

**PWS PLACES OF REFUGE  
WORKGROUP MEETING**

June 23, 2004

PWSRCAC Conference Room

Anchorage, Alaska

**Attendees:**

Rhonda Arvidson- PWSRCAC

Rick Janelle – USCG, D17

Terry Bryant – CIRCAC (teleconference)

Mark Janes - Nuka Research

Tom Colby - Polar Tankers

Sam Means - ADNR

Mark Fink - ADF&G

Tim Robertson - Nuka Research

Doug Mutter-DOI

Capt. Ron Ward - SWAPA

John Kwietniak - Tesoro Alaska

John Whitney - NOAA

Larry Iwamoto - ADEC

Rhonda Arvidson opened the meeting and welcomed the group.

Tim Robertson offered the objectives for the meeting.

- To gain input on the content for the introduction
- To finalize the format of the document
- To have a preliminary or final set of selected sites

The Workgroup reviewed the updated Risk Maps. Mark Fink will obtain additional fisheries information from ADF&G biologists and submit it for inclusion in the *Key Nearshore Fishing Grounds* layer. Ron Ward added that the tanker traffic lanes to Knowles Head are not noted in the *Tanker Routes* layer. The group approved the maps with the offered additions.

The Workgroup reviewed the Draft Introduction Section of the document. This will be included in Section H of the PWS Subarea Contingency Plan and will explain the decision making process, background of the project and the scope of the plans. The group submitted edits to the introduction, including:

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- Remove the use of the word “pre-identified” as it implies an endorsement of a single site which may not fit with the situation that is present when a vessel requires a POR
- Inclusion of a listing of all entities and individuals who participated in the development of the plans in the “How the document was developed” section.
- The introduction should reinforce the workgroups’ primary consideration for vessels greater than 300 gross tons. Sites that the group considered that are deemed unsuitable for this size vessel should remain in the document for reference.
- Remove the designation of zones.

The Workgroup reviewed the 4 draft POR sheets. The group discussed the size of the documents being 8”x11” or 11”x17”. It was decided to continue the 11”x17” format to be able to keep the higher resolution but offer the option of an 8”x11” for printing. The formatting of the map page as amended was approved. The acquisition of high-resolution photos for each site will be followed up with the Coast Guard. Edits offered to the format of the POR included:

- Removing “Safety of Life” table for each site and including this information in the introduction, as it is universal throughout PWS.
- Remove the “Services and Contact” table and reference that the information exists in the “Resources” section of the SCP. The information gathered will be submitted to update the SCP.
- Develop a contact table for each map that will designate “jurisdictional management” of the site.

The Workgroup reviewed and edited the site selection matrix. After discussion, the group agreed that every identified site is a potential POR. The workgroup will not prioritize sites, as the conditions present during events when a POR is necessary will vary. Therefore, all the identified sites should be developed in the document as POR. The group decided to develop up to 15 maps, each showing the POR facilities present in the area.

The group agreed that the site selection matrix should present a comprehensive view of the potential POR in Prince William Sound, as it would be a valuable tool for decision makers in the event of a stricken vessel. The group noted that the site selection matrix did not reflect all the considerations listed in the introduction section and requested the inclusion of the following additional criteria:

- A “Distance to Population Center” column;

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- A “Sensitive Resources” column that indicates cultural/historic properties, Threatened/Endangered species present and a designation of areas that are of high environmental sensitivity;
- A “Response” column that indicates if GRS are present and if a stricken vessel can be boomed at this location;
- Remove the designation of “Identified by”
- Remove the “Zone” designation
- Identify the vessels by gross tonnage, Tanker/Cruise= >20K GT, Ferry/Tramper=.3K- 19.9K GT, Fishing/Excursion Vessels= <. 3K

The group reviewed each site and submitted information and edits. Capt. Ron Ward noted the anchorage locations and these will be included in the plans.

The Workgroup discussed the upcoming PWS training and exercise to be held in August. ADEC would like to provide draft POR to the Unified Command for review and discussion as time permits. This will provide input regarding the functionality of the format and the information included. The contractor will not be needed at the exercise, as many WG members will be present. Rhonda Arvidson will document feedback and lessons learned pertaining to POR in the exercise. For the exercise, ADEC would like to have the revised Site Selection Matrix and POR maps developed for the following areas:

- Port Valdez
- Jack Bay
- Tatitlek area
- Knowles Head/Two Moon Bay

Tim Robertson will ensure that the information is completed and posted to the ADEC web page by July 20.

The group discussed the public information process. Rhonda Arvidson submitted that information will be posted to the PWSRCAC site with links to ADEC web page. She will also do outreach to communities after the exercise in August and will look at having an article developed in the PWSRCAC newsletter.

Larry Iwamoto reviewed the meeting and summarized decision points. The next meeting was scheduled for August 30, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage.