

Bristol Bay Subarea
Geographic Response Strategies (GRS)
& Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR)
Workgroup Meeting
January 18, 2012
City of Dillingham
City Council Chambers

Attendees:

Larry Iwamoto-ADEC	Fire/Rescue
Michelle Sherwood-ADEC	Susan Flensburg-BBNA
Travis Underwood-USFWS	Via Teleconference-
Paul Liedberg-USFWS	Catherine Berg-USFWS
Tim Sands-ADF&G	Amy Gilson- Nuka Research
Mark Janes-Nuka Research	Doug Mutter- DOI
Pat Walsh-USFWS	Troy Hamon-NPS
Jean Barret-City of Dillingham-Port	Bill Schaff-USFWS
Ethan Richards-City of Dillingham- Fire/Rescue	Orville Lind-USFWS
Courtenay Gomez-BBNA & Curyurg Tribe	Ted Meyer- Bristol Bay Borough
Malcolm Wright-City of Dillingham-	Malcolm Brown-City of Pilot Point

Mark Janes of Nuka Research and Planning Group opened the meeting, gave a brief statement regarding the goals of the meeting and led the introductions.

Larry Iwamoto of ADEC gave an overview of the “Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/ Releases” and the “Bristol Bay Subarea Contingency Plan” (SCP). A copy of his presentation is available at this link-[http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/bb/Unified Plan and BBay SCP Brief\(January2012\)\(reduced\).pdf](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/bb/Unified%20Plan%20and%20BBay%20SCP%20Brief(January2012)(reduced).pdf)

Mr. Iwamoto pointed out that the SCP for Bristol Bay is in the process of being updated. He will be looking for input and information from local stakeholders to make the plans more responsive to local concerns. He reviewed each section or annex of the plan. They include:

- Response
- Resource
- Hazardous Materials
- Sensitive Areas
- Background
- Scenarios
- Geographic Response Strategies (GRS)
- Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR)
- Response Strategies and Tactics

Each section will be reviewed and edited to bring the plan up to date. Doug Mutter with the Dept. of the Interior will be facilitating the update of the Sensitive Areas Section. He commented on the process used to gather the information that will be included in the SCP. He will be using the information gathered during this meeting as well as other outreach activities. He encouraged participants to review the section in the plan that he would be looking to the local communities to give input.

The GRS and PPOR sections will be new to this plan and will be added once completed by the workgroup. A draft of the updated plan will be available for review in the spring of 2012 and the plan finalized in the fall.

Mark Janes presented an overview of PPOR and GRS and the process used to develop these prevention and response plans. His presentation is available at this link:
http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/wa/120105WAK&BBpresentationv1_lr.pptx.pdf

In the presentation, Mr. Janes outlined the Alaska Regional Response Team's decision-making guidelines for the stricken vessels. These guidelines direct the USCG and other decision-makers in a Unified Command when dealing with a large vessel that requests a place of refuge. The guidelines direct the Captain of the Port for Western Alaska to choose one of the following options for the vessel:

- Continue on its voyage
- Move further off-shore
- Scuttle the vessel
- Remain in place
- Move to a Place of Refuge

The PPOR project will be gathering information from mariners, tug operators and the Alaska Marine Pilots on the locations that have historically been used as places of refuge in the past. This information will be included in the document and may be used by the Unified Command to assist in making a decision about which PPOR would be appropriate based on the vessel and conditions at the time.

Mr. Janes offered the NW Arctic and North Slope PPOR plans as an example of how past workgroups have dealt with the issue of a lack of infrastructure and ports in the region. He noted the similarities between the coastal environments that don't have natural bays to offer shelter or deepwater ports in the region. In the NW Arctic subarea, the traditional anchoring areas near villages were noted and information documented about these sites. This may allow access to some infrastructure that may facilitate repair and response for the vessel.

Local fishermen and the Port Director offered information on places that vessels anchor during the fishing season. Mr. Janes will follow up with the information and requested that these individuals attend the PPOR selection meeting.

Mr. Janes reviewed an example of the PPOR document and the information contained in the plans. Included will be a chart page that will display a section of the NOAA chart. This will display the sites, GRS that are in the area and any infrastructure that may be available. This page will also have stakeholders in the region listed and if available aerial photography of the site. The second page will consist of tables that provide relevant information. These include “Site Considerations” that will outline the possible environmental, cultural and economic impacts and “Operational Characteristics” that will inform on the physical capabilities, local conditions and the assets that may be used by the vessel and responders. All of the information will be reviewed and confirmed by the workgroup.

The next step for the PPOR project is to have a meeting with local mariners, tug operators and the Alaska Marine Pilots to identify the PPOR in the region. The sites will then be researched and draft PPOR plans developed. These plans will be reviewed and edited by the workgroup. Follow-on meetings/teleconferences will be held to discuss any additional information that should be included.

Mr. Janes gave an overview of the GRS project. He outlined the guiding principles used in developing these pre-planned oil spill response strategies and the process for selecting sites. The criteria used for the selection of sensitive areas is based on three factors:

- Environmentally sensitivity
- Is there risk of being oiled
- Is the site protectable with current technology

Each site is geographically limited to a response area of approximately 3 miles in diameter to ensure that a team of responders would be able to execute the plan and be able to maintain the boom during a spill. The plans will be developed using local knowledge and oil spill responders to draft the strategies. These will then be reviewed by the workgroup for approval and submitted to the subarea committee for inclusion in the Subarea Contingency Plans. Mr. Janes then reviewed a GRS from another subarea showing the elements of the completed document. He emphasized the workgroup process and noted that it requires input and collaboration to make the plans as useful as possible.

To understand the risks in the Subarea a series of maps have been developed that will be part of the SCP. The group reviewed the risk maps and offered edits and changes to the maps including new information on trawl fisheries, equipment locations and cruise ship information. This information will be included in the updated maps.

Mark Janes presented the Site Selection Matrix (SSM) to the group. The SSM is designed to offer a quick reference to the sensitive areas in the subarea and list the resources that are present at each site. He discussed how the document is developed using Environmental Sensitivity Index maps that show the presence of resources. The resource present at each site is entered into a spreadsheet. The current list is only a draft and needs review and input from workgroup members and the public. He encouraged the addition of other sites that are of local importance.

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Mr. Janes reviewed the index maps that display the sites. The subarea was split into two different zones to assist in mapping and organization of the project. A Northern and Southern zone were mapped.

Mr. Janes then facilitated the discussion to designate additional sites to add to the SSM. The group reviewed the index maps and added additional sites in the two zones. These will be captured in the SSM.

He directed the group to designate the high priority sites from which 25-30 sites would be nominated for GRS development. He emphasized that although a GRS might not be established for the site at this time, the information would be important for spill responders to have at the time of an incident.

The group nominated 9 sites for the Northern Zone and 12 for the Southern Zone. Local coastal communities that were not in attendance will select the remainder. Sue Flensburg offered assistance in contacting local IGAP coordinators in the villages and offered to help with outreach activities. She offered information on other regional organizations that would be able to provide input for the project.

The group selected the following sites for GRS development. This list is a draft document and will receive additional public review and input:

Index Number	Priority	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Northern Zone				
N-13	H	Round Island	58°35.77'N	159°56.68'W
N-16	H	Kulukak & Kanik River	58°54.34'N	159°40.31'W
N-20	H	Igushik River	58°42.46'N	158°53.08'W
N-24	H	Kvichak River	58°56.30'N	157°00.35'W
N-27	H	Egegik Bay	58°12.45'N	157°27.07'W
N-28	H	South Spit	58°08.17'N	157°34.70'W
N-29	H	Ugashik Bay	57°34.27'N	157°40.27'W
N-30	H	Cinder River	57°21.58'N	158°06.42'W
N-33	H	Port Heiden	56°53.44'N	158°47.23'W
Southern Zone				
S-01	H	Ivanof Bay	55°51.73'N	159°30.38'W
S-06	H	Anchor Bay	55°55.18'N	158°58.79'W
S-08	H	Mitrofanina Bay	55°56.60'N	158°49.34'W
S-15	H	Chignik Lagoon	56°21.46'N	158°29.20'W
S-17	H	Hook Bay	56°29.67'N	158°06.07'W
S-20	H	South Kujulik Bay	56°34.69'N	157°53.73'W
S-21	H	North Kujulik Bay	56°38.68'N	157°46.98'W
S-24	H	Aniakchak Bay	56°42.84'N	157°31.83'W

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S-26	H	Yantarni Bay	56°49.37'N	157°07.47'W
S-28	H	Nakalilik Bay	56°52.14'N	156°55.18'W
S-29	H	Chiginagak Bay	56°59.80'N	156°41.70'W
S-30	H	Port Wrangell	56° 01.32'N	156°33.27'W

Mark Janes outlined the process to move the GRS project forward:

- A meeting summary will be developed and circulated for review
- The risk maps will be updated with new information gathered at the meeting
- A new SSM and Index Maps will be developed reflecting the sites selected
- Additional outreach will be made to communities in the subarea to gain input regarding the selected sites
- By the end of February, the group will review and approve the selected sites after input from the communities
- Maps will be drafted that will show the selected sites and will display the resources that need protection at each site
- A Tactics Committee will be convened consisting of local individuals, response professionals, ADEC, Nuka Research and the USCG. This group will draft response plans for the selected sites.
- The plans will be put in the GRS format and put forth for public review. Edits and comments will be collected from the workgroup and incorporated in the plans.
- The workgroup may choose to meet again for a final review and approval of the plans.

Mr. Janes outlined the process to move the PPOR project forward:

- A meeting of local mariners, tug operators and the Alaska Marine Pilots will be held to identify PPORs in the Bristol Bay Subarea.
- The sites will be researched and information gathered incorporated in the PPOR format.
- The draft PPORs will be placed on the web and distributed to the workgroup for review, comments and edits.
- If the workgroup requests, an additional meeting may be held to further discuss and give input on the plans.