

**MINUTES – Final to be approved at 2026 ISC Annual Meeting**

**1. Call to Order (9 am)**.....Billy Adams – ISC Chair  
 Convened at 9:01

A. Invocation.....Cyrus Harris

B. Meeting Logistics (drop Robert’s Rules unless voting)  
 Approved

C. Introductions

Billy Adams  
 Lucy Leavitt  
 Jarek Nayakik  
 Andy Von Duyke  
 Anna Bryan  
 Barbara Mahoney  
 Chuck Menadelook  
 Cyrus Harris  
 Michael Cameron  
 Michelle Fournet  
 Michael Cameron  
 Michelle Fournet

Timothy Smith  
 Jennifer Hooper  
 Anne Marie Eich  
 Caroline Cummings  
 Colleen Reichmuth  
 Erin Moreland  
 Jackie Shaff  
 Jen Dushane  
 Jenna Malek  
 Jessie Lindsay  
 Jorjana Dray  
 Maeghan Connor

Rachel Lewis  
 Rowenna Gryba  
 Jackie Shaff  
 Sam Gosuk  
 Shawn Dahle  
 Tristan Mandeville  
 Tyson Kade  
 Sue Moore  
 Quincy Adams  
 Taqulik Hepa

**2. Roll Call**.....*Quorum = 6 members<sup>1</sup>*

| Ice Seal Committee                        |                    | Present  | Absent |
|---|--------------------|----------|--------|
| Bristol Bay Native Association            | Jorjana Dray       | X        |        |
|   | Sam Gosuk          | X        |        |
| Association of Village Council Presidents | Jennifer Hooper    | X        |        |
|   | Isaac Rivers       |          | X      |
| Kawerak, Inc.                             | Charles Menadelook | X        |        |
|   | Albert Oquilluk    |          | X      |
| Maniilaq Association                      | Timothy Smith      | X        |        |
|   | Cyrus Harris       | X        |        |
| North Slope Borough                       | Billy Adams        | X        |        |
|   | Joe Mello Leavitt  |          | X      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              |                    | <b>7</b> |        |

**QUORUM**

**3. Approve Agenda**.....ISC

Approved.

<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”

**4. 2026 ISC Annual Meeting<sup>2</sup>.....ISC**A. *Proposed Dates*.....**10-12 February 2026**B. Proposed meeting location.....**Embassy Suites, Anchorage, AK**

- OK, send out email to ISC members requesting approval.
- Billy Adams (BA): thinks it looks OK.
- Jennifer Hooper (JH): shared that BBNA has board of fish and N Pacific council.
- Chuck Menadelook (CM): mentioned Nana meeting in Dec.
- Cyrus Harris (CH): OK with dates and is flexible.
- Week before AMSS?
- Jorjana Dray (JD): mentioned that the board of fish meeting is Jan 13-17.
- Need to remember MLK day.

*Note: The dates proposed above did not work out. The actual dates that were finalized are **March 10-12, 2026**. The location of the meeting is **Embassy Suites, Anchorage, AK**.*

**5. Unfinished business**

A. Minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting to be shared soon. Approval vote at 2026 ISC meeting.

- Tabled until the 2026 Annual Meeting<sup>3</sup>.

B. Tribal Authorization Update.....ISC Chair

- BA: mentioned that we met with ICAS. We proposed a resolution for their authorization.
- Andy Von Duyke (AV): mentioned that ICAS has this on their agenda for the Oct 2 meeting to vote.
- CH: positive about Native Village of Kotzebue.
- CM: from Nome reminded ISC of Albert Oquilluk (AO) from Teller is the hunter rep. Native Village of Teller appointed him.
- JD: gave an update about request for sub-regional reps with BBNA board.
- JD: also spoke with Jesse Rogers about serving as a next-gen participant.

C. ISC membership.....ISC

- *All seats are filled. Strongly recommend that each ISC region appoint Alternate rep(s).*
- JD: asked about harvest surveys? ISC template for harvest surveys?

D. Website update.....link to mockup (no longer functional)<sup>4</sup>

- AV: gave an update on the status of the revisions.

**6. New business**

A. NOAA

1) Summer research

- Erin Moreland (EM): gave a brief summary presentation.

<sup>2</sup> Alaska Marine Science Symposium January 26-30, 2026. Ex.Mgr. has unavoidable conflict February 2-6, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> The ISC “Annual Meeting” occurs in the late-winter or early-spring. Sometimes it is referred to as the “spring meeting”. The Annual Meeting is actually comprised of two meetings: (1) Ice Seal Co-Management Committee Meeting, and (2) Ice Seal Committee Board Meeting.

<sup>4</sup> Overhauled ISC website is now live. The ISC website link = [www.iceseals.org](http://www.iceseals.org)

- Billy Adams (BA): asked if there were hunters participating? He also asked about how long before the analyses are finished? Will there be info to present at next ISC Annual Meeting? He also said he'd like to hear from hunters if possible.
- EM: no hunters, although there was permission for hunters. There is some training required in advance. Said ISC would identify participants? (Andy not aware of this... Chuck? Jennifer?) Difficult start due to the politics of new administration, funding, travel permissions caused a huge distraction. She hopes that NOAA will have an update, but will not have final analytical results. Anticipates about 50% completion by the 2026 Annual Meeting.
- Sam Gosuk (SG): asked about how far out the ice was in April?
- EM: described that St. Matthews Is. was at about the edge, but the ice shifted around a lot. It was pretty far north.
- SG: noted no ice in Bristol Bay after April/May.
- EM: early season in April they tried to get to Bristol bay (shorefast ice) but no weather window. When they did get good weather, then there was no ice. Juggling: weather, ice, aircraft maintenance, and crew availability (rest schedule). Ice move north quickly.
- Michael Cameron (MC): said that this and bowhead were 2 highest priority projects identified by NOAA. First time ever. Processing and analyzing data is highest 2026 priority.
- Cyrus Harris (CH): noted that he is on other committees ANCC, ABWC, EWC and asked about surveying for other species (polar bears eg)?
- EM: showed a photo of belugas and said that their thermal cameras have difficulty picking up whales, but visually they take note and share with other co-management orgs. Sharing info is important. Anything relevant they reach out and share.
- CH: noted documenting ice conditions is important. It's all relevant and paints a big picture of what's going on.
- Barbara Mahoney (BM): brought up the challenge of getting hunters on NOAA aircraft. Open water survival and dunker training is required. It takes a bunch of prep work and requires some commitment by the participants. Asked if they know how they did.
- EM: said hard to tell yet. They met effort goal, but hard to know if they were where they needed to be at the right time.
- Chuck Menadelook (CM): asked about surveying where young seals spend their time? Is there a way to document where they are? Not speaking for Kawerak. Asking because of Graphite One mine being pushed for approval. Permitting process does not mention ice seals in Imeroff Basin. He wants an EIS.
- MC: didn't cover the areas mentioned because they are focusing on total population using hauled out seals on the ice prior to large scale movements. Pushing back into later

summer, this could mess up study design by double counting seals as they move. Questions about animals in specific areas are probably better done via tagging work and/or other standalone projects.

- BM: EIS vs environmental assessment. More stuff on the recording. Section 7 consultation.
  - CM: this is important issue, especially to 3 villages that may be impacted.
  - BM: ISC can request that mine operator (Graphite One mine) participate in the next meeting.
  - CM: frustrating that you have to wait for permits to applied for first. They are applying for a fast 41 permit (1-year approval). Advocated for ISC input.
- 2) ESA recovery planning ([link to 1-pager](#), [link to draft workshop report](#))
- Provided an update.
  - Will give Strait Science recover planning on Thurs Jan 22.
  - Comments by 31-Oct.
  - Billy said workshop was a good process.
  - Get Tyson's help on comments before 31-Oct.
- 3) Other NOAA topics
- None were discussed.
- B. Other comments, concerns, and/or new business (ISC funding outlook)
- Anna Bryan (AB): gave updates on harvest reporting. Justin Olnes (JO) is in charge. Report posted on ISC website. Connected Jorjana Dray (JD) to JO.
  - CB: noted that south of Nome there are no seals. Bad year for salmon. Probably the cause.
  - BA: shared about snow, freezing ponds, bull caribou, broad whitefish. Getting ready for fall bowhead hunt on 4-Oct. Best wishes to all.

## 7. Adjourn

ADJOURNED