

Notice of Public Comment Period for Proposed Updates to the Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response, Version 2023.1 (January 2023)

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT), Pribilof Islands Working Group, are seeking public input for proposed updates to the *Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response, Version 2023.1 (January 2023)*. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for responders and planners when addressing wildlife concerns during an oil spill response in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands. This guidance document is incorporated by reference into the *Arctic and Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan* and is considered a companion document to the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska*. **The public comment period for this document begins on January 9, 2023 and ends at 11:59 p.m. (Alaska Standard Time) on February 7, 2023.**

The *Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response* document, along with associated files to aid reviewers, is available for public review on DEC's response planning public review webpage at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/public-review/>.

Please note that there are known formatting issues in the document (e.g., poor image resolution in some figures, page numbering in the Table of Contents) that will be resolved prior to final publication. Therefore, in the interest of expediency and minimizing duplication of effort, we ask reviewers to focus their attention on the content of the document. If reviewers wish to view higher-resolution versions of any figures, many of the same figures may be found in the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska (2020)*, which is available on DEC's Area Plan References and Tools webpage at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/tools/>.

Anyone wishing to provide comments on the document, or submit a request for additional information, may do so electronically using the DEC public comment webpage at: <https://spar.alaskadec.commentinput.com/?id=MjksD>. Comments may also be submitted in writing via either email to mike.donnellan@alaska.gov, or by mailing (or hand-delivering) a hardcopy to the following address:

Mike Donnellan
Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova Street
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Commenters opting to submit comments electronically (either via the DEC public comment webpage or email) are encouraged to use a spreadsheet to organize their comments.

Accordingly, a “Comment Response Matrix” spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel format is available for download on the DEC response planning public review webpage. This matrix was developed to streamline the public comment process and provide an efficient means for agency reviewers to process feedback. The completed matrix may be submitted via either uploading the file to the DEC public comment webpage or attachment to an email. While use of the Comment Response Matrix is the preferred method for organizing comments, it is not a requirement. Comments may also be submitted in narrative form via the DEC public comment webpage, email (either in the text body or a file attachment), or a hardcopy letter. All hardcopy letters must be postmarked on or prior to the last day of the public comment period, or if hand-delivered, received by DEC at the office listed above by the close of business (4:30 p.m. Alaska Standard Time) on the last day of the public comment period.

The State of Alaska, DEC complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need an accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Claire Fishwick at (907) 465-5871 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 prior to January 29, 2023, to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

The contents of all submitted comments are considered public records and will be posted online in full, regardless of submission method used.

After the public comment period ends, DEC, and the ARRT Pribilof Islands Working Group will carefully evaluate and consider all proposed updates to the document. They will aggregate responses to similar questions and make the questions and responses available to the public on the DEC response planning public review webpage. If needed, commenters will be contacted by working group members to clarify any questions or comments, unless contact information was not provided. After all feedback and proposed changes have been evaluated, the ARRT Pribilof Islands Working Group will either adopt the proposed changes without further notice, revise the proposed changes with information from public review and adopt without further notice, or decide to take no action.

For questions about submitting comments or any other aspect of this public review process, please contact Mike Donnellan at mike.donnellan@alaska.gov or 907-269-7886.