

MEETING OF THE PWS PLACES OF REFUGE WORKGROUP

May 6, 2004
PWSRCAC Conference Room
Anchorage, Alaska

Attendees:

Rhonda Arvidson- PWSRCAC	John Bauer-ADEC
Tom Colby-Polar Tankers	Tim Robertson-Nuka Research
John Kwietniak-Tesoro Alaska	Mark Janes- Nuka Research
Terry Bryant (teleconference)-CIRCAC	Mary Goolie-EPA
Larry Iwamoto-ADEC	Eric Haugstad- Tesoro Alaska
Doug Mutter-DOI	

Rhonda Arvidson opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

Tim Robertson reviewed past work on Places of Refuge (POR) and the history of this project, in addition to other ongoing national and international projects.

John Bauer reported on the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) POR Work group and their work thus far. The ARRT will:

- Develop a document for inclusion into the State/Federal Unified Plan, including guidelines for implementing a POR decision making process.
- Identify jurisdictions of agencies, stakeholders and responsible parties
- Clarify incident management structures
- Develop a risk based decision-making process and checklist for implementation.
- Describe the process for pre-identifying PORs within a Subarea.

The ARRT expects the PWS POR Workgroup to establish a process and format for pre-identifying POR within a subarea. (Mr. Bauer's Powerpoint presentation is available at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/pwspor/wg.htm>)

Larry Iwamoto, of ADEC, gave a Scope of Work overview for the PWS POR project. He also reviewed the development of this project and similar projects in Alaska and the North Pacific. He described the general criteria that will be included in the POR plans.

The expectations for the product include:

- Using the PWS Marine Firefighting Plan as a source document
- Having Draft POR plans together before the pre-exercise training (June 15-17) for the PWS-PREP Exercise - focus will be on the PWS Northeast Zone
- The workgroup's final document will be included in Change 2 of the PWS SCP, scheduled for public review in Fall 2004

Prince William Sound Place of Refuge Workgroup Meeting

- The format will be similar to the GRS products
- Final product submitted July 2004

(Mr. Iwamoto's presentation is available at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/pwspor/wg.htm>)

The group decided that the vessel size to be addressed in the POR is 300 Gross Tons and above, although the process of selection of sites will be valid for smaller vessels as well.

Selected Co-chairs for the project are to be Larry Iwamoto/John Bauer-ADEC and Cmdr. Mark Swanson. The group will add the following contacts to the workgroup list: Alaska Tribes in PWS, Whittier tour boat operators, and the USFS. Federal requirements of government-to-government consultation with the Tribes was discussed; this formal consultation will be covered during the approval process of Change 2 to the SCP. Addition of landowners within the Sound will also be addressed during the outreach for public input. Mary Goolie will provide a sample tribal consultation letter to Rhonda Arvidson.

Tim Robertson reviewed the draft of the Risk and Capability Maps. Changes are to include:

- Change to "Potential" Places of Refuge
- Add anchor, mooring, and docking sites from the PWS Marine Firefighting Plan. The Southwest Alaska Pilots Association will be asked to review the firefighting plan and comment on whether the sites (anchoring, grounding, etc.) identified within are appropriate to vessels of 300 GT or larger.
- Valdez Marine Terminal bulk fuel storage added to the Risk Map.
- The current vessel tracking system lanes will be displayed on the maps.
- Other updates to be provided by work group members (e.g., key nearshore fishing grounds information may be available from PWS Aquaculture Association; ADEC seafood inspection section may have information on fishing vessel tender activity).

The document will not include environmental resource information but will reference the Alyeska Geographic Resource Database (GRD). The format of the document will be similar to the GRS section of the subarea plan, and will include a 2-page summary for each POR. Tim Robertson will draft the introduction for review by the workgroup. The introduction will use similar verbiage currently included in the Cook Inlet subarea plan for places of refuge.

The group discussed the selection of sites and the process that should be undertaken. Criteria for POR should include:

- Adequate geographic space (for situating large vessels, adequate swing room, etc.)
- Ability to anchor, moor, or dock
- Degree of exposure to high sea state and/or winds.
- Conflicting uses

This information will be developed in a site selection matrix.

Prince William Sound Place of Refuge Workgroup Meeting

The group discussed that the outreach should be similar to the process used for GRS projects. The website has received two comments thus far in response to the project. Another possible outreach method would be using the Notice to Mariners process to make the public aware of this on-going project.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 8:30-3:00 at the PWSRCAC office in Anchorage.