

MEETING OF THE ALEUTIANS SUBAREA GRS WORKGROUP

May 7, 2004

Gordon Watson Conference Room  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Building  
Anchorage, Alaska

Attendees:

Catherine Berg - USFWS	Ellen Lance - USFWS
Dale Gardner – ADEC, Co-chair	John LeClaire - Alaska Chadux
Mary Goolie - USEPA	Doug Mutter - USDOJ
Chris Hoffman - US Corps of Engineer	Tim Robertson - Nuka Research
Mark Janes - Nuka Research	Erika Tritremmel - City of Akutan
Bob Juettner - Aleutian East Borough	Chris Woodley - USCG, Co-chair

Dale Gardner opened the meeting with introductions by the workgroup members and reviewed the agenda.

The meeting was opened for public comment. None was received.

Tim Robertson gave an overview of geographic response strategies (GRS), including the development process, the contracted scope of work, and the projected timeline for the Aleutians Subarea GRS project. This workgroup meeting nearly completes Phase I of a projected two-phase project. The funding for Phase II, which includes the actual development of the GRS, is not certain at this time. As part of Phase I, ADEC contractors, Nuka Research, will produce a draft work plan to layout the tasks necessary to complete the project.

Mr. Robertson also briefed the workgroup on the federally-funded Nelson Lagoon GRS project.

A previously-prepared Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), currently under consideration by the proposed signatories, was presented to the workgroup for review. The MOA will provide the participants in the GRS development process with the objectives and parameters for completion of the project. Comments regarding the MOA or workgroup membership composition were sought from the workgroup. .

Chris Woodley of the USCG reviewed the Oil Spill Risk and Capability Maps for the subarea. Information and edits for each risk or capability layer were noted as follows:

- Location of spill response equipment: the maps should contain the equipment held by C-Plan holders in the area. This information will be supplied by ADEC to the contractor. The table should include additional information on storage and

- skimming capabilities. The USGC has decreased the amount of response equipment on the Pribilofs due to reduced fishing in the region.
- Fishing and tramper offloading: Dutch Harbor has 300-400 tramper vessels entering the harbor each year; 500 vessel moves were recorded last year. The map will be edited to indicate the large amounts of pot and trawling fishing in Unimak Pass.
  - Noncrude carrier routes: Almost all noncrude shipping passes through Unimak Pass, not Akutan Pass. Nuka Research will confer with the Alaska Marine Pilots to confirm vessel routes.
  - Bulk Fuel Storage: Bulk fuel storage upgrades in certain communities need to be noted. AEA should have this information.
  - Logistics: the use of the two northern airports on Unmak Island were questioned by local individuals; this information will be verified by Nuka Research. Local community members in the workgroup provided information regarding local harbor facilities.
  - Major spill events: Significant groundings will be incorporated in this layer. The USCG will provide grounding data.
  - Cruise ship and ferry traffic: Changes were noted in the identified routes.

The group discussed the weather and currents in the area. Tim Robertson related information received from Dr. Whitney of NOAA about predominate currents and winds. Winds predominately blow from the NW or SE and can reach higher velocities as they are pushed through island and mountain passes. Ocean currents can be dangerously strong and high through island passes due to the flow of the Pacific Ocean into the Bering Sea. The Aleutian Low is a significant weather factor in this region.

Doug Mutter led the workgroup through a review of the site selection matrix and index maps in preparation for prioritizing and selecting candidate sites for GRS development. Due to the enormity of the Aleutians Subarea and the large amount of sensitive resources present, the workgroup decided that sites should be selected with special consideration to the actual risk of an oil spill reaching an area and the ability to deploy response equipment and protect sensitive resources in a timely manner.

Sites nominated as High Priority Sites were:

Aleutians Subarea - East A:

1. AEA10-Albatros Anchorage/Balboa Bay
2. AEA11-Lefthand Bay/Balboa Bay
3. AEA12-Balboa Bay
4. AEA32-King Cove
5. AEA35-Kinzarof Lagoon/Cold Bay
6. AEA70-Izembek Lagoon-east
7. AEA71-Izembek Lagoon-west
8. AEA75-West Nelson Lagoon
9. AEA76-Kudbodin Islands
10. AEA77-Mud Bay/Deer Island
11. AEA80-Port Moller Bay-mouth

12. AEA81-Port Moller Bay-head
13. AEA82-Port Moller

Aleutians Subarea - East B:

14. AEB1-Ugamak/Aitak Islands
15. AEB12-Akutan Harbor
16. AEB53-Head of Captains Bay
17. AEB54-Obernoi Pt. Stream
18. AEB55-Iliuliuk River
19. AEB58-Hog Island
20. AEB59-Summer Bay

Aleutians Subarea - West A:

21. AWA22-Korovin Bay
22. AWA60-Clam Lagoon/Sweeper Cove

Aleutians Subarea – West B:

No sites nominated at this time.

Aleutians Subarea - Pribilof Islands:

23. API09-English Bay-St. Paul
24. API14-Sea Lion Rock/Zolotoi Bay-St.Paul

Additional input regarding resources at risk and local knowledge was requested from USF&WS, ADF&G and local community members.

The workgroup discussed the public information/comment process. The Aleutian East Borough is able to teleconference from each of its communities and would provide these services for a teleconference to explain the GRS development process and gather public input. The Dutch Harbor newspaper may present an opportunity for information distribution. October is known as meeting month in the region. Many community members attend the Alaska Federation of Natives annual meeting and other meetings that may present an opportunity for informing local residents of the GRS process. Dave Jensen with the Aleut Corporation may provide an opportunity for addressing a shareholders meeting. Nuka Research will include a public outreach plan as part of their draft work plan for Phase II.

The GRS Tactics group for this subarea was appointed and will consist of:

- A Chadux representative;
- Harry Young, ADEC;
- Chris Woodley, USCG or his appointee;
- Dan Magone, Magone Marine Salvage (if available);
- Tim Robertson, Nuka Research.

A subgroup to consider the Places of Refuge issues for the Aleutians Subarea was formed but is not expected to meet until after the Prince William Sound workgroup addressing Places of Refuge for that subarea has significantly completed work on that project. This will allow the PWS project to be used as a model for further development of the Aleutians Subarea.

The Places of Refuge subgroup members will be appointed by the following organizations:

- Alaska Marine Pilots Association;
- Local shipping companies;
- ADEC;
- USCG;
- Puget Sound Steamship Operators Association;
- USF&W; and
- Nuka Research.

The next Aleutians Subarea GRS Workgroup meeting is contingent on funding. It was suggested that the meeting be held in the fall to accommodate summer schedules and allow for review of products from Phase I.