
**Summary of Geographic Response Strategies Meetings
Southeast Alaska Subarea**

Juneau	Sitka	Ketchikan
November 13, 2012 1:00pm- 4:30pm Juneau Public Library Downtown 292 Marine Way	November 14, 2012 1:00 pm-4:30 pm Harrigan Centennial Hall 330 Harbor Drive	November 16, 2012 9:00 am- Noon SE Alaska Discovery Center 50 Main Street

Attendees:

Mark Janes-Nuka Research
Larry Iwamoto-ADEC
Sarah Moore-ADEC

Juneau

Deborah Rudis-USFWS
Johnny Zutz-ADFG
Brandon Sulfridge-USCG

Sitka

Simon Greene-USCG
Michael Nazzario-USCG
Michelle Houston-USCG
Michael Harmon-City of Sitka
Joe Danon-Sitka Fire Dept.
Stan Eliason-Sitka Harbormaster
*Sitka Tribe of Alaska
*Sitka ADF&G Office

Ketchikan

Jeremias Leos-USCG
Jason Hamp-USCG
Andy Tighe-Ketchikan Fire Dept.
Jon Dorman-Ketchikan Fire Dept.
Steve Corporon-City of Ketchikan
Bob Fultz-ADEC
Jeff Shultz- SEAPRO
*Ketchikan Indian Corporation

*These organizations were visited after the meetings to further acquire inputs and promote participation in the GRS development process.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation held meetings in Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan to educate the public regarding oil spill response operations, the SE Alaska Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) and to solicit input regarding the selection of sites for the development of Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) throughout the subarea. Following is a summary of the activities and information gathered at these meetings.

At each meeting, Larry Iwamoto opened the proceedings and gave a statement regarding the funding of the project from a Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant from BOEM. The money was generated from offshore lease sales and will be used to support oil spill response planning in SE Alaska and the NW Arctic. He gave an overview of the development and use of the Subarea Contingency Plan in the SE AK Subarea. He reviewed the plans used by State, Federal and local governments in the event of an oil

spill or the release of oil other hazardous substances. The GRS are included in this plan as one tool that maybe used in response to an oil spill in coastal waters.

Ms. Moore informed the group regarding response assets and equipment that are present in the subarea. She discussed the ADEC response connexes that are staged in communities throughout the area and how they can be access for response activities.

Mr. Janes provided an overview of GRS. He outlined the workgroup process and the selection of sites based on the following factors:

- Environmental Sensitivity
- Risk of a site having an oil spill
- The site is protectable with current technology

Each site is geographically limited to approximately 3 miles to ensure that a team of responders would be able to execute the plan and maintain the booms during a spill. The plans are a product of a workgroup process that seeks to get input from local individuals and groups in the selection of sites and in the drafting of the plans. They will be reviewed by the workgroup for approval and submitted to the subarea committee for inclusion in the Subarea Contingency Plan. Mr. Janes reviewed the graphic content and documents that comprise a GRS. He emphasized the workgroup process and noted that it requires input and collaboration to make the plans as useful as possible.

Mr. Iwamoto's and Mr. Janes' presentations are available here-

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/grs/se/121102_SE_SCP_GRS_Brief\(November_2012\).pdf](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/grs/se/121102_SE_SCP_GRS_Brief(November_2012).pdf)

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has encouraged the workgroup to review the "Southeast Alaska Vessel Traffic Study." The study outlines vessel traffic and risks that are present in the area. The information should assist in selecting sites for GRS development. The cruise ships and the freighters that are fueled by heavier fuel oils use routes that present the greatest risk of large releases of oil. The study also shows that there is increasing traffic transiting Dixon Entrance.

The group reviewed data from the study showing the major traffic routes.

These include:

- Clarence Strait
- Chatham Strait
- Northern Fredrick Sound
- Stephens Passage
- Lynn Canal
- Icy Strait
- Outer Coast
- Dixon Entrance

The study is available for download here-

<http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/docs/Southeast%20Alaska%20Vessel%20Traffic%20Study.pdf>

Southeast Alaska Subarea -Geographic Response Strategies Workgroup

In Ketchikan the group outlined additional risks that would be present with the increased mining activity in the area. These were noted and will be included for consideration.

Mark Janes then presented the Site Selection Matrix (SSM) and the 9 index maps for SE AK. The SSM offers quick reference to the sensitive areas in the subarea and lists the resources that are present at each site. The SSM, as presented, was initially developed by a workgroup in 2002 and will be updated with information from this group.

In Juneau, Deborah Rudis (USFWS) who had participated in the workgroup process in 2002, offered that the SSM had significant input from natural resource agencies. She felt that the sites prioritized by the previous workgroup should be developed into the GRS. The group in Juneau agreed that these would be given greater weight in the selection process. This consideration was brought forth at the meetings in Sitka and Ketchikan. Sarah Moore with ADEC pointed out that some sites in Zone 7 had been developed during the Princess Kathleen response. These will be included in the list but won't count against the 60 sites scheduled for development.

Mike Harmon, with the City of Sitka, offered that the Coastal Management Plan developed and adopted by the City & Borough of Sitka contains designated Special Management Areas. These are generally sensitive areas that are designated as important to the community. He offered that these sites should be listed as high priority protection sites. Mr. Janes will include these in the Site Selection Matrix for further consideration and will note which if any sites are included in current GRS'.

At each venue the participants reviewed the SSM and added additional candidate sites. 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 high priority sites to be made into GRS.

In Sitka, the core group also visited the local ADF&G office and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska to discuss the GRS project and seek inputs for candidate sites.

The core group also visited with the Ketchikan Indian Corporation to describe the project and seek information on potential GRS sites.

Southeast Alaska Subarea -Geographic Response Strategies Workgroup

The following list is a draft document comprised of sites selected during the meeting and from outreach activities to local agencies and governments. It will receive additional public review and input before being finalized:

Zone	Name	Zone	Name
1	Tamgas Harbor	5	Shelikof Bay-SCMP
1	Vallenar Bay	5	Starrigavan Bay-SCMP
1	Roosevelt Lagoon-Naha Bay	6	Graves Rocks
1	Traitors Cove	6	Johns Hopkins Inlet
1	Port Stewart	6	Murphy Cove
1	Refuge & Ward Cove	6	Salt Chuck River (IcyStr)
1	Totem Bight	6	McBride Inlet
1	Naha Bay	6	Hoonah
1	Kendricks Bay	6	Blue Mouse Cove
1	Neets Bay	7	Port Snettisham
1	Kassan	7	Taku Harbor SMP
2	Klawock	7	Taku Inlet
2	Craig	7	Shelter Islands SMP
2	Hydaburg	7	Funter Bay SMP
3	Petroglyph Beach	7	Benjamin Island
5	Saint Lazeria Island-SCMP	8	Katzehin River
5	Redoubt Bay/Kanga Bay/Tiagud Is.-SCMP	8	Portage Cove SRS
5	Kasnyku Bay	9	Monti Bay
5	Sea Lion Cove-SCMP	9	Disenchantment Bay-N
5	Kalinin Bay/Sinitain Cove-SCMP	9	Kageet Point
5	Red Bluff Bay/Fall Lake-SCMP	9	Arrowhead-N Taan Fjord
5	Necker Bay-SCMP	9	Dry Bay
5	Sitkoh Bay-SCMP	9	Sitkagi Bluffs
5	Silver Bay		

Additional input will be sought from user groups, agencies and stakeholders not present at the meetings. Mr. Janes discussed the use of a future teleconference or web-based meeting to finalize the selection of sites.

Mr. Janes discussed survey activities for the selected sites. The site surveys allow trained responders to visit each site and estimate what would be the best response strategy for the prevailing conditions. The drafted strategy is then reviewed and edited by a tactics committee. The previous GRS project had funding available for survey activities. Unfortunately, there is limited money for these activities. The group discussed options of partnering with other agencies that may be operating in the area. SEAPRO will be volunteering personnel and possible use of a vessel for some sites in proximity to Ketchikan. Simone Greene with the USCG Air Station Sitka, reported that the USCG may have opportunities to support some aerial photography and survey activities. The surveys would be planned for late May.

Mark Janes outlined the process to move the project forward:

Southeast Alaska Subarea -Geographic Response Strategies Workgroup

- A meeting summary will be developed and circulated for review.
- A new SSM and Index Maps will be developed reflecting the sites selected.
- ADEC and Nuka Research will continue outreach activities to get additional input regarding the SSM and high priority sites.
- 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 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.