



ARRT Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) Guidelines



PPOR Guidelines

- Where to go?
- What to do?
- How to do it?



PPOR Guidelines - Background

In 2004, concurrent efforts initiated to implement IMO guidelines:

- Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force with the US and Canadian Coast Guard
- Alaska Regional Response Team Guidelines submitted to ARRT and approved in Oct 2004



Place of Refuge - Defined

- **Temporary location to stabilize vessel, protect life, remove hazard, protect public health and resources**



- **Typically, harbor, port, natural embayment, mooring site, grounding site or offshore waters**

Place of Refuge

- There are no pre-designated places of refuge - potential sites are pre-identified
- Potential sites are inventoried and relevant information is collected
- Place of refuge selected on an incident specific basis
- There is no single perfect location for a place of refuge for all incidents



Decision Making Process

- Uses existing ICS structure to make decisions.
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- Establishes a standardized and predictable process to evaluate risks of a ship in distress
- Provides checklists to evaluate risks



Decision Making Process

- **Defines the roles of federal, state, local and tribal authorities and the ship.**
- **Captain of the Port has ultimate authority to make decision. Activates Unified Command when time permits.**
- **Cross boundary incidents use existing agreements to establish lines of communication and organization**
- **10-step process to make the decision**

Step 1. Place of Refuge Requested

Vessel Master provides information on vessel and requests a place of refuge from COTP.

- **Location of vessel**
- **Reasons the vessel needs assistance, specific assistance required.**
- **Status of vessel (steering, propulsion, firefighting, flooding)**
- **Types and quantities of oil and hazardous substances aboard**
- **Presence of rats, invasive species, diseases on board**
- **Operational status, weather**
- **Safety of crew, passengers and ship, evacuation of ship**
- **Consequences of ship remaining at sea**
- **Location of Place of Refuge requested**

Step 2. Immediate Action by COTP

Situation requires immediate action and no time to contact stakeholders. COTP selects one of 5 options:

- Continue on the vessel's voyage
- Take the vessel farther out to sea away from shore
- Scuttle the vessel at sea at an approved location
- Allow the vessel to remain in place
- Direct the vessel to a place of refuge

COTP will consider any pre-identified potential places of refuge.

COTP will notify other stakeholders after making decision.

Step 3. COTP/UC Evaluates Options:

Non-Immediate Action - Vessel situation allows COTP to:

- Activate a Unified Command (UC), if appropriate
- Require vessel owner to contract with salvor, spill response company
- Dispatch an Away Team, if time allows
- Review subarea plan to see if PPORs have been pre-identified
- Evaluate weather status, tides, currents, spill trajectory
- Contact resource agencies, stakeholders, vessel owners, salvors, spill response experts to evaluate the five options (e.g., continue voyage, move further offshore, scuttle, remain in place, direct to PPOR).

Step 4. COTP/UC Selects Vessel Option

Based on input from stakeholders, COTP/UC considers the five options with the following criteria:

- **Vessel status and risk (Float, sink, leak? Ability to navigate?)**
- **Available response and salvage resources**
 - Tugs, Emergency Towing Systems, salvors, boom, repair infrastructure
- **Human health and safety considerations**
 - Safety of persons onboard, response, public
- **Natural resource considerations**
 - Cultural and sensitive resources, designated areas
- **Landowner and stakeholder considerations**
 - Subsistence, native allotments
- **Liability, insurance and port requirements**

Step 4. COTP/UC Options

Continue on to step 5 if COTP/UC determines the risks are acceptable to direct the vessel to a place of refuge

No Further Action Necessary if one of the following options is selected:

- Continue on its voyage
- Take the vessel farther out to sea away from shore
- Scuttle the vessel at sea at an approved location
- Allow the vessel to remain in place



Step 5. COTP/UC Evaluates POR Options Based on Operational Criteria

Operational Criteria (PPOR and other potential sites):

- **Weather, tides, currents and fetch**
- **Physical size needed and anchoring ground**
- **Navigation approach and piloting requirements**
- **Seaworthiness of vessel, threat to cargo**
- **Ability to deploy response and salvage resources to mitigate spill risks to public health and resources**
- **EMS and fire fighting capability**
- **Approval from port and harbor authorities**

Step 6. COTP/UC Prioritizes POR Options based on Operational Criteria



Step 7. Stakeholders Provided with Place of Refuge Options

POR acceptable from an operational criteria are ranked and provided to stakeholders. Information includes:

- List of potential PORs**
- Reasons for selecting the potential POR**
- Transit route and escort and spill response support**
- Vessel status, seaworthiness, cargo, leak rate**
- Likelihood of releases**
- Salvage activities at POR and duration of stay**
- Support vessels, equipment**
- Weather**

Step 8. Stakeholders Rank Order POR Options

Stakeholders rank the potential PORs provided to them

- Based on resources at risk or stakeholder concerns
- Identify special considerations or constraints
- Identify any Permits required
- Document ranking and discussion points



Step 9. Place of Refuge Selected

Operations and Planning (stakeholders) reach consensus and forward recommendation to Unified Command.



If no consensus, Unified Command will review information and make a decision.

Unified Command will inform stakeholders of decision and any additional response-related assistance required

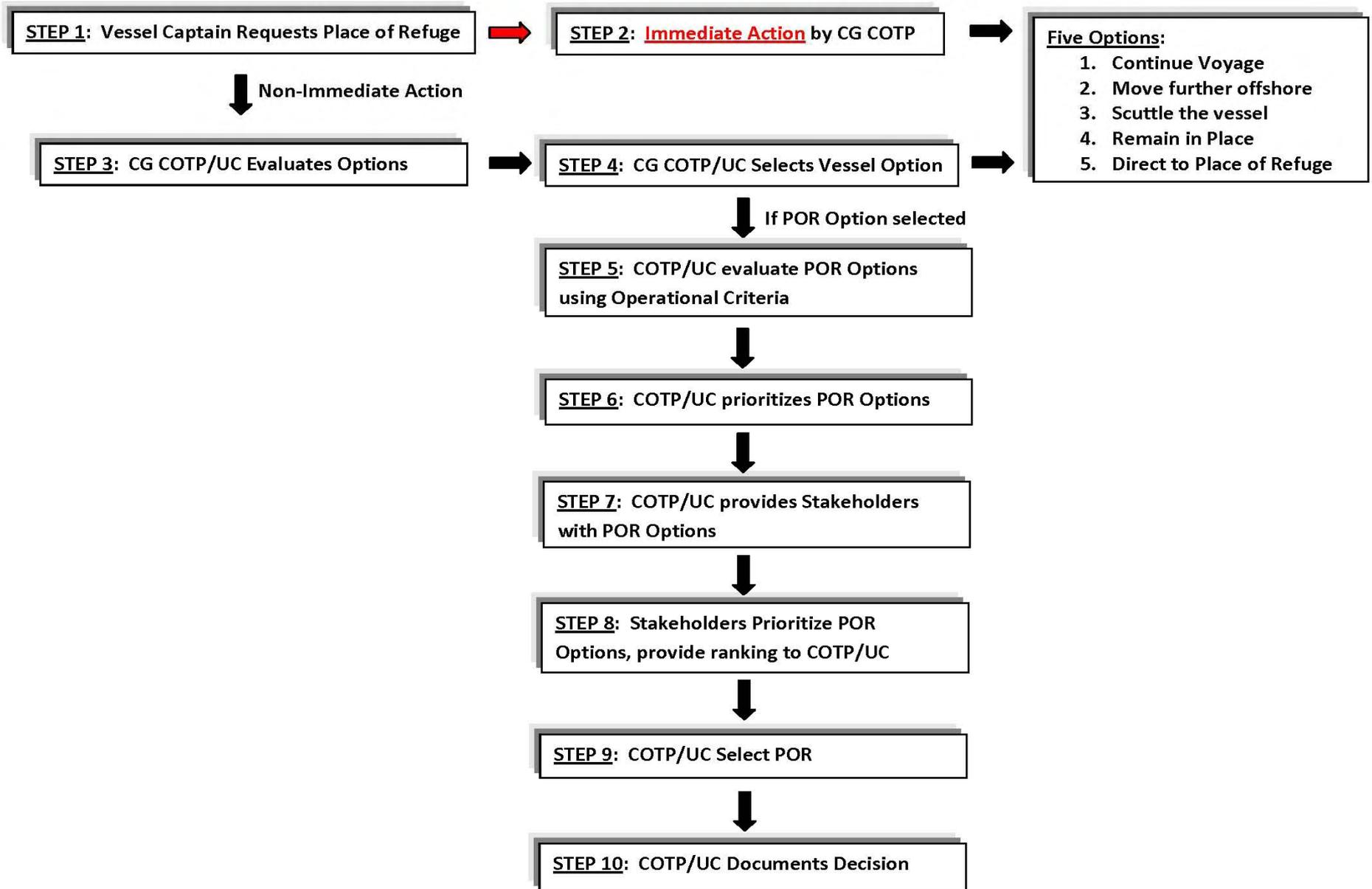


Step 10. COTP/UC Documents Decision

**Unified Command
formally documents
the reasons the place
of refuge was selected.**



Decision-Making Process – Places of Refuge

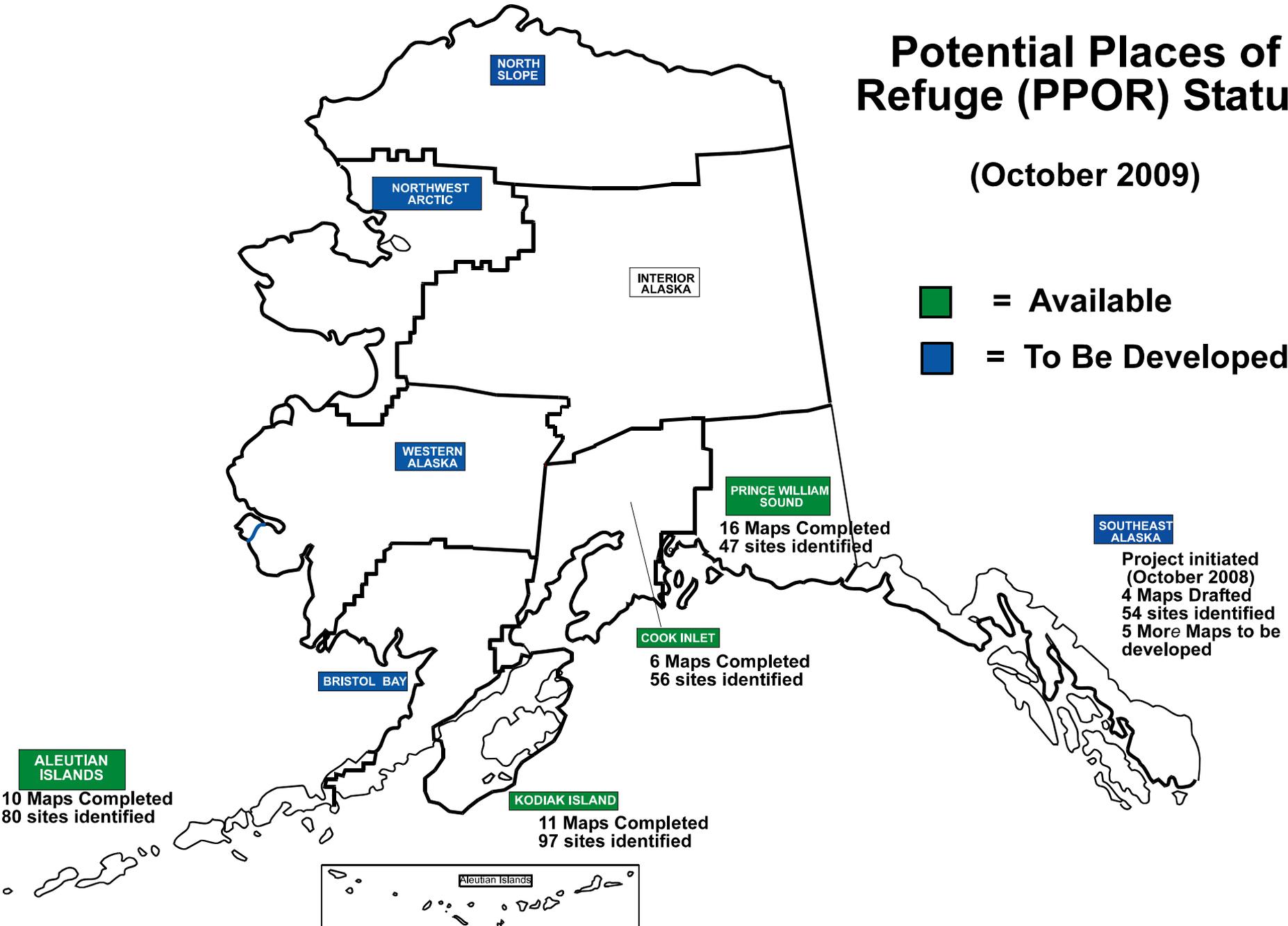


Current PPOR Status in Alaska

Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) Status

(October 2009)

- = Available
- = To Be Developed





Questions/Comments?



(AP PHOTO/FILE)