

Meeting of the Aleutian Subarea PPOR/GRS Workgroup

May 17, 2007

Unalaska City Council Chambers

Unalaska, Alaska

Attendees:

David Alvestad, Dunlop Towing	Eric Johnson, Alaska Maritime Agencies
John Brown, ADEC	Frank Kelty, Aleutian West CRSA
Gregory Crettol, USCG	Shirley Marquardt, City of Unalaska
Michael Delury, USCG	Steve Moreno, Alaska Marine Pilots
Steve Devitt, Dunlop Towing	Peggy Osterback, AMMC
Mary Goolie, USEPA (teleconference)	Alvin Osterback, Port of Dutch Harbor
David Gregory, Ounalashka Corp	Leslie Pearson, ADEC
Chris Hladick, City of Unalaska	Tim Robertson, Nuka Research
Chris Iszler, Horizon Lines	Kent Sundseth, AMNWR
Mark Janes, Nuka Research	

This meeting was preceded by a public meeting at 6:00 PM on May 16 at the Unalaska City Council Chambers. At the public meeting, the PPOR and GRS projects were explained and the public was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. 24 people attended that meeting.

Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquardt opened the workgroup meeting and welcomed the group. She briefly reported on developments and events in Dutch Harbor that reiterate the need for these plans as well as other preventative measures to assist and protect the waters around Unalaska. She outlined the efforts undertaken by an ad hoc work group developing emergency tow packages that could be deployed to tugs or stricken vessels. She reaffirmed her and the City of Unalaska's support for these plans and thanked the principal participants for their efforts.

Leslie Pearson of ADEC gave an opening statement outlining the project history and ADEC's key role in developing these plans. She is pleased that the City of Unalaska, the USCG, the Alaska Marine Pilots Association, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and others have partnered with ADEC to foster a pragmatic approach to continue to reduce risks and prepare for future responses in the Aleutian Subarea.

Tim Robertson of Nuka Research, provided an overview of both the GRS and PPOR projects. The review was brief, as all of the individuals present had attended the public informational forum the evening before. He outlined the status and timeline of these projects explaining that the documents produced for this project are considered authored by the workgroup and will be submitted to the Subarea Committee for inclusion in the Subarea Contingency Plan. The workgroup has control over the form and content of the documents and he encouraged any input that will make the documents more useful. He reported on the previous workgroup meeting (January 31, 2007 in Anchorage) during

which the GRS and PPOR sites were nominated. After that meeting, this information was taken and the draft PPOR documents were produced. These were posted to the website and the workgroup was requested to review these plans and submit edits. Additional edits are to be collected during this meeting and during comment periods prior to the completion of the project. The nominated GRS sites in the East B Zone had additional information collected regarding the resources to be protected and this was made available for review prior to this meeting.

During this week, a survey group visited the six local GRS sites that were accessible via the road system or skiff and developed tactics for each site. The sites that were deployed during the Selandang Ayu Spill on the western side of Unalaska Island were developed as GRS' to capture the information and memorialize the deployments. The remaining sites were developed using charts, maps and other resources. All of these will be reviewed in draft form and will be further developed and made available on-line for full review. Aerial photography will be accomplished depending on weather conditions and incorporated in the GRS documents.

Both the PPOR and the GRS project documents will be evaluated at this meeting by the workgroup. The edits collected will be incorporated into the documents and made available at the project websites for additional review. After this review period and assuming there are no major issues regarding the content or form of the documents, the plans will be completed and considered approved by the workgroup. The documents will then be forwarded to the Aleutians Subarea Committee for final approval and incorporation into the subarea plan.

Noting the public nature of the process, Mr. Robertson then opened the floor for any public comments. None were offered at that time.

Potential Places of Refuge Review

Mr. Robertson listed the PPOR documents that were to be reviewed by the workgroup during the meeting:

- The Introductory Section
- The Risk Maps
- The Index Map
- The Site Assessment Matrix and Key
- The PPOR charts and accompanying informational tables

He explained that each of the documents were available online and could be reviewed and additional comments could be submitted if individuals were unable to propose edits at this time. He briefly reviewed each document and then focused primarily on the review of the PPOR Charts and Tables. With the Alaska Marine Pilots and other local individuals present, each of the 79 sites were reviewed and edits collected.

Major decisions items:

- Inclusion of a designation for “Rat Free” and “Rat Infested” Islands.
- Change in format of the information on exposure to sea states and storms that will be more reflective of typical mariner expressions.

- Change all designation of depths under 10 fathoms from fathoms to feet in the tables.
- Change the tidal information to Extreme High and Extreme Low Water.
- Adjust the vessel classification to more accurately reflect vessels transiting the area.

Emergency Tow Package Project

To accommodate the schedules of local tug operators and maritime agencies, the workgroup then transitioned into a discussion regarding the development of the Emergency Tow Packages and Protocols that are being developed in Unalaska. It was decided that this should be a separate process and workgroup. The summary of this discussion will be made available on a soon to be developed Aleutian Emergency Towing System Home Page.

Geographic Response Strategies

Mr. Robertson listed the documents to be reviewed for the GRS project:

- The Introduction Section
- Site Selection Matrix and Key
- Index Map
- Individual Geographic Response Strategies

Again he encouraged review of the documents on the web and submission of edits by workgroup members. He began the review of individual sites that have been drafted. The workgroup discussed that many of the sites selected are extremely exposed and present significant challenges to responders. The benefits of GRS designation was questioned for these difficult to protect sites. It was noted that in past projects some sites continue as GRS with only free oil open water recovery efforts being specified as the response activity. This GRS designation denotes that the sites are of extreme importance and environmental sensitivity. In specifying a site as a GRS, the workgroup will influence the response activities to address these sites. It was decided that these sites should continue as GRS'.

The group also discussed the Passive Recovery-Marine Mammal Tactic (PR-MM) as it relates to Steller's Sealion haulouts and rookeries. The group agreed with the inclusion of this tactic when appropriate. Kent Sundseth of USFWS raised the issue that some areas have crevice-nesting birds that are at risk in the event of a spill. He was unsure of any plans for protection of these birds, and thought that a Passive Recovery Tactic similar to the PR-MM might provide some protection. He agreed to research the issue with AMNWR personnel.

A brief summary of the discussion for each site follows:

Site Name	Comments
Ugamak/Aiktak Islands	Difficult access and exposure, high risk due to shipping traffic
Lost Harbor Surf Bay-Akun Is.	Unsure of resources-salmon streams?
Akutan Harbor	Local input needed on resources
Open Bight/Hot Springs Bay	Unsure of resources-salmon streams and harbor development. Local input needed.
Unalga/Baby Island	Difficult access and exposure, high risk due to shipping traffic.
Kashega Bay	Selendang Ayu Deployment
Pumicestone Bay	Selendang Ayu Deployment
Spray Cape/Skan Bay	Selendang Ayu Deployment
Mouth of Makushin Bay	Selendang Ayu Deployment
Head of Makushin Bay	Selendang Ayu Deployment
Volcano Bay/Cape Kovrizhka	Selendang Ayu Deployment
Cape Winslow/Reese Bay	Local knowledge utilized in development
Broad Bay	Surveyed
Nateekin Bay	Surveyed
Head of Captains Bay	Surveyed
Obernoi Pt Stream	Surveyed
Iliuliuk River	Surveyed
Hog Island	Surveyed
Summer Bay	Surveyed
Nikolski Bay	Local input needed on resources and conditions

Mr. Robertson adjourned the meeting noting that all the information collected will be used in editing the PPOR and GRS documents. The next draft documents will be posted to the project website when completed and the workgroup will again be tasked to review the updated documents to ensure accuracy in content and form.