

## Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) STATUS REPORT: 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER 2012



Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC and Pearson Consulting, LLC are coordinating the implementation of Phase B of the Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment.

### Overall Project Management and Coordination

- **Management Team Meetings:** The Management Team met on an as-needed basis via teleconference during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2012 to revise and approve the work plan for Phase B (which they did on November 30, 2012).
- **Kick-off Meeting:** A kick-off meeting for Phase B was convened in Unalaska on October 2, 2012, with an Emergency Towing System (ETS) Exercise on October 3, 2012. The kick-off meeting included the Advisory Panel, Management Team, and Analysis Team members, and focused on reviewing and refining the proposed work plan for Phase B. The work plan was revised based on input from the Project Team members, and approved on November 30, 2012. On the day after the meeting, the annual ETS exercise was conducted. The purpose of this annual training was to familiarize local responders with the ETS and capture the deployment on video to update the ETS training material including the ETS Manual and training DVD. Approximately 25 individuals participated and/or observed the exercise, plus crewmembers from the M/V SUAHA (acting as the disabled vessel), tugs Gyrfalcon and James Dunlap. An exercise after-action report was produced to capture lessons-learned and is posted on the following website: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/ets/index.htm>
- **Contact Management:** Contact lists for the Management Team, Advisory Panel, and interested members of the public were updated as needed.
- **Website Maintenance:** Public and internal websites were updated as needed, including posting information about the kick-off meeting and the final Phase B work plan.
- **Budget:** The budget was modified to reflect the revised work plan, but the total amount of expenses did not change.

### Task 1-2 Increase Rescue Tug, Salvage, and Spill Response Capability

- **Subtask 1-2A. Regulatory Resource Study**  
Nuka Research and Pearson Consulting began drafting the Regulatory Resource Study, including reviewing existing laws and regulations related to emergency towing, salvage, and spill response in the Aleutian Islands. For the second part of

the study, Moran Environmental Recovery and Moran Towing; Baldwin & Butler; and The Glosten Associates, Inc. will provide input on the resources that would be needed for full compliance with all state and federal regulations and the estimated cost of those resources. This subtask is on track to be completed in January 2013 (it was originally planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2012, but was delayed due to significant work plan revisions made after the kick-off meeting).

- **Subtask 1-2B. Response Gap Analysis**  
Nuka Research compiled and examined data from four buoys to determine the best means of characterizing the operating environments along shipping routes through the study area. Mechanical response limits were proposed (based on previous similar analyses) for consideration by Moran Environmental Recovery, which will provide input to the analysis. This subtask is on track to be completed in January 2013 (it was originally planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2012, but was delayed due to significant work plan revisions made after the kick-off meeting).
- **Subtask 1-2C. Emergency Towing Study**  
The Glosten Associates, Inc. started scoping their towing study. This subtask is on track to be completed by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013.
- **Subtask 1-2D. Tug Location Study**  
Work on this subtask has not yet started. It depends in part on the results of Subtask 1-2C. Work on this subtask will be conducted during the first three quarters of 2013.
- **Subtask 1-2E. Salvage study**  
Work on this subtask will be conducted during the first three quarters of 2013.
- **Subtask 1-2F. Spill Response Study**  
Work on this subtask will be conducted during the first three quarters of 2013.
- **Subtask 1-2G. Management and Funding Study**  
Work on this subtask will be conducted during the first three quarters of 2013.
- **Subtask 1-2H. Optimal Response System**  
Work on this subtask will be conducted during the fourth quarter of 2013.
- **Subtask 1-2I. Benefit-cost Analysis**  
Work on this subtask will be conducted during the last two quarters of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.
- **Subtask 1-2J. Reporting**  
A preliminary draft of the final report has been developed. Work on this task depends on products developed during the previous tasks, and will take place during the first three quarters of 2014.

### **Task 3 – Strengthen Aleutians Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP)**

- **Subtask 3A. Subarea Committee and Plan Update**

The Subarea Committee chairs for the Aleutian Islands Subarea met via teleconference on December 19 (in advance of the planned start in January 2013) to prepare for the effort to update and enhance the SCP. The committee chairs set a meeting date of February 20, 2013 for a Subarea Committee meeting in Anchorage. On January 11, the committee chairs will meet again to finalize the invite list, invitation, and preliminary agenda. Pearson Consulting and Nuka Research have started to arrange logistics for the meeting.

- **Subtask 3B. Geographic Response Strategies**

Work on this subtask will be conducted in 2013.

- **Subtask 3C. Potential Places of Refuge**

Work on this subtask will be conducted in 2013.

### **Task 4 – Initiate Process for Establishing IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA) and Associated Protective Measures (APM)**

- **Subtask 4A. Education/Communications Plan**

On December 13, 2012, the workgroup approved a draft outline of the Education/Communications Plan, which will be used as the basis for the first draft.

- **Subtask 4B. Establish and Facilitate Aleutian Islands PSSA Workgroup**

The Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) Workgroup met on December 13, 2012 (in advance of the January 2013 targeted start) to launch Task 4. The group identified additional information that they needed in order to recommend the geographic area(s) and protective measures that would be appropriate. A briefing paper will be provided to the group in the spring that summarizes the information sources identified, with a likely meeting to take place in the summer.

- **Subtask 4C. Benefit-Cost Analysis of the PSSA APM**

Work on this subtask depends on previous tasks and will be conducted in 2014.

- **Subtask 4D. Application to IMO**

Work on this subtask depends on previous tasks and will be conducted in 2014.