



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation



ECOS Digital Business Workgroup

***Returning to the Workplace and Boosting Public Involvement:
Alaska's Experience with Smart Comment***

Jason Brune, Commissioner

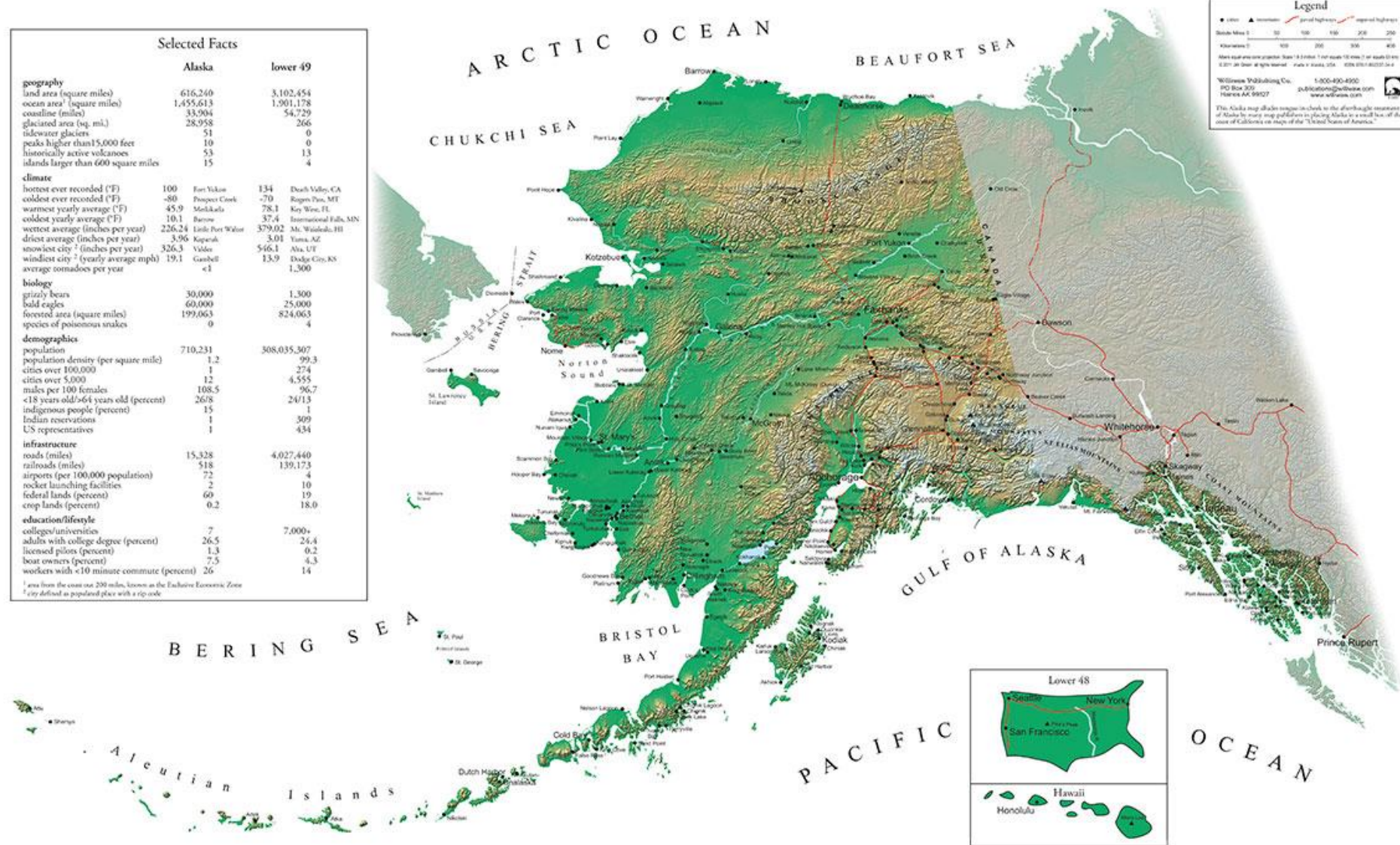
September 8, 2021

The United States of America

Selected Facts		
	Alaska	lower 49
geography		
land area (square miles)	616,240	3,102,454
ocean area ¹ (square miles)	1,455,613	1,901,178
coastline (miles)	33,904	54,729
glaciated area (sq. mi.)	28,958	266
tidewater glaciers	51	0
peaks higher than 15,000 feet	10	0
historically active volcanoes	53	13
islands larger than 600 square miles	15	4
climate		
hottest ever recorded (°F)	100 Fort Yukon	134 Death Valley, CA
coldest ever recorded (°F)	-80 Prospect Creek	-70 Rogers Pass, MT
warmest yearly average (°F)	45.9 Mokulua	78.1 Key West, FL
coldest yearly average (°F)	10.1 Barrow	37.4 International Falls, MN
wettest average (inches per year)	226.24 Little Port Walter	379.02 Mt. Waialeale, HI
driest average (inches per year)	3.96 Kapewah	3.01 Yuma, AZ
snowiest city ² (inches per year)	326.3 Valdez	546.1 Alta, UT
windiest city ² (yearly average mph)	19.1 Gambell	13.9 Dodge City, KS
average tornadoes per year	<1	1,300
biology		
grizzly bears	30,000	1,300
bald eagles	60,000	25,000
forested area (square miles)	199,063	824,063
species of poisonous snakes	0	4
demographics		
population	710,231	308,035,307
population density (per square mile)	1.2	99.3
cities over 100,000	1	274
cities over 5,000	12	4,555
males per 100 females	108.5	96.7
<18 years old/≥64 years old (percent)	26/8	24/13
indigenous people (percent)	15	1
Indian reservations	1	309
US representatives	1	434
infrastructure		
roads (miles)	15,328	4,027,440
railroads (miles)	518	139,173
airports (per 100,000 population)	72	4
rocket launching facilities	2	10
federal lands (percent)	60	19
crop lands (percent)	0.2	18.0
education/lifestyle		
colleges/universities	7	7,000+
adults with college degree (percent)	26.5	24.4
licensed pilots (percent)	1.3	0.2
boat owners (percent)	7.5	4.3
workers with <10 minute commute (percent)	26	14

¹ area from the coast out 200 miles, known as the Exclusive Economic Zone

² city defined as populated place with a zip code



Legend

• city ▲ town — road — railroad — water

Scale: 1 inch = 100 miles

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The Alaska map shows topography in shades of gray to the north of the 60°N latitude line. The map of Alaska is a small-scale map of the state of California on maps of the "United States of America."

Boosting Public Involvement through Smart Comment

Alaska's efforts started before Covid

Permitting

Regulatory Amendments

Ease of use/Consistency/Organization/Archive

Stakeholders/Commenters

Staff

Increase transparency

Decrease public records requests/calls from media



Boosting Public Involvement through Smart Comment

Acquired tool for entire state with Covid funds

DEC

DNR

Others



It's far easier to stick with what you have, but implementing Smart Comment has been very much worth the investment of time and money for the State of Alaska.



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NOTICE AND LINK TO COMMENT



OPEN DATE

CLOSE DATE

[Notice of Application for an Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan - Centerline Logistics Corporation](#)

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07/30/2021 09/17/2021

[Notice of Cancellation of Public Hearing - Air Quality Control Regulations](#)

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[Notice of Application for an Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan - Trident Seafoods Corporation](#)

08/16/2021 09/14/2021

[Notice of Proposed Reissuance of General Permit 2021DB0001 - Class I Underground Injection Control Well Waste Disposal](#)

08/12/2021 09/13/2021



Alaska Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

The comment period is closed for
**Animal Health: Notice of Proposed Revisions to Animal Importation,
Animal Testing, and Disease Reporting (18 AAC 36)**

Commenting open: **August 07, 2020 08:00AM AKT - October 30, 2020 11:59PM AKT.**

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Questions?



Yes, it's true if you cut Alaska in half, Texas would become the third largest state