

**For Immediate Release
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USARC lauds the release of two NRC Arctic reports on oil spills and emerging issues

Washington, D.C. – The release of two new reports by the National Research Council (NRC) on key arctic research issues demonstrates a continuing need for information to better understand and effectively work in what is arguably the most unexplored region of the world. On April 23, the NRC released a report “Responding to Oil Spills in the U.S. Arctic Marine Environment” and today released “The Arctic in the Anthropocene: Emerging Research Questions.”

As a key sponsor of these reports, the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC) congratulates the NRC on their release and anticipates their impact on confronting many of the important research issues to be addressed in the Arctic.

“On behalf of the Commission, I want to thank and commend the NRC for an excellent job bringing to focus both the important challenges associated with responding to oil spills in icy waters and key emerging issues that need investigation today and into the future as we articulate Arctic research trends,” said Fran Ulmer, USARC Chair.

The oil spill [report](#) assesses the current state of science and engineering regarding oil spill response in arctic waters and identifies key research priorities, critical data and monitoring needs, mitigation strategies, and important operational and logistical issues becoming increasingly significant due to likely increases in shipping traffic and oil and gas activities in the Arctic Ocean.

“A number of recommendations in the NRC oil spill report mirror those that appear in USARC's “Oil Spills in Arctic Waters,” a report that we published in November 2012.” The NRC report also calls for the need for additional Coast Guard infrastructure and response drills to test equipment in the region,” added Ulmer.

The emerging issues report is designed to provide guidance on future research questions in the Arctic over the next 10-20 years, identifying the key scientific questions that are developing in different realms of Arctic science. It explores both disciplinary realms and cross cutting realms and identifies research infrastructure needs and collaboration opportunities. The report will be posted on the National Academies Press [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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