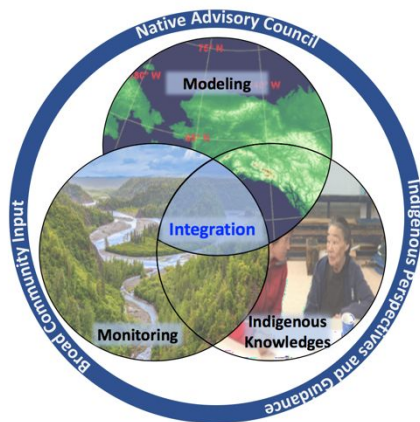


Arctic Rivers Project Update #1: June 18, 2020

Project intro

The *Sensitivity of Alaskan and Yukon Rivers, Fish, and Communities to Climate* is a five-year project funded by the National Science Foundation's Navigating the New Arctic Program. The goal of the project is to weave together Indigenous Knowledges, monitoring, and the modeling of climate, rivers (flows, temperature, ice), and fish to improve our understanding of how Arctic rivers, ice transportation corridors, fish, and communities might be impacted by and adapt to climate change. The project started January 1, 2020 and runs through December 31, 2024.

Native Advisory Council



Just a reminder that there is only one week left to submit an application to be on our 11-member Native Advisory Council! For more information please click on this link:

[Native Advisory Council invitation & background information](#). To apply to be on the Council, you can:

1) Fill out this [google form](#). Please note that there is no way to save your answers and return to the form later.

2) Fill out a paper form and

Email it to Karen Cozzetto, arcticrivers@colorado.edu

Fax the form to Sabre Duren at 303-492-3287

Mail the form to Edda Mutter, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, 725 Christensen Drive #3, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Applications are due June 24th.

Project webinar now posted



We held our first engagement webinar on May 27th and were excited to have many of you joining us. This webinar introduced the project, ways to engage, and the Native Advisory Council application process. Please click on this [link for the webinar recording](#). You can find it listed under *May 2020: Alaskan and Yukon River Webinar Series*.

Monitoring



The Arctic Rivers Project will make use of data collected at existing USGS gaging stations in Alaska and measurements made by community members as part of the Indigenous Observation Network ([ION](#)). So far this year, with the help of USGS hydrologic technicians in Alaska, 3 sensors measuring conductance have been installed at [USGS gages](#) where water flow is regularly measured. Two additional sensors are ready to go when USGS personnel are available.

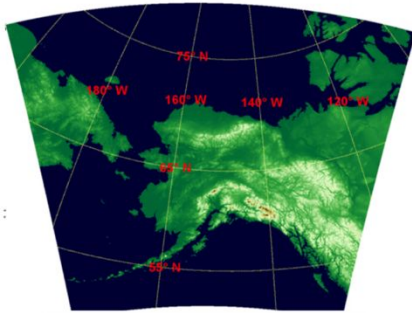
Installation of sensors in communities has been postponed until Summer 2021 due to concerns regarding the spread of Coronavirus via shipping into remote locations. If you have indicated that you are interested in community-based monitoring we will be following up with you soon regarding changes to monitoring plans for this year.

What is Conductivity?

Conductivity sensors measure how well water conducts electricity. Pure water will not conduct electricity, but natural water found in rivers and lakes is not pure. It is full of dissolved minerals and chemicals such as salt (NaCl). The sensors we are installing as part of this project tell us the amount of dissolved minerals and chemicals in the water by telling us how well the water conducts electricity. The more “stuff” – the better it conducts. Knowing this will tell us something about where the water comes from, for example if the water is groundwater, runoff from snow, or permafrost thaw.

To learn more visit the [USGS Water Science School](#)

Climate modeling



Project team members Andy Newman and Joe Hamman with the National Center for Atmospheric Research will be modeling the climate of the area shown in the adjacent figure at a 4 kilometer (2.5 mile) resolution. The data produced from this effort will be some of the highest resolution climate data generated thus far for Alaska and northwestern Canada. This will allow our models to better represent how mountains and permafrost may impact northern rivers in future climate scenarios.

Questions?: Please email arcticrivers@colorado.edu

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