

# ALASKAESKIMO

WHALING COMMISSION

## Agenda

2nd Triannual Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
 LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 4920 Dale Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Wed., July 15, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Join from the meeting link: [WEBEX LINK](#)  
 Join by phone: 1-844-621-3956, 2550 833 3571# Password: 11villages  
 Meeting material link: [GOOGLE DRIVE LINK](#)

Co-Management Business	
8:30 – 8:45	Call to Order Roll Call Invocation Approval of Agenda Approval of January 2026 Meeting Minutes
8:45 – 9:00	<b>Chairman’s Welcome / Address</b> <i>John Hopson, Jr.</i>
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Executive Director’s Report</b> <i>Isabell Elavgak, Interim Executive Director</i>
9:15 – 9:45	<b>Grants &amp; Operations Report</b> <i>Jenny Evans</i>
9:45 – 10:15	<b>Financial Report</b> <i>Sarah Espelin, CPA</i>
10:15 – 10:30	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>AEWC-AOOS Wave Buoy Project Update</b> <i>Martin Edwardsen, Jenny Evans, Sheyna Wisdom</i>
11:00 – 11:45	<b>Hilcorp Alaska Update</b> <i>Jen Dushane &amp; Matt Shuckerow</i> Contact: Weston Eiler, <a href="mailto:Weston.eiler@hilcorp.com">Weston.eiler@hilcorp.com</a>
11:45 – 12:00	<b>QA</b>
12:00 – 1:30	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:30 – 1:50	<b>Polar LNG Project Overview</b> <i>Joel Riddle, CEO</i> Contact: Doris Hugo-Shavings, <a href="mailto:doris.hugo@polarlng.com">doris.hugo@polarlng.com</a>
1:50 – 2:00	<b>QA</b>
2:00 – 2:20	<b>Narwhal Operations Update</b> <i>Shawn Gelsinger, Chief Operating Officer</i> Contact: <a href="mailto:shawn@narwhalexploration.com">shawn@narwhalexploration.com</a>
2:20 – 2:30	<b>QA</b>
2:30 – 2:45	<b>BREAK</b>
Executive Session 1: (AEWC & NSB Only)	
2:45 – 4:15	<b>Bowhead Science Report &amp; Bowhead Health Research Update</b> <i>Dr. John Citta, NSB Department of Wildlife Management</i>
4:15 – 5:00	<b>Legal Counsel Report</b> <i>Earl Comstock</i>
5:00	<b>Wrap up / Adjourn</b>

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2<sup>nd</sup> Triannual Meeting of Commissioners  
 LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 4920 Dale Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Thu., July 16, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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SCIENCE DAY	
8:30 – 8:45	Call to Order Roll Call Invocation
8:45 – 9:00	<b>Introductions</b>
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Battelle ARO: Community Observer Support</b> <i>Clarissa Zeller</i> , Community Observer operations UIC Science <b>Funding source:</b> Battelle ARO <b>Project dates/locations:</b> Oct. – Nov. 2026 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:clarissa.zeller@uicalaska.com">clarissa.zeller@uicalaska.com</a> or <a href="mailto:serina.wesen@uicalaska.com">serina.wesen@uicalaska.com</a> <b>Data access:</b> NA
9:15 – 9:20	Q/A
9:20 – 9:35	<b>NMFS Alaska Regional Office Updates</b> <i>Anne Marie Eich</i> , Assistant Regional Administrator, Alaska Region Protected Resources Division National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), AK Regional Office <b>Funding source:</b> NA <b>Project dates/locations:</b> <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:Annemarie.eich@noaa.gov">Annemarie.eich@noaa.gov</a> <b>Data access:</b> NA
9:35 – 9:40	Q/A
9:40 – 10:00	<b>Sikuliaq 2026 Arctic Cruises</b> <i>Jeff Richardson</i> , Communications Manager University of Alaska Fairbanks R/V Sikuliaq <b>Funding source:</b> UAF/WSF/Office of Naval Research <b>Project dates/locations:</b> Sept – Nov (N. Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea) <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jrichardson6@alaska.edu">jrichardson6@alaska.edu</a> <b>Data access:</b> Provided on presentation
10:00 – 10:15	Q/A
10:15 – 10:30	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 – 10:50	<b>Update on Office of Naval Research Efforts in the Central Beaufort</b> <i>Craig Lee</i> , Assistant Director for Research & Senior Principal Oceanographer Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington <b>Funding source:</b> Office of Naval Research (ONR) <b>Project dates/locations:</b> 2026 - 2030 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:craiglee@uw.edu">craiglee@uw.edu</a> <b>Data access:</b> Contact Craig for access
10:50 – 11:00	Q/A

11:00 – 11:20	<p><b>Building a short-term sea ice prediction tool for Alaska’s coasts through advancing sea ice modeling and iterative research engagement</b>  <i>Ayumi Fujisaki-Manome</i>, Associate Research Scientist            University of Michigan  <b>Funding source:</b> National Oceanic &amp; Atmospheric Administration  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> 8/1/24 – 7/31/27 (St. Lawrence Island, Nome, UofM)  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:ayumif@umich.edu">ayumif@umich.edu</a>  <b>Data access:</b> <a href="https://live-seas-alaska-sea-ice.pantheonsite.io/">https://live-seas-alaska-sea-ice.pantheonsite.io/</a></p>
11:20 – 11:30	Q/A
11:30 – 11:50	<p><b>The Beaufort shelf-edge current in a warming climate</b>  <i>Robert Pickart</i>, Senior Scientist            Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  <b>Funding source:</b> National Science Foundation  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> Oct/Nov, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:rpickart@whoi.edu">rpickart@whoi.edu</a>  <b>Data access:</b> Arctic Data Center</p>
11:50 – 12:00	Q/A
12:00 – 1:30	LUNCH
1:30 – 1:45	<p><b>Inupiat-led Community-driven Research</b>  <i>Bernice Oyagak</i>, UAF Graduate Student  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> Ongoing until 2029, Utqiagvik</p>
1:45 – 1:50	Q/A
1:50 – 2:10	<p><b>Intro to AAOKH</b>  <i>Roberta Tuurraq Glenn</i>, Community Liaison            Alaska Arctic Observatory and Knowledge Hub  <b>Funding source:</b> NOAA, AOOS, community service payments  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> ongoing in five arctic coastal communities  <b>Data access:</b> <a href="https://aaokh-data.org">https://aaokh-data.org</a></p>
2:10 – 2:20	Q/A
2:20 – 2:40	<p><b>EcoFOCI Field Research 2026: Saildrone &amp; Fairweather (virtual)</b>  <i>Heather Tabisola</i>, Research Coordinator            NOAA, PMEL, EcoFOCI Research Program  <b>Funding source:</b> NOAA  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> Saildrone: July – Sept / Arctic Moorings: Sept  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:heather.tabisola@noaa.gov">heather.tabisola@noaa.gov</a>  <b>Data access:</b> <a href="https://www.ecofoci.noaa.gov/data-links">https://www.ecofoci.noaa.gov/data-links</a></p>
2:40 – 2:50	Q/A
2:50 – 3:10	<p><b>Updates from the 2025 – 2026 season of ice-ocean physics observations in the Beaufort Shelf region: Coastal Freeze, FORTE, FRESH, and more (virtual)</b>  <i>Maddie Smith &amp; Jim Thomson</i>, University of Washington  <b>Funding source:</b> NSF, NASA, ONR  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> Oct – Nov 2025, Sept. 2026  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jthomson@api.washington.edu">jthomson@api.washington.edu</a>  <b>Data access:</b> Live buoy data on Backyard Buoys. Other data to be archived in fall 2026.</p>
3:10 – 3:15	Q/A
3:15 – 3:30	BREAK

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3:30 – 3:50	<p><b>Collecting coastal erosion data near NW Alaskan villages (virtual)</b>  <b>CDR Matt Watts</b>, Assistant Professor          US Naval Academy  <b>Funding source:</b> SERDP ESTCP  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> July 21 – 29, Point Hope  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:watts@usna.edu">watts@usna.edu</a>  <b>Data access:</b> <a href="https://portal.aaos.org">https://portal.aaos.org</a></p>
3:50 – 4:00	Q/A
4:00 – 4:20	<p><b>Study of whale bone piles as supplementary and diversionary feeding for polar bears (virtual)</b>  <b>Karyn Rode</b>, Research wildlife biologist          US Geological Survey  <b>Funding source:</b> US Geological Survey  <b>Project dates/locations:</b> No new data collection, Cross Island &amp; Barter Island  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:krode@usgs.gov">krode@usgs.gov</a>  <b>Data access:</b> <a href="https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/karyn-rode">https://www.usgs.gov/staff-profiles/karyn-rode</a></p>
4:20 – 4:30	Q/A
4:30 – 4:50	<p><b>University of Rochester MOU with AEWK</b>  <b>Vera Gorbunova</b>, University of Rochester</p>
4:50 – 5:00	Q/A
5:00	<b>Wrap-up and Adjourn</b>

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## Agenda

2<sup>nd</sup> Triannual Meeting of Commissioners  
 LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 4920 Dale Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska  
 Fri., July 17, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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8:30 – 8:45	Call to Order Roll Call Invocation
<b>Executive Session 2: IWC (AEWC, NSB, US IWC Delegation)</b>	
8:45 – 9:00	<b>Legal counsel review IWC items with commissioners</b>
9:00 – 10:00	<b>IWC discussion with US IWC Delegation</b>
10:00 – 10:15	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>Executive Session 3: IWC Internal Discussion (AEWC, NSB)</b>	
11:00 – 12:00	<b>IWC Internal Discussion &amp; Preparation</b>
12:00 – 1:30	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>Executive Session 4: Hunter Training Program (AEWC, NSB and Bowhead Technologies/UIC)</b>	
1:30 – 4:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Harvest reports</b>, Harry Brower, Jr. and Billy Adams</li> <li>• <b>Update on penthrite manufacturing</b>, Mike Till &amp; Mike Canaday, Advanced Technology, UICGS</li> <li>• <b>Program updates &amp; discussion</b>, Harry Brower, Jr.</li> </ul>
4:30 – 5:00	<b>Village Concerns</b> <i>Savoonga, Gambell, Wales, Little Diomed, Kivalina, Wainwright, Pt. Lay, Pt. Hope, Barrow, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut</i>
5:00	<b>Wrap up / Adjourn</b>

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2<sup>nd</sup> Triannual Meeting of Commissioners  
LaQuinta Inn & Suites, 4920 Dale Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska  
Sat., July 18, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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8:30 – 8:45	Call to Order Roll Call Invocation
<b>Executive Session 5: Governance &amp; CAA (AEWC &amp; NSB)</b>	
8:45 – 10:30	<b>Bylaws, Management Plan, and Cooperative Agreement</b> <i>Earl Comstock</i>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45 – 12:00	<b>CAA review &amp; discussion</b>
12:00 – 1:30	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>Executive Session 6: Personnel (AEWC Only)</b>	
1:30 – 2:00	<b>Professional Staff Contract Review/Renewal</b>
2:00 – 2:30	<b>Review ED applicant resumes &amp; discuss</b>
2:30 – 4:30	<b>Conduct ED interviews</b>
4:30 – 5:00	<b>Candidate discussion and selection</b>
5:00	<b>Wrap up / Adjourn</b>