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UNDERSTANDING RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIETAL CHANGE: ADAPTATION ACTIONS FOR A CHANGING ARCTIC – BERING CHUKCHI BEAUFORT REGION

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“Adaptation Actions for a Changing Arctic” (AACA, part C) is an Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) led assessment of climate and integrated social/environmental frameworks/models that can inform adaptation actions in the face of Arctic change. AACA-C is a major contribution to an international synthesis effort that will break new ground through its focus on adaptation to multiple stressors. We are conducting an assessment of the adaptations residents of the Bering /Chukchi /Beaufort Sea (BCB) region have implemented (or need to develop) to deal with the rapid changes in climate, landscape, ecosystems and social systems that have occurred in recent decades. We also hope to characterize deficiencies in their abilities to adapt so we may better understand where assistance is needed or where alternatives to adaptation must be developed.

This report includes an examination of the relevant sectors to this region and a summary of what has been learned and what challenges remain. Authors from throughout the international Arctic community are involved in completion of this assessment. The specific goal of AACA-C is to consider Arctic-focused climate and integrated environmental frameworks or models that can improve predictions of climate change and other relevant drivers of Arctic change and identify adaptations that may be implemented or identify deficiencies where additional understanding is required to promote adaptive capacity. AACA-C will guide Arctic adaptation efforts inform future Arctic research and serve as an Arctic linkage to the USGCRP’s sustained assessment plan. The information required for this assessment is completed through a review of published literature, a distillation of scenario information, and direct interviews with a wide variety of members from sectors important in this region.