

U.S. Implementation of Integrated Arctic Management-

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The United States laid the foundation for implementing the ecosystem approach to management, EA, in the Arctic in 2011. The integrated approach to management responsibilities for resources in the Arctic is commonly referred to as Integrated Arctic Management, or IAM, which is the US approach to enabling Arctic EA, also known as Ecosystem Based Management in the U.S. IAM is defined as “a science-based, whole-of-government approach to stewardship and planning in the U.S. Arctic that integrates and balances environmental, economic, and cultural needs and objectives.” IAM is an adaptive, partner- and stakeholder-informed means for looking holistically at impacts, sensitivities, and sustainable solutions. IAM is intended to facilitate a broad-based and consistent approach to addressing both development and conservation issues.

The goal of the IAM approach is to improve stewardship and planning actions through the Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting and its Arctic regional component (Alaska Regional-IWG). The Alaska Regional-IWG has emphasized the improvement and strengthening of key partnerships, promoted better stakeholder participation, and coordinated and streamlined federal permitting actions. IAM is also being used to implement the objectives of the U.S. National Strategy for the Arctic Region. IAM can inform important planning and project decisions or influenced by federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as well as commercial interests, Alaska Native corporations, and non-governmental organizations. The cultural, ecological, and economic costs of failing to adapt and strengthen management approaches in the face of rapid environmental change are unacceptable. Success in reaching our goals will require innovative and coordinated approaches that build upon the vast knowledge and experience of the people who know this region well, and who are committed to finding sustainable solutions.

Examples of the application of IAM are found in the management of oil exploration and extraction activities in the US Arctic under US legislation NEPA.