Research News

This Issue

The Resilience and Adaptive Management (RAM) Group

http://ram.uaa.alaska.edu

We are dedicated to developing social adaptation strategies in the face of rapid global change. We incorporate a vision that weaves multi-disciplinary research and diverse ways of knowing into a cohesive and integrated framework for Resilience in high latitudes.

National Science Foundation:

http://www.nsf.gov

The NSF is an independent federal agency which provides funding for approximately 20% of all federally supported basic research.

Core Personnel:

Dr. Lilian Nai'ia Alessa

Dr. Andy Anaru Kliskey

Dr. Mark Altaweel

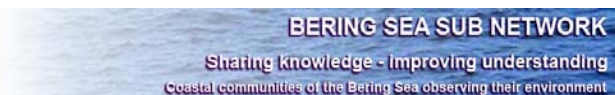Bill Overbaugh

Brad Barr

Melia Knecht

Paula Williams

Sean Mack

The NSF Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN)

BERING SEA SUB NETWORK
Sharing knowledge - Improving understanding
Coastal communities of the Bering Sea observing their environment
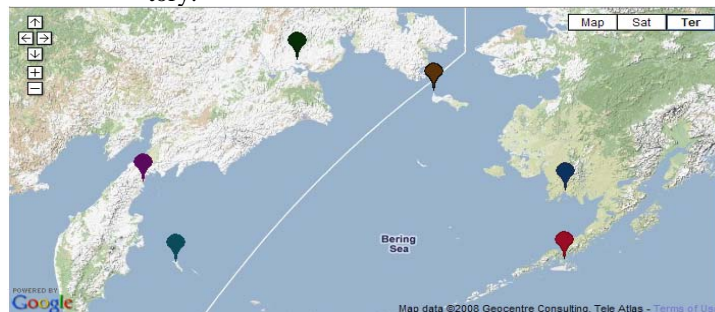
A key focus of the Resilience and Adaptive Management (RAM) Group is the role humans play in the environment. For example, can humans, acting as a coordinated network, be a giant sensor of change? In 2005, after meeting Victoria Gofman, the Executive Director of the Aleut International Association (AIA), a collaborative project, the Bering Sea Sub Network (BSSN) was established. In cooperation with communities throughout the Bering Sea, a systematic environmental and social observatory is taking shape. Participating organizations include, the RAM Group, AIA, Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF-UNEP), and the Alaska Native Science Commission (ANSC).

The Bering Sea Sub-Network is a regional initiative of community-based organizations in Western Alaska and Northeast Russia. It aims to support the collection and local management of a regional monitoring program that could in turn sustain a pan-arctic perspective on environmental and biological change. The overall goal of BSSN is to improve the scientific knowledge of the environmental changes in the Bering Sea region that have significance for understanding pan-arctic processes. It enables scientists, arctic communities and governments to predict, plan and respond to these changes.

BSSN has been designed on principles of immunology and cyberinfrastructure and allows us to understand historical and present dynamics of economic and subsistence species based on indigenous and traditional knowledge. It detects major variables and indicators that can be correlated with western science to develop optimal adaptation strategies in part by detecting spatial and temporal convergences between community-based and western science data. BSSN is funded through the National Science Foundation Arctic Observing Network (AON) program and is the only project designed as a Resilience and Adaptation Observatory.

Upcoming Events

- **Agent-Based Modeling Workshop**   **September 24th—26th**

- **RAM Group Meeting**   **Ongoing Fridays at 1pm**

For more information on Upcoming Events, please send an email to anmmk@uaa.alaska.edu.

Websites of the Month

- **The RAM Group homepage, includes publications, research, and much more - http://ram.uaa.alaska.edu**
- **The Bering Sea Sub Network homepage, includes descriptions, maps, and village profiles - http://bssn.net**
- **Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), includes information about CAFF including downloads for the CAFF Newsletter—http://arcticportal.org/en/caff/**
- **Aleut International Association homepage includes information on new projects—http://www.aleut-international.org/**

New Projects

A new NSF-funded project will examine dynamics of the human hydrological system in urban and rural communities. In particular it asks "what happens when water systems fail?". The work will take place on the Seward Peninsula in Alaska and the Chukotka Peninsula in the Russian Far East.

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