

5/22/02

**Summary of Seward GRS Public Input Efforts:**

To ensure the interested parties in the Seward GRS have had opportunity to participate in the comment period, Cook Inlet RCAC mailed approximately 60 packets containing GRS information to various groups in the region. In the packets we included the following:

Cover Letter describing the project and importance of public review  
Maps of the Seward Zone with the potential GRS sites listed and marked on the maps  
GRS Fact Sheet describing the project purpose and GRS in general

In the information, recipients were asked if the sites were those they would like to see on the list and whether they know of others that should be considered.

Since the last Workgroup meeting, several articles have been published in our newsletter which is distributed to over 200 recipients statewide – many on the Kenai Peninsula. Mike Munger spoke in an interview for KBBI that ran for several days. He and Steve Howell also participated in a KWAVE interview with Tim Robertson and reporter Tim White. They spoke for about 40 minutes re: history of the program, GRS plans, and community involvement. The interview broadcast across the Kenai Peninsula in virtually every community including Seward. The CIRCAC office received requests for information that same day from interested parties.

Since the mailings and interviews, 12 of the most likely affected groups have been called and re-sent the information by email asking for comments from them. Though receptive and positive regarding GRS, we have to date received only 1 response regarding the sites. A follow-up email will go out to these stakeholders this week.

**Input Received as a Result of the Public Input Campaign:**

From: Jon Agosti  
AK Shellfish Growers Assoc.  
Seward

The three aquatic farms in Resurrection Bay urgently need inclusion on the list of key sensitive areas in the Seward zone. The risk of impact is very high and established techniques can achieve considerable protection of the farms. The two spills in PWS this last winter required protection of a nearby shellfish farm. Farms essentially have the same level of environmental sensitivity as a hatchery similarly engaged in the rearing of aquatic animals.

# Council Briefs

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

“With public sentiment,  
nothing can fail; without  
it, nothing can succeed.”

-Abraham Lincoln

Volume 2002, Number 2

www.circac.org

Month of March 2002

## GRS Workgroup Identifies Key Sites

List of 20 sites identified from over 100; Public Comment Begins

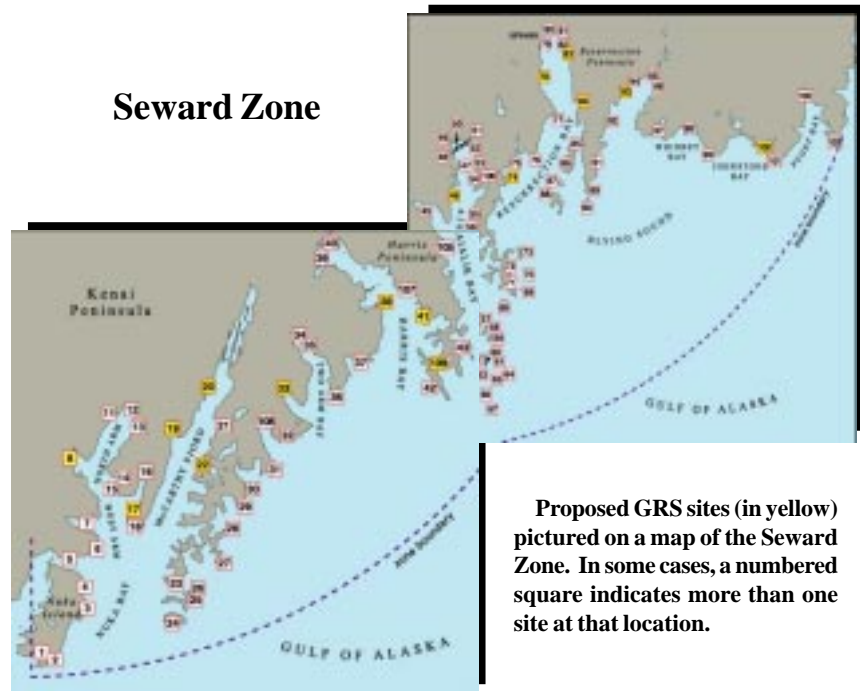
The Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) Workgroup recently held a meeting in Seward to take the next step in identifying the 20 or so sites to be included in the final plan.

The project, co-sponsored by CIRCAC, is now in the public comment phase where information is distributed to area stakeholders, municipal groups, and the media.

Workgroup members spent the day reviewing over 110 sites along the Outer Kenai Coast for possible inclusion in the GRS and eventually settled on the preliminary sites that will move into the final phase of discussion. Project Coordinator Mike Munger said he expects several other sites to emerge that could be included in the plan after that discussion.

The Workgroup considers three main criteria in its selection process: environmental sensitivity which often includes wildlife habitat considerations; risk of oil spill impact which is largely determined by surface current and wind direction; and perhaps the most challenging - the ability to provide protection.

Sites that may be affected by oil are sometimes located in places that are virtually impossible to protect. To get the maximum protection from available resources, Workgroup members use



their expertise in subjects like wildlife habitat and oil spill recovery equipment to weigh the pros and cons of individual sites. Local knowledge of the area plays a crucial role in setting up safe and realistic plans.

The 20 sites selected at the recent meeting are:

- 8(9,10) - Beauty Bay/Shelter Cove
- 17 - Ariadne Cove
- 19 - James Lagoon

- 20 - Nuka East Arm Rookery
- 22 - Delight Lake Stream
- 33 - Head of Taroka Arm
- 38 - Northwestern Lagoon Rookery
- 41 - Cataract Cove
- 46 - Pedersen Glacier Spawning Stream
- 74 - Bear Glacier Point
- 78 - Tonsina Creek
- 83 - Fourth of July Creek
- 84 - Likes Creek/Thumb Cove
- 93 - Day Harbor Spawning Stream
- 100 - Johnstone Bay Spawning Stream
- 109 - Granite Passage

Some sites are comprised of more than one location. Additional sites may be added when the Workgroup reconvenes in late May. At that time, the group will review any new information collected through the public comment phase and modify the list as necessary.

### Events

- April 4-6: ComFish in Kodiak
- April 12-14: Kachemak Bay Conference in Homer
- April 25: Support Industry Alliance Meeting in Anchorage
- May 1-2: VOSS Drill in Kachemak Bay
- May 2: IOOSC Pre-planning in Seattle, WA
- May 17: CIRCAC Quarterly Meeting; 9 a.m.
- May 27: Memorial Day (CIRCAC office closed)