

Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA)

STATUS REPORT: 3rd QUARTER 2013



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 via teleconference once during the 3rd quarter of 2013 to oversee the implementation of the Phase B work plan. Other information was exchanged via email.
- **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. A project newsletter was sent to all project contacts at the beginning of each month.
- **Budget:** The budget was previously 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**
The Regulatory Resource Study was completed and finalized following an April 18, 2013 Advisory Panel webinar. It has been posted to the project website and was distributed in the project newsletter. The report is available at: <http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/documents/130502RegulatoryResourceStudy.pdf>
- **Subtask 1-2B. Response Gap Analysis**
A report “Characterizing Environmental Conditions in the Aleutian Islands” was finalized and circulated in the first quarter of 2013. It is available at: <http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/documents/130225AIWeatherCharacterizationFINAL.pdf> An addendum to the weather characterization report was developed in August 2013 to incorporate wind gusts.

The response gap analysis for mechanical response (offshore), dispersant application by vessel and aircraft, lightering via helicopter, and logistics (based on airport closures) have been developed and incorporated into a draft report. The remaining analyses, for ship-to-ship lightering and aerial surveillance, are in process. A complete draft will be available for project team review at the end of October.

- **Subtask 1-2C. Emergency Towing Study**
The Glosten Associates analyzed the availability of tugs of opportunity to respond to vessels in distress at six different scenario locations (based on Phase A scenarios) using AIS vessel location data for every Wednesday in 2012. The results were presented to the Analysis Team on a July 19 conference call and will be presented in the Task 1-2 draft recommendation report.

The Glosten Associates, Inc. also completed a Best Available Technology study for emergency towing vessels. The results of the analysis were delivered to Nuka Research on September 19 and will be incorporated into the draft recommendation report.

- **Subtask 1-2D. Tug Location Study**
The Glosten Associates, Inc. provided draft deliverables on this task to Nuka Research at a September 24 meeting in Seattle. The results will be completed and incorporated into the Task 1-2 draft recommendation report.
- **Subtask 1-2E. Salvage Study**
Moran Towing shared the results of outreach to salvage contractors in Alaska and nationally (Marine Response Alliance, Resolve Maritime, Don Jon/Smit, and Magone Marine) on an August 2 conference call with the Analysis Team. The recommendations related to salvage operations are currently being drafted for the Task 1-2 draft recommendation report.
- **Subtask 1-2F. Spill Response Study**
Moran Environmental Recovery proposed an outline for outreach and research to the Analysis Team on August 2, which is currently being implemented. The recommendations related to spill response will be drafted for the Task 1-2 draft recommendation report in October.
- **Subtask 1-2G. Management and Funding Study**
Pearson Consulting and Baldwin & Butler presented their preliminary work related to the Management and Funding study to the Analysis Team on August 6. This included a review and summary of options based on current spill response organization models in North America. A government-funded model is also being considered. The recommendations will be drafted for the Task 1-2 draft recommendation report in October.
- **Subtask 1-2H. Optimal Response System**
The Analysis Team members working on the Task 1-2 recommendation will meet in Seattle on November 13-14 to develop their recommendations to the Advisory Panel and Management Team for Task 1-2.
- **Subtask 1-2I. Benefit-cost Analysis**
Work on this subtask will be conducted during the last quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014.

- **Subtask 1-2J. Reporting**

The draft outline for the report has been refined based on preliminary discussions with the Analysis Team. Further 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**

On February 20, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and U.S. Coast Guard reconvened the Subarea Committee to identify updates and improvements to the Aleutian Subarea Plan. The meeting in Anchorage included representatives of local and tribal entities from the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands area, state and federal agencies, and other interested groups. A preliminary list of updates and additions to the plan was discussed, with further work to be done by workgroups moving forward.

The ADEC and U.S. Coast Guard issued letters to tribal, community and agency leaders that the Subarea Contingency plan is undergoing a review and they're soliciting comments from the period of April 1 to May 1. A teleconference is scheduled for October 16 with ADEC and the U.S. Coast Guard to discuss status on the drafting and update of the SCP.

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

The Geographic Response Strategies workgroup met on February 20 after the Subarea Committee meeting. The group began the process of prioritizing of areas for GRS development and strategizing opportunities for site visits in the summer of 2014. The project website has been updated to reflect the sites selected during this meeting. These are available at:

Overall website: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp//grs/ai/home.htm>

West A Zone- <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp//grs/ai/zonewa.htm>

An additional meeting of this workgroup is being developed for mid-November.

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

Work on this subtask will be conducted in 2014.

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

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

Based on an outline approved by the workgroup in December, a draft communications plan is under development.

- **Subtask 4B. Establish and Facilitate Aleutian Islands PSSA Workgroup**
The Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) Workgroup met in Anchorage on August 29, 2013. The 13 participants from the Advisory Panel, Management Team, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) discussed areas to protect, potential routing measures, and the vessels to which routing or other protective measures would be applied. This in-person meeting built on previous workgroup teleconferences in May 2013 and December 2012.
- **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.