

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **What does the National Ocean Policy mean for the Arctic region?**

**Arlington, VA, April 14** – On Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00-11:00 am Alaska local time (2:00-3:00 pm EDT), representatives from the federal government will conduct an interactive “webinar” to discuss initial efforts to develop a strategic action plan for changing conditions in the Arctic, and to solicit comment from the general public and stakeholders, particularly in Alaska.

In July 2010, President Obama announced a commitment to implement a new [National Ocean Policy](#). The Arctic region was specifically highlighted in the policy as one of nine national “[priority objectives](#).” A [strategic action plan](#) is being created for each priority, and development of the Arctic plan would greatly benefit from input from local and regional experts. The plan will address stewardship responsibilities in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas, in the face of climate-induced and other environmental change. We welcome your comments, questions, and ideas to help identify the critical actions that need to be taken in this regard. Comments can also be provided [online](#).

We are currently considering a number of broad themes under which specific actions would be identified. These initial and preliminary themes include the following:

- Develop an integrated Arctic Observing Network
- Improve understanding, forecasting, and prediction of Arctic change
- Advance capabilities in Arctic mapping and charting
- Inform future Arctic Marine Transportation issues
- Promote stewardship of the Arctic marine environment and encourage sustainable development of resources
- Advance resilient and healthy Arctic communities and economies
- Enhance domestic and international policy and partnerships in the Arctic

The webinar will be conducted by Drs. Cheryl Rosa, Deputy Director, US Arctic Research Commission, Anchorage, Alaska, and Mary Boatman, Ocean Policy Advisor, National Ocean Council, Executive Office of the President. The format will consist of an online slide presentation followed by a comment and question period. The webinar will be hosted by the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy ([ACCAP](#)), at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Instructions to pre-register for the webinar, which is encouraged, and to participate are available [here](#). For those unable to participate in the webinar, an archive of the slide presentation and a podcast of the webinar discussion will be available [here](#).

The USARC is an independent federal agency, established by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, to develop a national policy on integrated Arctic research and a program plan to implement the policy. USARC advances federal arctic research in coordination with the State of Alaska and international partners.

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