



— Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals

"Indigenous Peoples for Wise Use of Renewable Natural Resources"
Our Mission: To identify and address marine mammal issues of common concern.

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IPCoMM HOLDS STATEWIDE GOVERNANCE TRAINING TO STRENGTHEN ALASKA NATIVE CO-MANAGEMENT ENTITIES

The first of its kind, a statewide governance training aimed at strengthening Alaska Native marine mammal co-management organizations was hosted by the Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) November 15-16, 2017 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage, Alaska. This convening was attended by board members of Alaska Native marine mammal organizations representing subsistence marine mammal users in coastal communities throughout the state. Also in attendance were representatives of the federal agencies responsible for managing marine mammals in Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Among the goals of the governance training were that board members of Alaska Native marine mammal organizations and Federal Agency partners understand the history and legal framework of marine mammal co-management in Alaska, as well as the roles of both parties in ensuring responsible and effective governance. IPCoMM worked with the Foraker Group and Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP on the development and delivery of the training agenda, including facilitated sessions in which participants provided input on how to make Alaska Native marine mammal organizations more effective, as well as important areas of focus for our organizations moving forward. Feedback gathered from the governance training was presented to the leadership of Alaska Native marine mammal organizations at the annual fall IPCoMM board meeting November 17, 2017. Follow-up facilitated

Members

Alaska Beluga
Whale Committee

Alaska Eskimo
Whaling Commission
(Observer)

Alaska Nannut Co-
Management Council

Alaska Native Harbor Seal
Commission

Alaska Sea Otter and
Steller Sea Lion
Commission

Aleut Community of
St. Paul Island

Aleut Marine Mammal
Commission

Association of Village
Council Presidents - IUM

Bristol Bay Marine
Mammal Council

Central Council Tlingit
& Haida

Chugach Regional
Resources Commission

Eskimo Walrus
Commission

Ice Seal Committee

Inuit Circumpolar Council -
Alaska

Maniilaq Association

Native Village of Tyonek

North Slope Borough
Dept. of Wildlife
Management

Sitka Marine Mammal
Commission

Traditional Council of
St. George Island

sessions were conducted by the Udall Foundation and Native Nations Institute to build on the outcomes from the governance training and provide IPCoMM leadership with direction on continuing work to strengthen co-management for Alaska Native marine mammal organizations.

“We are very pleased to have had this opportunity to bring together so many board members from around Alaska to review our present organizations,” said IPCoMM Chairman Mike Miller. “We will be able to use the shared observations and suggestions from all in attendance to direct future efforts to assist all individual board members in meeting obligations to their respective boards, federal partners and especially the Alaska Native communities they represent, who continue to rely on marine mammals for cultural, economic and food security purposes going into the future.”

The subsistence use of marine mammals by coastal dwelling Alaska Natives is protected by an exemption in the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), which also includes a provision allowing for federal agencies to co-manage marine mammals with Alaska Native Organizations. Alaska Native communities statewide rely on the subsistence harvest of marine mammals, making effective governance in marine mammal co-management a high priority for our communities.

IPCoMM is a coalition of Tribal marine mammal commissions, councils and other Native organizations formed to identify and address marine mammal issues of common concern. IPCoMM’s vision is to promote the wise use of renewable natural resources by indigenous peoples. For additional information on IPCoMM or this event please visit www.ipcommalaska.org.

IPCoMM extends a special thanks to the funders that made the governance training possible: the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Alaska Region, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Alaska Region, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

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