

The North Slope Science Initiative was established with the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to implement efforts that coordinate the collection of scientific data to provide a better understanding of the terrestrial, aquatic, and marine ecosystems of the North Slope of Alaska. In collaboration with partners, we identify and prioritize information needs to address the individual and cumulative effects of past, ongoing, and anticipated oil and gas development activities.



Executive Leadership

Total employees as of May 2018: 3 / 1 vacant position

- Executive Director: Sara Longan
- Deputy Director: *Vacant*
- Data Manager: Jess Grunblatt
- Communications: Lisa Gleason

Oversight Group

Key Activities & Outcomes

- March 21, 2018: The NSSI held its Oversight Group (OG) meeting in Anchorage. The agenda included a status of the Report to Congress as well as summaries of the Annual North Slope Studies Review meeting, the Washington Office NSSI briefing and Science Technical Advisory Panel activities. Participants included Oversight Group representatives from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.
- The OG agreed to meet again to redraft the charter and discuss forthcoming year's Chair and Vice Chair positions.
- The STAP nominations were reviewed and the Oversight Group voted to forward 11 nominations.

Science Technical Advisory Panel

Key Activities & Outcomes

- October 25, 2017: A notice was published in the Federal Register requesting public nominations for the NSSI 15-member Science Technical Advisory Panel.
 - 18 nominations were received to fill current and pending vacancies.
 - 11 were submitted to the Oversight Group in the areas of Marine Ecology, Hydrology, Wildlife Biology, Climatology, Arctic Environmental Studies, Fisheries Biology, Landscape Ecology, Environmental Health and Economic Development. These nominations are intended to fill six positions that have been vacant since April 2017 and five that will become vacant in October 2018.
- April 12, 2018: A notice was published in the Federal Register requesting public nominations for the NSSI 15-member Science Technical Advisory Panel. Outcomes of this notice are pending.

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<https://www.northslopescience.org>

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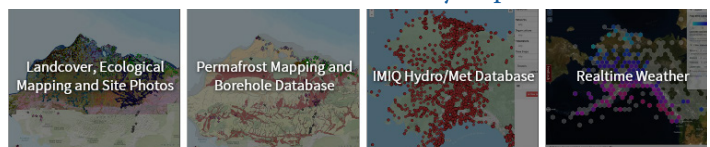
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<https://twitter.com/NSlopeScience>

Annual North Slope Studies Review

March 20, 2018: The NSSI held its Annual North Slope Studies Review Meeting (ANSSR) in Anchorage. The purpose of the meeting was promote collaboration and to share information about 2018 field studies on the North Slope. Participants included the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS Alaska Science Center, USGS Alaska Climate Science Center, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, NOAA Fisheries, National Park Service, North Slope Borough, ConocoPhillips, BP Exploration, ExxonMobil, Caelus Energy Alaska and Hilcorp Alaska, LLC.

Download the [Summary Report](#).



Partner Engagement Activities

- November 27-29, 2017: NSSI Executive Director Sara Longan flew to Utqiagvik to attend and speak at the Indigenous Consultation and Meaningful Engagement in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process workshop. The workshop is part of the Arctic Council Sustainable Development Working Group, facilitated by the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat and the Institute of the North. Director Longan described the NSSI charge of working with NSSI member agencies to help make Traditional Knowledge accessible to agency decision-makers. Several NSSI member agencies were present including the North Slope Borough, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Several traditional knowledge experts participated and the group dialog explored many challenges and opportunities as it relates to utilizing Traditional Knowledge to help inform decision-making.
- December 11, 2017: The NSSI team flew to Utqiagvik to meet with the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, Planning Department, and Mayor's Office to discuss next steps and strategies for the ongoing North Slope studies review effort. NSSI is working with member agencies, partners, and the oil & gas industry to increase collaboration and remove duplication, if present, from current and future North Slope Studies. The main meeting deliverable was a joint position paper describing next steps, to be delivered to the Oversight Group during the March 2018 meeting.
- March 6, 2018: The NSSI met with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Office of Project Management & Permitting (OPMP) to explore collaborative opportunities in utilizing the NSSI Data Catalog to help inform the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) planning effort. NSSI will collect data and information on existing North Slope infrastructure and can offer fit-to-purpose data collection to support ADNR and the ASTAR efforts as it advances.
- April 23-25, 2018: Executive Director Sara Longan led and presented at the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program Terrestrial Group meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. The monitoring program is an international network of scientists, government agencies, indigenous organizations and conservation groups working together to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources.
- April 26-27, 2018: Executive Director Sara Longan presented at the International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic (INTERACT) held in Copenhagen, Denmark. INTERACT is an EU-funded initiative led by the CAFF working towards building capacity to help identify, understand, predict and respond to environmental changes across the Arctic.
- May 11-17, 2018 - Executive Director Sara Longan chaired the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program session discussing marine biodiversity at the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity in Montreal, Canada.

Data Catalog Statistics

Top 5 Overall Downloads

- [Upward Looking Sonar and Acoustic Doppler: Beaufort Sea](#)
- [Regional Cover Mapping of Tundra Plan Functional Types](#)
- [Hydrology Major River Preliminary Fluvial-Geomorphic Evaluation](#)
- [NSSI Scenarios GIS Data](#)
- [Ice Drift Buoys](#)



Top 5 NSSI and Collaborator Downloads

- [NSSI Scenarios GIS Data](#)
- [NSSI Scenarios Reports](#)
- [Permafrost Database and Ecological Mapping](#)
- [Mapping Winter Water Availability in Lakes](#)
- [Landcover Mapping for North Slope of Alaska](#)

Top BLM Download

- [Air Quality Database for Arctic Alaska](#)

NSSI 2018 Cumulative Downloads

