

BOEMRE Backs Expansion and Consolidation of Subsistence Information in Alaska Oil & Gas Revenues Returned to State through CIAP Grant

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) today announced it has awarded a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant for more than \$1.8 million to Alaska's Northwest Arctic Borough to improve and expand information about subsistence activities.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

"One of our agency's top priorities in the Arctic is to identify and fill critical knowledge gaps," said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. "This funding will support the Northwest Arctic Borough by pulling together data that will inform future policy decisions as well as potential decisions regarding energy development off Alaska's coast."

Subsistence hunting and fishing is central to the culture of the borough's 7,500 residents, scattered among a handful of villages in a very remote section of Alaska. Currently, information about subsistence activities in this area is fragmented among numerous organizations and studies. With this grant, the Borough will:

- Partner with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to review and pull together the existing literature, compile information, and identify data gaps;
- Collect new subsistence information from borough communities;
- Create a regional clearinghouse to ensure that existing data, maps, traditional knowledge and studies are shared with and among researchers from numerous government and private agencies;
- Consult with community focus groups in various borough villages to thoroughly document local and traditional subsistence knowledge, past and present;
- Enlist the help of elders and other individuals who live by means of subsistence to review a comprehensive subsistence mapping database, and help to identify important ecological areas and potential resource development areas; and
- Publish an atlas of identified important ecological areas and supporting information, and make this data available to a wide number of stakeholder organizations and agencies.

CIAP will receive \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010 to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states: Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana and Texas.

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