

**Meeting of the Saint Lawrence Island Communities
Northwest Arctic Subarea GRS Workgroup**

May 3, 2011
Teleconference

Attendees:

Larry Iwamoto-ADEC	Raymond Toolie
Mark Janes-Nuka Research	Clarence Waghiyi
Gay Sheffield- Marine Advisory Program	Kukulget, Inc.
Doug Mutter-DOI	Morris Toolie Jr.
Native Village of Savoonga	Perry Pungowiyi,
Ronnie Toolie,	Bryan Rookok, Jr.,
Thor Noongwook,	Jeanette "Muffy" Iya,
Peggy Akeya,	Mylon Kingeekuk,
Mitchell Kiyuklook,	Fritz Waghiyi
Merton Miklahook Sr.	Bryan Rookok Sr.
Verna Immingan	Native Village of Gambell
Kenneth Kingeekuk	Iver Campbell
Morris Toolie Sr.	Bruce Boolowan
City of Savoonga –	Sheena Aningayou
Myron Kingeekuk	Mark Nowpowutuk
Elvin Noongwook	Anders Apassingok
Samuel Mokiuk	

Mark Janes of Nuka Research and Planning Group began the meeting with introductions. Larry Iwamoto of ADEC reviewed the NWA GRS project and the timeline for completion.

Mark Janes reviewed the materials that had been faxed to the communities. He provided an overview of the meeting goal to finalize the first round of Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) development in order to provide sites for the tactics meetings at the end of May.

Mark Janes presented a brief description of GRS as oil spill response plans for smaller areas in Alaska. He presented an overview of the process of developing the priorities for the GRS' and how they would be implemented.

GRS prioritization was established for the Northwest Arctic first using the Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps and to develop the Site Selection Matrix (SSM). Any areas with high concentrations of resources were highlighted as candidate sites, then presented to the workgroup for input and prioritization. The SSM is a living document that can be added to and revised as the workgroup desires. Mr Janes encouraged additional sites to be added by the local communities to reflect their priorities.

The communities discussed sites of local concern and wanted to relay that they felt the entire island was a sensitive area. They expressed great concern regarding any oil impact greatly impact their ability to continue their lifestyle and culture on the island. They discussed the threats emerging with increase vessel traffic and oil exploration both north and south of the communities.

Mr. Janes and Mr. Iwamoto discussed with the group how the Subarea Contingency Plan and the Incident Command System would address a large-scale incident. It would not be feasible to protect every place during the initial response phase. They discussed making priorities to direct the initial response to protect the most important places, but when response resources and personnel were available, efforts would be made to protect all sensitive areas. The communities again expressed the desire to designate all areas as high priority.

Mr. Janes presented the updated index map and discussed the sites. He discussed how the sites had been designated high priority during the initial workgroup meeting, but that this group could add site. Mr. Iwamoto said that the group could nominate 10 sites for the zone. Concern was brought up regarding misspellings of local names. Mr. Janes offered to change any site name as directed by the communities.

The group discussed the difficulty of communicating the importance of certain areas over the telephone and that they would prefer to sit down with maps and show the important sites. In the future if funding became available Mr. Janes offered to do this.

The group then decided to have 5 sites nominated by each community. Savoonga picked:

SL-01	H	Petngeghyak Lagoon and River
SL-02	H	Tapisagek River & Qitnegaq Bay
SL-03	H	Sipenpak Lagoon
SL-04	H	Alngighyak Lagoon
SL-05	H	Kentanga Bay & Unguuvigaq Lagoon

Gambell:

SL-06	H	Kangii Bay Lagoons
SL-07	H	Nayghapak & Aghnak Lagoon
SL-08	H	Northwest Cape/Gambell
SL-09	H	Ketngipalak
SL-10	H	Kangqaak Bay

Mr. Janes discussed the process from this point. He will produce resource maps and fax them to the communities. They can confirm the resources at each site and give input regarding local conditions that would affect response activities. This information will be used by a Tactics Committee to design strategies. Once the GRS' are drafted by the Tactics Committee, they will then be reviewed by the workgroup to ensure they will protect the resources.

In closing both communities expressed great concern that the entire island be protected from oil impacts. They are appreciative of the efforts but would like to see more protection. Mr. Iwamoto discussed that additional sites may be addressed as more funding is identified in the future. Both communities would like to see meeting take place on St. Lawrence Island to ensure that the correct information regarding sensitive sites is captured by the project.

Action Items:

- A new SSM and Index Maps will be developed reflecting the updated sites selected.
- Tactic 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.