over the requirements documents and interface with NPRB and AOOS. The result of the additional meetings, more interoperability was added to the Project Tracking System. I followed up with two days of additional interaction with the GINA staff in late April.

Much of our time has been working with Bill Streever on refining the emerging issues documents. Denny has taken a lead in working with Bill to provide a consistent format, incorporate the Oversight Group and Senior Staff Committee comments.

I have been working with Scott Guyer (BLM) as the logistics manager for NSSI operations has been planning the field work for both the water characterization and land cover project. Scott will be the designated federal officer on both projects.

Denny and I attended the industry sponsored min-conference on May 4th. Industry presented a considerable number of projects they are either planning or have implemented on the North Slope and in the off shore environment.

Denny and I both attended the Climate Change Executive Roundtable on May 19th. While we did not make presentations to the group, some of our emerging issues documents were discussed as a value added effort that will help the Roundtable as they move forward with their statewide charge.

I attended the yellow-billed loon conservation plan workshop on May 21st. While the NSSI has no regulatory issue in the conservation planning for listed or candidate species, knowing the issues associated with a species helps the NSSI understand data or information needs and potential help with coordination of the information. During the summer field season of 2009, the water characterization project will be working with USFWS to help describe yellow-billed loon habitat using the "bathy-boat."

Denny Add the Seward Workshop

Denny add your work with the Institute of the North on the fisheries