



**RESOLUTION NUMBER ISC-2025-01**

**A RESOLUTION FROM THE ICE SEAL COMMITTEE SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNDING OF AN ANALYTICAL LAB IN NOME, AK**

**WHEREAS**, the Ice Seal Committee, an Alaska Native Co-Management Organization authorized under Section 119 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, is committed to the conservation and protection of ringed, bearded, spotted, and ribbon seals (i.e., ice seals) and their habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of ice seals is critical not only for ecological balance but also for the health, and cultural & subsistence practices of Alaska Native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, stranded ice seals and other marine mammals at times require timely laboratory analyses to monitor for and address potential emerging health threats, such as highly pathogenic avian influenza and harmful algal blooms; and

**WHEREAS**, the current reliance upon out-of-state laboratories for the analysis of biological samples often results in delays that impede timely responses to public health and environmental concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing a dedicated analytical lab in Nome, Alaska (“local analytical lab”) would provide more immediate access to essential resources for analyzing biological samples and the more efficient and timely dissemination of results; and

**WHEREAS**, a local analytical lab would enhance the capacity for research, monitoring, and community engagement, fostering a greater understanding of marine mammal health and other environmental issues among Alaska Native communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ice Seal Committee strongly supports the establishment and funding of a local analytical lab to be located in Nome, Alaska, which will focus on analyzing biological samples obtained from, but not limited to, stranded marine mammals, birds, fish, plants, and water; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this local analytical lab shall prioritize analyses that will monitor for emerging public health threats such as, but not limited to: highly pathogenic avian influenza and harmful algal blooms, so as to ensure timely communication of results that are relevant to the overall health of the public; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ice Seal Committee calls upon federal and state agencies, stakeholders, and potential funding sources to support this initiative, recognizing its importance for wildlife and ecological conservation, public health, and the well-being of Alaska Native communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution should be shared as needed with relevant governmental bodies, organizations, interested parties, and potential funding bodies to seek support for the establishment of this vital facility.

**ADOPTED** at a duly called meeting of the Ice Seal Committee, in which a *quorum* was present, on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas, \_\_\_\_\_ nays, and \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining.

**ATTEST:**

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Ice Seal Committee Chair