

**North Slope Science Initiative  
Oversight Group  
August 26, 2019  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**Oversight Group Members**

Present

Amy Holman, NOAA  
Jim Kendall, BOEM, Chair  
Chad Padgett, BLM  
Dee Williams, USGS  
Scott Marsteller, DOE  
Greg Siekeneic, USFWS  
Herbert Frost, NPS  
Faith Martineau, DNR  
Doug Vincent-Lang, ADF&G  
Kaja Brix, NOAA (via phone)

Absent

Greg Dudgeon (NPS)  
Sara Longan (DNR)  
Mark Fesmire (BSEE)

**North Slope Science Initiative**

Jennifer Werner, NSSI staff  
Scott Guyer, NSSI staff  
Jim Hart, BLM

**Visitors:**

Robyn Angliss, NOAA, STAP Chair  
Jess Grunblatt (UAA)  
Wendy Loya (USFWS)  
Bristan Keller, BOEM

**Meeting Notes**

**3:30 p.m.** - **Chair** opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of all OG members and visitors.

**Safety Brief** – **Chair** identified exits.

**Agenda approved**

**STAP Working Group Discussion**

The current STAP chair, Robyn Angliss (NOAA Fisheries), provided the OG with an update on the status of the STAP working groups and requested feedback.

### **Barrow Workshop Working Group:**

This working group is reviewing the recommendations from the 2011 Barrow workshop and providing recommendations about the high priority tasks that should be addressed by the NSSI or by the OG member agencies.

**Request:** OG should confirm that following up on issues raised at the 2011 Barrow workshop should remain a STAP and SSC priority.

**Action:** The priority is confirmed. The STAP/SSC should follow up on Barrow Workshop recommendations and present a summary to the OG ASAP.

### **Aircraft Disturbance Working group:**

The working group has completed a background document that identifies existing actions and guidelines for reducing aircraft disturbance.

**Request 1:** Should the working group continue to pursue this topic and initiate the development of Phase 2, an evaluation of existing guidelines and identification of recommendations to address aircraft disturbance.

**Action:** The OG recommends that this be a priority for the STAP/SSC.

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**Request 2:** Would the OG consider the recommendations provided?

**Response:** The OG agreed that recommendations would be considered. Some OG members pointed out that they have already made changes to their agency use of aircraft in response to community concerns. The agencies will review the recommendations to determine how or whether they can be implemented.

**Request 3:** How should local interests/feedback be solicited and incorporated given that the NSB and the ASRC are no longer members of the NSSI? Given that the agencies have already altered some practices due to feedback from the communities, can the OG ensure that the report includes these changes?

**Response/Action:** The OG agreed that they would ensure that the draft Phase 1 report is reviewed by the staff in their agency with knowledge of aircraft use on the North Slope. The OG will specifically ask that information from the agencies on how they have already altered operations in response to community concerns be summarized. The OG will review the Phase 1 report and provide comments or additions to Scott Guyer and Jennifer Werner by 9 September.

### **Focal/subsistence species distribution, abundance, and disturbance response monitoring workshop**

This working group is tasked with identifying recommended processes for coordinated monitoring, gaps in monitoring or processes for coordination, and other issues that impede coordination.

**Request:** OG should confirm that following up on the issue of coordination of focal species monitoring should remain a STAP and SSC priority.

- 1) **Response:** The OG agreed that this remains a priority and requested that the NSSI provide a list to the OG of who is on each of the subgroups for this working group. It was also suggested by OG members to prioritize the species or data in each of the subgroups; for instance, caribou affect all the land managers.
- 2) Document existing processes and gaps in monitoring processes

### **Ecosystem-Based Habitat Status Monitoring Working Group**

The OG agreed to table further STAP/SSC work on this task to allow the STAP to focus on completing the other working group actions.

### **Document Traditional Knowledge Specific to Subsistence and Impacts (climate and anthropogenic) Working Group**

This working group is recommending advice on methods for improving and ensuring incorporation of TK into agency planning and decision making.

**Request:** OG should confirm that following up on this task should remain a STAP and SSC priority. The working group has expanded the topic to be more broad than marine mammals and has drafted content and recommendations. The STAP requests travel support (~\$10K) for the working group to meet in person to complete the draft.

**Response:** The OG confirms the priority of this working group. BLM cannot commit to funding support at this time, but may be able to support the travel request in FY20. The OG Chair recommended support of this working group as long as the resulting guidelines are kept simple. One OG member recommended that the report identify cases of how TK has been successfully incorporated in agency planning and decision-making processes.

### **Agency staffing:**

The STAP chair pointed out that in the absence of routine NSSI meetings and with little support from BLM staff, much of the intercessional work by the NSSI STAP and SSC has stalled. For the NSSI to function properly, they need dedicated BLM staff to facilitate meetings, calls, and assist the STAP/SSC with documents. BLM will need the results of the program review before commitments can be made.

**Action:**

- 1) Need time and place for in-person STAP meeting.

**STAP Membership Updates**

Have six available seats (out of a maximum of 15). Jennifer Werner will send out the recommendations of the review team to the OG.

Jennifer is going to Utqiagvik on 8/27 to meet with members of the Department of Wildlife and Planning in an effort bring them back to the table as active participants. Positive step. They're willing to entertain a meeting.

Will also be meeting with Sen. Murkowski's staff on 8/30.

Jennifer has reached out to ASRC, no response.

Q: Is NSSI proposing a change to the program to entice them back in?

A: Utqiagvik wants an annual OG meeting in Utqiagvik.

Once meetings are finished, recommendations, more discussion with BLM, we should have our next meeting in the next OG couple months.

**Action:**

Report will be delivered to Chad Padgett within the next few weeks.

**Nominations:**

**Oversight Chair nomination (this term is required to be non-fed):** Sara Longan nominated

**Oversight Vice Chair nomination (this term is required to be fed):** Chad Padgett nominated - unanimous.

**Data management**

Is the data a value for the OG? Task given to STAP to take a hard look at priorities and make sure the data lines up with what the agencies need.

Many of the datasets are simply what have already been presented, some from industry.

Cannot positively identify who is downloading the information in all cases. The users tend to be technical; they may not be developing an EIS, but they're performing technical work.

**Action:**

- 1) Agencies to identify employees who are using the NSSI datasets.
- 2) Identify how it's being used, i.e. are they being used to create EISs, EAs, or study profiles.

**Adjourned 5:12 p.m.**