

Factsheet for IARPC 5-year Plan 2022-2026 Development *Federal Register* Request for Input (April 3 - August 2, 2020)

The [Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee \(IARPC\)](#) is initiating development of the next 5-year Arctic Research Plan, as called for in the Arctic Research Policy Act (ARPA) of 1984 (15 U.S.C. § 4108). In December 2016, the Executive Office of the President released the current Arctic Research Plan that will expire at the end of 2021 (learn more in the [Fact Sheet for Arctic Research Plan 2017-2021](#)). The new 5-year Plan will aim to strengthen interagency communication, coordination, and collaboration of the 14 Federal agencies, departments and offices that make up IARPC. The Plan will address critical needs in Arctic research and identify those areas where research in the Arctic can be improved through interagency collaboration.

Some basic facts about the Arctic Research Plan:

- Plans align with the goals and missions of the Federal agencies supporting research in the Arctic.
- IARPC's Arctic Research Plans are U.S. Federal documents.
- Arctic Research Plans focus on research which will be enhanced through cooperation between Federal agencies. Plans do not attempt to address all Arctic research.
- The plans to date have primarily focused on basic research but may include applied research as well.
- IARPC welcomes ideas for research in any natural or social science field.

Where is IARPC in the process?

The IARPC Principals approved development of the next Arctic Research Plan in October 2019. That fall and winter, IARPC worked to secure resources, begin outreach, and identify a Plan Development Steering Group (PDSG) (see [webpage](#) for membership). The PDSG met for the first time in January 2020 and has since instituted monthly meetings. The PDSG has two working groups: one group focused on engagement and the other to plan a Fall 2020 workshop to bring input together from a diverse group and shape the Plan's framework. Engagement activities are available [here](#).

Summary Timeline of Plan Development

Review and Planning (Fall 2019 - Winter 2020)

- Develop Engagement Strategy and host listening sessions
- Identify Federal Plan Development Steering Group (PDSG)

Development (Spring 2020 - Fall 2020)

- First Federal Register Request for Input to the draft Plan from April 3-August 2
- Public input listening sessions and webinars
- Plan Development Workshop

Drafting (Winter 2020 - Spring 2020)

- Federal drafting teams write chapters informed by input received
- Second Federal Register Request for input on the draft Plan

Revision, Review, and Release (Summer 2021 - Winter 2021)

- Revise and interagency review
- Release

You can see the full timeline here:

<https://www.iarpcollaborations.org/arctic-research-plan-2022-2026.html>

What is important right now?

On April 3, we released a Federal Register Notice (FRN) soliciting input on the goals and structure of the Plan. The deadline to submit comments is August 2 (extended from the original deadline of July 2). Please see the [Federal Register Notice](#) for more information (also see [FRN Extension Notice](#)) You can also submit comments by emailing IARPCPlan@nsf.gov.

What kind of input are we looking for?

1. Content of the Plan: The critical issues where Federally-funded science and engineering research can provide knowledge to promote good decision-making at all levels related to the Arctic.
2. Organization of the Plan: The structure of the Arctic Research Plan and how it might be updated to better meet and communicate the science needs and plans for the Arctic.

(See the Plan Development Webpage for a full list of ways to contribute:

www.iarpcollaborations.org/arctic-research-plan-2022-2026.html)

How will input and comments be used?

For this first *Federal Register* Notice (currently open until August 2) all comments and input received during the engagement phase (January – August 2020) will be made publicly available (without attribution) on the IARPC collaborations website. We will not provide any direct responses to commenters. We will use the information and ideas received in several ways:

- Input will be synthesized to inform a planned September 2020 workshop where the framework and goals for this next 5-year plan will be discussed with a diverse array of stakeholders.
- The federal drafting team will use the comments to ensure they have robust information to shape the text of the first draft of the next plan.

Once a draft Plan is complete, we will issue a second *Federal Register* Notice (scheduled for April 2021) to collect input and comments on the draft Plan, which will be used by the federal drafting teams to revise the Plan as appropriate. All comments and responses to the draft Plan

received during this second engagement phase will be made publicly available (without attribution) on the IARPC collaborations website.

Questions, request more information:

Contact the IARPC Secretariat (Meredith LaValley at mlavalley@arcus.org)