



## NOAA Fisheries

### Ice Seal Recovery Planning Workshop

January 23-24, 2025

BP Energy Center, Spruce/Willow Rm  
1014 Energy Court, Anchorage, AK 99508

9 am – 4:30 pm

#### Thursday, January 23, 2025

Introduction to recovery planning and ice seals; Brainstorm Session 1 (open to the public)

Virtual Meeting Link: [meet.google.com/ybu-qsjf-bzn](https://meet.google.com/ybu-qsjf-bzn)

Call in #: (US) +1 559-715-1136 PIN: 439 566 531#

- Welcome remarks (Anne Marie Eich, NOAA Fisheries) ..... **9:00 am**
- Land Acknowledgement (Anne Marie)..... **9:05 am**
- Brief overview of workshop agenda, protocols, safety briefing, restrooms  
(Chelsey Young & Kristin Mabry, NOAA Fisheries)..... **9:10 am**
- Participant introductions in room and virtual (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **9:15 am**
  - Name and affiliation
- Overview of the recovery planning process (Kristen Koyama, NOAA Fisheries) **9:30 am**
  - Description: Overview of recovery and recovery plans; the 3-part recovery framework; pieces of a recovery plan that will be addressed during the workshop; how recovery plans are used
- Recovery in the context of climate change (Mike Runge, USGS)..... **10:00 am**
  - Description: Reflections on the Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan (2016), which is both an ESA Recovery Plan and an MMPA Conservation Plan. The challenges of limited jurisdiction, a quickly changing environment, and uncertainty will be discussed, as will the opportunities provided by a committed set of partners.

#### **BREAK 10:30 am**

- Introduction to ringed and bearded seal 5-year reviews and overview of threats  
(Mike Cameron, NOAA Fisheries)..... **10:45 am**
  - Description: Basic history and high-level overviews of the findings of the Ringed and Bearded Seal 5-yr status reviews and Marine Mammal Lab research.



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- Current and future ringed and beard seal research efforts (Alaska Department of Fish and Game)..... **11:25 am**
  - Description: ADF&G will present an overview of ringed and bearded seal population status including abundance, diet, body condition, growth rate, pregnancy rate, age at maturity, and pup survival past weaning since the 1960s based on samples from the Alaska Native subsistence harvest. Current information on harvest sustainability and trend, parasites, contaminants, and disease will also be presented.
  
- State of the Arctic (Rick Thoman, University of Alaska)..... **11:55 am**
  - Description: The marine environment in the seas around Alaska are changing quickly with the seasonality, thickness and extent of sea ice changing and ocean surface temperatures warming. This presentation will look at some of the trends that are underway and what the coming decades may bring to the ocean climate system.

#### **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN 12:20 pm**

- Ice seals and subsistence culture (Cyrus Harris & TBD, Ice Seal Committee).. **1:30 pm**
- Breakout Session #1 (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **2:00 pm**
  - Brainstorm recovery criteria for climate change, sea ice decline, and resulting habitat loss and access to prey

#### **BREAK 3:00 pm**

- Group discussion and report out of Breakout Session #1 (Chelsey & Kristin).... **3:15 pm**
- Public comments/questions, wrap-up, outlook for Day 2 (Chelsey & Kristin).... **4:15 pm**



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#### Friday, January 24, 2025

Recovery criteria and action development and future planning (open to the public)

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- Recap of Day (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **9:00 am**
- Group Discussion: Brainstorm recovery actions for climate change, sea ice decline, and habitat loss and access to prey (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **9:30 am**
- Group Discussion: Prioritize recovery actions for climate change, sea ice decline, and habitat loss and access to prey (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **10:30 am**

#### **BREAK 10:45 am**

- Breakout Session #2 (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **11:00 am**
  - Brainstorm recovery criteria for other threats: vessel traffic, oil and gas, fisheries interactions, noise, disease

#### **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN 12:15 pm**

- Group Discussion and report out of Breakout Session #2 on vessel traffic, oil and gas, fisheries interactions, noise, disease (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **1:30 pm**
- Group Discussion: Brainstorm recovery actions for vessel traffic, oil and gas, noise, fisheries interactions, disease (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **2:30 pm**

#### **BREAK 2:45 pm**

- Group Discussion (cont'd): Brainstorm recovery actions for vessel traffic, oil and gas, noise, fisheries interactions, disease (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **3:00 pm**
- Group Discussion: Prioritize recovery actions for vessel traffic, oil and gas, noise, fisheries interactions, noise (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **3:45 pm**



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- Recap (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **4:00 pm**
  - Outline path forward, discuss additional opportunities for partner input and engagement
- Public comments/questions (Chelsey & Kristin)..... **4:15 pm**
- Thank Yous and Adjourn (NOAA Fisheries Staff)..... **4:30 pm**