



NOAA & THE ARCTIC



Monica Media

Principal Deputy Under Secretary | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA and the Arctic

2

NOAA Arctic Vision and Strategy

FY'11 Budget Initiatives

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

Oil and Gas Permitting



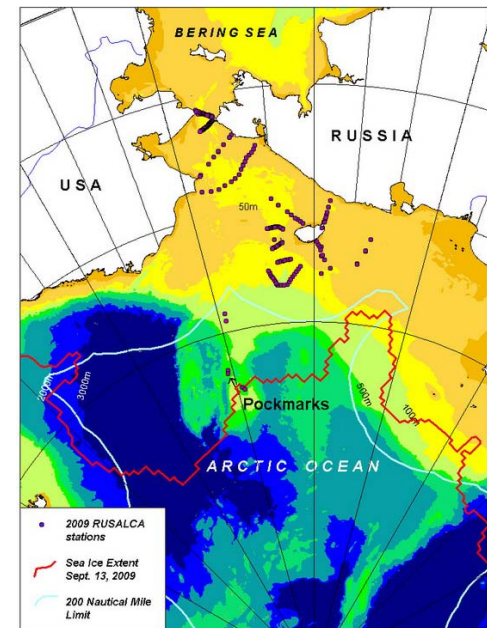
NOAA Arctic Vision and Strategy

3

“NOAA envisions an Arctic where decisions and actions related to conservation, management, and use are based on sound science and support healthy, productive, and resilient communities and ecosystems. The agency seeks a future where the global implications of Arctic change are better understood and predicted.”

Provides a high-level framework and strategic goals to address NOAA’s highest Arctic priorities:

- ✔ Forecast sea ice
- ✔ Strengthen foundational science to understand and detect Arctic climate and ecosystem changes
- ✔ Improve weather and water forecasts and warnings
- ✔ Enhance international and national partnerships
- ✔ Improve stewardship and management of ocean and coastal resources in the Arctic
- ✔ Advance resilient and healthy Arctic communities and economies



RUSALCA 2009 stations, bathymetry in meters

K. Crane
NOAA

Sea Ice Extent (2009), RUSALCA

NOAA Arctic FY2011 Budget Initiatives

4

FY 2011 President Request: **\$16,515,000**

- ☑ \$3M increase for enhanced Alaska and Arctic observations, analysis and modeling
- ☑ Multi-beam survey operations to define the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf
- ☑ Understand rapid climate change in the Arctic Ocean through the Russian-American Long-term Census of the Arctic
- ☑ Whale conservation and management
- ☑ Investigation of the more-rapid-than-expected melting of Arctic sea ice and ice sheets



Climate, Temperature, Density (CTD) Rosette Launch, RUSALCA

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

5

Interim Coastal & Marine Spatial (CMSP) Planning Framework

Outlines 7 national goals for CMSP that link back to the National Ocean Policy goals with a focus on:

- ✔ Promoting compatibility among uses and reducing user conflicts
- ✔ Streamlining and improving the rigor and consistency of decision-making and regulatory processes
- ✔ Increasing certainty and predictability in planning

Lists 12 Guiding Principles for CMSP that include:

- ✔ Ecosystem-based management
- ✔ Stakeholder and public engagement
- ✔ Informed by best available science
- ✔ Flexibility to accommodate changing conditions (environment, science, policy, technology)



THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

*Interagency Ocean Policy Task
Force*

December 9, 2009



Arctic Oil and Gas Permitting

6

Recent changes related to oil and gas activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas:

- Cancellation of oil and gas lease sales through 2012
- Suspension of proposed exploratory drilling activities for six months

Department of Interior is currently considering whether or not to include future Arctic lease sales in 2012-2017

Additional science and oil spill response capabilities are critical ensuring protection of the Arctic