

**Alaska ONE HEALTH Group  
Meeting Notes, August 27, 2013**

**Participant Updates:**

**Brad Harris, APU.** Kuskokwim River water quality analysis, with Kuskokwim River Watershed Council. Active infection of ick in fish of Alaska in virtually all ground fish species. Clam analysis for Kenai Peninsula. Evaluating illness in halibut in Homer.

**Andy Ramey, USGS,** avian infectious agents, Newcastle illness and avian influenza. Blue wing teal looks like a pattern in H7 virus (East Asia) seasonal pattern relevant for poultry industry and human health. Pintail ducks and H5 virus. Japan had high antibodies in H5N1.

**Alan Parkinson, CDC, AIP.** International circumpolar surveillance meeting (Copenhagen), infectious disease and climate change working group. Meeting annually, Fairbanks 2012. Agenda includes country roundtable, look for cross border collaborations. White paper draft about climate change and infectious disease (pub date 2013).

**James Berner, ANTHC.** Cross border collaborations involve zoonotic disease and looking at ways for community based environmental monitoring. Working with Canada method and UAF Wildlife Toxicology Lab to advance filter paper blood test methodology. Fish, sea mammals, land mammals, birds etc. Inexpensive, works well for metals and working now on method for organic contaminants. Also could be applied for monitoring of zoonotic illnesses like tularemia, toxo plasmosis, etc. We are exploring involvement from seven other Arctic Nations to develop observation and monitoring network.

**Ali Hamade, DHSS,** Environmental and public health program. Identifying hazards and health risks from contaminants. Our involvement related to climate change is mostly about air quality. There are many topics related to mobilization of mercury and safety of subsistence animals and food are topics of interest as well as the impact on landfills.

**Lori Verbrugge, USFWS** – Working on the NEPA process for mine and dam projects. From the climate perspective USFWS is encouraging projects to put climate into their models.

**Todd Atwood USGS.** Polar bear health research. There have been some pretty rapid declines in sea ice and more bears coming ashore and spending more time on shore. This year we are starting a project to look at exposure to coxiella, brucella and other zoonotic infections. There were a couple of cases of the UME related illness in polar bears this year.

**Kelly Patyk, USGS.** National Animal Health Monitoring system. Outlining USGS role in this project. Located at the centers for epidemiology and animal health.

**Colleen Duncan,** Fort Collins, Colorado. Working on projects focused on coxiella.

**Karston Hueffer UAF.** Working with Caroline on the white fronted goose and found a lot of listeria. On rabies finishing paper on population structure and different strains of rabies strains in Alaska and a look at Arctic versus other fox species.

**Durelle Smith USGS.** Kuskokwim village water quality training. Partnering with Kuskokwim and Yukon water shed monitoring groups. Integrating TEK into these efforts.

**Caroline Van Hemert USGS,** beak deformities related to viral discoveries in birds.

**Gay Sheffield, Marine Observer Agent.** Less than a dozen ice seals exhibiting hair loss or sores this spring / summer. Walrus were not confirmed as UME related.

**Todd O'Hara, UAF.** We are developing a program with Colorado State University to have veterinary school in a one health context. We are continuing to build this program. Plan for fall of 2015 has first class.

#### **Hot Topics –**

Lori Verbrugge – USFWS with Fukushima there has not been any current questions related about Fukushima. DHSS has not heard any new comments or inquiries. The USFWS questions were more related to migrating birds.

Gay Sheffield – Fukushima is a big concern in the Nome area and a topic of discussion related to the ice seal issue. These kinds of events raise concern about food security.

Ali Hamade - suggested working together on a fact sheet to address these kinds of concerns. Lori - there are also older updates that are available on the DHSS website which may be able to.

Todd Ohara – It is really important to emphasize how sensitive this issue is to rural communities because of the history of nuclear use in Alaska.

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