DRAFT AGENDA

Climate, Ecosystems, & Human Health Work Group

Tuesday, Oct 11th
1:30 – 3:30pm
Call-in option: 855-547-8255 Conference Code (24691#)
USGS Alaska Regional Office, Glenn Olds Conference Room
4210 University Dr., Anchorage, AK

1:30pm Welcome & Introductions

1:50 – 2:50pm <u>Climate & Human Health Assessments & Surveillance Tools</u>

The big thaw - consequences of climate change in Northwestern Alaska communities.

[Mike Brubaker, ANTHC]

Since 2009, ANTHC has been performing health impact assessments of communities in the Northwest Arctic. This is one of the most climate vulnerable regions in Alaska because of the rate of temperature change in the permafrost rich landscape. This presentation summarizes the findings from five villages focusing on permafrost thaw and the implications for food and water security, transportation, and infrastructure.

Climate Change Health Assessments for Three Coastal, Riverine and Lake System Communities in Bristol Bay *[Sue Flensburg, BBNA, & Mike Brubaker, ANTHC]*

Funded by the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative, the project to conduct climate change health assessments for three communities is the first of its kind in the Bristol Bay region. The project officially starts October 2011 under the direction of a project team including a wide range of partners. This presentation covers the four-step process that will be used to complete the community climate health assessments and public outreach component.

Developing a Surveillance and Response Toolkit for Alaskan Communities *[David Driscoll & Tenaya Sunbury, ICHS]*

UAA's Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies (ICHS) was awarded a grant from CDC (CDC/NCEH) to develop, implement, and evaluate a community-based monitoring system to capture baseline human health and ecosystem data from three ecologically distinct regions of Alaska. A brief oral update on this project, now underway, will be provided.

Preliminary Investigations into Ichthyophonus – Is there a connection between climate change & groundfish health? That is but one question being asked… *[Tyler Katzmar, APU]*

Alaska Pacific University Prof. Brad Harris and his students have completed the first port-based investigation of the prevalence of Ichthyophoniasis and mushy flesh syndrome in south-central Alaskan groundfish species. The team found evidence of Ichthyophonus in all five ports investigated and in 5 of 11 groundfish species sampled. They found 14 halibut with mushy flesh conditions but no link between Ichthyophonus and mushy flesh. Hear about their preliminary findings which document Ichthyophonus in 5 new Alaskan marine fish species and suggest it is broadly distributed in SouthCentral AK waters.

2:50pm Discussion and Q&A

3:05pm Round Robin (mini-briefs)

3:25pm Next Meeting – topics and timing

3:30pm Adjourn

For further information please contact: Jackie Kramer (kramer.jackie@epa.gov) or Mike Brubaker (mbrubaker@anthc.org) or Louisa Castrodale (louisa.castrodale@alaska.gov)