



# ICE SEAL COMMITTEE

## AGENDA

Feb 28 & Mar 1, 2023 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 E. Benson Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99503

1. **Call to Order (9 am)**.....Billy Adams, *ISC Chair*
2. **Invocation**
3. **Roll Call**.....Quorum<sup>1</sup> for ISC Board Meeting = majority (6 members)

Ice Seal Committee		Present	Absent
Bristol Bay Native Association	Renee Roque		
	Sam Gosuk		
Association of Village Council Presidents	Jennifer Hooper		
	Albert Simon		
Kawerak, Inc.	Charles Menadelook		
	Ben Payenna		
Maniilaq Association	Isabelle Booth		
	Cyrus Harris		
North Slope Borough	Billy Adams		
	Joe Mello Leavitt		
<b>Total</b>			

4. **Introductions & Meeting Logistics**
  - A. Meeting will be recorded, so please:  
Use a microphone – Speak clearly & loudly - Identify yourself before speaking
  - B. Lunch & video on Feb 28 (Day 1) provided courtesy of the North Pacific Research Board
  - C. Open session on Mar 1 (Day 2) will end at 3pm. We will then go into executive session.

<sup>1</sup> **ISC By-Laws – Article IV, Section 4.5:** A majority of the members of this Working Group, when present at any meeting, shall constitute a quorum, and in case there is less than this number, the presiding officer may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is present.

- 5. Welcome remarks**.....Billy Adams & Anne Marie Eich
- 6. Approve agenda**.....Ice Seal Committee
- 7. Approve Minutes**.....Ice Seal Committee
- A. FY2021-22 ISC Board Meeting
- B. No minutes from strategic planning meeting in Nov. '22. Outcomes to be discussed in executive session. ISC board will receive report via email before the meeting.
- 8. Unfinished Business**
- A. Next meeting dates
- 1) 2023 Meeting #2 (virtual)  
2023 Annual Meeting<sup>2</sup>
- B. Reminder about officer elections (no action necessary)

Current Officers		Elected	End of Term
Chair	Billy Adams	2022	2024
Vice-Chair	Jennifer Hooper	2022	2024
Sec./Treas.	Joe Mello Leavitt	2022	2024

**9. New Business - Reports**

- A. ISC Chair.....Billy Adams
- B. ISC Executive Manager (summarize funding request).....Andy Von Duyke
- C. Reports – Regional
- 1) Association of Village Council Presidents.....Jennifer Hooper & Albert Simon
- 2) Bristol Bay Native Association.....Renee Roque & Sam Gosuk
- 3) Kawerak, Inc.....Charles Menadelook & Ben Payenna
- 4) Maniilaq Association.....Isabelle Booth & Cyrus Harris
- 5) North Slope Borough.....Billy Adams & Joe Mello Leavitt
- D. Reports – Research
- 1) NMFS.....Barbara Mahoney & Anne Marie Eich
- 2) Marine Mammal Laboratory.....Michael Cameron & Erin Moreland
- a. Update on Research 2021-22
- b. Brief update on upcoming research in 2023-24<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Period between late-January and early-March is strongly preferred.

<sup>3</sup> More comprehensive discussion to occur during Co-Management Committee Meeting and Workshop.

- 3) Long Marine Lab (UCSC)..... Colleen Reichmuth
- 4) Bearded Seals (UNH & NSB).....Michelle Fournet & A. Von Duyke
- 5) Indigenous Knowledge / Science Integration.....Rowenna Gryba & A. Von Duyke
- 6) ADFG<sup>4</sup>.....Justin Olnes, Anna Bryan, Alex Sletten, Lori Quakenbush
  - a) Spotted seal paper
  - b) Harvest monitoring update
  - c) Micro-plastics & seals – preliminary results (UAF / ADFG)
- 7) AAOKH Research Updates (UAF).....Donna Hauser & Roberta Tuurraq Glenn

**10. Adjourn open-session**

**Executive Session**

**11. New Business (Executive Session @ 3:00 pm)**

- A. AAOKH Funding / Collaboration discussion.....Donna Hauser
- B. November 2022 meeting outcomes
  - 1) Strategic planning summary.....Raven’s Group
  - 2) Mark up of ISC Governance Documents.....Tyson Kade

**12. Adjourn**

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<sup>4</sup> Requested to present on March 1 due to scheduling issues. Also, there will be a half day workshop on 3-Mar.



# ICE SEAL COMMITTEE

## ICE SEAL CO-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Mar 2, 2023 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 E. Benson Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99503

1. Call to Order (9 am)
2. Invocation
3. Roll Call ..... *Quorum*<sup>5</sup> for Co-Management Committee meeting = 6 members

Ice Seal Committee		Present	Absent
Bristol Bay Native Association	Renee Roque		
Association of Village Council Presidents	Jennifer Hooper		
Kawerak, Inc.	Charles Menadelook		
Maniilaq Association	Isabelle Booth		
North Slope Borough	Billy Adams		

National Marine Fisheries Service		Present	Absent
Alaska Region, Juneau	Anne Marie Eich		
Alaska Region, Anchorage	Barbara Mahoney		
Marine Mammal Lab, Seattle	Michael Cameron		
<b>Total</b>			

4. Introductions & Meeting Logistics
5. Drop “Robert’s Rules of Order” ..... Agree to proceed by consensus
6. Select Chair ..... National Marine Fisheries Service
7. Adopt Agenda ..... Ice Seal Co-Management Committee

<sup>5</sup> **Ice Seal Committee Co-Management Agreement (VIA.1-2):** *The Co-Management Committee shall be comprised of the five management regional Representatives of ISC and three members from NMFS upon the signing of this Agreement. A quorum of six members is required for a meeting to be held.*

**8. Approve March 23, 2022 Co-Management Committee meeting minutes****9. National Marine Fisheries Service**..... Anne Marie Eich & Barbara Mahoney

- A. Lawsuit over negative finding on petition to delist Arctic ringed seals under the ESA
  - 1) Complaint filed by State of Alaska and North Slope Borough in November 2022.
  - 2) Complaint alleges that NMFS should have made a positive finding on the petition to delist<sup>6</sup> and proceeded with a review of the species status, followed by a 12-month finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted.

**10. Ice Seal Committee**..... Andy Von Duyke & Billy Adams

- A. Update on November 2022 ISC Planning Meeting
  - 1) Summarize co-management discussion topics..... January & Nate O'Connor
  - 2) Internal Governance Topics..... Tyson Kade
- B. Current ISC operations (e.g., grant proposal)..... Andy Von Duyke

**11. Marine Mammal Lab, NMFS**..... Michael Cameron

- A. Update on MML proposed research in 2023
- B. 2022 research highlights (optional)

**12. Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program**..... Barbara Mahoney

- A. November 2022: NMFS published the FINAL Programmatic EIS
  - 1) Chapter 7:  
*In response to concerns raised by a co-management partner, which included potential risk to wild marine mammal populations and subsistence use of marine mammals, NMFS currently does not authorize the release of rehabilitated ringed, bearded, ribbon, and spotted seals that were rehabilitated beyond the geographical areas where they were stranded in the Arctic. Certain situations, however, would be considered on a case-by-case basis (i.e., an ice seal out of its range; ice seals that are part of an UME, spotted seals in Bristol Bay), and NMFS may reevaluate this decision at any time.*
- B. NMFS Unusual Mortality Events (UMEs)
  - 2) Five active UMEs
    - a. West coast gray whale (2019 – present)
  - 3) Three non-active UMEs – closure pending
    - a. Ice Seal UME

**13. ISC & NMFS monthly meetings**

- A. Prepare 2024-25 Action Plan

**14. Closing comments****15. Date for next meeting****16. Adjourn**

*Executive Session* (if needed –Ice Seal Co-Management Committee members only)

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<sup>6</sup> i.e., that the petition presents substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted



# ICE SEAL COMMITTEE

## WORKSHOP ON CONDUCTING FIELDWORK AND FOOD SECURITY

### AGENDA

Mar 3, 2023 - 9:00 am to Noon

Embassy Suites Hotel, 600 E. Benson Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99503

#### 1. Call to Order

#### 2. Invocation

#### 3. Introductions

Note that no quorum is required because this is a workshop and not an official co-management proceeding.

#### 4. Workshop goal

Begin an open dialog among project leaders and community members to determine how best to conduct field research on ice-associated seals in and around coastal communities in Alaska.

The twin goals are to:

- avoid negatively impacting food security from research activities
- while also having a positive impact on communities within the context of achieving existing research needs

#### 5. Motivations: Background and history

#### 6. Case study: Aerial surveys for ice-associated seals in the Bering Sea, 2024

- Survey approaches – History, current & future capabilities
- Discussions of regional or local concerns for food security
- Discussions of potential add-on benefits to surrounding communities

#### 7. Communication Plan

- Community visits (virtual or in person) – data gathering
- Timing of follow up meetings

#### 8. Closing Comments

#### 9. Adjourn