

# IPY in Action

Applying international research to rural **Alaska**



**I**magine the International Polar Year as a large think tank of experts from around the world who gather together every 50 years or so to compare notes and study the evolutionary changes at the top and bottom of the world. With the effects of global warming and dwindling fish supplies looming over ever-growing populations, the results from this two-year conference are more important than ever.

This IPY – organized through the International Council for Science and the World Meteorological Organization – is actually the fourth time around, following 1882-1883, 1932-1933 and 1957-1958. The March 2007 to March 2009 event involves more than 200 projects, with thousands of scientists from over 60 nations. Topics range from climate change, economy and politics of the north, health initiatives to northern communities’ response to all this information. The IPY also offers an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate, follow and use cutting-edge science in real-time via the Internet.

**N**eedless-  
Alaska  
survive  
researchers and test  
nearly 60 scientists and  
of Alaska professors and  
in IPY projects.

One of the  
make sure all the  
conveyed to the folks  
to help themselves – and the planet – evolve.



to-say, the land that is  
and the people who  
on it serve equally as  
subjects. That's why  
researchers –University  
students – are involved

forum's major goals is to  
information gathered is  
who can learn and use it

That's where the Rural Development Project comes in. The RDP staff will peruse the IPY research, projects, workshops, conferences and other events from around the world and then present information and results relevant to Southeast Alaska, the Upper/Lower Kuskokwim rivers area and the Copper River Valley.

For example, this site will feature frequent easy-to-read summaries, articles and interviews written by the RDP staff. The first involves the ever-present goblin of global warming and how it affects the land, vegetation and lifestyles. Future topics include: Sustainable Development and the Economy of the North, Tourism and People and the Evolving Northern Culture

## **Web site addresses to remember:**

United State IPY site, [www.ipy.gov](http://www.ipy.gov)

International IPY site, [www.ipy.org](http://www.ipy.org)

University of Alaska IPY site,  
[www.alaska.edu/ipy](http://www.alaska.edu/ipy)

UAF Cooperative Extension  
Service, [www.uaf.edu/ces](http://www.uaf.edu/ces)

Extension Rural Development  
Project,  
[www.uaf.edu/ces/ruraldevelopment/  
index.html](http://www.uaf.edu/ces/ruraldevelopment/index.html).



## **Upcoming IPY events in Alaska**

### [Marine Access at the Top of the World](#)

7 p.m. Thursday, Thursday, Sept. 13

### [On the Front Line of Climate Change](#)

7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20, at the Charles W. Davis Concert Hall in Fairbanks

### [Arctic Science Conference](#)

Monday through Wednesday, Sept. 24-26, in Anchorage, AK. For more information and to register, contact the Web site or email: [contact@nicop.org](mailto:contact@nicop.org)

### [Sustainable Northern Shelter](#)

The biennial circumpolar forum on sustainable northern shelter – sponsored by the Cold Climate Housing Research Center – occurs Sunday through Tuesday, Oct. 28-30 in Fairbanks, AK.



### [Ninth Annual Conference on Permafrost](#)

The University of Alaska hosts the Ninth International Conference on Permafrost (NICOP), which marks the 25th anniversary of the IPA and the Fourth ICOP (1983), from June 29 through July 3, 2008, at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Fairbanks, AK, USA.