



Dear Colleague,

You are invited to join the National Academy of Sciences' Gulf Program for an Alaska-focused virtual listening meeting on **Thursday, October 10 at 9am AKDT/1pm EDT**.

As you may know, the NAS Gulf Program is a new research [program](http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/gulfprogram.html) (<http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/gulfprogram.html>) focused on human health, environmental protection, and oil system safety in the Gulf of Mexico and similar outer continental shelf regions. During the program's 30-year timeframe, the NAS will carry out activities in three broad areas: research and development, education and training, and environmental monitoring.

An [Advisory Group](http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/gulfbios.html) (AG) (<http://www.nationalacademies.org/gulf/gulfbios.html>) has been appointed to steer the start of the new program. I am the only Alaskan on this group. To help its thinking, the AG is hosting a series of opportunities, including virtual meetings, over the next six months for people to talk with us and provide ideas on possible opportunities for our program.

We welcome you, as an Alaska OCS stakeholder, to join us for our first virtual meeting to learn about our initial program planning and help the AG understand relevant Alaskan and Arctic issues and interests. We will provide information about how you can register for this meeting in the coming weeks. AOOS will make available our conference room at 1007 W. Third Avenue in Anchorage for those who would like to participate jointly with other Alaskans; others can join by teleconference.

I hope as many Alaskans as possible take advantage of this opportunity to suggest ideas for this program that can benefit the Alaska OCS as well as the Gulf of Mexico and other OCS regions.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Molly McCammon, Director
Alaska Ocean Observing System