



KAWERAK, INC.

REPRESENTING
Brevig Mission

Sitaisaq
Council

Diomede
Injaliq

Elim

Niviarcaurluq

Gambell

Sivuqaq

Golovin

Chinik

King Island

Ugiuvak

Koyuk

Kuuyuk

Mary's Igloo

Qawiaraq

Nome Eskimo

Sitnasuak Inuit

Savoonga

Sivungaq

Shaktoolik

Saktuliq

Shishmaref

Qikiqtaq

Solomon

Anuutaq

St. Michael

Taciq

Stebbins

Tapraq

Teller

Tala

Unalakleet

Uᅇalaqᅇiq

Wales

Kinigin

White Mountain

Iᅇaᅇuik /

Nutchirviq

July 24, 2020

Dr. Roberto Delgado

National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs

2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314

Submitted via email to: IARPCPlan@nsf.gov

Re: Response to IARPC request for comments on the development of the next Arctic Research Plan, 2022-2026

Dear Dr. Delgado,

Kawerak Incorporated (Kawerak) is the Alaska Native non-profit Tribal consortium for the 20 federally recognized Tribes of the Bering Strait region. Our organization and the Tribes in our region are involved in research activities in a variety of ways, including designing and conducting our own research, as well as collaborating with other organizations and entities on research-related activities.

We have several comments regarding the creation of the next IARPC Arctic Research Plan for 2022-2026:

- Research in the US Arctic takes place on and about the traditional lands, air, and waters of Indigenous Peoples. While we understand that the Plan is a 'federal document', we are disappointed that IARPC has not created pathways for federally recognized Tribes and regional Tribal organizations to play a leading role in the development and writing of this Plan (as part of the Plan Development Steering Group, for example).
- The next Plan should not be limited to 'basic' research, but rather should focus on the most pressing Arctic community needs and research concerns, including 'applied' research.
- We believe that '*enhancing the health and well-being of Arctic residents*' should remain a critical 'policy driver' in the next plan. This should include information about knowledge sovereignty, research sovereignty, food security, climate change impacts, and cultural heritage, among other topics.
- The next Plan should emphasize the importance of adhering to the *Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic*, recently revised by IARPC, and discuss the ways that federal agencies apply the *Principles* and monitor adherence to them. Additionally, the Plan should discuss that many Arctic communities have their own guidelines or protocols related to research, which must also be followed.

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- Tribal Consultation is an important part of research planning. The responsibility of federal agencies to consult with federally recognized Tribes should also be detailed in the Plan.
- Kawerak and the Tribes of our region have a number of priorities related to research. We are not able to share research priorities at this time because it is unclear to us how those priorities would be incorporated into the Plan, how they would be used to develop research questions and projects, and what the role of Tribes and Indigenous organizations would be in any research plans and specific research projects.
- We recommend that IARPC revisit your understanding of terms like Traditional, Indigenous and Local knowledge. These terms are not interchangeable¹ and refer to very different concepts and knowledges. We recommend that you clarify the use of these terms in the next Plan.
- The existing (2017-2021) Plan is described as emphasizing ‘the role that northern residents play in the co-production of scientific knowledge’. We disagree that the existing plan does this. The next Plan should redefine what IARPC means by ‘co-production of knowledge’ (CPK²) and outline specific steps that IARPC will take to promote and support CPK.
- We recommend that the next Plan have a more in-depth discussion of funding sources used to support the research outlined and prioritized in the next Plan. This should include a discussion of redirecting research funds directly to Indigenous-led organizations.

Many of the comments we provide herein have also been raised by Kawerak in other IARPC venues and we encourage you to revisit any minutes and notes from your previous engagements for additional information. Kawerak has also committed to participating in the IARPC (virtual) fall workshop regarding the development of the Plan. Additionally, Kawerak intends to continue to monitor the development of the next IARPC 5 year plan and to provide additional feedback where appropriate. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Dr. Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Kawerak Social Science Program Director, at or 907-443-4273 or juliery@kawerak.org.

Sincerely,
KAWERAK, INC.

MELANIE BAHNKE

Melanie Bahnke, President

¹ See, for example: <https://kawerak.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Kawerak-Knowledge-and-Subsistence-Related-Terms.pdf>

² See, for example: C. Behe, J. Raymond-Yakoubian and R. Daniel (2018) *Understanding the Arctic through co-production of knowledge*, ACCAP webinar <https://vimeo.com/350850557>; C. Behe, R. Daniel and J. Raymond-Yakoubian (2019) *Understanding the Arctic through co-production of knowledge*, Arctic Futures 2050 poster <https://kawerak.org/download/cpk-model/>; Ellam yua, J. Raymond-Yakoubian, R. Daniel and C. Behe (forthcoming article) *A framework for co-production of knowledge in the context of Arctic research*.

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