



ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

February 17, 2022
Afternoon Session

Afternoon Agenda

- **ACP & RCP 101 and the Role of the Area Committees & the ARRT in planning,**
CDR Jereme Altendorf, USCG Sector Anchorage
- **Indigenous Knowledge & Science in Decision-Making,** Dr. Jim Kendall, Bureau of
Ocean Energy Management
- **BSEE Development of Response Information for Offshore Oil Spills in Area
Contingency Plans,** Gabrielle McGrath, RPS Group
- **Public Comment**
- **Meeting Close-out**



ACP & RCP 101 and the Roles of the Area Committees & the ARRT in Planning

ALASKA-SPECIFIC REGIONAL AND AREA PLANNING FOR OIL & HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RESPONSE

- Introductory Briefing to the National Response System

National hazardous substances and oil pollution contingency plan (NCP)

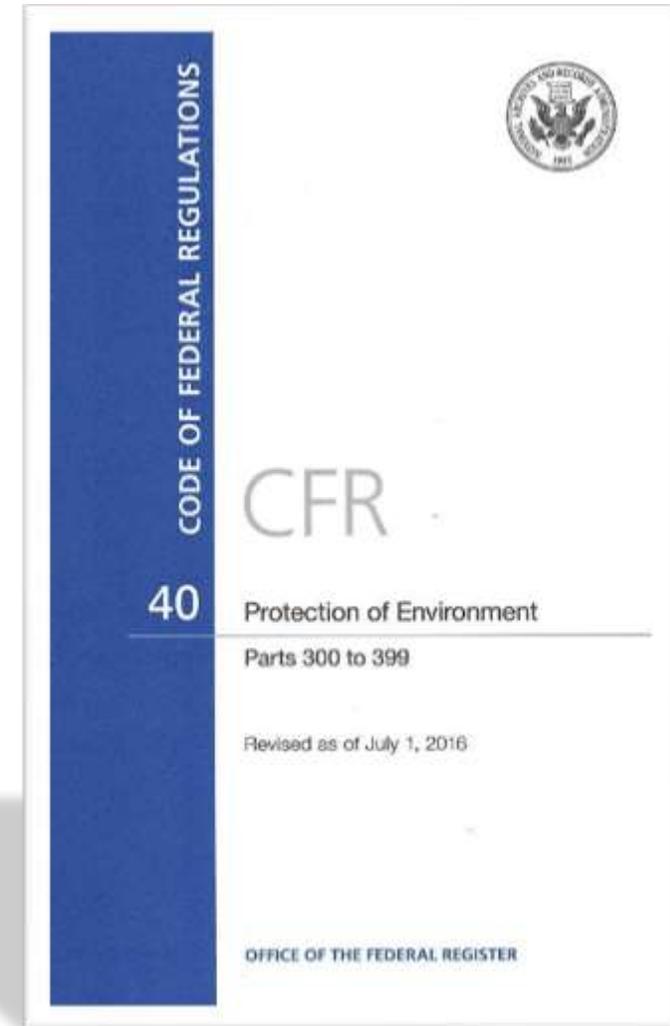
NCP established
National Response
System (NRS)

Incorporates statutory
authority from **Clean
Water Act and
Superfund (CERCLA)**

Created ***Federal On-
Scene Coordinators*** and
requires formation of
Area Committees

EPA Federal OSCs
(Inland zone)

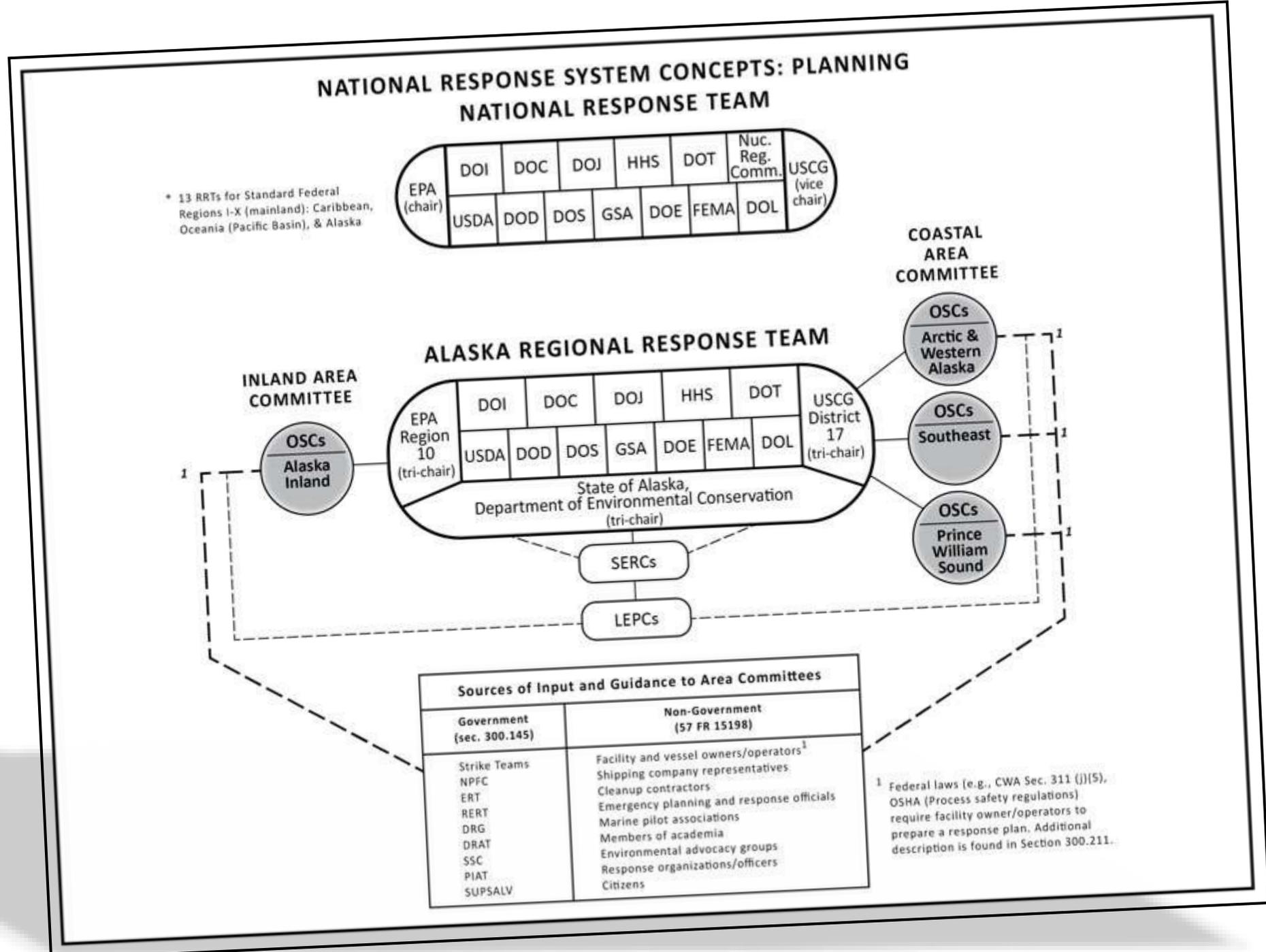
USCG Federal OSCs
(Coastal zone)



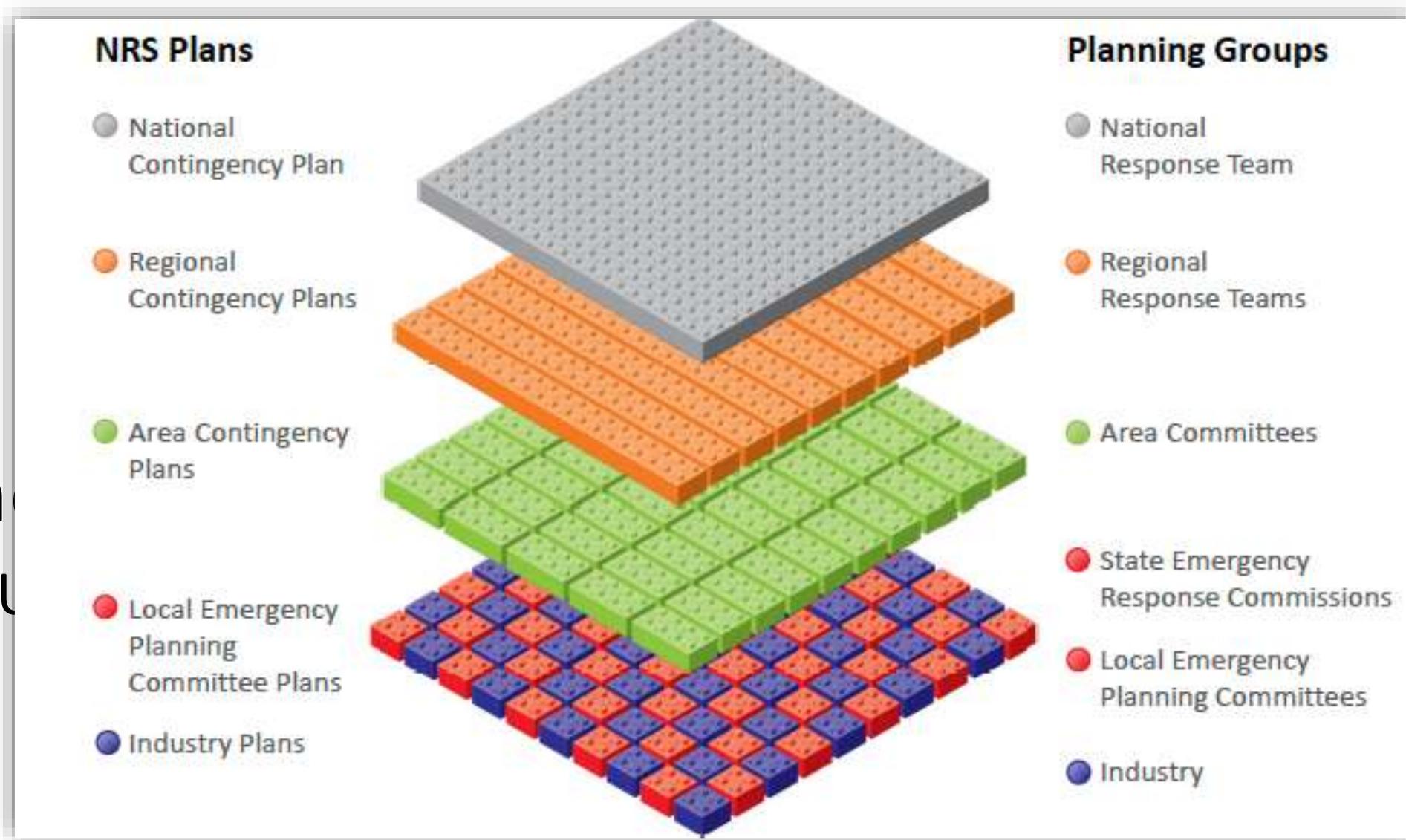
NCP provides Federal/State OSCs
broad authority to respond in
conservative favor of protecting
Human Health, Welfare and the
Environment



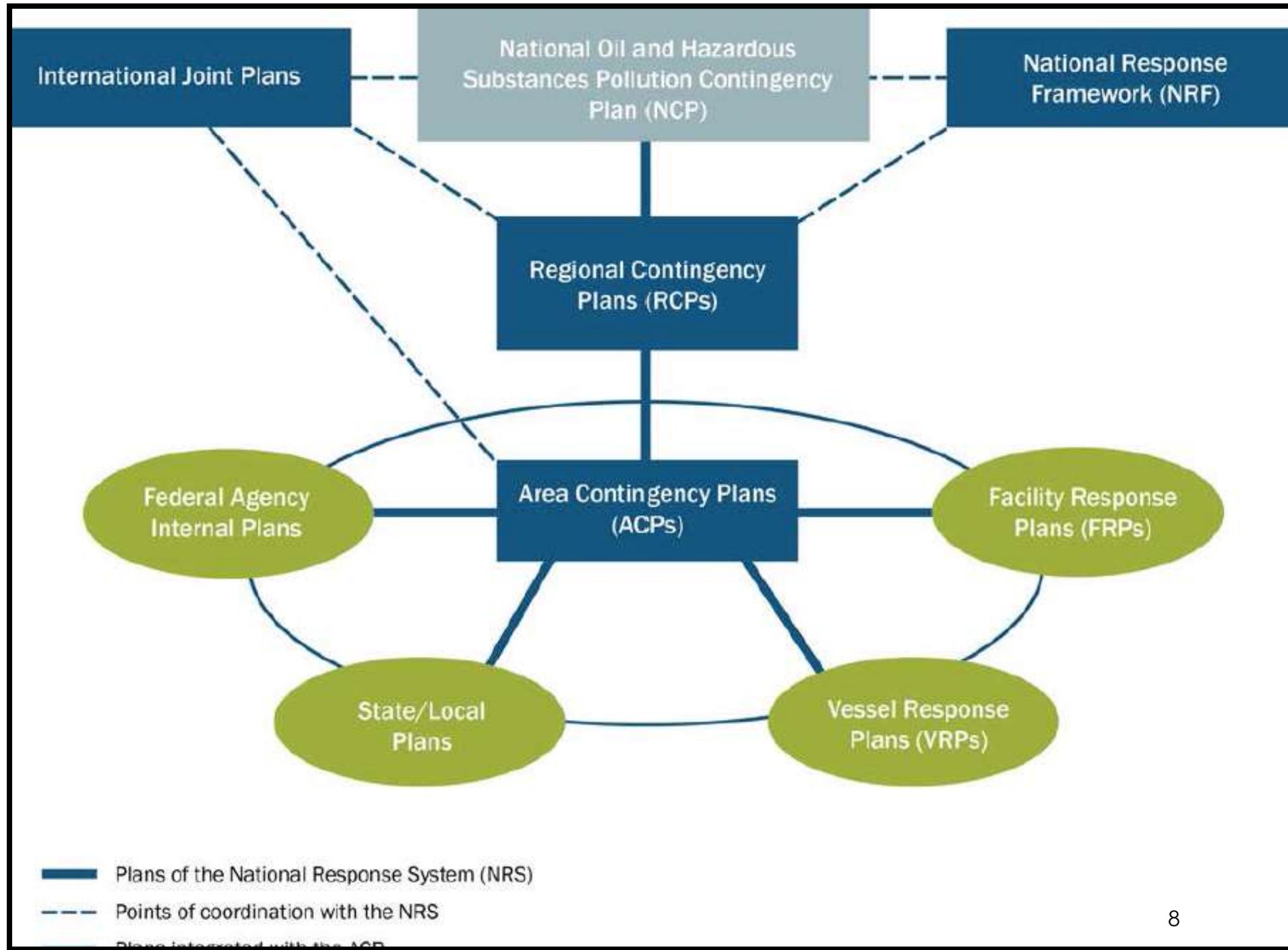
Components of the National Response System (NRS):



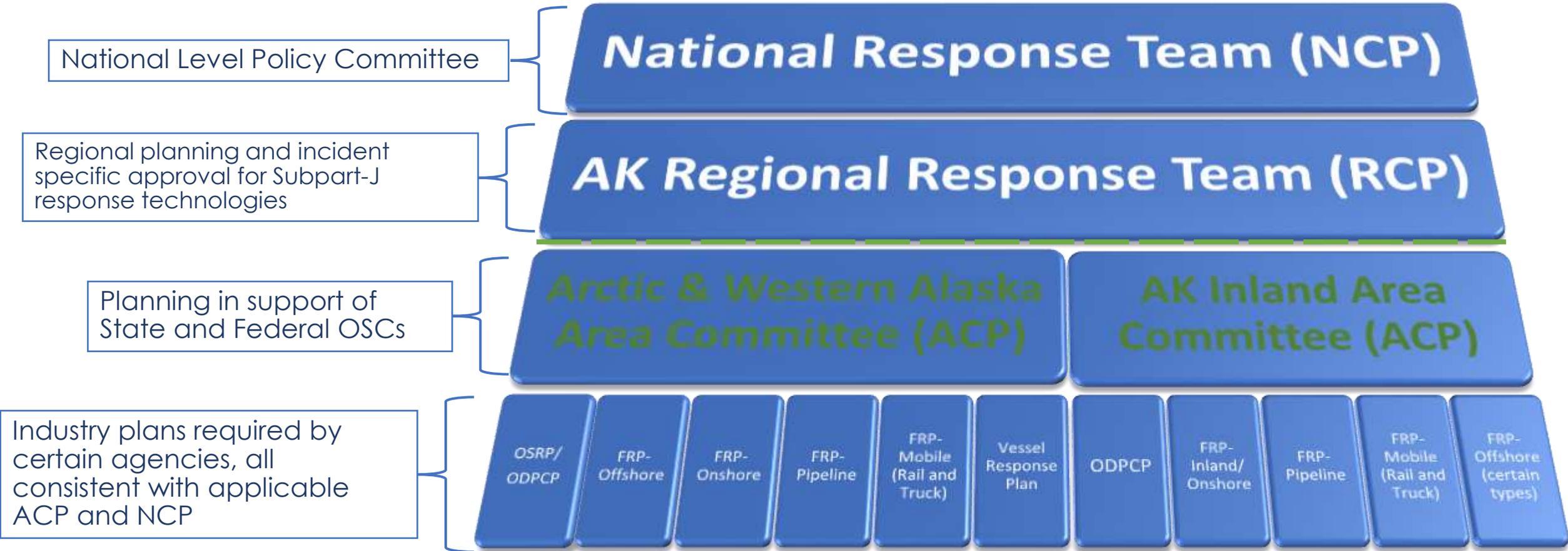
NRS Plans and Planning groups



NRS family of plans



AK NRS Family of plans



Area Committees and ACPs are co-chaired by Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators

OGAs, NGOs, Industry, and stakeholders participation is critical to the success of Area Planning

The coordinating body between industry, stakeholders and gov't

Where lessons identified become lessons learned

Exposure to preparedness measures (GRSs)

ARCTIC AND WESTERN ALASKA AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

December 2020 Version 2020.0



ARCTIC & WESTERN ALASKA
AREA COMMITTEE

Arctic & Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan

December 30, 2020

Dear Recipient:

Mission Statement:

Established in 2018, the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee (AWA-AC) manages and continuously improves upon the Area Contingency Plan, and provides a platform for consistent coordination between federal, state, tribal and local emergency planners and responders. The AWA-AC ensures expedient processes exist for urgent circumstances related to dispersant use and other mitigating substances and devices. The AWA-AC is the venue for public input on all relevant government processes and scientific issues related to oil and hazardous substance spill prevention, preparedness, planning and response within the Arctic and Western Alaska.

Attached is the 2020.0 version of the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan (AWA-ACP). The AWA-ACP serves as tactical and operational instructions and guidance to responders and planners preparing for a coordinated Federal, State, and local exercise and/or response to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance from a vessel or on/offshore facility operating within the Western Alaska Captain of the Port zone boundaries and surrounding waters. State and Federal On-Scene Coordinators shall use the AWA-ACP, in conjunction with the Regional Contingency Plan and National Contingency Plan, to inform and support the AWA Area Committee (AWA-AC) as it continuously updates and improves upon building the AWA-ACP. The AWA-ACP is compliant with Section 300.210(c) of the National Contingency Plan and Alaska Statute 46.04.210.

The AWA-AC, under the direction of the Co-Chairpersons, will validate the AWA-ACP annually and propose modifications in accordance with relevant agency policy and in response to operational lessons learned. We welcome your ideas to improve the plan. Please direct your correspondence to the following addresses:

Commander, US Coast Guard Sector Anchorage
ATTN: Emergency Management and Force Readiness (ix)
PO Box 5800
JBER, AK 99505-0800

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

This version of the AWA ACP and the associated references and tools are found at the following website:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spwr/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/arctic-western-area/>

AK Regional Response Team are tri-chaired by reps from EPA Region 10, US Coast Guard D17 and AK DEC

Co-Chaired by EPA and Coast Guard NCP reps; ops-planning & policy focused

Manages Regional Contingency Plan

The coordinating body that aids gov't agencies ISO Federal and State OSCs capability & resourcing requirements

Provides incident specific approval for dispersant use and other subpart-J alternative response technologies

Alaska Regional Contingency Plan

Version 2
February 2022

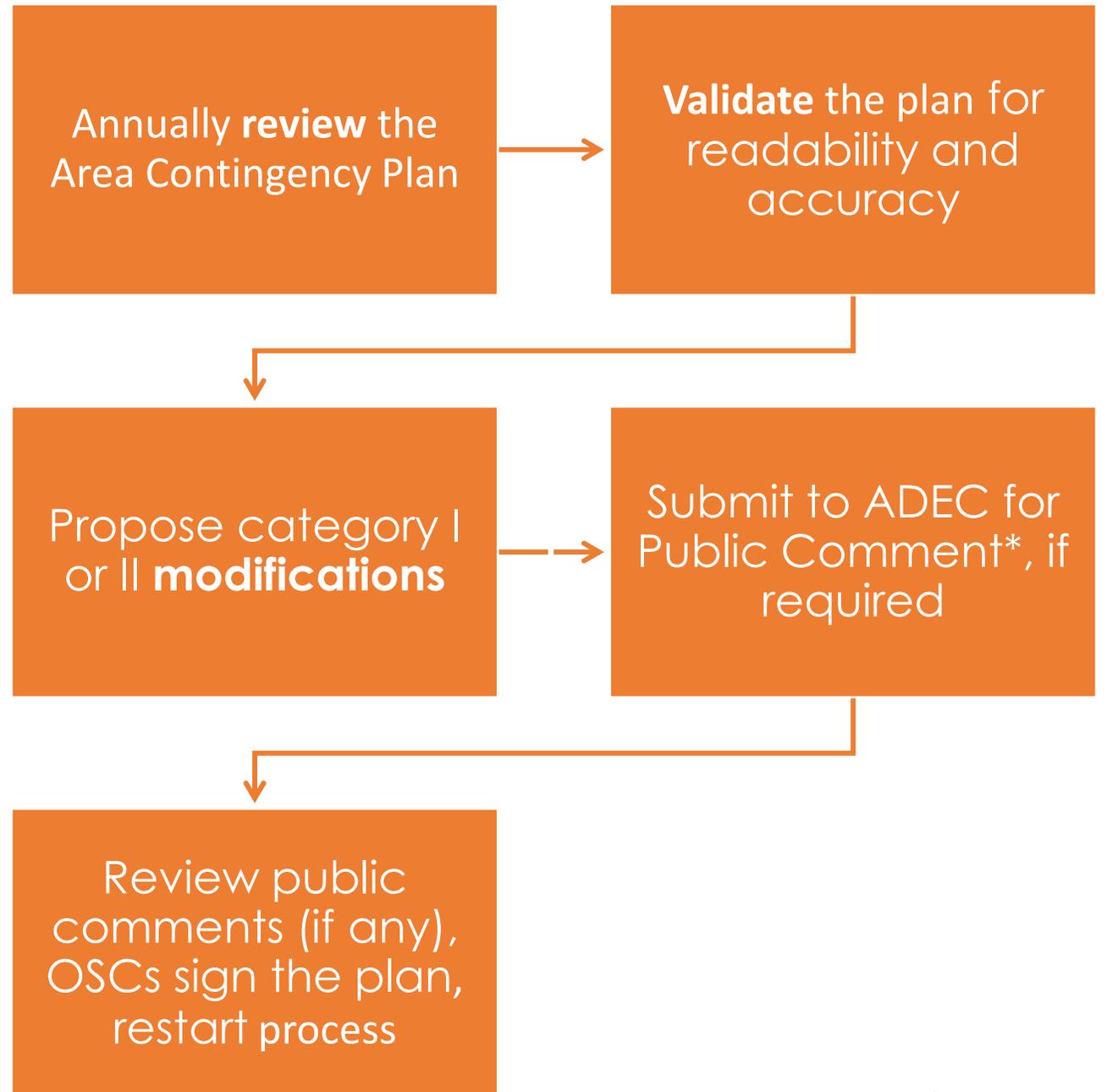


PLan review requirements by agency

Agency	Review Cycle	Plan Review and Outreach Requirements
USCG	Annual Review	Contingency Planning requires invitation for Tribal Coordination
	5-Year National Review Board	Internal metric to USCG, looking for plan progression
EPA	None specified	Engagement of Federally Recognized Tribes per EPA Region 10 Tribal Consultation And Coordination Procedures
ADEC	In accordance with State of Alaska Statutes & Regulations	<p>Mandated public review process when substantive revisions are required to the Regional or Area Contingency Plan.</p> <p>State of Alaska at AS 46.04. 200 (a) prescribes that ADEC “shall prepare, annually review, and revise as necessary a statewide master oil and hazardous substance discharge prevention and contingency plan.”</p>

Plan review process

*Those taking the time to respond to AK's request for public comment, are highly encouraged ***to help with plan review and write the proposed modifications within the subcommittees***

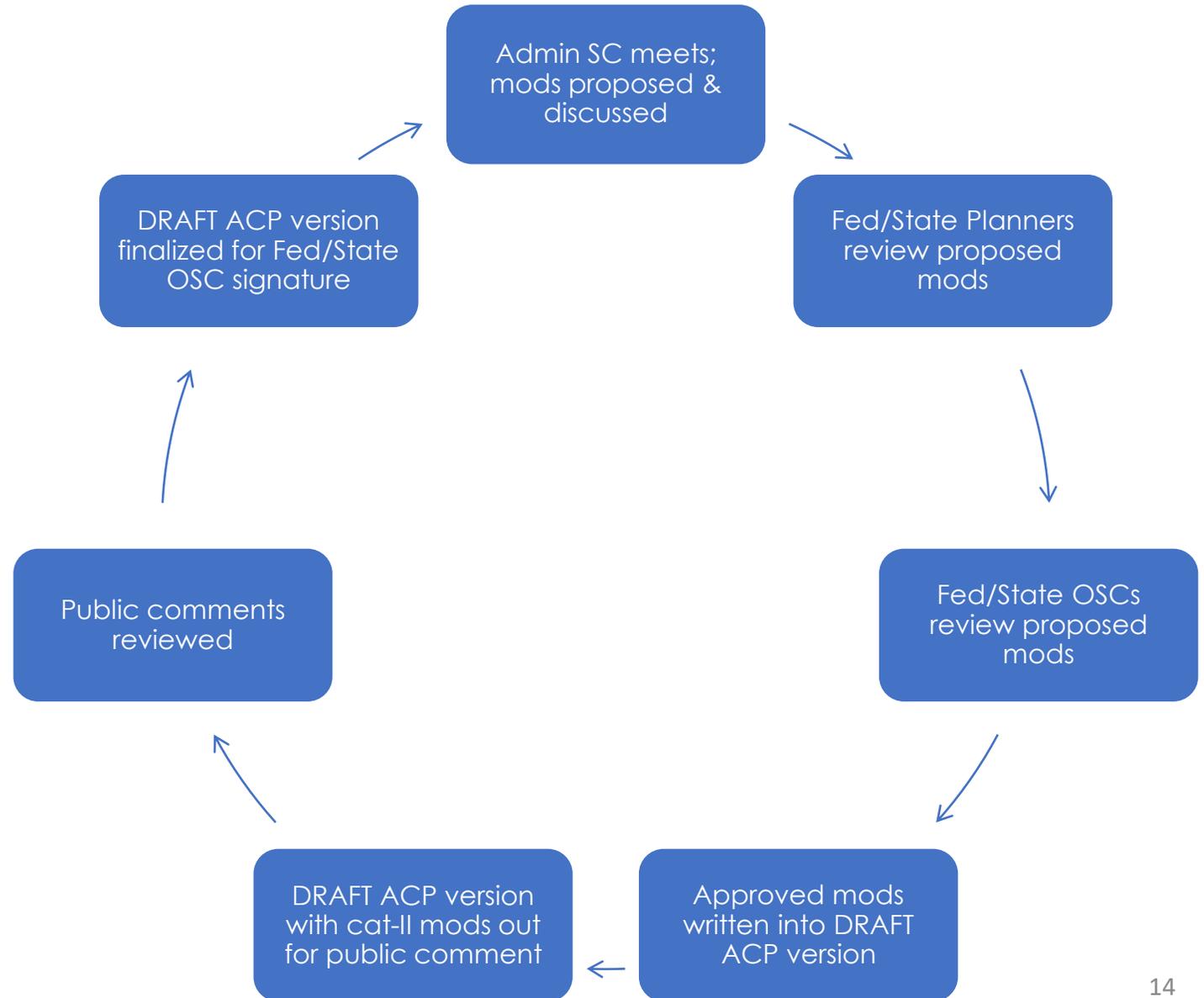


AK Acp modification process

Admin SC is where Area Committees can receive proposed modifications

ACP proposed modification process managed by fed/state planners with assistance from SPC

Exercise lessons learned and/or other SCs may propose modifications to Admin SC



testing Nrs family of plans

Area response drills: 40
CFR 300.211

The OSC periodically shall conduct drills of removal capability (including fish and wildlife response capability), without prior notice...and under relevant tank vessel and facility response plans.

NOTE: Lessons learned may be incorporated into industry or gov't plans

2016 NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS
FOR
RESPONSE EXERCISE PROGRAM
(PREP)
GUIDELINES

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Coast Guard



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



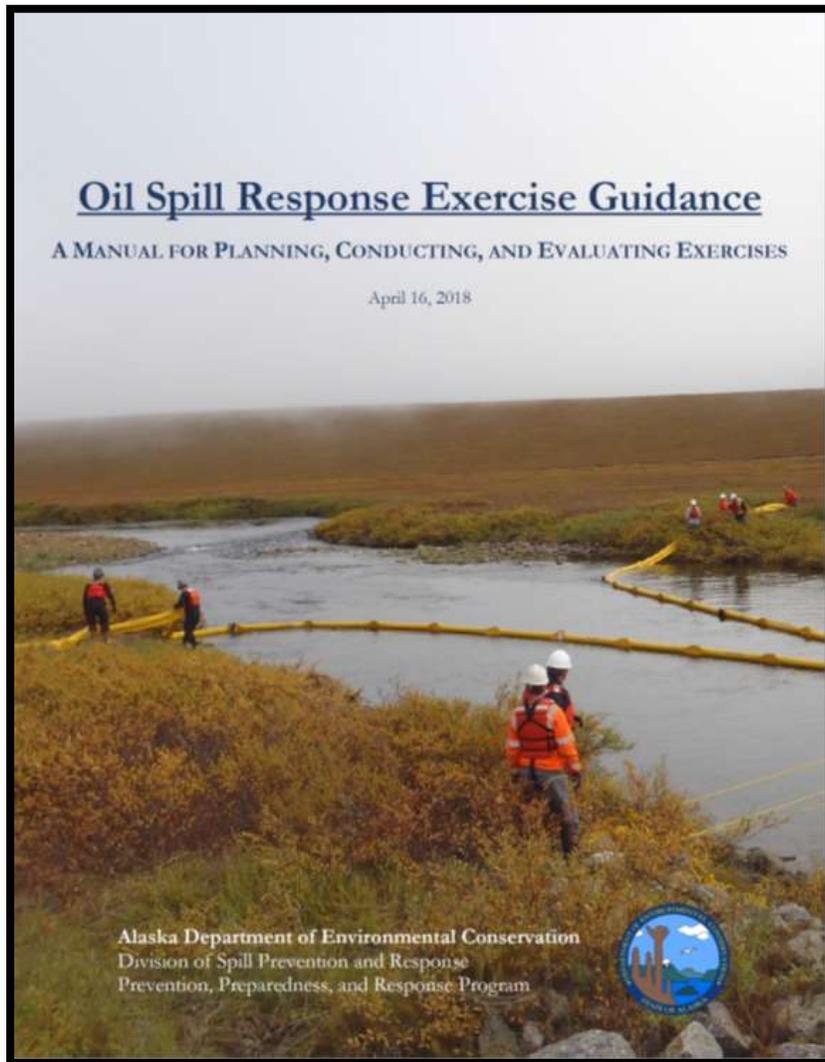
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement



State of Alaska Exercise Guidance

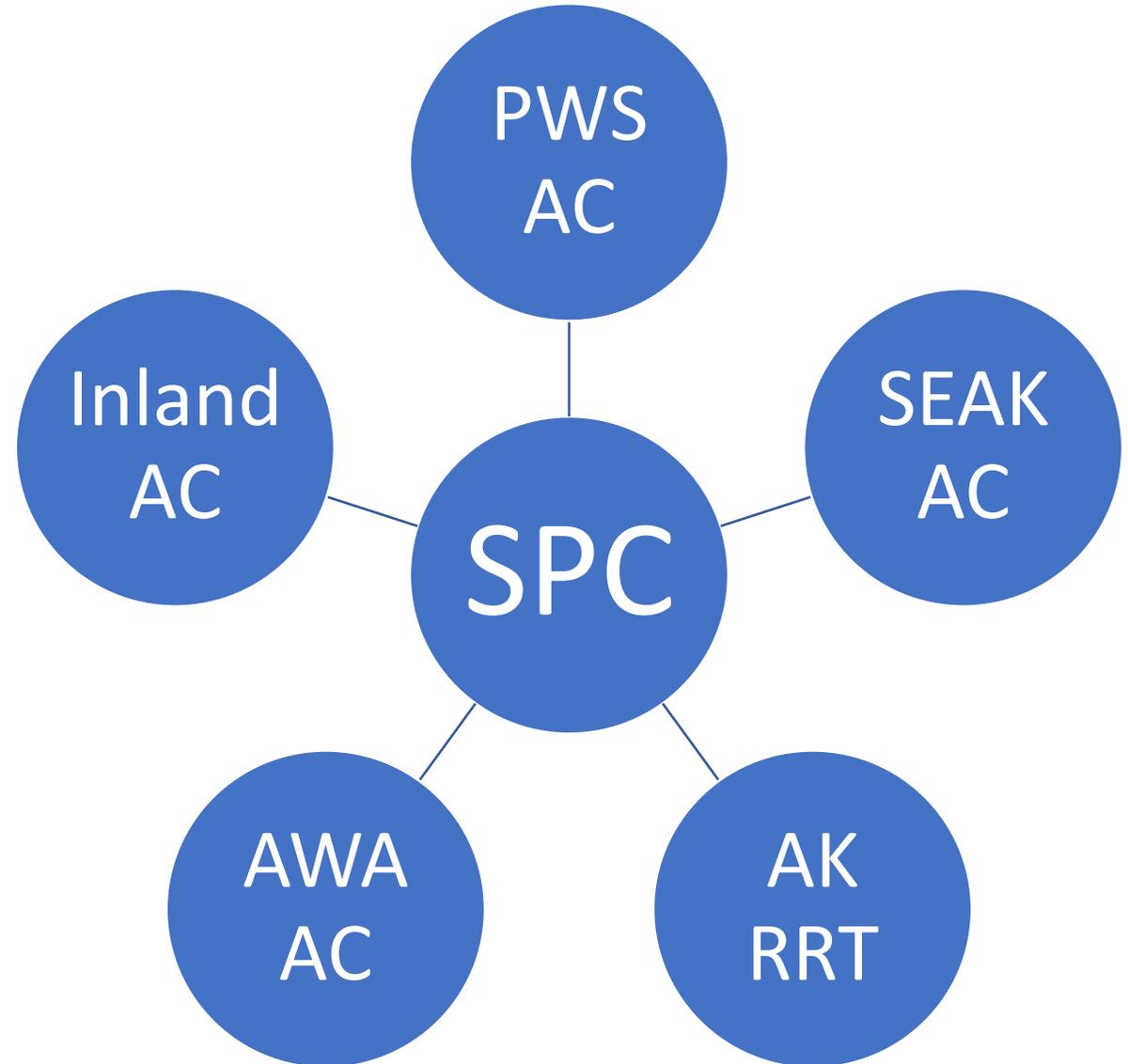


CONTENTS and PROVISIONS

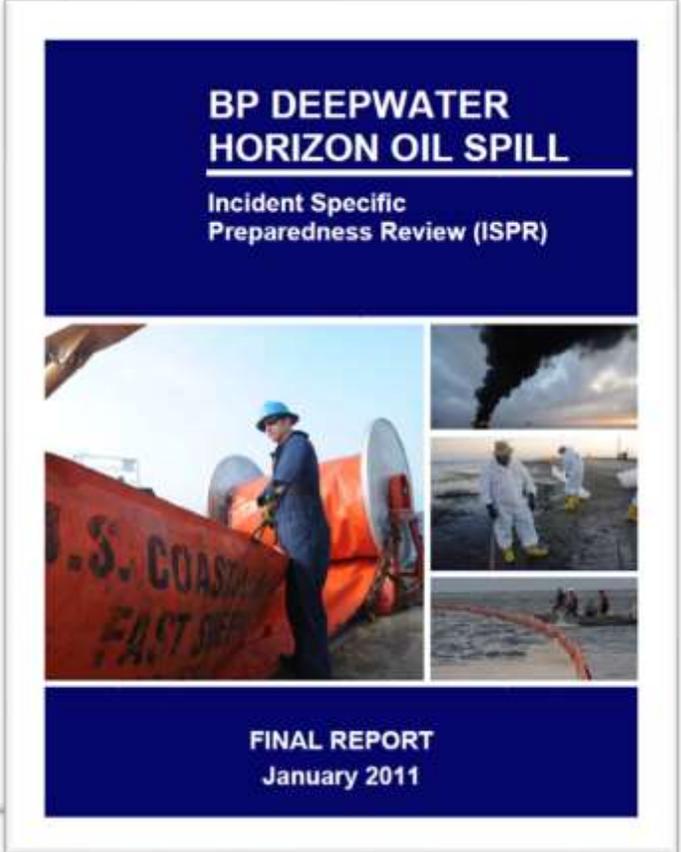
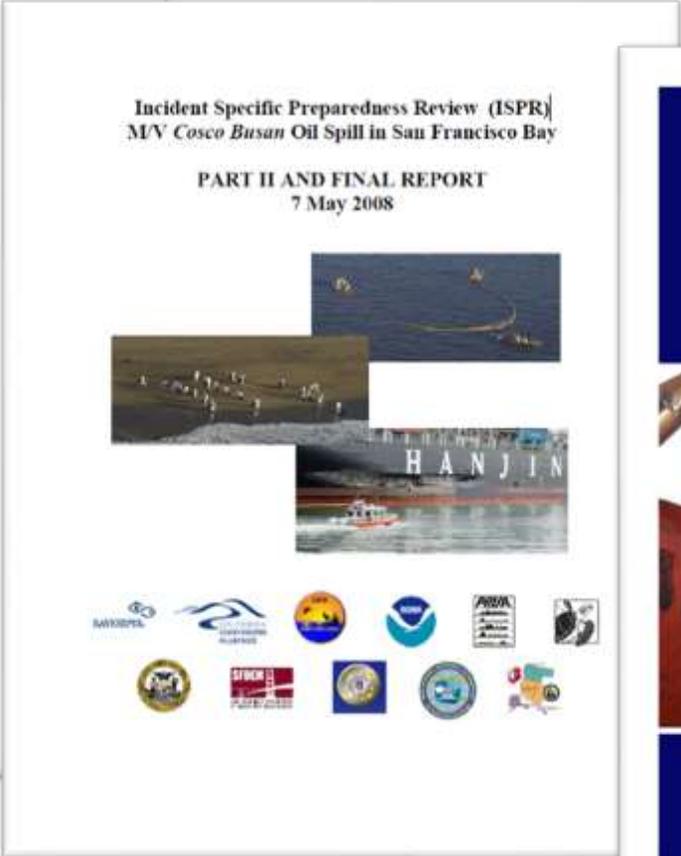
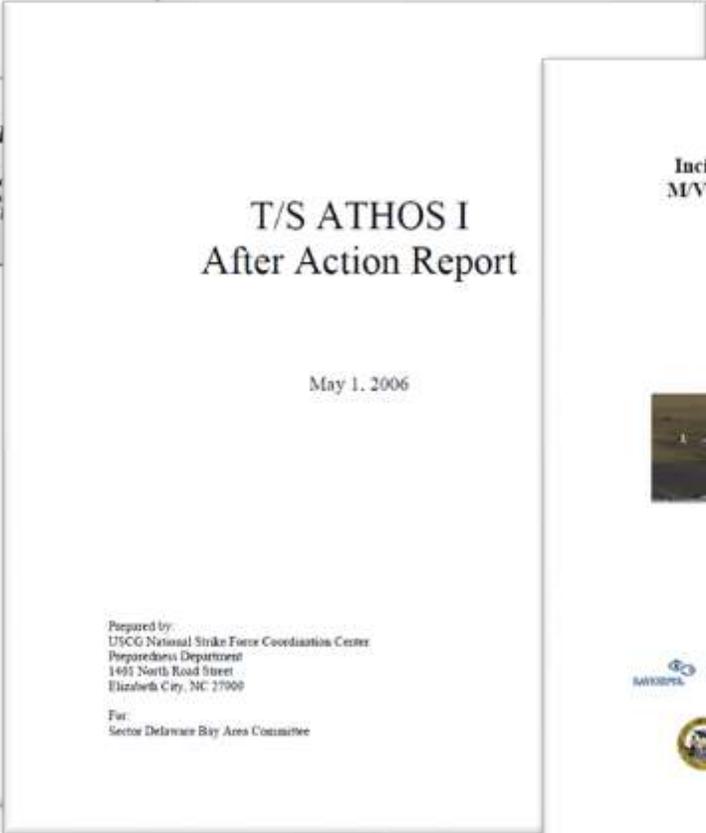
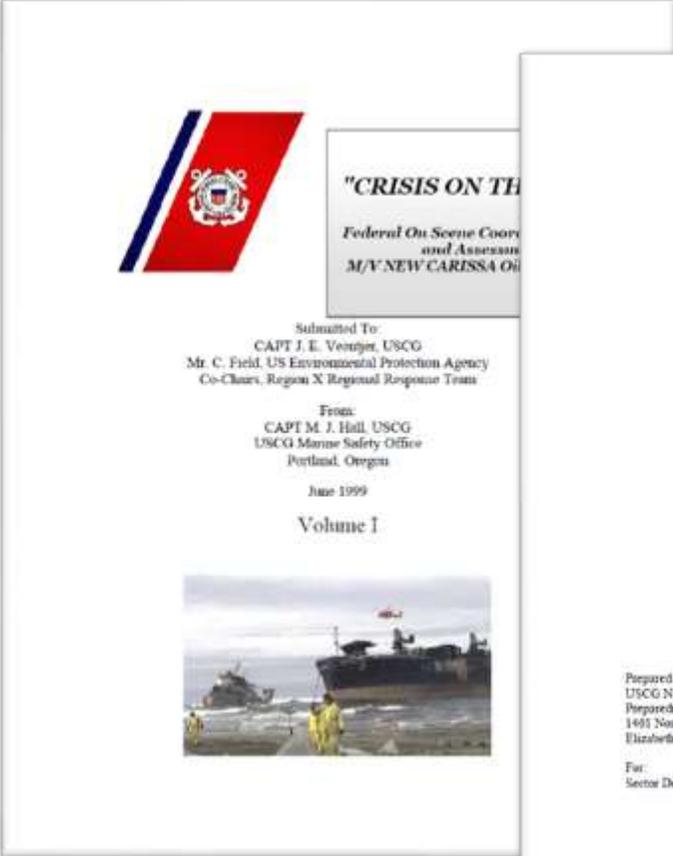
- Ensure preparedness and response capability
- Internal & external document
- Provides a common framework based on HSEEP
- Clarifies ADEC exercise requirements
- Clarifies ADEC staff roles & responsibilities
- Better alignment & coordination between Federal and State requirements
- Living document

Joint planning without joint plans

The **Statewide Planning Committee** is a collaborative effort between AK NRS agencies to share resources, expertise and information in order to leverage each agencies resources for the benefit of all and prevent contingency planning communication gaps.



Routine participation with RRT's and Area committees are a proven planning and preparedness system across the country



National Response Framework (NRF)



National Response Framework

*Fourth Edition
October 28, 2019*

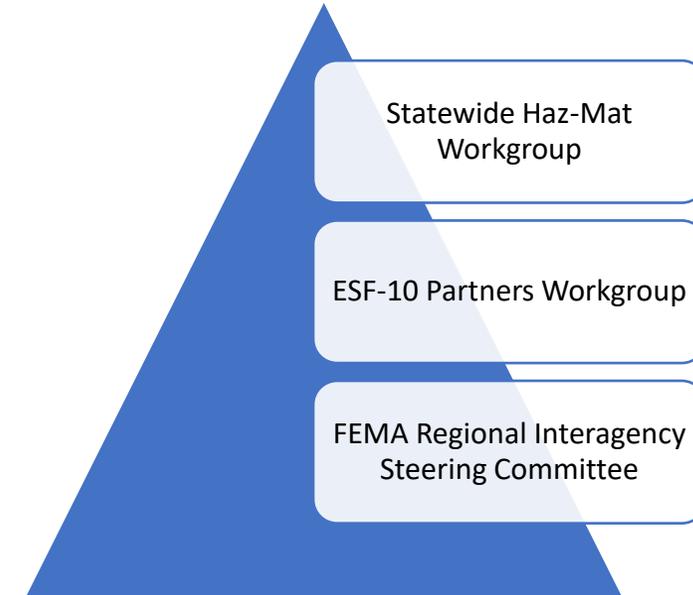


national response system and Emergency management connections

National response system:



National response framework:





Oil and Chemical Spills: Federal Emergency Response Framework

David M. Bearden
Specialist in Environmental Policy

Jonathan L. Ramseur
Specialist in Environmental Policy

August 29, 2017

Congressional Research

www.

CRS REPORT
Prepared for Members and
Committees of Congress

In practice, the federal response to a discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance is most often executed under the regulations of the NCP alone, rather than through the coordinating structures of the NRF under ESF #10. The Secretary of Homeland Security's application of the NCP through the NRF appears to be less common and more limited to multifaceted incidents of greater magnitude, scope, and complexity that may necessitate the coordination of multiple federal response plans. For example, the Department of Homeland Security has stated that the NCP still was applied to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill as a stand-alone regulatory authority without involvement of other federal response plans under the NRF. Regardless of whether the NCP is applied as a stand-alone regulatory authority or through the NRF, the procedures for responding to a discharge of oil or release of a hazardous substance are the same because the NCP remains the operative plan in either instance.

NCP & Local Responders Unity of Effort

Best Practices



Emergency Managers continue to engage within Area Committees and Area PREP exercises



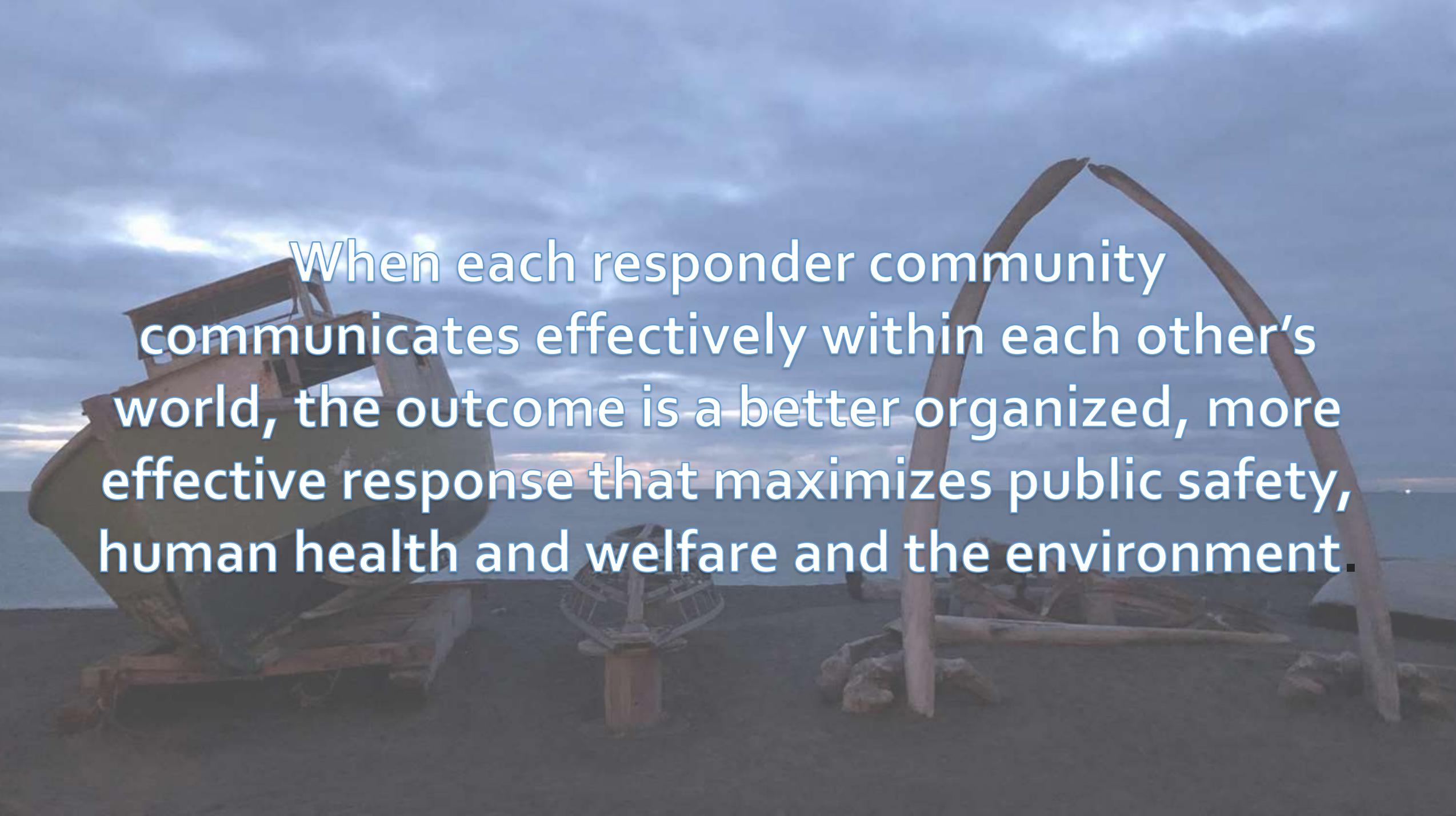
LEPC and Area Committees work together to enhance each other's contingency plans and planning effort



Continue to work to validate Geographic Response Strategies within the Area Contingency Plan



Establish consistent Liaison Officers between Local and State EOCs

A photograph of a beach at dusk or dawn. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a hazy glow. In the foreground, there is a large, rusted metal boat on the left and a wooden archway made of driftwood on the right. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

When each responder community communicates effectively within each other's world, the outcome is a better organized, more effective response that maximizes public safety, human health and welfare and the environment.



Arctic and western Alaska area committee construct

One of 4 Area Committees in AK:
(AWA, Inland, PWS, and Southeast)

Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee

CG Sector
Anchorage
FOSC:
Co-Chair

AK DEC
Central Area
SOSC:
Co-Chair

AK DEC
Northern
Area SOSC:
Co-Chair

Mission Statement

The Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee (AWA-AC) manages and continuously improves upon the Area Contingency Plan, and provides a platform for consistent coordination between federal, state, tribal and local emergency planners and responders.

Objectives:

1. Provide public transparency and communicate widely the efforts to develop and maintain the Nation's best coordinated system of highly trained and experienced National Response System planners, regulators and responders from all relevant public and private sector stakeholders.
2. The AWA-AC ensures expedited processes exist for exigent circumstances related to dispersant use and other mitigating substances and devices.
3. The AWA-AC is the venue for public input on all relevant government processes and scientific issues related to oil and hazardous substance spill prevention, preparedness, planning and response within the Arctic and Western Alaska.

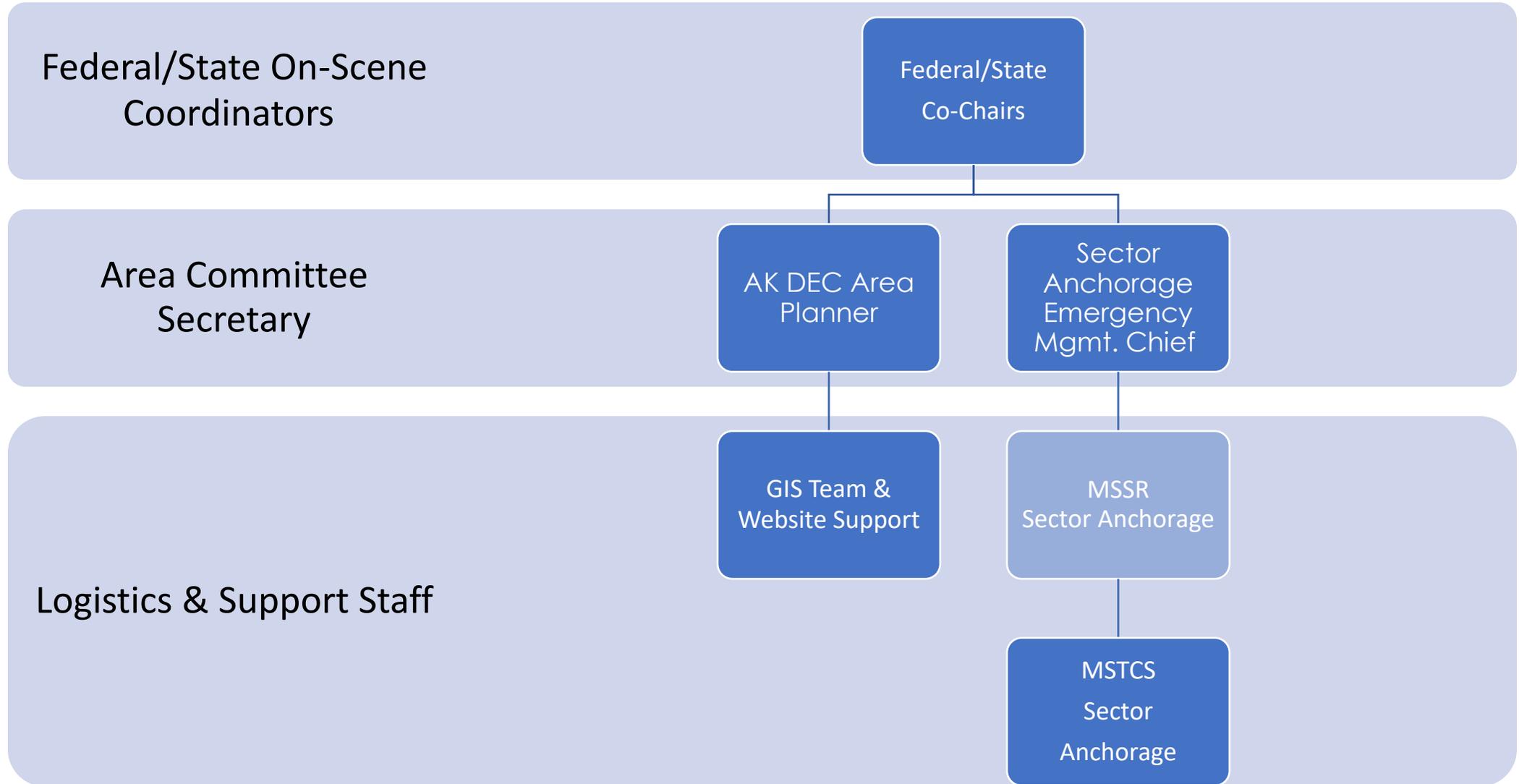
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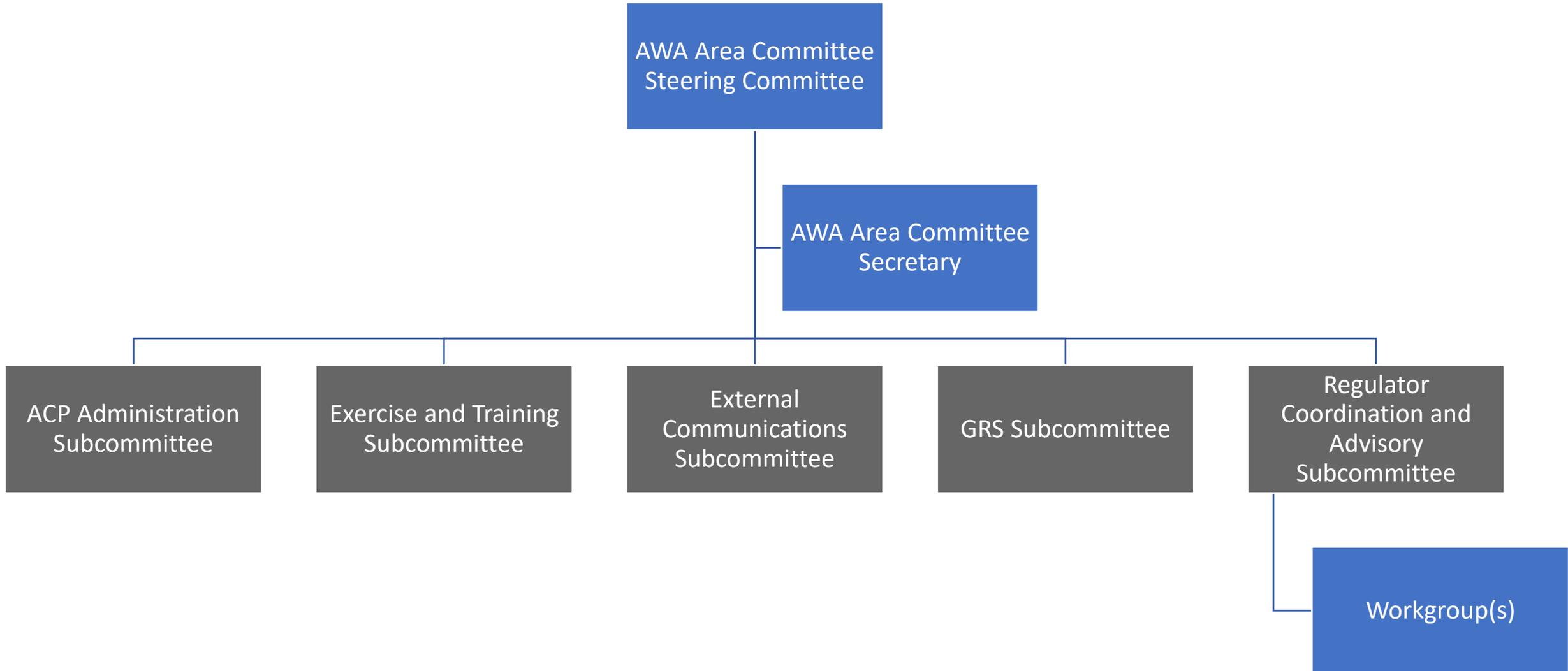
Vision statement

The premier planning, regulatory and response coordination committee that maximizes protection of human health and the environment in the maritime and coastal regions of the Arctic and Western Alaska.

Awa area committee key positions



AWA AC Construct



AK area committees

What else do you need to know about AK Area Committees?

Each reflect their available resourcing; all leverage joint planning without joint plans via SPC

Must maintain formatting requirements established by NRT; but content may differ based on specific needs

Area Committee subcommittees/workgroups also vary depending on personnel and other resources

Follow sponsorship model for individual projects related to contingency planning



Reporting spills in alaska

Federal and State Oil Spill Reporting Placards

IT'S THE LAW!

AS 46.03.755 and 18 AAC 75.300

REPORT OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILLS

During Normal Business Hours

call the nearest response team office:

Central Alaska: Anchorage	(907) 269-3063 Fax: (907) 269-7648
Northern Alaska: Fairbanks	(907) 451-2121 Fax: (907) 451-2362
Southeast Alaska: Juneau	(907) 465-5340 Fax: (907) 465-5245
Alaska Pipeline: Fairbanks	(907) 451-2121 Fax: (907) 451-2362

Outside Normal Business Hours

Toll Free	1-800-478-9300
International	1-907-269-0667



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/spillreport.htm

Hazardous Substance

Any hazardous substance spill, other than oil, must be reported immediately.

Oil - Petroleum Products

To Water

- Any amount spilled to water must be reported immediately.

To Land

- Spills in excess of 55 gallons must be reported immediately.
- Spills in excess of 10 gallons, but 55 gallons or less, must be reported within 48 hours after the person has knowledge of the spill.
- Spills of 1 to 10 gallons must be recorded in a spill reporting log submitted to ADEC each month.

To Impermeable Secondary Containment Areas

- Any spills in excess of 55 gallons must be reported within 48 hours.

Additional Requirements for Regulated Underground Storage Tank Facilities

Regulated Underground Storage Tank (UST) facilities are defined at 18 AAC 78.005 and do not include heating oil tanks.

If your release detection system indicates a possible discharge, or if you notice unusual operating conditions that might indicate a release, you must notify the ADEC UST Program within 7 days.

UST Program: (907) 269-3055 or 269-7679



National Response Center

1-800-424-8802



Report Spills to the NRC at:

1 800 424-8802

The National Response Center is the SOLE national point of contact for reporting Oil, Chemical, Radiological and Biological discharges.

regulated facility Challenges

Prevention, planning, and preparedness requirements differ based on type of facility (see complex facility, next slide)

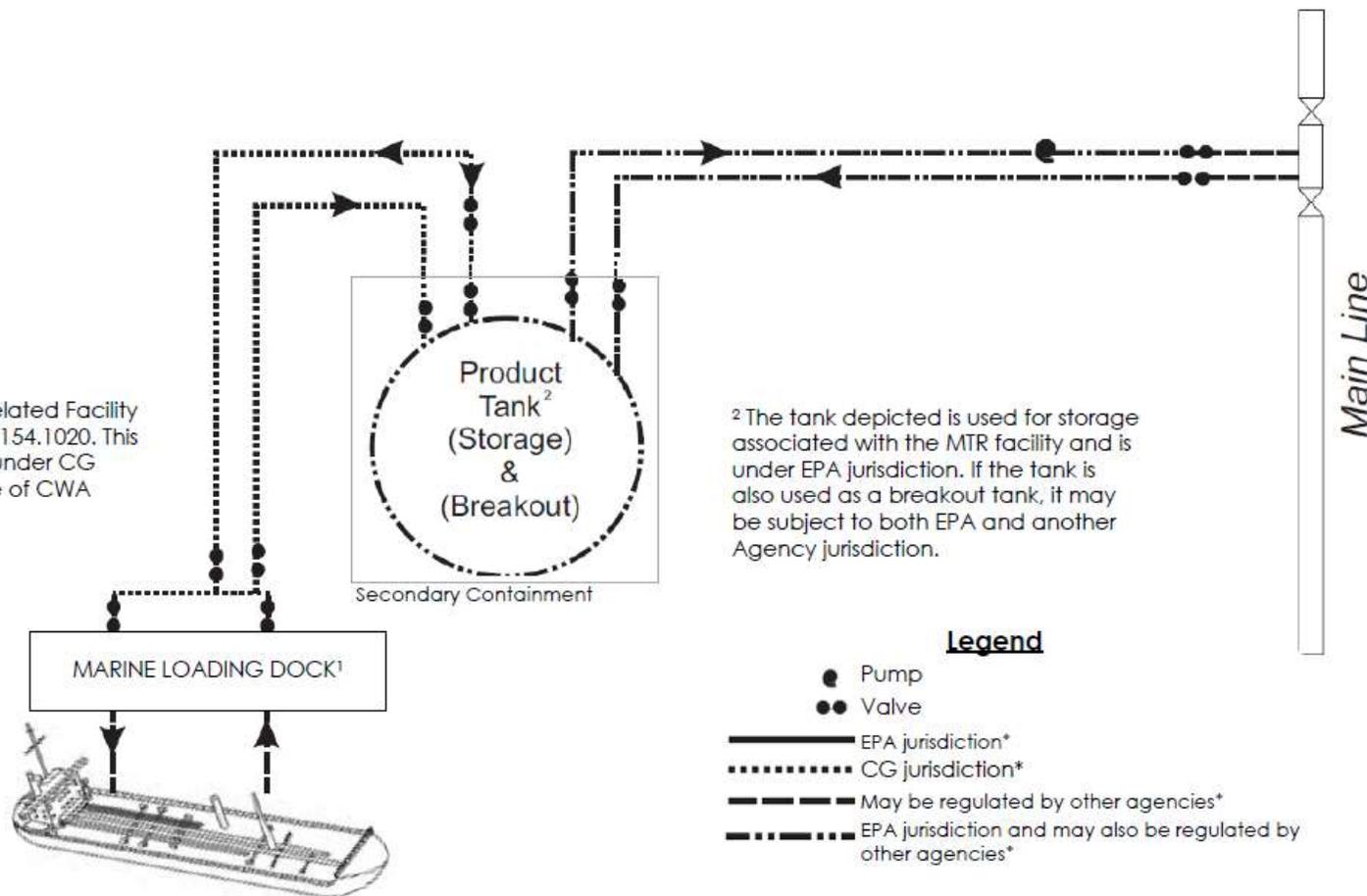
Prevention regulations and relevant inspection program may be different from assigned federal OSC (EPA or CG) during a response

Inland/Coastal FOSC boundary within AK established within RCP via MOA

Federal Agency jurisdiction for prevention regulations

EPA, COAST GUARD, AND OTHER AGENCIES JURISDICTION AT COMPLEX FACILITY

¹ Marine Transportation-Related Facility (MTR) is defined in 33 CFR 154.1020. This segment of a complex is under CG jurisdiction for the purpose of CWA Section 311 (j).



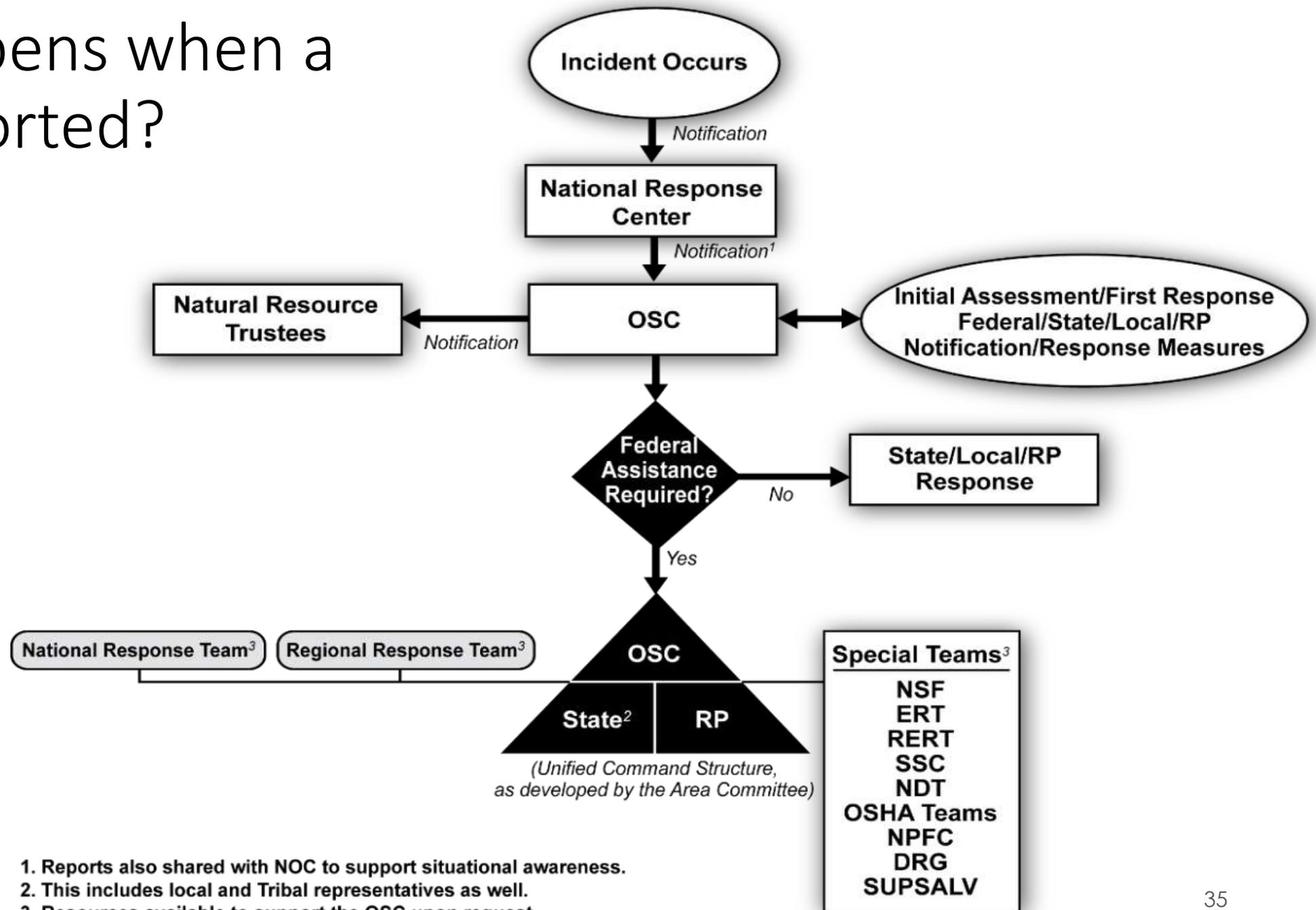
² The tank depicted is used for storage associated with the MTR facility and is under EPA jurisdiction. If the tank is also used as a breakout tank, it may be subject to both EPA and another Agency jurisdiction.

* This diagram does not identify the precise location where the change in jurisdiction may occur between EPA and any other agencies for the purpose of the Clean Water Act, Section 311 (j) (33 USC 1321 (j)). When the pipeline operator and the storage or breakout tank operator remain the same, the change in jurisdiction occurs at the first meter, valve, or isolation flange at or inside the facility property line. When the pipeline operator and the storage or breakout tank operator are not the same, the change in jurisdiction occurs at the change in operational responsibility or at the first meter, valve, or isolation flange at or inside the facility property line. In either of the above situations, the location of the property line should not solely be used to determine jurisdiction when operational activities (loading/offloading) extend beyond the property line.



What happens when a spill is reported?

What happens when a spill is reported?

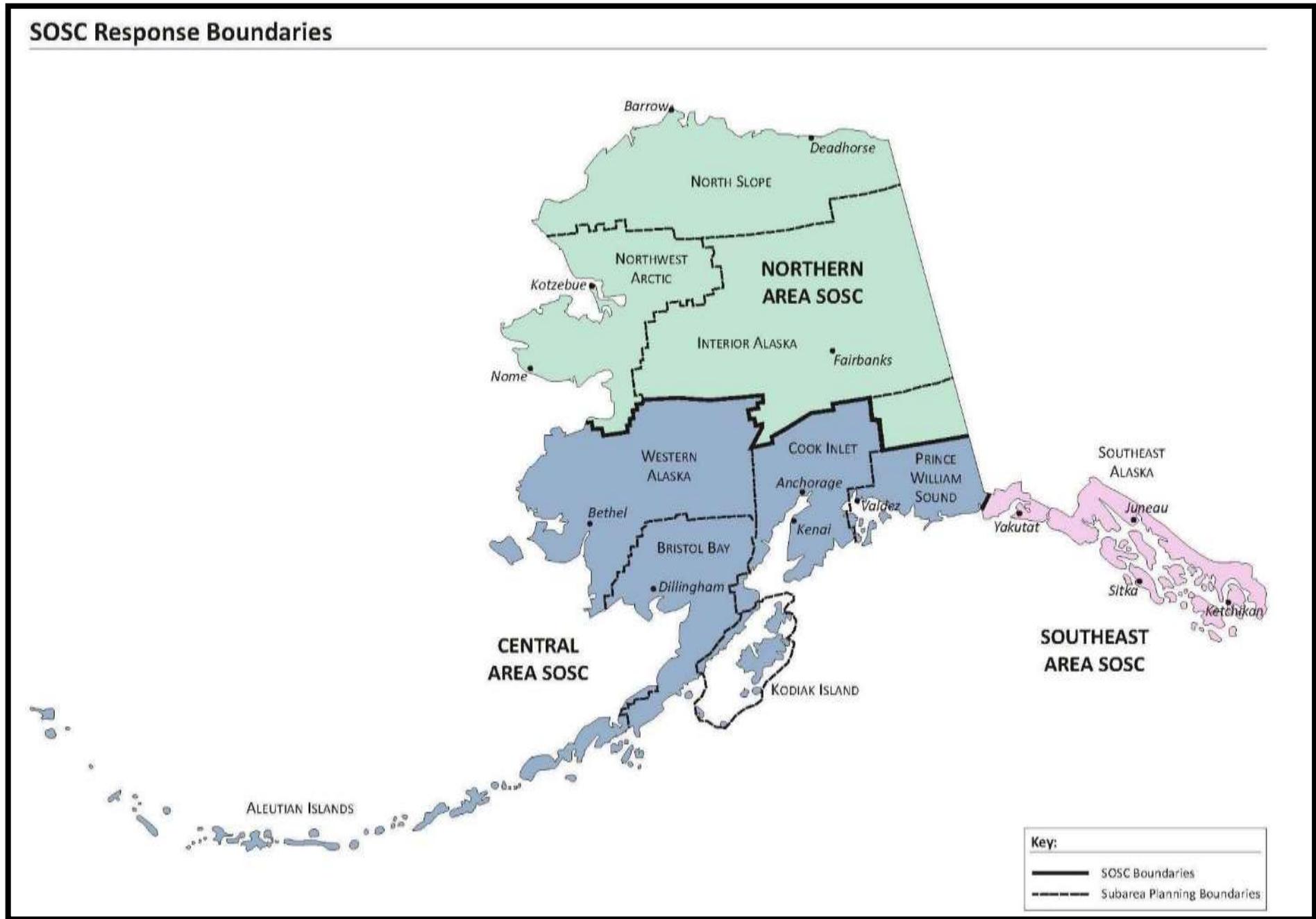


1. Reports also shared with NOC to support situational awareness.
2. This includes local and Tribal representatives as well.
3. Resources available to support the OSC upon request.

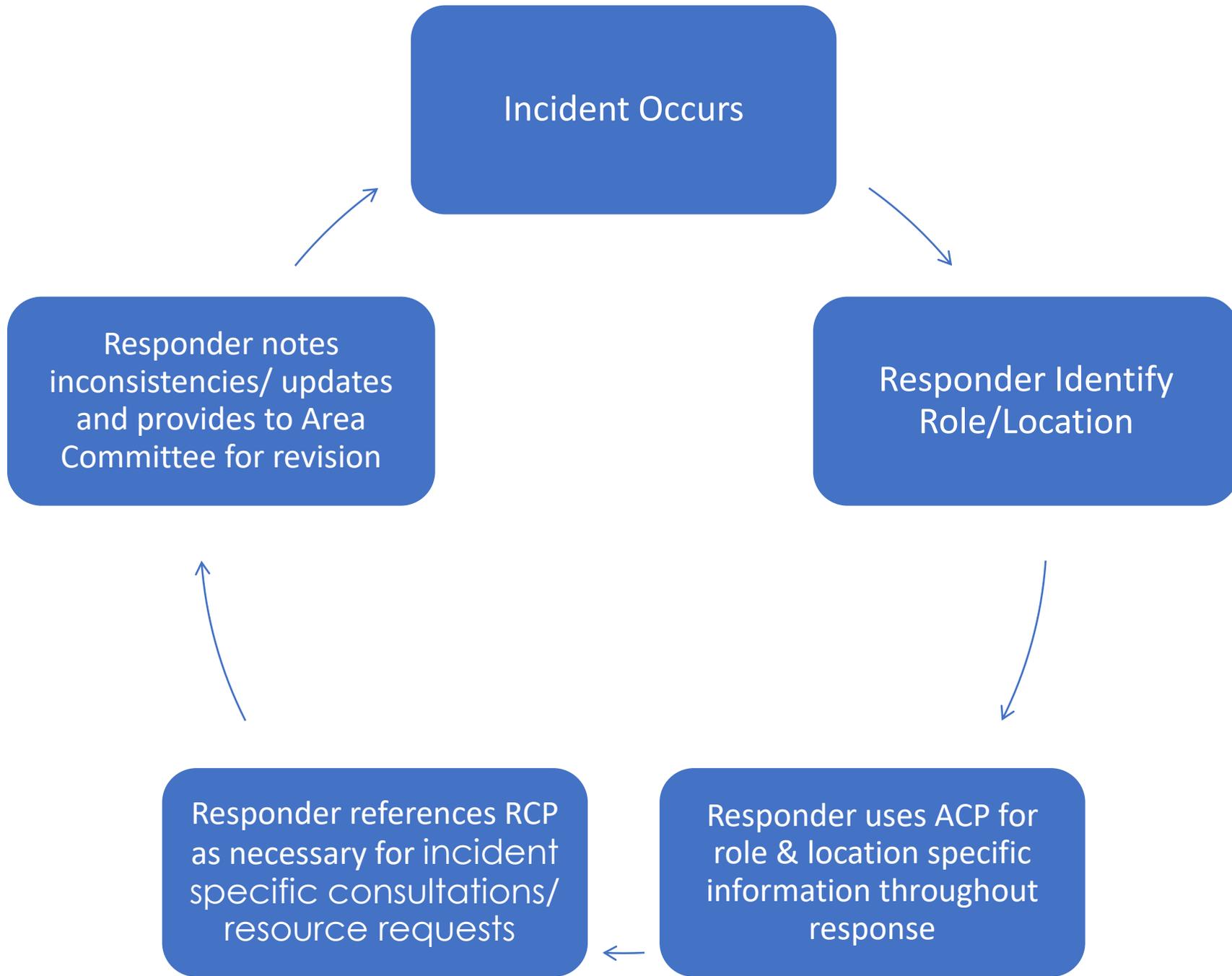
EPA and Coast Guard OSC and Area Committee jurisdictional boundaries



State of Alaska has authority across preparedness and response regulatory activities



Contingency plan lifecycle





For more
information on
area planning

Area Contingency Planning (ACP) Handbook / Version 2.0 / August 2018





You Are Here: [DEC](#) / [SPAR](#) / [PPR](#) / [Contingency-plans](#) / [Response-plans](#) / [Regional And Area Plan Background Information](#)

REGIONAL AND AREA PLAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION



Promulgated in September 2018, the State of Alaska's planning framework for response to oil spill and hazardous materials releases aligns with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (National Contingency Plan) and the National Response Framework.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Region 10, and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) District 17 and Sector Anchorage, Sector Juneau, and Marine Safety Unit Valdez manage response operations in accordance with the Alaska Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and four Area Contingency Plans (ACP). EPA is the predesignated Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) for inland areas and the USCG for coastal areas. ADEC is the predesignated State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) for all areas of the state.

Alaska Regional Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed by the Alaska Regional Response Team Establishes region planning policy Foundation for ACP development
Area Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators oversee ACP development Area Committees maintain, update, test and distribute Area-specific response plan, including resources and procedures

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AND PLAN INFORMATION

- [Regional and Area Contingency Plans](#)
- [Superseded Unified/Subarea Plans](#)
- For information regarding meeting locations and agendas, visit the [Alaska Regional Response Team website](#)

RESPONSE PLAN LINKS

- [REGIONAL AND AREA PLANS](#)
- [PUBLIC REVIEW](#)
- [SUPERSEDED PLANS](#)
- [BACKGROUND INFORMATION](#)
- [NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN](#)
- [ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM](#)
- [DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN](#)

AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN LINKS

- [REFERENCES AND TOOLS](#)
- [ARCTIC & WESTERN ALASKA](#)
- [ALASKA INLAND](#)
- [PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND](#)
- [SOUTHEAST ALASKA](#)

ODPCP LINKS

- [INDUSTRY CONTINGENCY PLANS](#)
- [DO I NEED A CONTINGENCY PLAN?](#)
- [APPLY FOR A CONTINGENCY PLAN](#)
- [APPROVED PLANS](#)
- [PLANS UNDER REVIEW](#) 40
- [PRIMARY RESPONSE ACTION CONTRACTORS](#)

For latest info: ADEC Website

<http://alaska.gov/go/7EKN>



Questions??

Alaska specific Regional and AREA planning for oil & HAzardous substance response

Introductory Briefing to the National Response System



Indigenous Knowledge & Science in Decision-Making

Dr. Jim Kendall,
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

**A JOURNEY INTO ANOTHER
SYSTEM OF KNOWLEDGE**

Indigenous Knowledge & Science in Decision-Making



All of the Following Supports...

BOEM's Tribal Program & Responsibilities

- **DOI Tribal Consultation Policy**

<https://www.doi.gov/priorities/tribal-consultation>

- **Historical Lands**

<https://usg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eb6ca76e008543a89349ff2517db47e6>

- **Traditional Knowledge**

<https://www.boem.gov/about-boem/traditional-knowledge>

- **BOEM Tribal Guidance (June 29, 2018) – revisions under final review**

<https://www.boem.gov/about-boem/tribal-engagement>



Now an even HIGHER Priority!

BRIEFING ROOM

White House Commits to Elevating Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Policy Decisions

NOVEMBER 15, 2021 • PRESS RELEASES

“Indigenous Knowledge should inform Federal decision making,” **said the President’s Science Advisor and OSTP Director Dr. Eric Lander.** “This effort will give Federal agencies the tools they need to ensure Indigenous knowledge is appropriately considered and elevated.”

BOEM Alaska is already well known for this!



Process has been Peer Reviewed, *but Still Evolving*

Present at the 2017 Arctic Science Summit Week – Prague, Czech Republic

- **Well received by the Arctic Council's Permanent Participants**

Published - Czech Polar Reports: *Kendall et al., 2017*

Published – The Journal of Ocean Technology: *Brooks et al., 2019*

Poster Presentation – Alaska Federation of Natives: *Coon et al., 2019*

- Arctic Futures 2050 International Conference 2019

Mark Storzer & Dennis Thurston

Presentations:

- **DOI Arctic Coordination Committee**
- **Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC)**
- **Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum (Pan-Arctic International Forum)**
- **Arctic Research Consortium of the United States (ARCUS)**
- **Environmental Security Working Group - NGA**
- **Alaska Cooperative Planning Group/DOI Region 11**
- **Also shared with the AEWC and the ICC**



Indigenous Knowledge

“A body of evolving practical knowledge based on observations and personal experience of local residents over an extensive, multi-generational time period”

BOEM Ocean Science Journal, 2012

Sometimes perceived as difficult to integrate with “Science”



Our Evolution:

*We are not the experts.
We are listening to the experts.*

BOEM & DOI have evolved over decades in our understanding and use of Indigenous Knowledge

For example, within BOEM: The first EIS's in the **1970s** didn't mention traditional knowledge.

By the **1980s**, BOEM included IK in a separate sections which quite often consisted of a quote from an elder on a particular subject.

By the **1990s**, BOEM started to understand the importance and value of Indigenous Knowledge and began to incorporate it throughout the EISs.

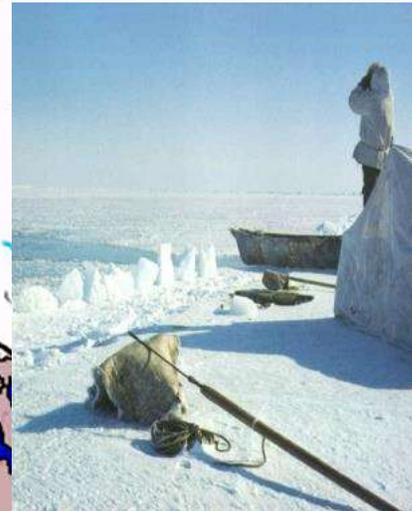
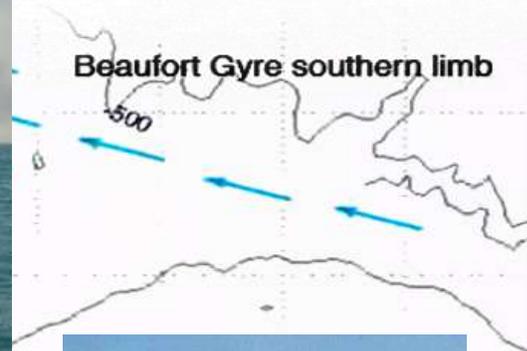
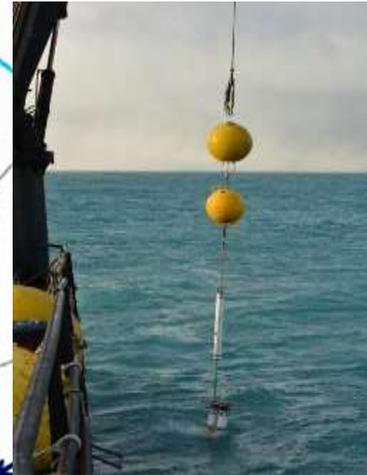
By the **2000s**, BOEM began to understand that science and decision-making would benefit from the appropriate use of this knowledge system.



Ocean Currents: *Example of Two Knowledge Systems*

Sometimes perceived as difficult to integrate with “Science”

- **Qaisagniq** – the current that brings ice and holds ice tight. Strengthens in May. It is farther offshore in November through April.
- **Pirugagnaq** – current to the southwest.
- **Kanañaiññaq** – onshore current that pushes ice shoreward and closes the lead, often with wind, but not always.
- **Atchagnaq** – wind driven, offshore directed current that can open the lead.



Adapted from Johnson et al., 2014



The Evolution of a New Paradigm

“It is important to understand and respect that these are two different knowledge systems, with different methodologies that often ask different questions...”

These two knowledge systems often complement each other -- providing a whole picture of what is occurring within the Arctic.”

Inuit Circumpolar Council, personal communication to J. J. Kendall, at a meeting of the Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council, Iceland, 2014



We now treat Indigenous Knowledge and Science as independent, but comparable knowledge systems in our decision-making.



Why venture down this path?

- a) The use of Indigenous Knowledge facilitate openness;
- b) Co-produces new knowledge;
- c) Garners understanding, acceptance, and trust;
- d) Enhances our understanding of indigenous perspectives; and,
- e) Respects Sovereignty, it's *their* Table



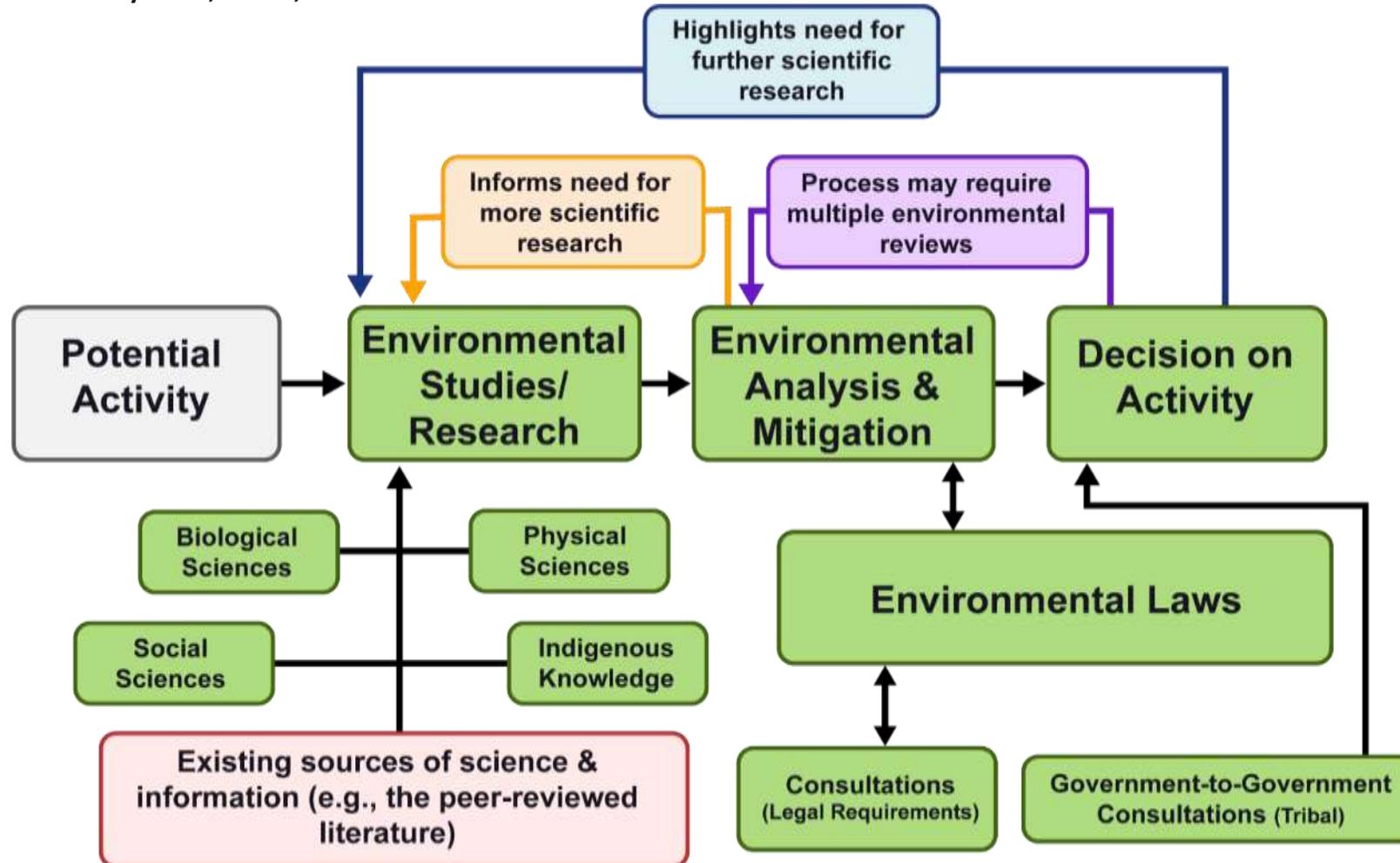
A Lesson from History: *Lasting Trauma*

- International Whaling Commission (IWC) estimated bowhead population at ~600 to 1,800 whales
- 1977, IWC 'banned' subsistence whaling: caused cultural trauma
 - United States conducted new census of whales
 - Iñupiat proven correct – bowhead population five times greater than IWC estimated
- 1978, IWC made two important changes:
 - Banned commercial whaling
 - Implemented new quota system to support subsistence whaling



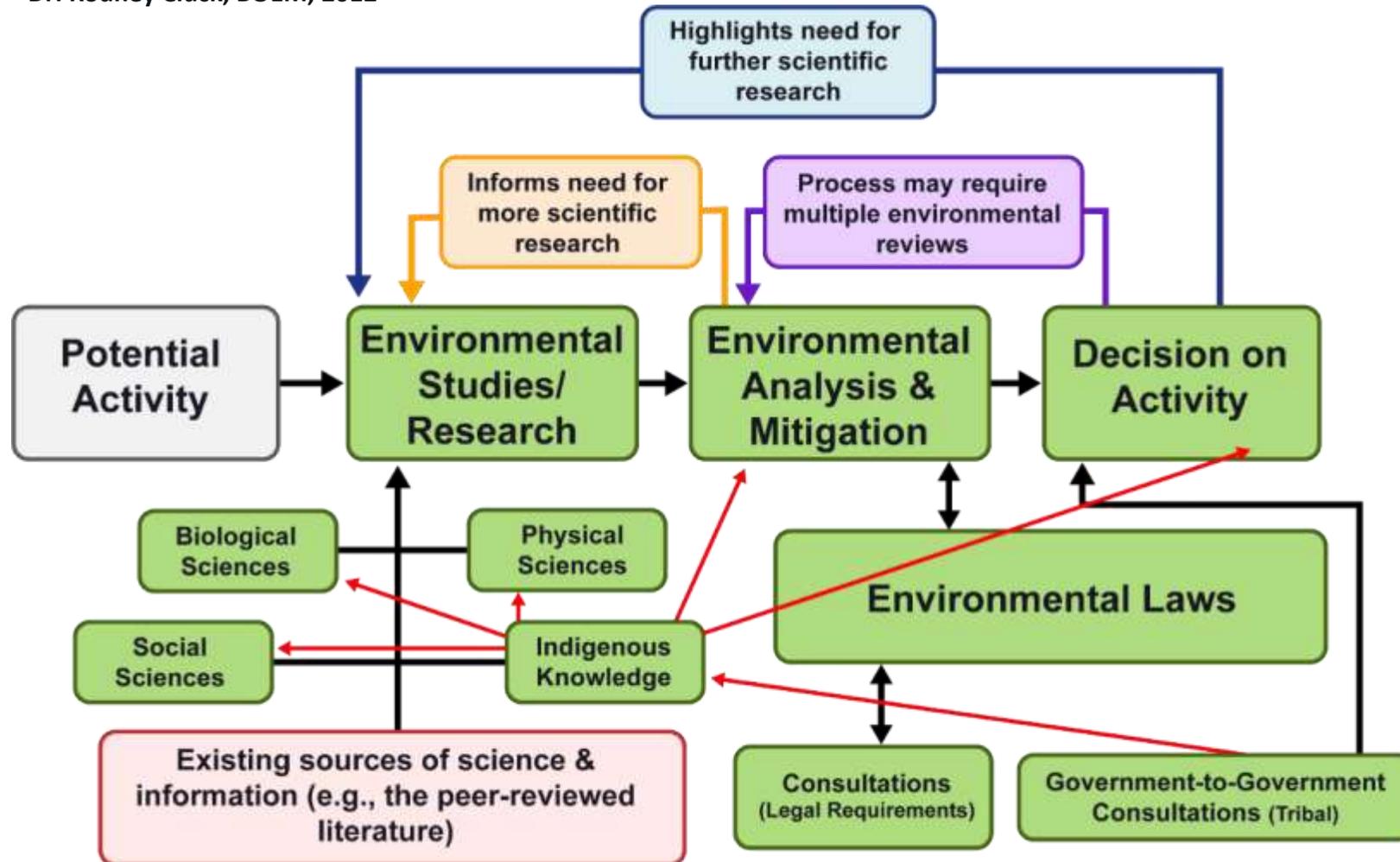
Science, Analysis, & Decision-making

Original Model design by:
Dr. Rodney Cluck, BOEM, 2012



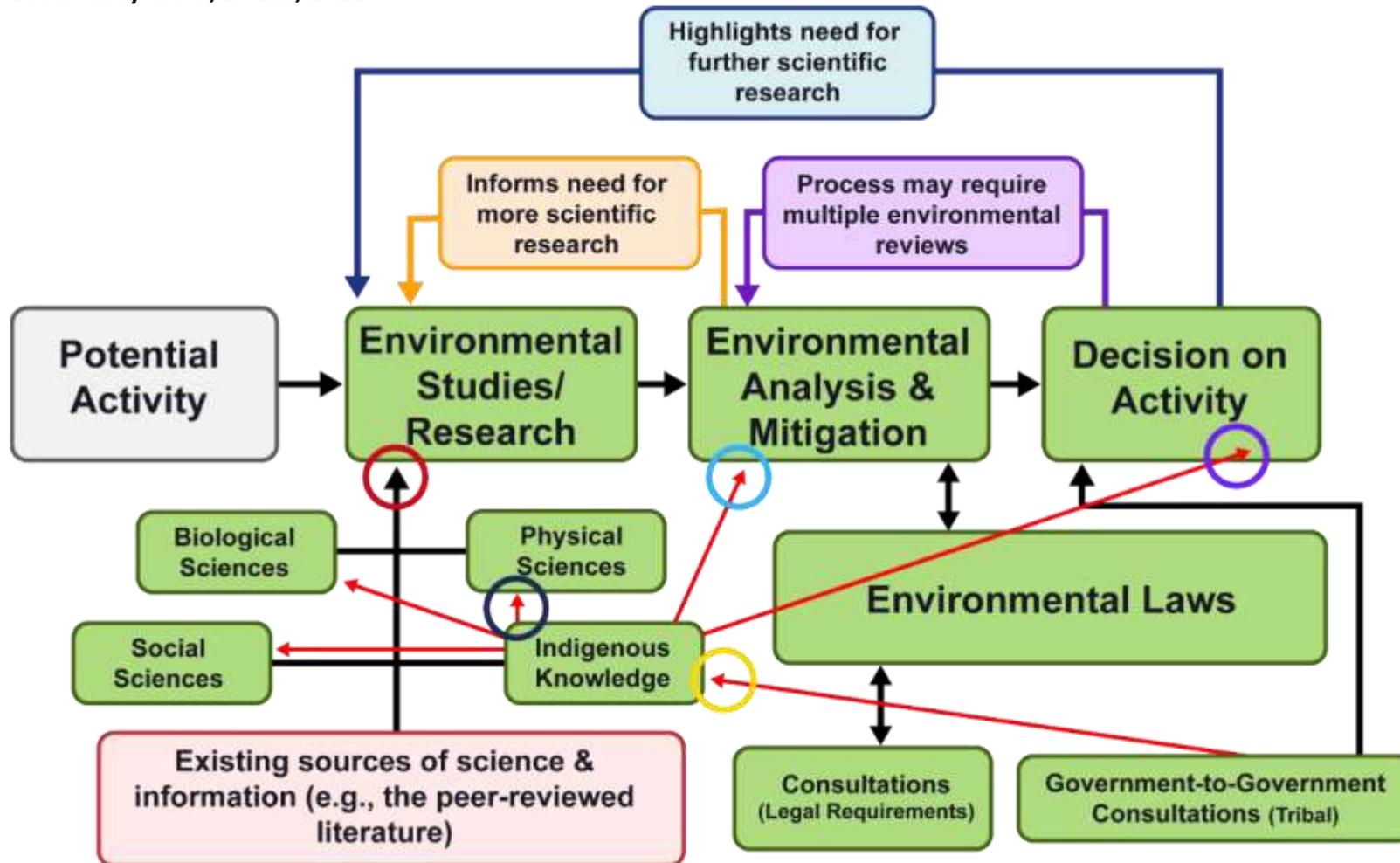
Science, Analysis, & Decision-making

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Dr. Rodney Cluck, BOEM, 2012



Five Real World Applications

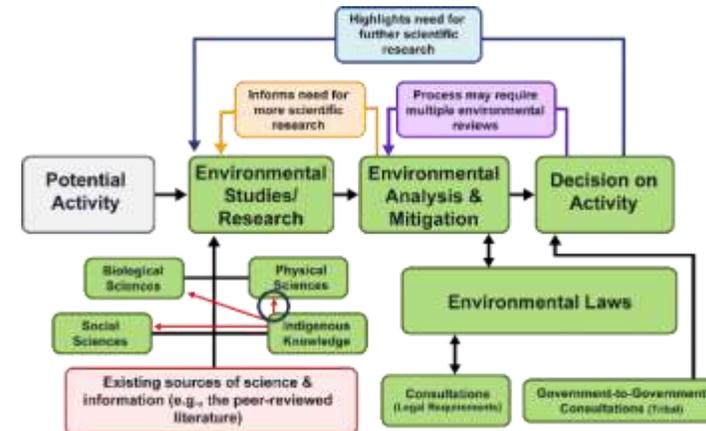
Original Model design by:
Dr. Rodney Cluck, BOEM, 2012



Application 1: Using IK in the Design of Science

Why did the Arctic cisco of the Colville River, an important subsistence fishery, crash?

- BOEM hosted a series workshop of Iñupiat fishers, elders, and scientists to prioritize concerns about the 3-year demise of Arctic cisco.
- A panel of indigenous experts guided the research from the hypothesis stage to preparing the final report.
- The beginning of our *next* Journey – *Co-production of knowledge*



Why is Co-production of Knowledge Important?

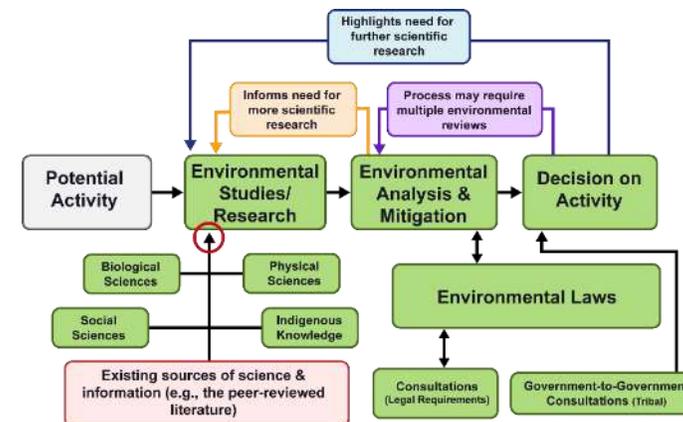
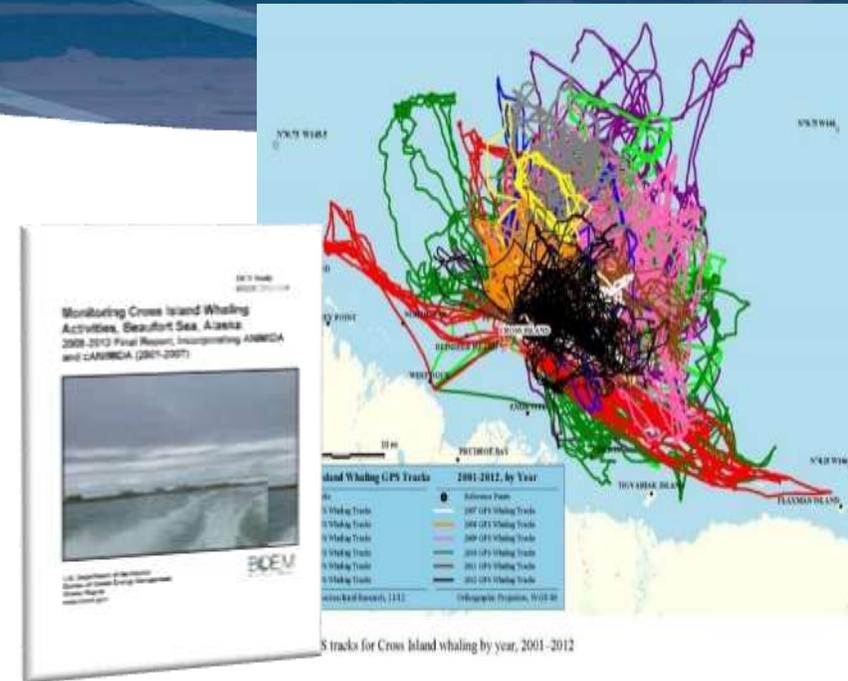
- **Co-production adds equality of knowledge & intellectual authority.**
- **Co-production allows for mutual benefits.**
- **Role of IK Holders**
 - **Inform research proposals & goals at early stages**
 - **Provide accurate & detailed information across time**
 - **Provide interpretations & recommendations**
 - **Contribute insights into new models of the environment**
 - **Work with agencies to develop co-production guidelines**



Application 2: Using BOTH Knowledge Systems

Cross Island Subsistence Bowhead Whale Hunt Mapping

- IK about whale behavior underscored Iñupiat concerns that industrial activities would impact hunting success.
- Hunters provided GPS Units to record boat tracks and whale strikes.
- **Result: Convergence of BOTH knowledge systems, enabling conflict avoidance.**
- **Co-production of Knowledge**



Application 3: Using IK in Environmental Analysis

Whalers wrote letters (2015 & 2016) to decision-makers regarding the construction of Liberty, a gravel island in Beaufort Sea

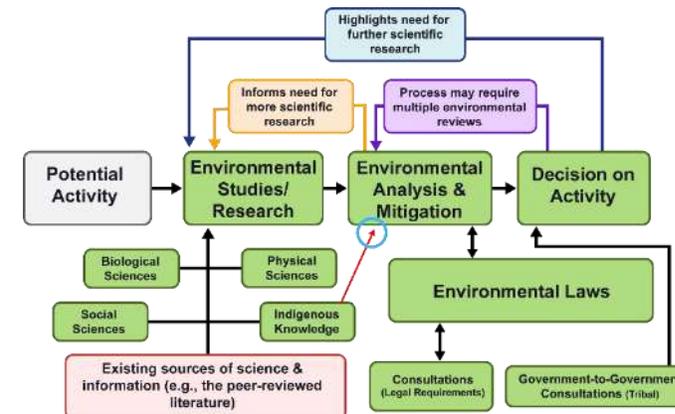
BOEM's Goal: Incorporate IK into our analysis & mitigations

Objective: Reduce/avoid impacts to subsistence whaling

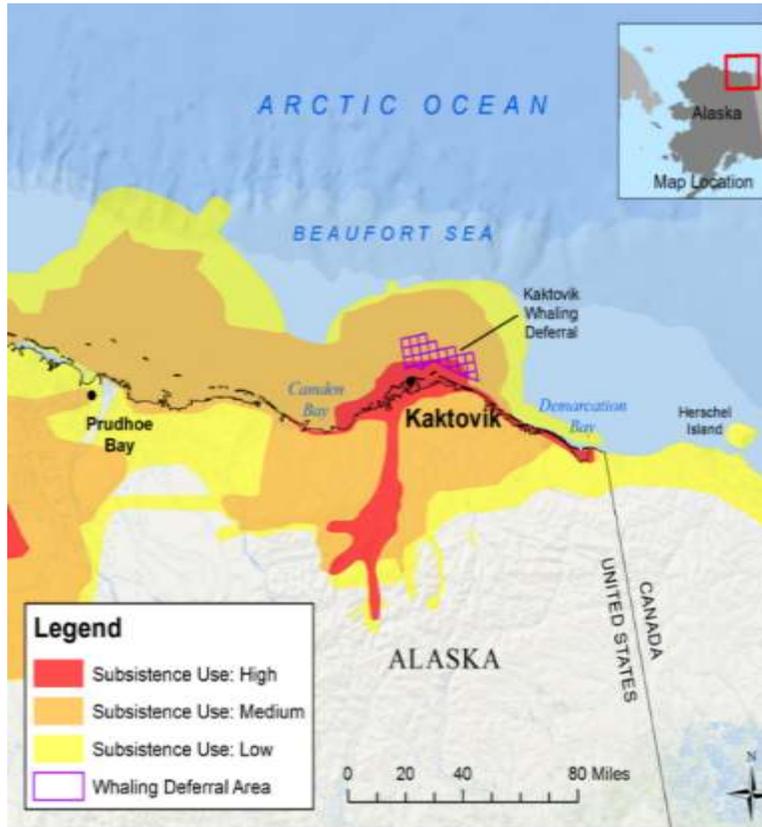


Mitigation provided by the Indigenous knowledge holders (whalers)

- **Quiet periods** during whale migration & harvest season
- **Communication center** for whalers and industry to minimize conflicts
- Industry vessels use **best efforts** to avoid whales and whalers
- With the whalers, develop **best practices** when vessels approach active subsistence hunting
- Establish a **conflict resolution process**

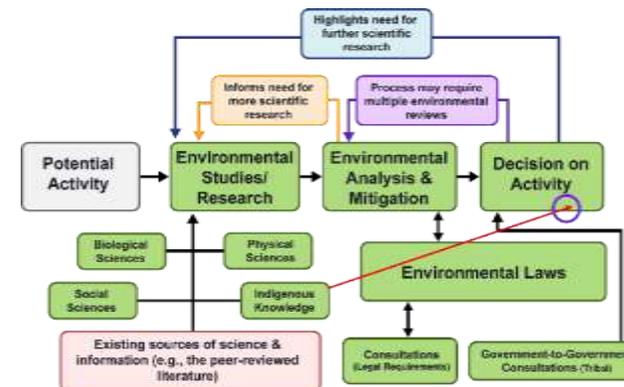


Application 5: Programmatic Decision-making Stage



Kaktovik Marine Subsistence Use

- IK informs the Iñupiat about the most productive areas for hunting.
- Subsistence foods include Bowhead whales, Beluga whales, and seals.
- Kaktovik hunters depend on these resources for their food security.
- An area was deferred from leasing during the 2012 -2017 period to avoid conflict between subsistence use and OCS activities.



Our Best Practices

- Show respect for values & traditions
- Active listening
- Collaboration (*the highest level of Partnership*)
- Engagement – frequent conversations
- Exchange of reports & findings

* *“It’s all about sharing”*



Photo: <https://www.north-slope.org/>

Harry Brower, Jr.*
Mayor, North Slope Borough



Documenting Our Evolution:

CZECH POLAR REPORTS 7 (2): 151-163, ASSW 2017

Use of traditional knowledge by the United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to support resource management

James J. Kendall Jr.¹, Jeffrey J. Brooks¹, Chris Campbell¹, Kathleen L. Wedemeyer¹, Catherine C. Coon¹, Sharon E. Warren¹, Guillermo Auad², Dennis K. Thurston¹, Rodney E. Cluck², Frances E. Mann¹, Sharon A. Randall¹, Mark A. Storz¹, David W. Johnston¹, Deanna Meyer-Pietruszka³, Michael L. Haller¹

¹Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, Anchorage, AK, USA

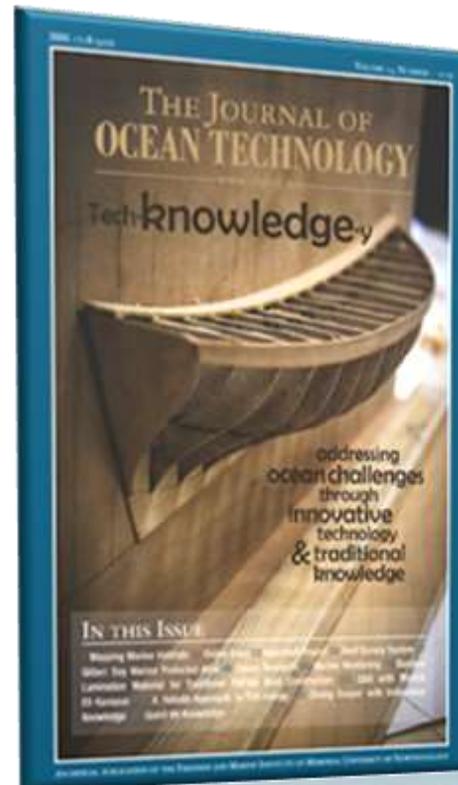
²Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, Sterling, VA, USA

³Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, Washington DC, USA

Abstract

Professionals who collect and use traditional knowledge to support resource management decisions often are preoccupied with concerns over how and if traditional knowledge should be integrated with science. To move beyond the integration dilemma, we treat traditional knowledge and science as distinct and complementary knowledge systems. We focus on applying traditional knowledge within the decision-making process. We present succinct examples of how the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has used traditional knowledge in decision making in the North Slope Borough, Alaska: 1) using traditional knowledge in designing, planning, and conducting scientific research; 2) applying information from both knowledge systems at the earliest opportunity in the process; 3) using traditional knowledge in environmental impacts assessment; 4) consulting with indigenous leaders at key decision points; and 5) applying traditional knowledge at a programmatic decision level. Clearly articulating, early in the process, how best to use traditional knowledge and science can allow for more complete and inclusive use of available and pertinent information.

DOI: 10.5817/CPR2017-2-15



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & SCIENCE in Decision Making

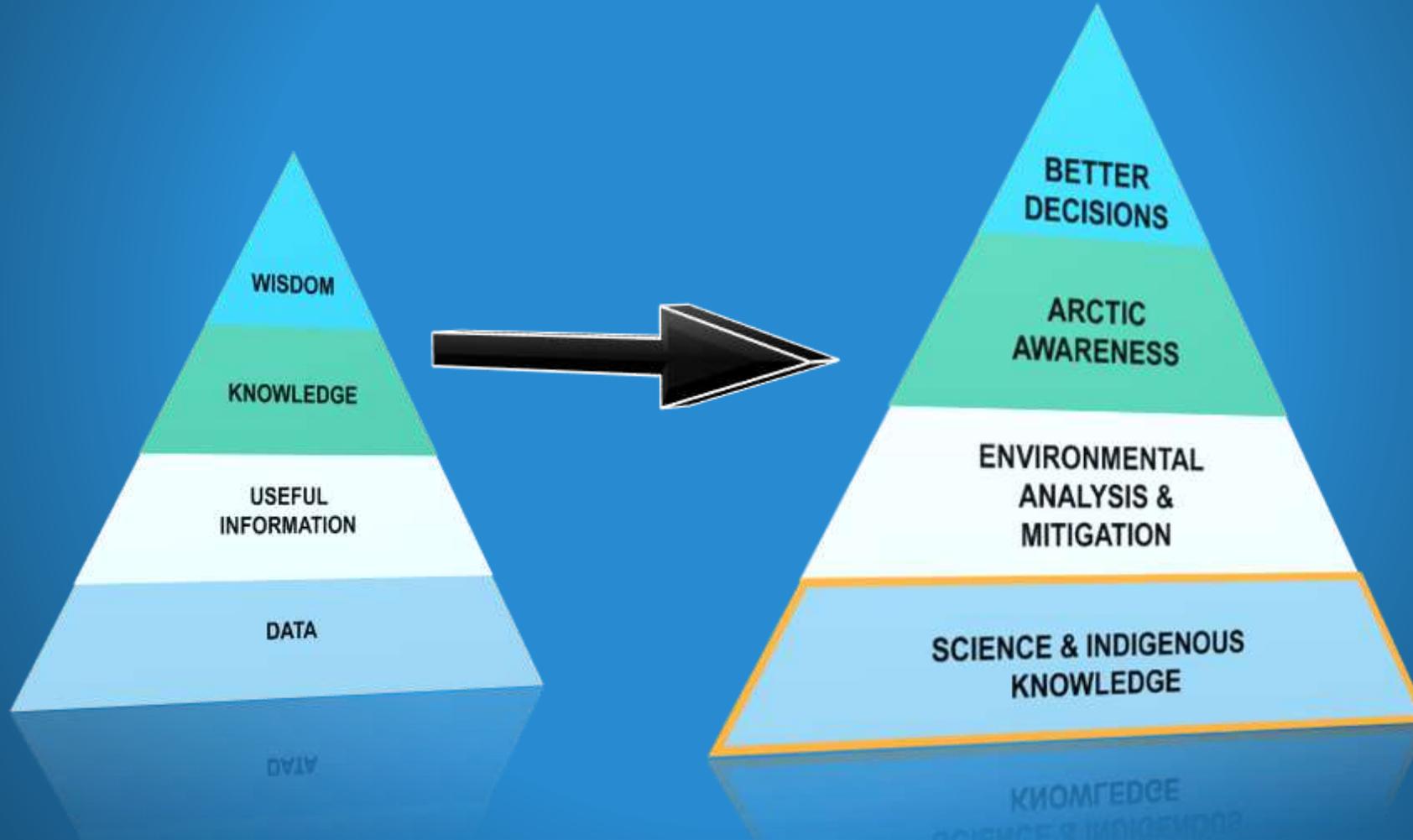
Over time, BOEM has developed a decision-making process that strives to use both science and Alaska Native traditional knowledge. We do this to better understand the local environment and potential impacts of proposed activities. Here we highlight our partnership with Nuiqut whaling crews. Each fall, they travel to camp at Cross Island to look for whales to bring home to their community. Working with whaling captains and an anthropologist, BOEM sponsored a 12-year project that combined the whalers' knowledge of the hunt with GPS technology. Our study recorded whalers' observations and documented the importance of hunting areas. Applying the traditional knowledge of our Alaska Native partners in the decision-making process provides a more complete view of the environment. BOEM gains a greater understanding of the potential impacts of proposed projects and learns how to prevent possible conflicts with subsistence practices. BOEM is looking for more partnerships with Alaska Native communities and new ways to apply traditional knowledge to reach better decisions.

<https://www.boem.gov>
<https://www.boem.gov/eng/press/pressrelease/22198>

BOEM
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

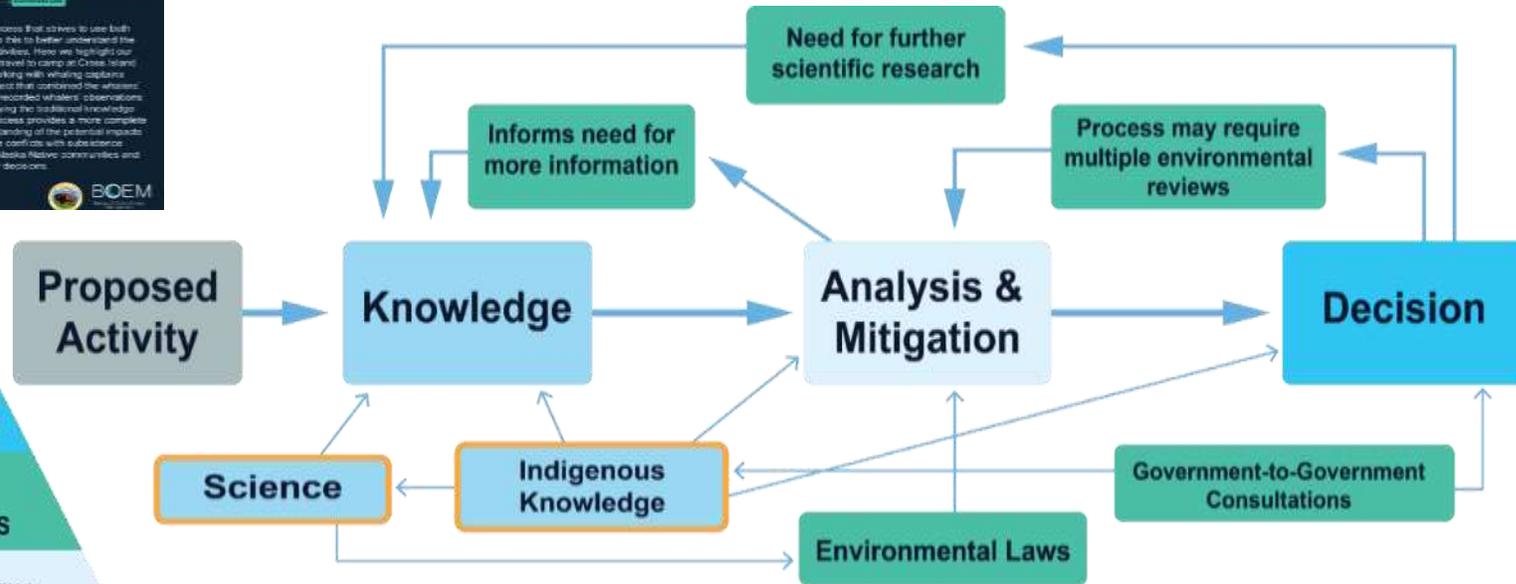
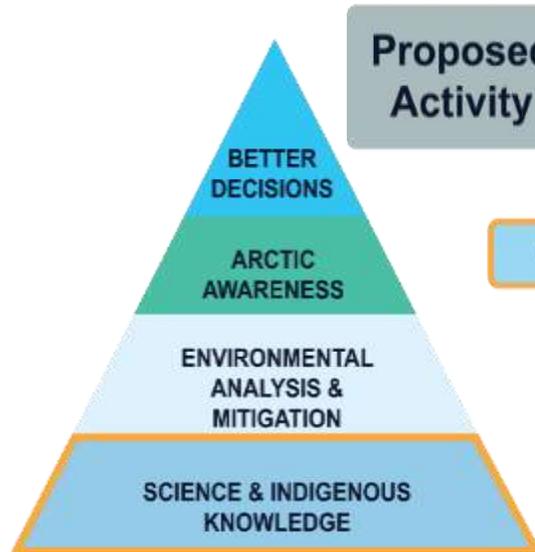
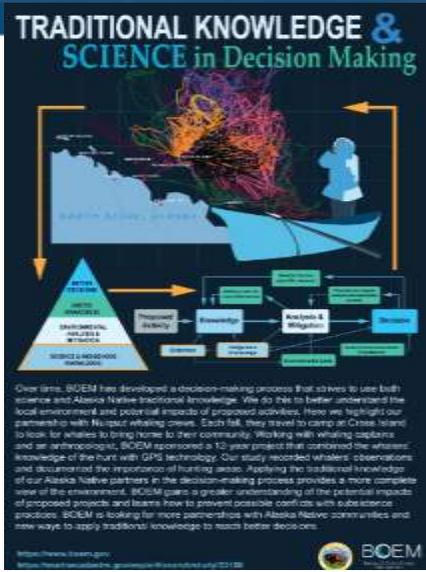


Our Process has Evolved!



A Better Decision-Making Process:

Knowledge, Analysis, Awareness



New Study with Indigenous Knowledge Holders

- **3-year study: Subsistence Harvest and Iñupiaq Knowledge of Beluga Whales for Kaktovik, Alaska**
- **IK holders from Kaktovik Tribal Council, City Council, hunters, & other local indigenous experts**
- **Scientist from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division and Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska**
- **Focus on harvest practices & cultural importance of beluga whales for the community**
- **Co-production of knowledge design**
- **Education product for high school students and teachers plus final report and graduate student thesis**



STEM Efforts: *Future Alaskan Scientists*

STEM is a full-contact, hands-on, two-way effort

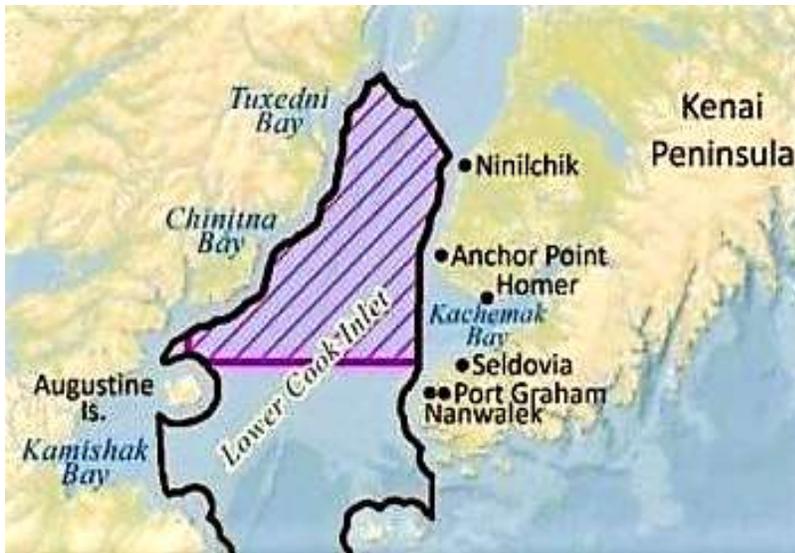
- Ongoing support for the Kaktovik Summer Science Camp – partnering with the Tribe, Community, and University of Texas
- Sustained support for the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program – through the University of Alaska Anchorage
 - Developing and facilitating addition of ANSEP internship(s) with BOEM Alaska Region
- Continuing support for Alaska Science Fairs at public and private schools (ready to go when schools give a post-pandemic green light)
- BOEM Alaska Region – Evening of Science Village Outreach Program
- Student Engineers Advancing Ocean Technology (SEA [O]Tech): A new project where a team of educators will work with students in rural communities to build ocean drifters and CTD's.



“Sharing” Information Sessions with Cook Inlet Tribes

2-Day Information Sessions with Cook Inlet Tribes

- Tribes requested, and we obliged ; partnered with EPA
- Highlighted BOEM’s unique missions and processes



Six Tribes and Two Tribal Entities Took Part, including:

- Chickaloon Native Village
- Eklutna Native Village
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Native Village of Port Graham
- Seldovia Tribe
- Native Village of Tyonek, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, & Chugach Regional Resources Commission



Opportunities for Increased Momentum!

- **Investment**: Inclusive and intentional decision-making takes time to build trust, respect, & relationships
- **Equitability**: Steps must include addressing capacity issues and associated costs of engagement
 - Appropriate Compensation for IK Holders
 - Broad Band
 - Staffing
 - Training for tribal partners



QUESTIONS?





Development of Response Information for Offshore Oil Spills in Area Contingency Plans

Gabrielle McGrath,
RPS Group



PUBLIC COMMENT



_ REVIEW OF PARKING LOT ISSUES
_ PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING
_ CLOSING REMARKS

Save the dates

Area Committee Meetings

- **AWA GRS Subcommittee Meeting**, February 22, 2022, 01:00 PM
- **Southeast Alaska Area Committee Meeting**, February 10, 2022, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM
- **Prince William Sound Area Committee**, April 7, 2022, Cordova, AK
- **AWA Area Committee**, April 19, 2022

ARRT 2022 Fall Meeting: September 22, 2022