

Science, Service, Stewardship



NMFS Co-management Partnerships: Overview and Updates

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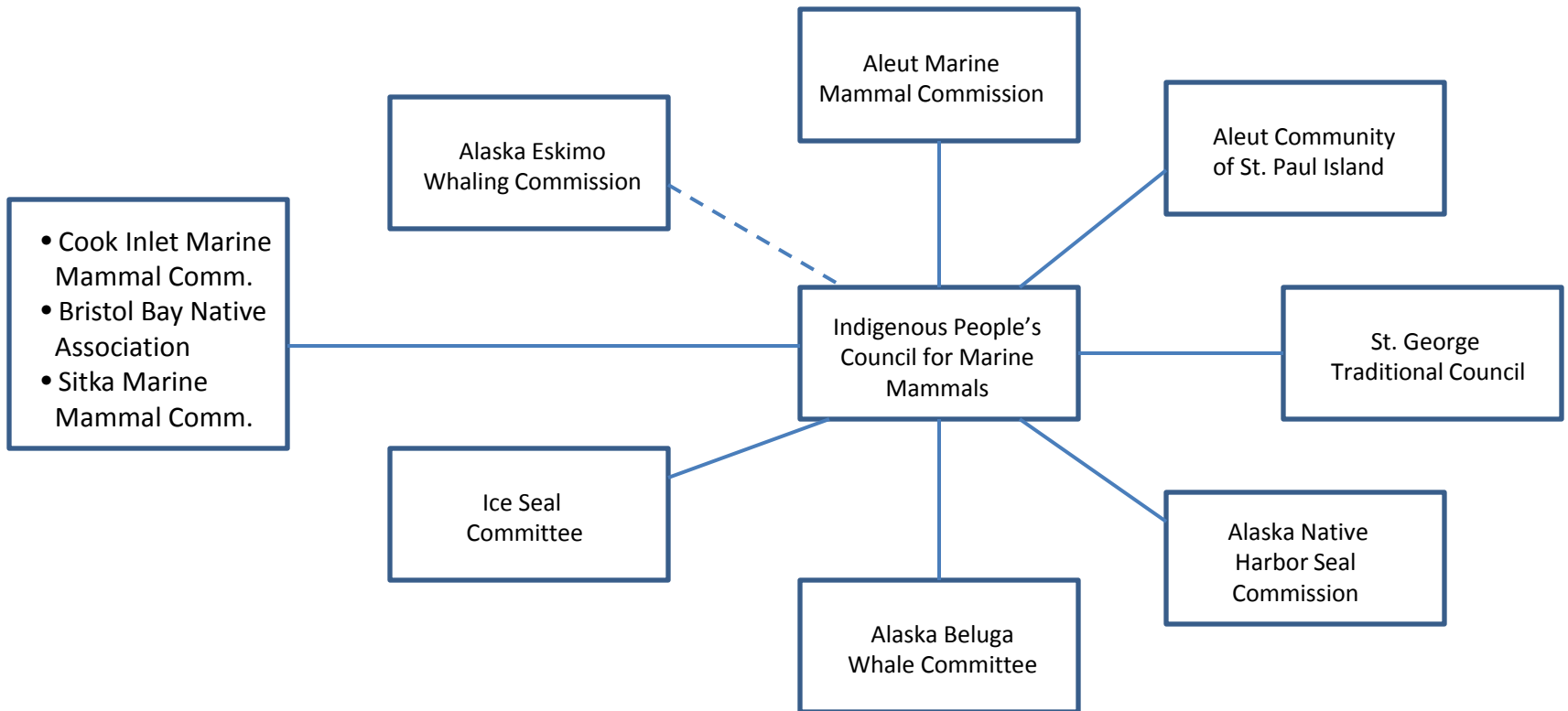
Outline

- Co-management partnership
- History of collaboration
- Accomplishments
- Evolution of new funding program
- Recent collaboration on new funding structure
- Summary
- Questions



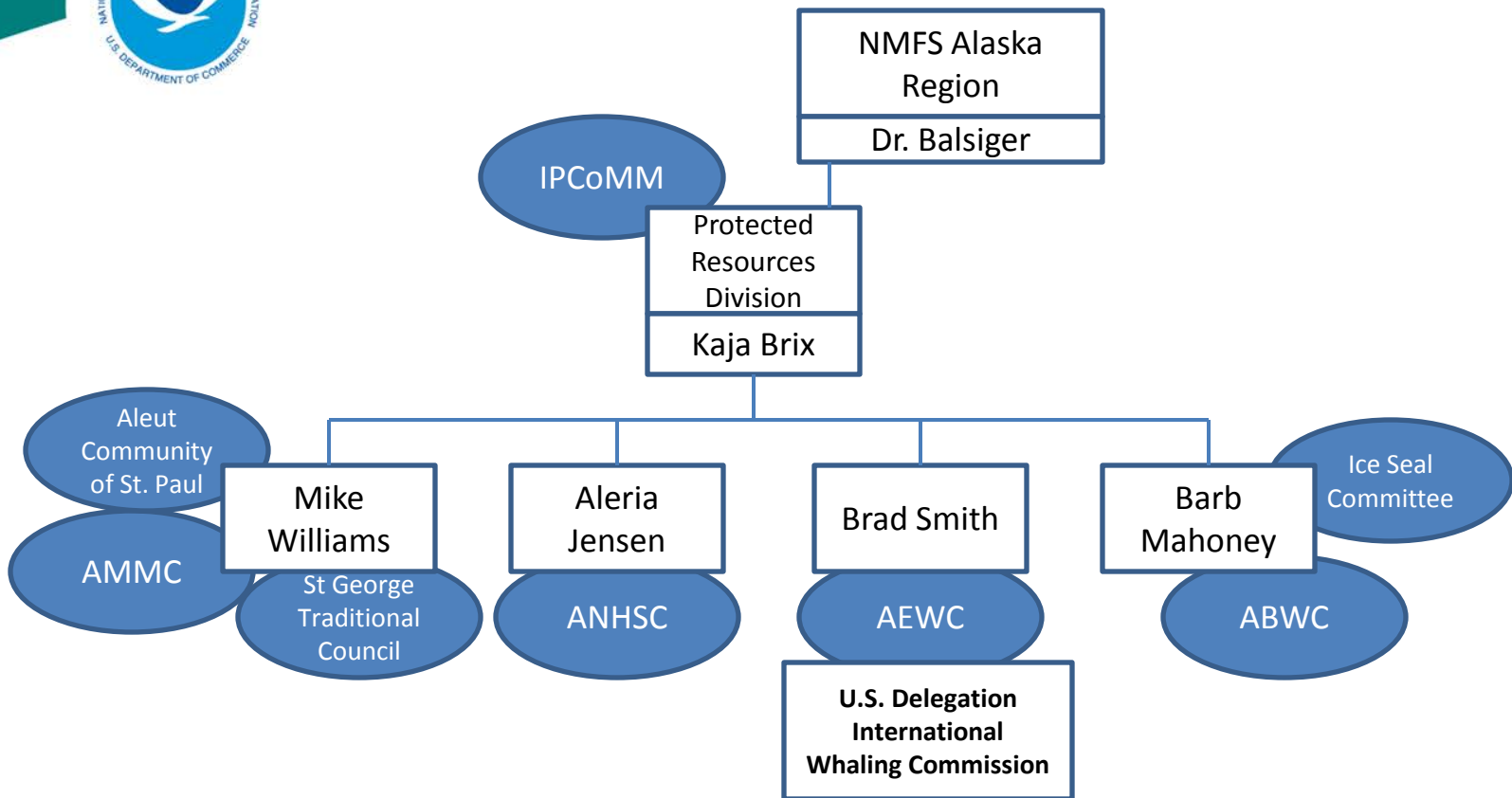


2010 NMFS Co-Management Partnerships





ANO-NMFS Co-Management Agreements





Conservation and Management through Co-management

- 17 Years of Collaboration since Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) amended to add Section 119 in 1994
- Co-management partnership has:
 - provided for subsistence use by Alaska Natives
 - formalized friendship and relationship
 - built communications and understanding
 - served as a platform the exchange of knowledge between hunters, managers and scientists
 - recognized long history of Alaska Native self-regulation
 - promoted the sustained health of marine mammals





History of Successful Collaboration

Alaska Comanagement Funding— A Look at the Last Decade



Year	Total Amount
2001	949K
2002	1.56M
2003	1.45M
2004	1.66M
2005	3.08M
2006	2.52M
2007	2.56M
2008	2.47M
2009	2.33M
2010	2.56M
2011	2M



Accomplishments

Select highlights of co-management program success in Alaska

- Harvest monitoring programs
- Biosampling programs
- Hunter workshops
- Species action plans
- Shared efforts to recover species and protect habitat
- Education and outreach to hunters and communities
- Collaborative management decisions





Evolution of New Funding Program

- Co-management partners funded through contracts, grants, and earmarks, pre-2008
- Strengthening our relationship, 2008
 - *Funding mechanism evolves: grant → cooperative agreement*
 - *Solidifies partnership: provides more substantial participation and collaboration*
- Transition toward new funding regime, 2009
 - *Constrained federal budget environment*
 - *Need for integrated, consistent co-management priorities and programs*
 - *Allows for equity and accountability in future funding*
- Merit Based Funding Program, 2010
 - *Agreement by AK Congressional Delegation, ANOs and NMFS*



Designing a New Process Through Collaboration

- Multiple communication opportunities
 - Face-to-face meetings
 - (IPCoMM meetings, co-management agreement holder meetings)
 - Written opportunities for input
 - NMFS letter to ANOs seeking contributions on new funding process
 - NMFS letter summarizing substantive input received from ANOs
- Agreement by ANOs, NMFS, and Congressionals
- Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity





ANO

Merit-Based Funding Program

- Modeled after other successful federal grant programs
- Main Elements include:
 - Statewide marine mammal co-management priorities
 - Alaska Native & NMFS anonymous panel review
 - Recognizes need to balance projects while building core capacity and administrative infrastructure
- Equitable and transparent process for allocating funds



Summary



- NMFS values long-standing history of co-management partnerships
- Ongoing and evolving relationship based on mutual respect
- Recognition of the value of marine mammals as an essential subsistence resource in Alaska