

News and information about Alaska Region Office of Science Applications and LCCs.

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Alaska Region Office of Science Applications



News & Resources July 2015

Amaknak Island overlooking Unalaska and Iliuliuk Bays
Western Alaska LCC Region
Photo: Aaron Poe, FWS

In this month's newsletter

- [July Contest/ Previous Contest Results](#)

Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

- **Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands LCC**
 - Key Actions from Recent Steering Committee Meeting
 - Featured Projects
 - Future Activities to Watch for
- **Arctic LCC**
 - North Slope Coastal Erosion Rates are Among Highest in Nation
- **Western Alaska LCC**
 - Funding Available for Terrestrial Systems Projects
 - Invasive Plant App Ready for Download!
- **Northwest Boreal LCC**
 - NWB LCC Long-term Strategic Plan Now Available!
- **North Pacific LCC**
 - NPLCC Releases First Annual Northwest Climate Magazine in collaboration with the Northwest Climate Science Center and Climate

Upcoming Opportunities

- [AGU Session Announcements and Call for Abstracts](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Postdoctor Research Positions](#)

What's New in Alaska Region Science?

- [Publications & datasets involving Service staff](#)

July Contest



What is the name of the deformity that can be seen in the pictured moose's hooves?

For the bonus point, what is the environmental cause of the condition?

E-mail me your answer. The first correct(ish) answer may win a prize similar to the one shown on the right!

Previous Contest Results

Congratulations to Vince Matthews who was the first to correctly state that Alaska's estimated 17,489,393,939,393 mosquitoes weighing in at 0.0000055 pounds each equals about 96 million pounds total.

Vince wins this original depiction of the mosquito, rendered by my resident (5 year old) artist.



Aleutian & Bering Sea Islands LCC

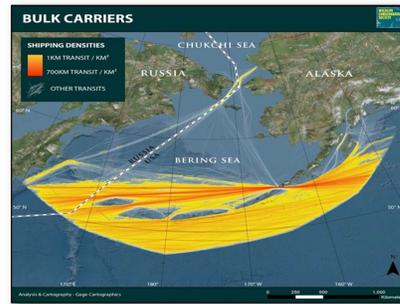
Key Actions from Recent Steering Committee Meeting

- The ABSI Steering Committee (SC) elected to fund two climate-related proposals.
 1. The first will identify seabird species that may be most sensitive to climate change.
 2. The second will look at potential impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on sea urchin productivity and the consequences for sea otter recovery in the Aleutians.
- The SC committed to partnering with the [North Pacific Research Board](#), [Alaska SeaGrant](#), and the [Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska](#) to convene a regional science conference in August 2016. The conference will bring together scientists, resource managers, and community leaders who live and/ or work in the Aleutians.
- The ABSI LCC welcomes the National Park Service to the Steering Committee. Tahzay Jones, Oceans and Coastal Programs Coordinator for Alaska is NPS' SC representative.

Future ABSI Activity to Watch for

- ABSI, along with the [Arctic](#) and [Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperatives](#) will launch a science communications effort this summer to provide better access to information, data, and tools for communities dealing with coastal

Featured Projects



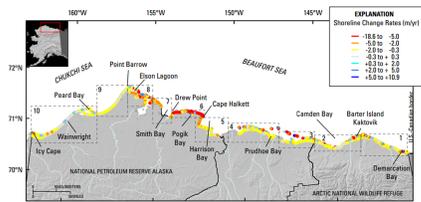
The picture above (click image to see it larger) depicts intensity of bulk carrier traffic through the ABSI region. Our analysis has already informed the location of five “[Areas to be Avoided](#)” in the Aleutians that are currently under consideration by the [International Maritime Organization](#).

Together with partners from the Alaska Natural Heritage Program and the Alaska Maritime Refuge, ABSI received a grant from the North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) to complete a risk assessment focused on invasive marine species in the Aleutians and Bering Sea. This project will feature a communication campaign focused on communities and industry in the region aimed at promoting early detection of the most invasive species. The \$150K award will be matched by another \$40K in partner contributions.

impacts.

Arctic LCC

North Slope Coastal Erosion Rates are Among the Highest in the Nation



[Click for full size image](#)

The USGS has published a [new report](#), showing that portions of the Alaska's Beaufort Sea coast have eroded at some of the fastest rates in the nation, as described recently in the [Alaska Dispatch](#). The USGS analysis of shoreline change relies on an approx. 60-year time series of maps, derived from historical charts and modern imagery. On average, the Alaskan Beaufort Sea coast retreated 1.7 meters/year during the study interval. Maximum rate of erosion was over 18 meters/year, and was paired with corresponding areas of accretion in adjacent areas. Arctic LCC contributed funds toward the acquisition and processing of LiDAR data for the Beaufort Sea coast, which USGS used as the basis for constructing the contemporary coastline position, as well as a Digital Elevation Model for the coastal zone. Arctic LCC also funded processing of

Northwest Boreal LCC

NWB LCC Long-term Strategic Plan Now Available!



The Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative announces the release of its 10-year Strategic Plan.

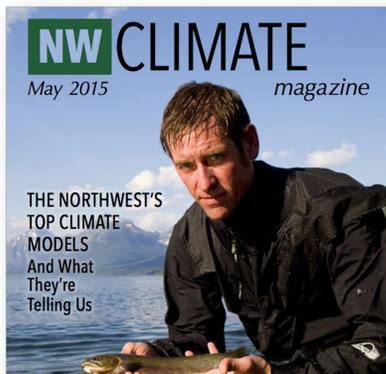
Purpose of Strategic Plan:

- Ensure that individual activities and efforts build on one another to collectively help us reach our vision;
- Serve as an annual roadmap/action plan and guide maturation as an LCC;
- Help us attain our vision and mission by setting goals and objectives;
- Communicate the NWB LCC's priorities and efforts to partners;
- Focus efforts of NWB LCC staff and meetings;
- Identify new funding

1980-era “AHAP” aerial photographs into an orthophotomosaic and extracted a shoreline position from those images. These new data will be used by USGS for an update to the shoreline change report, due at the end of this year. By comparing rates pre- and post- 1980, we will evaluate if erosion is accelerating in response to loss of summer sea ice and warming air and water temperatures. Knowledge of the rate and distribution of coastal change will allow resource managers to anticipate and potentially mitigate impacts on species using the coastal zone and on subsistence opportunities.

North Pacific LCC

NPLCC Releases First Annual Northwest Climate Magazine in



The purpose of this magazine is to share stories about climate research and improve coordination and collaboration among federal, state, tribal, university, and non-governmental groups across the Northwest. The first edition of the

sources;

- Set shared landscape conservation goals and measurable objectives.

[Read and download the NWB LCC Strategic Plan.](#)

Western Alaska LCC

Funding Available for Terrestrial Systems Projects

The LCC will release a Notice of Funding Availability in late August/early September seeking pre-proposals on three topics under its Terrestrial Systems program, which is focused on 'informing decision makers about the impacts of climate change on habitat features linked to important terrestrial resources'. Check the [LCC website](#), mailing list, and next month's newsletter for more information.



Invasive Plant App Ready for Download!

Meanwhile, go to the iTunes app store and download the 'Alaska Weeds' App to help you identify (and document occurrence of) invasive plant species in Alaska. The iPhone App is coming out next

magazine features six narrative stories showcasing this collaborative climate work, including interviews from the field and highlights the importance of this work to the region. Please enjoy the first edition, and stay tuned as we begin planning and looking to expand next year's edition.

[Read and download the Northwest Climate Magazine.](#)

week; the Android version in late August. An update is already in the works which will include Yupik plant names. The App also provides a streamlined process for submitting invasive plant occurrence information to the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse at the AK Natural Heritage Program. *collaboration with the Northwest Climate Science Center and Climate Impacts Research Consortium*

Upcoming Opportunities

AGU Session Announcement and Call for Abstracts:

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting
14-18 December 2015
San Francisco, CA

Submission Deadline: 5 August 2015

Communication as a Driver of Landscape Change
Arctic Coastal Zone Mapping and Hazards

Funding Opportunities:

[RFP - North Pacific Research Board: Arctic Integrated Ecosystems Research Program.](#)

Pre-proposals due by July 31, 2015.

[RFP - Shared Beringian Heritage Program](#)

Proposals due September 14, 2015.

[Notice of Funding Opportunity - Yukon River Salmon Research and Management Assistance FY2016](#)

Submission Deadline October 2, 2015.

Post Doctoral Researcher Positions

[Two researchers are sought to participate in the project "Landscape Sensitivity to](#)

Ecological Drought: The Knowns, Needs, and Solutions for the Real World."

Funded by: USGS and the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, in partnership with Science for Nature and People (SNAP).

Position is open until filled.

What's New in Alaska Region Science?

Clark, S.C., **Tanner, T.L.***, **Sethi, S.A.**, Bentley, K.T., Schindler, D.E. (2015). *Migration timing of adult Chinook salmon into the Togiak River (Alaska) watershed: Is there evidence for stock structure?* Transactions of the American Fisheries Society. 144(4),829-836.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00028487.2015.1031281>

Martin, P.D., Douglas, D.C., **Obritschkewitsch, T.**, & **Torrence, S.** (2015). *Distribution and Movements of Alaska-breeding Stellar's Eiders in the Non-breeding Period.* The Condor. 117(2), 341-353.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1650/CONDOR-14-165.1>



We would like to feature your recent publications and/or datasets here!
If you have something you'd like to bring to a larger audience, please contact:
brett_parks@fws.gov.

****Bold** font denotes Alaska Region FWS staff.*

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