## State of Alaska Actions Addressing a Changing Arctic

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### For Today...

- Impacts of a Warming Environment
- Issues in the Arctic
- DEC Mission and Authorities
- State Fiscal Challenge
- Partnerships
- Tackling the Challenges
- Federal Regulations
- Moving Forward



# Impacts of a Warming Environment

- "Juneau finishes entire year of abovenormal temperatures"
  - Monday Oct 3, 2016, Juneau Empire

- "Over the past 60 years, most of the state has warmed three degrees (F) on average and six degrees during winter."
  - "What Climate Change Means for Alaska", EPA 430-/F-16-004, August 2016

# Impacts of a Warming Environment

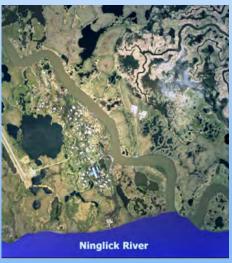
- Stability of slopes and foundations
- Shorter ice-road seasons
- Greater risk of wildland fires
- Changes in the numbers and locations of species and populations





## **Arctic Issues: Community Infrastructure**

- Community infrastructure is at risk from
  - Thawing permafrost
  - Erosion and Flooding
  - Wildfire
- Broad impacts to infrastructure
  - Buildings and Facilities
  - Roads and Runways
  - Water Sources
  - Sanitation Infrastructure





### **Arctic Issues: Shipping Passages**

- Ice-free shipping lanes expected in the future
- Trade in Northern Route unlikely to open for decades
- Will prompt greater need for better port facilities



# **Arctic Issues: Marine Transportation Risks**

- Large volume spills
- Challenging operating conditions
  - Remote areas with limited response capacity
  - Weather and sea states
  - Winter darkness
  - Short open water season
  - Capabilities of vessels and crew
- Need to manage collateral operations and contractors and staff new to the Arctic



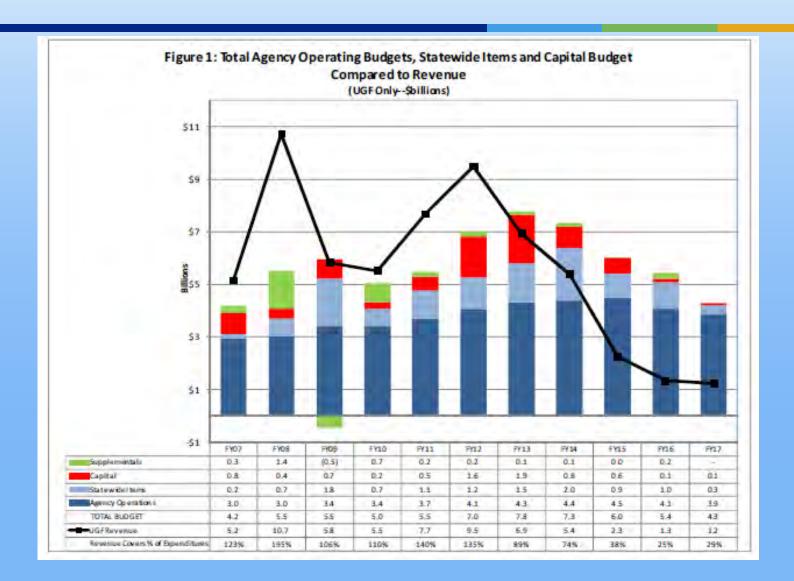
#### **DEC Mission and Authorities**

- Protect human health and the environment
- Enforce environmental standards
- Issue and enforce permits limiting pollution risks
- Prevent, prepare, and respond to spills
- Collaborate with local governments, tribes, federal agencies, and neighboring governments

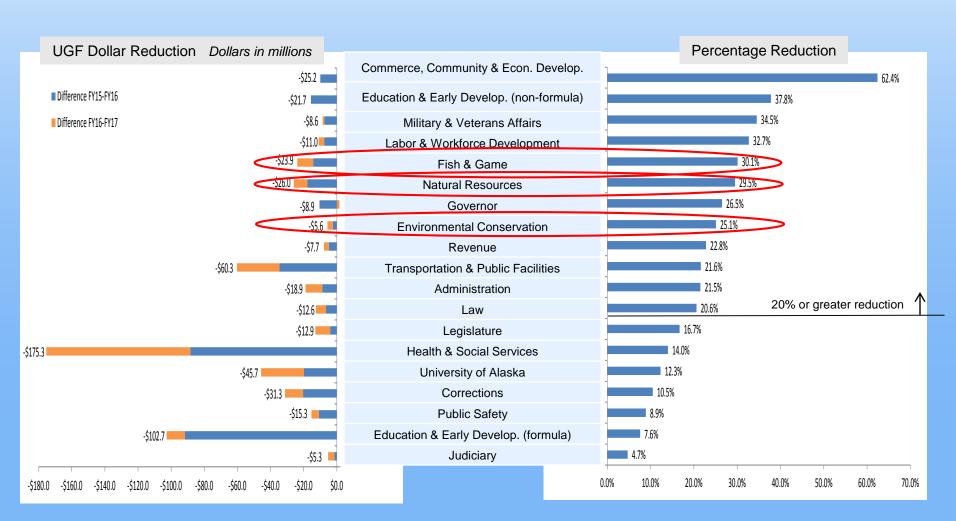




### State Fiscal Challenge



# FY2015—FY2017 UGF Reduction by Department





#### **Partnerships**

#### Arctic Shipping

 Alaska and British Columbia MOU signed by Alaska's Governor and the Premier of the Province of British Columbia on November 25, 2015

#### AEA

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

#### Water Innovations for Healthy Arctic Homes (WIHAH) –

- Cohosted by DEC and State Department
- International conference
- Making delivery of water and sewer services more reliable, affordable, and sustainable;
   Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge

### **Tackling the Challenges**



**Alaska Water and Sewer Challenge** 



### Tackling the Challenges



# **Cultural and Social-Economic Impacts**

- Small, remote communities with high percentages of indigenous peoples
- Tied to use of the land
- Local interest in sustainability and long term resiliency
- Involvement in planning and permitting decisions



## **Current Federal Regulation Green House Gases**

- Subpart W GHG reporting for oil and gas facilities
- Clean Power Plan temporary Alaska deferral
- Council on Environmental Quality new NEPA guidance
- New requirements relating to fugitive methane and flaring (new and modified O&G facilities)



## Potential Future Federal Regulation Green House Gases

Fugitive Methane and Flaring from existing O&G Facilities



#### **Moving Forward, Partnerships**





Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
http://dec.alaska.gov/