

Sitka GRS (SE05-11) Middle Island expansion survey 16 Jun 2016
Participants: Sitka Tribe, Sector Juneau Planning, Sector Juneau IMD, MSD Sitka and SEAPRO



Proposal:

Sitka Tribe would like to add the traditional herring roe fishery ground known as the “cookie jar” to the existing Middle Island GRS. The “cookie jar” consists of 2 coves located just to the north of EX03b on the Middle Island GRS. Both coves rapidly drop off and are used by native subsistence fishermen to collect Herring eggs in the traditional Tlinget fashion by submerging hemlock boughs and collecting the spawn that sticks to the needles. The fishery is used by Sitka Tribe Natural Resources, Tribal members and commercial individuals who donate the spawn to the tribe. Herring eggs are typically eaten and traded to other tribes in Alaska a practice that goes back thousands of years.

USCG, Sitka Tribe and Seapro visited the site on 16, Jun 2016 to determine what resources would be required to protect the site (SE05-11-04 proposed). Southwest cove. It is estimated that 1500 feet of boom, shore anchors and 3-40 pound anchors would be adequate to exclude oil from the site. The west side of middle island is sheltered from heavy wind and wave action, but there is current between cove and middle islands.

The shoreline is primarily rocky although both coves have cobble beaches and some coarse sand. Boom will likely be anchored to bare rock or tied to hemlock trees to secure it. Two size 3/4 vessels (a drop bow landing craft would be preferred) would transport boom from the Ferry/ Cruise ship dock north of Sitka to middle island. 2 Skiffs would assist with the deployment and anchoring. Protection from wildlife (bears) may be needed. Multiple hemlock bough sets were observed in the area having been left in the water after the spawning earlier this year. Many crab pots were also observed. This area is especially culturally significant due to its proximity to town and historic high yields of eggs.

George Mahoney and Jeff Schultz from SEAPRO will be coming to Sitka in August or September to add skimmers and conduct maintenance on SEAPRO boom. SEAPRO has proposed deploying their boom to the cookie jar during this visit to test the GRS if they have time. The DEC and USCG should coordinate with SEAPRO and Sitka Tribe to observe this test if it happens.

This expansion to the GRS represents a unique opportunity to help preserve a cultural and natural treasure thanks to coordination between Federal, State, Regional and local partners.

ID	Location and Description	Response Strategy	Implementation	Response Resources	Staging Area	Site Access	Resources protected	Special considerations
SE-05-11-04	Middle Island SW Coves a. Lat. 57 05' 47 N Lon. 135 27' 54 W b. Lat. 57 05' 47 N Lon. 135 27' 54 W c. Lat. 57 05' 40N Lon 135 28' 00W	Exclude oil from small coves on southwest sides of middle island	Use Class 3/4 vessels with deck space to transport equipment place protected water boom using class 6 skiffs. <u>Boom Arrays</u> a. 500 ft boom string b. 500 ft boom string c. 500 ft boom string	Deployment Equipment 1500 ft Protected water boom. 3 ea 40 lb anchors for securing boom at mid points if needed. 4 anchor stakes 2x 100ft lengths of ½ inch line for securing boom to shore. Vessels 2 class 3/4 2 class 6 Personnel shift 14 ea Vessel Crew Tending Vessels 1 class 3/4 1 class 6 Personnel shift 5 ea vessel crew	Sitka Harbor, Sitka Ferry Terminal	Via Marine Waters	Marine Mammals-harbor seals, whales Fish- Herring spawning. Habitat kelp, sheltered tidal flats, sheltered rocky shore, intertidal diversity. Marine invertebrates Human use- subsistence use, high recreational use.	Tested, Not yet Surveyed 16 Jun 16 JLC

