

2012 Open Water Season Conflict Avoidance Agreement

Meetings held February 16 and 17,
2012
Barrow, Alaska

Attendees

- AEWAC Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, and Village Presidents from the 11 AEWAC villages, and AEWAC Staff
- North Slope Borough Mayor's Office and Department of Wildlife Management
- BP, Shell, ExxonMobile, ConocoPhillips, Statoil, Pioneer, ENI, ION/GXT Technology

2012 CAA Process

- Starting point for discussions: 2011 CAA with proposed industry changes shown in redline
- Starting point for process: Executive Session of whalers to review and decide on industry's proposed changes and to discuss any changes needed by the villages

2012 PROCESS (CONT)

- Joint discussion of whalers and industry representatives, with the opportunity for new concerns to be raised.
- A second Executive Session of whalers with village caucuses to vote on proposed changes.
- A second joint meeting of all participants.

- # KEY CAA PROVISIONS
- Section 107: Emergency Assistance.
This CAA provision has become law (Public Law 107-372, 16 U.S.C. 916c note)
 - Section 108: The CAA Process of Annual Pre- and Post-Season meetings. (One way to make these meetings more productive is to work together to create a map each year of planned activity areas in relation to hunting areas.)
 - The Mule Deer...

Communications Protocols

- Purpose: To protect hunting areas and keep everyone safe on the water.

Laying Vessel Operations

- Purpose: To manage vessel traffic to avoid conflicts with whaling.
- Keeps hunters safe on the water.
- Reduces the risk of ship strikes to migrating whales.

Monitoring

- Purpose: To keep track of industry vessels operating during the migration and fall/winter hunting.
- To gather information on the types of sounds the vessels put into the water to help us understand what is happening if we see changes in whale behavior.
- To provide for our collaboration on the development of monitoring plans.

Open Water Season

- Purpose: To address potential noise and pollution-related impacts to bowhead whales and subsistence hunting opportunities.
- Geographic and temporal restrictions on industry operations help keep whales available to hunters.
- Pollution limitations help keep whales

Operations

- Purpose: This is a special section added to address ION's proposed late season seismic shooting.

2012 CAA Changes

- Definitions: Change to definition of “geophysical activity,” requested by BP.
- Section 201: No longer require Inupiat language speakers as MMOs, give hiring preference to Native residents of the 11 AEWC villages.
- Section 203: Expand number of Com Centers to include Kivalina, Wales, and St. Lawrence Island.

2012 CAA Changes (cont)

- Section 403: Limit monitoring plan requirement to federal waters (BP)
- Section 503: Add requirement that drilling operations be covered by the Oil Spill Contingency Agreement and signed by AEWG, NSB, ICAS (Shell)
- Section 503: Change offsite location for drilling equipment. (Shell, rejected after

2012 CAA Changes (cont)

- Section 505: Delete requirement that industry vessels leave Chukchi Sea by October 31. keep requirement that all industry vessels be south of 59 degrees North latitude by November 15 and stay 10 miles offshore of St. Lawrence Island. All requirements subject to “ice and weather permitting.”

Other Information

- The CAA Meeting also gave us a chance to:
 - hear about some upcoming research initiatives. Attending these meetings helps researchers plan their activities to they avoid interfering with hunting,
 - interact with the EPA on ocean discharge issues.

2012 CAA Final for Signature

- This has been prepared and sent to all participants.
- At this time, the AEWFC expects all companies operating during the 2012 season to sign the CAA.