

SUMMARY OF PETERSBURG PUBLIC MEETING

January 15, 2002

Meeting Time and Location

Public hearing conducted January 15, 2002, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

Publicity and Promotion

- Public notice published in local paper, *Petersburg Pilot*.
- News article on the hearing and GRS process appeared in January 10 *Petersburg Pilot*.
- Flyers posted at Harbormaster Office, marina/harbor ramps and entrances, commercial food outlets, Petersburg Indian Association office, Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices, Tongass Forest District Ranger office.
- Announcement on local cable scanner channel.
- Interview and news story on KFSK public radio (January 15, 2002)
- News announcement on KRSA radio.
- Announcement at Petersburg Indian Association Council meeting.
- Calls made at the offices of the Harbormaster, Tongass National Forest, Petersburg Indian Association.

Feedback

Six people representing commercial/private vessel operators, and area natural resource agencies attended the public meeting. After listening to an overview of the GRS process, and receiving a handout that described the process and listed the candidate sites, the attendees provided the following comments:

1. Wrangell Narrows in general: Named or implied as Southeast Alaska's most probable location for fuel spills in National Response Team 1989 report (note T/B Frank H. Brown spill of 1989), Southeast Alaska Sub Area Contingency Plan, and the Petersburg Emergency Response Plan. Most hazardous part of the narrows is south of Falls Creek. Because of the high probability of a diesel fuel spill in Wrangell Narrows, Blind Slough, Twin Creek, Falls Creek, Petersburg Creek and Beecher Pass should be considered for GRS.
2. Petersburg Creek: Proximity to harbors, ships and boats. Significant pink, coho, chum salmon spawning areas. Primary steelhead run. Tidal influence up to 8 miles upstream.
3. Falls Creek, Twin Creek, and Beecher Pass are salmon spawning areas and host significant waterfowl congregations.
4. Blind Slough (north): Not a lot of freshwater flux to keep spills out of sensitive areas. Birds, swans and hatchery.
5. Anan Creek (Bradford Canal): Biggest pink salmon run in Petersburg/Wrangell area. Large yachts, up to 125 feet, traffic area. Developed by Forest Service as a prime bear viewing area.
6. South Blind Slough being considered as Inter-Island Ferry (IFA) terminal.

7. Leconte Bay: Numerous small cruise ship and charter vessel traffic. Glacier calving and 'shooters' create navigation hazards. Harbor seals and fish streams.
8. Stikine River delta: Highly sensitive habitat. Probability of spill impact lower than areas along Wrangell Narrows. Summer outflows will prevent spills from moving very far up into the flats. Low flows in the winter (late August to March) could allow spills to move up the river several miles. Monthly high tides cover marshes up to Farm Island.
9. Thomas Bay: Comparable to Farragut Bay. Should be placed on the list.
10. Keku Island: South end is a large otter area.
11. South Chatham Strait: Impacted by largest oil spill in Southeast Alaska history. Consider more sites there.
12. North end of Prince of Wales Island: Consider Red Bay, Salmon Bay and Whale Pass. Important sockeye subsistence areas and highly vulnerable in the summer season due to vessel traffic.