

# RUSALCA Past, Present, Future US perspective

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# PAST

- RUSALCA phase 1 includes some unusual elements
  - Collaboration with Russia including access to Russian waters
  - Multi-disciplinary approach, including climate-scale thinking, relating physical change to ecosystem response
  - Break from strong US focus on SE Bering Sea to work in higher latitude areas
  - Exploration, extending to trend detection, then to model-based understanding of key features

# Present-Internal

- Need successful accomplishment of 2012 cruises
- Need rapid analysis of data and samples from 2012 cruises during 2012 and 2013 and multidisciplinary synthesis
- Some level of funding will be available in 2013 to aid in analysis and synthesis. Probably rely on JI/CI partnerships for U.S. funding mechanism.
- May need to select a “synthesis” leader to guide the process

# Present-External

- Many new Arctic-related activities in NOAA and in other US and Russian agencies
- Original NOAA Arctic Program now one of many voices vying for attention and resources
- Greater internal and interagency coordination is needed, and pressures growing on Arctic Program to move in new directions in response to current priorities
- Anticipate reduced budgets as US deals with its deficit problem

# Future

- Need to reassess the original motivations and science approach for RUSALCA
- Synthesis and assessment of data from current phase of RUSALCA will be critical for this
- Probably involve an “advisory body” to assist with the science assessment, some interaction anticipated between advisors and current PIs
- Need to work toward stronger involvement of Russian partners and increased Russian support for the project
- Mooring cruise seems secure for 2013