

**For Immediate Release
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Obama's Executive Order calls for federal coordination and consultation for the Arctic region

Washington, DC – In advance of the US assuming chairmanship of the Arctic Council in April 2015, President Obama issued an [Executive Order](#) today that directs federal departments and agencies to increase coordination among federal, State of Alaska, tribal, and local governments and Alaska Natives. The order also requests enhanced consultation between the Federal Government and the State of Alaska, Alaska Natives, industry, academic and research institutions, and non-governmental stakeholders.

Greater coordination of effort is required, according to the administration, because the Arctic is growing in long-term strategic, ecological, cultural, and economic significance. Issues such as extended continental shelf claims, opening of sea routes that could significantly reduce transit time for transoceanic shipping, and access to resources are coming to the forefront of geopolitical discussions.

Because the US is an Arctic Nation, the President stressed that such coordination is critical to achieve national strategic priorities across three lines of effort during its Arctic Council chairmanship: advancing US security interests, pursuing responsible arctic region stewardship, and strengthening international cooperation.

The Honorable Fran Ulmer, Chair of the USARC, and recently appointed by Secretary of State John Kerry as his Special Advisor on Arctic Science and Policy said, "The Executive Order is a very good step by the Administration to improve coordination of federal efforts in the Arctic. The National Arctic Strategy and the Implementation Plan assign many responsibilities to the agencies. Hopefully, the EO will provide structure and focus for these efforts."

In support of today's order, the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC) is calling for research efforts in six broad categories: (1) Observe, understand, and respond to Arctic environmental change; (2) Improve Arctic human health; (3) Understand Arctic natural resources: a focus on renewable energy; (4) Advance the Arctic built environment; (5) Explore Arctic cultures and community resilience; (6) Enhance international scientific cooperation in the Arctic.

Details on these research goals will be released shortly in the Commission's report to the administration and to Congress, "Report on Goals and Objectives for Arctic Research 2015-16 for the US Arctic Research Program Plan." This Report will soon be available on USARC's [website](#).

USARC's mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers and international partners. Visit the USARC at <http://www.arctic.gov> and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the "Arctic Daily Update," which provides useful information about recent events, conferences, research initiatives and international news.

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