

# Kenai Fjords

National Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center (OASLC)

*The Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center (OASLC) is a partnership dedicated to understanding, and preserving the marine ecosystem connecting Alaska's National Parks through research and education.*

The major partners in the OASLC are: *Kenai Fjords National Park* and the *Alaska SeaLife Center* both based out of Seward, Alaska. This Center represents one of 32 learning centers the National Park Service is developing across the country through the "Natural Resource Challenge" program to support more research in the Parks and to educate the public about that research.

### **The overall goals of the OASLC are to:**

- Foster sustainable ecosystem policies through science and education.
- Explain resource issues in terms understood by wide audiences and in ways that encourage participation.
- Provide adequate scientific information to manage resources.
- Provide support for research projects that address marine issues in Alaska's National Parks.
- Foster partnerships and opportunities for other agencies and institutions to participate in marine research and education.
- Provide the public with the opportunity to participate in the research process.
- Establish distance learning programs to educate state, national, and international audiences about Alaska's marine issues.
- Build and maintain physical and organizational infrastructure necessary to achieve mission.

### **The OASLC will include the following elements:**

EDUCATION SERVICES  
FACILITIES  
STAFFING

RESEARCH SUPPORT  
PARTNERSHIPS  
PUBLICITY / OUTREACH

### **FY 2001 projects include:**

- The overall planning effort.
- A promotional video.
- A brochure introducing the OASLC and outlining procedures researchers need to follow in order to apply for funding and support (due out in April).
- A web-based education project highlighting a Kenai Fjords National Park coastal black bear research project (due out this fall).
- Partial financial support for an ASLC Steller sea lion research project.
- Support for an ongoing Kenai Fjords National Park black oystercatcher research project.
- Planning for an annual science symposium with an "eider" theme (October).
- Equipment, supplies and staffing as necessary.
- Travel to the national learning centers meeting in Pt. Reyes in March, outreach at the George Wright Society meeting in April, and outreach at the National Marine Educator's Association conference in July.



Alaska SeaLife Center

*Eventually the OASLC will become the hub supporting various research projects that study National Parks in Alaska with marine resources and from which the public can learn about Park research and science-based resource management.*

