

**Meeting of the Cook Inlet Subarea-Seward Zone GRS Workgroup**

November 10, 2011

Seward City Council Chambers

410 Adams St Street

Seward, Alaska

**Attendees:**

Barry Roberts-Alyeska Pipeline  
John French-PWSRCAC-Seward  
Patti Burkahn-ADFG  
Martin Spargo-Fishing Vessel Owner  
Fritz Klasner-Kenai Fjords NP  
Jeremy Robida-PWSRCAC staff  
Brent Long-Alaska Sea Life Center  
Chip Arnold-Alaska Sea Life Center  
Deb Kurtz-Kenai Fjords NP  
Mack Funk-Harbormaster-Seward  
Andy Mezirow-AVTEC Maritime  
Tom Buchanan-Fishing Vessel Owner  
Jim Herbert-Seward Fish & Game  
Advisory Comm.

Dianne Dubuc-Seward Fish & Game  
Advisory Comm.  
David Seaward-Seward Mayor  
Robert Stovall-Chugach National Forrest  
Mark Janes-Nuka Research  
*Teleconference-*  
Larry Iwamoto-ADEC  
John Brown-ADEC  
Linda Swiss-PWSRCAC  
Richard Vanerhook-ADNR  
Catherine Berg-USFWS  
Doug Mutter- DOI

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

Jeremy Robida of the PWS Regional Citizens Advisory Council gave a brief overview of the RCAC's mission and operations and led the introduction.

Mr. Janes reviewed the history of GRS in the State of Alaska. He pointed to the development of plans in other subareas beginning in 1998. Around 400 of these oil spill response plans have developed in 6 of the 8 coastal subareas. The areas were selected based on a high priority/risk assessment and as funding was available. The current funding for this project comes from the PWSRCAC. This will allow the development of 20 sites in the Seward Zone of Cook Inlet Subarea.

Larry Iwamoto of ADEC informed the group regarding the Subarea Contingency Plan for the Cook Inlet Subarea and how the plan is utilized by State, Federal and local governments in the event of a discharge or spill of oil and other hazardous substances. The GRS are included in this plan as a tool for any response.

Mr. Janes provided an overview of how the GRS are developed and the intent of the plans. He outline the process of the workgroup selecting sites based on the factors of:

- Environmental Sensitivity
- Risk of being oiled
- Protectability with current technology

*Cook Inlet Subarea -Seward Zone Geographic Response Strategies Workgroup*

Each site is geographically limited to approximately 3 miles to ensure that a team of responders would be able to execute the plan and be able to maintain the booms 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. He 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. His presentation is available here- [http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/ci/cis/3\\_GRS%20presentation.pdf](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/ci/cis/3_GRS%20presentation.pdf).

Mark Janes then presented the Site Selection Matrix (SSM) for the Seward Zone to the group. The SSM is designed to offer 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 from each site is entered into a spreadsheet that lists the resources. 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.

The group then reviewed the SSM and added additional candidate sites. They discussed designation of cultural sites. Mr. Janes reported on the sensitive nature of making this information public. Rich Vanderhook commented on the SHPO role in spill response and the designating the level of oversight for each GRS.

The additional sites will be researched and included in the SSM. This will be posted to the project website and be available for review and any additional input from the workgroup and the public.

Mr. Janes reviewed the index maps that displayed the currently developed GRS and the candidate sites. The group then discussed the designation of the 20 high priority sites. John French questioned if the workgroup could designate a GRS site where they would recommend excluding the use of dispersants. Mr. Janes reported that this had not been done in the past and that most tactics focused on mechanical response techniques to be implemented by responders. The use of dispersants had not been included in any tactics.

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

<b>Location</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Head of Puget Bay	H	60°01.40'N	148°30.00'W
Widby Bay	H	59°58.20'N	148°57.00'W
Horsehead Bay	H	59°57.90'N	149°02.00'W
Head of Day Harbor-East	H	60°02.40'N	149°02.50'W
Head of Day Harbor-West	H	60°03.10'N	149°03.90'W
Day Harbor NW Stream	H	60°02.60'N	149°07.40'W

*Cook Inlet Subarea -Seward Zone Geographic Response Strategies Workgroup*

Eldorado Narrow/Cape Resurrection	H	59°55.50'N	149°18.60'W
Holgate Arm Rookery	H	59°48.10'N	149°46.20'W
Holgate Arm Haulout	H	59°51.00'N	149°49.00'W
Sandy Bay Spawning Stream	H	59°39.50'N	149°59.80'W
Head of Paguna Arm	H	59°42.00'N	150°08.00'W
Nuka North Arm Spawning Stream 2	H	59°35.70'N	150°33.10'W
Nuka Island Rookery	H	59°21.60'N	150°37.00'W
Nuka Island Spawning Stream	H	59°23.10'N	150°37.30'W
Nuka Pass Spawning Stream	H	59°25.30'N	150°39.20'W
Aialik Bay Spawning Stream a	H	59°55.10'N	149°02.00'W
Aialik Bay Spawning Stream b	H	59°55.94'N	149°47.17'W
Aialik Bay Spawning Stream c	H	59°57.26'N	149°42.93'W
Johnstone Bay-salmon stream	H	59°56.93'N	148°43.58'W
Resurrection Bay/ Seward Lagoon	H	59°07.02'N	149°24.40'W
Bear Glacier Lagoon	H	59°55.72'N	149°29.65'W
Porcupine Cove	H	59°51.01'N	149°35.04'W
Chiswell Island	H	59°35.89'N	149°34.04'W
Northwestern Cove & Stream	H	59°43.03'N	149°55.27'W
Delusion Creek	H	59°37.45'N	150°16.55'W
Outer Cove	H	59°18.42'N	150°42.98'W

(Groups of highlighted sites will be combined into 1 site)

Mr. Janes discussed survey activities and how they made for better planning and stronger plans. He discussed the inter-agency contributions that occurred in the past to facilitate the process. Fritz Klasner of the Kenai Fjords N.P. will discuss the use of the NPS vessel for survey activities. The oil spill response organizations will be volunteering personnel. The surveys would be planned for late May.

Mark Janes outlined the process to move the project forward:

- A meeting summary will be developed and circulated for review
- A new SSM and Index Maps will be developed reflecting the sites selected
- The information will be posted to the website for further input regarding the selected sites
- Maps will be drafted that will show the selected sites and will display the resources that need protection at each site
- A Tactics Group 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 after a site survey if funding can support can be obtained.
- 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.