



May 2013

Office of the Science Advisor

The Washington Office of the Science Advisor is contributing funding to support planning for [Steller's Eider](#) reintroduction on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. With this funding, Region 7 programs (FES, MBM, and Refuges) will work cooperatively with the Alaska SeaLife Center and the USGS Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to refine species-specific captive propagation and release techniques, incorporate climate change data into habitat suitability models to inform release site selection, and update the Steller's eider population viability model using new data and modeling techniques.

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

In April, Science Daily highlighted an [Arctic LCC](#)-supported project in its article: "[Breeding Birds Vulnerable to Climate Change in Arctic Alaska: A Story of Winners and Losers](#)". This project was leveraged by the LCC in conjunction with other partners. More detailed information about the project, including vulnerability assessments for over 50 species of arctic birds, can be found at the Arctic LCC website's [Project Summary](#).

The [Northwest Boreal LCC](#) Coordinator and Science Coordinator met with Refugees staff face-to-face in Kotzebue, Galena, Bethel, and McGrath to seek field input into the work of the LCC in mid-April. Many thanks to Mike Spindler for making this important field visit happen.

The Alaska Ocean Observing System, in partnership with the [Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC](#), launched the [Alaska Platform of Opportunity Portal](#) in early May. The portal is an interactive map-based portal that displays information about upcoming cruises in Alaska waters. The portal allows users to select specific research vessels and displays information including proposed cruise tracks, schedules, and vessel capabilities for individual cruise legs.

[Western Alaska LCC](#) is leading the effort on a National LCC Network call for “multi-LCC” support projects. Alaska's LCCs are working together with Refuges I & M, Water Resources, NFHP, USGS, and other agencies to develop a proposal to support National Hydrography Datasets stewardship for Alaska. This is one of the highest priority issues through the Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable hydrology work group and the Interagency Hydrology Committee for Alaska.

Upcoming Webinars & Presentations

North Pacific LCC

Please join us next Thursday for a webinar about the impacts of melting glaciers on nutrient supply and coastal ecosystems of the northern Gulf of Alaska.

- When: 30 May, 10:30-11:30 am (Alaska time)

You can register for this webinar [here](#). After you register, you will receive a confirmation with more information.

Western Alaska LCC

Please join us next Wednesday online or at the US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office Science Applications conference room (space limited) for a webinar updating

progress on a Western Alaska LCC-funded project to update shoreline layers in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

- When: 29 May, 12 - 1 pm (Alaska time)
- Who: Andrew Robertson, St. Mary's University, Minnesota
- What): "Digital Compilation of NHD Compliant Shoreline: A Catalyst for Spatial Data Integration on the Seward Peninsula"

1. To join online, go to <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?ED=205885552&UID=1402873697&PW=NZDZhYWRjM2Rj&RT=MiMz>

2. If requested, enter your name and email address.

3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password: walcc

4. Click "Join".

5. Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-730-5871 (US)

Attendee access code: 111111

Meeting Number: 743 707 846

What's New in Alaska Region Science

PUBLICATIONS

Recent Studies in Long-term Arctic Shorebirds Monitoring

McCaffery, B. J., J. Bart, C. Wightman, and D. J. Kreuper. 2012. Shorebird surveys in western Alaska. Pp. 19-36 in J. Bart and V. Johnston (editors). Arctic shorebirds in North America: a decade of monitoring. Studies in Avian Biology (no. 44), University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

Bart, J., V. Johnston, J. Rausch, P. A. Smith, and B. J. McCaffery. 2012. Priorities for future PRISM surveys. Pp. 239-244 in J. Bart and V. Johnston (editors). Arctic shorebirds in North America: a decade of monitoring. Studies in Avian Biology (no. 44), University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

PUBLIC DATASETS

Early in 2013, the Arctic LCC released the Threatened Eider Geodatabase and the Yellow-billed Loon Geodatabase to the public through the [Arctic LCC](#) website. These databases synthesize existing observation and survey information and provide a qualitative "first look" at where spectacled eiders, Steller's eiders, and yellow-billed loons have been recorded and where surveys have been conducted.

- [Threatened Eider Geodatabase for Northern Alaska](#)
- [Yellow-billed Loon Geodatabase](#)

Below is an 7-question voluntary survey about how LCCs in Alaska & Northwest Canada can better communicate news, announcements, and information to you.

Please take a few minutes to respond. Thanks!

LCCs Communications Survey

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