

Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment

Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Workgroup Meeting

Thursday, August 29, 2013

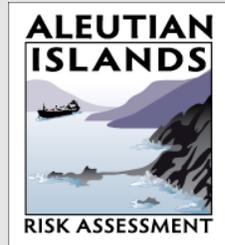
8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Dimond Center Hotel

Chelsloknu Room

700 East Dimond Blvd

Anchorage, Alaska



Meeting Summary

Welcome and Introductions

The following workgroup members attended:

Shirley Marquardt, Mayor Unalaska
Ed Page, Marine Exchange of Alaska
Whit Sheard, Oceana
Stephanie Altman, NOAA
Crystal Smith, ADEC
Gary Koehler, USCG D17
James Houck, USCG D17
Diana Evans, North Pacific Fishery
Management Council (NPFMC)

David Eley, Cape Intl/Nuka
Leslie Pearson, Nuka
Amy Gilson, Nuka
Tim Robertson, Nuka
Gary Folley, ADEC
Doug Burn, Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands
Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Part I: Review Agenda and Work Group Objectives (facilitated by Dave Eley)

The each workgroup member was asked what they hoped to accomplish in the meeting. In summary, they were:

- Protective measures to consider.
- Determine the type ships to which the measures apply.
- Identify areas to be protected and possible “no go” areas.
- Discuss how are routing decisions are made.
- Identify action items to move forward.
- Consider a straw man of options (A, B, C).
- Discuss a safe distance offshore and rationale for it.

Part II. Public Comments

Tom Lakosh commented that:

- The issue is not just avoidance but prevention of a grounding (ex. Need rescue tugs).
- Traffic separation schemes must be created, not just areas to avoid.
- The Western Alaska US Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone is too large to provide uniform protections. Alaska needs five COTP zones.
- The Kulik incident showed the need for tugs with specific performance standards.

Part III. Overview of other AIRA activity to date (Leslie Pearson)

Note: See the AIRA website for the most recent updates.

Part IV: International Traffic in the Aleutians

- Vessel traffic Western Aleutian ops (Marine Exchange, Capt Ed Page) See PowerPoint Presentation at <http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/meetings.htm>

- Bering Sea PARS and other related activity (USCG, CDR James Houck))
- Latest AIRA work on rescue tugs and tugs of opportunity (Nuka Research, Tim Robertson)

Part V: Aleutian ecosystems

- Aleutian GIS overview (Oceana, Whit Sheard)
<http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/meetings.htm>
- Contributions and possible funding from Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative (Doug Burn)

Part VI: PSSA process and Protective Measures

- PSSA mechanics and overview of associated protective measures (APM) implemented through IMO PSSA's (NOAA, Stephanie Altman)
<http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/meetings.htm>
- Roundtable discussion of protective measures (facilitated by Dave Eley)

Part VII: Building a consensus for moving forward

After much informal interaction prompted by the presentations, the work group in an extended discussion agreed, in general, to the following:

1. Overall Goal

Petition IMO for either a PSSA with a routing measure or a stand-alone routing measure(s). The goal of any measure will be to get international shipping to take the safest, most responsible route through or past the Aleutians.

2. Proposals are not intended to:

- Adversely impact fishing or fishing industry activities.
- Require additional funds or positions dedicated for enforcing the measures.
- Expand MARPOL requirements (ex. Limit permitted discharges or allowed sewage discharges).

3. Proposals are intended to:

- Preserve States rights.
- Protect the livelihood of the Aleutians and those that work there.
- Generate guidelines and/or regulations in both USCG and IMO domains.

4. The Proposals must address:

- Drift groundings, and to a lesser extent powered grounding.
- Collisions.

5. The general outline of the proposals:

A. Proposals would apply to:

- Vessels in international trade transiting through or past the Aleutians.
- Vessels 1,600 Gross Tons and greater.

B. Suggested routing measurements (subject to further research and review) would be:

- i. Minimum of 12 nautical miles (nm) offshore when using certain passes;
- ii. Otherwise 50-75 nm offshore (tankships currently use 75 nm based on alternative planning criteria). This may be refined after looking that current traffic density plots.
- iii. Consider establishing Precautionary Areas for the following passes:
 - a) West of Buldir Island
 - b) Amchitka Pass
 - c) Amukta Pass

- d) Entry and Exit to Unimak Pass
- e) West of Attu
- iv. Other passage points through the Aleutians would be avoided.
- v. Ships would report incidents of deviation from recommended route, degradation of propulsion or steering, or maintenance (consider language hazardous conditions 33CFR 165)

6. In preparing the proposals the unintended consequences of any measure(s) must be addressed. These include:

- Pushing international traffic into fishing areas.
- Increasing density and risk of collisions

7. Other issues moving forward:

- Areas to be avoided will need additional study
- Review the bounds of a PSSA or areas to be avoided in the context of traditional, widely used transit areas. AIS and satellite vessel tracking will be useful here.
- Continue the work of determining whether all areas are equally vulnerable.

8. Action Items:

- a. Meeting Summary and Consensus Outline (Dave Eley)
- b. Provide Places of Refuge locations (Nuka)
- c. Talk to ocean routing services (Ed Page, MXAK)
- d. Use the Glosthen/Nuka analysis for tugs study to develop an average drift velocity and direction in order to have a rationale for minimum safe distance offshore. (Nuka)
- e. Overlay ship routes on GIS maps, density plots (Nuka, MXAK, ABSI LCC)
- f. Consider possible funding from ABSI LCC for specific research (Doug Burn, ABSI LCC)
- g. Develop PSSA FAQs sheet. (Leslie Pearson and Dave Eley)
- h. Outreach to key groups including NPFMC, State Government, NMFS, Alaska Maritime Refuge. (everyone and tracked by Leslie Pearson)
- i. Begin drafting the IMO documents (Dave Eley/Leslie Pearson, Stephanie Altman (NOAA) and Gary Koehler/James Houck (USCG))
- j. Refine draft routing measures. (Dave Eley and James Houck (USCG))
- k. Analysis of anticipated changes in vessel behavior. (Facilitated by Dave Eley/Nuka.)
- l. Further consideration of unintended consequences. (Facilitated by Dave Eley/Nuka)
- m. Ask NMFS and AMR for input on areas to be avoided.
- n. Analysis of the 1,600 gross ton limit effect on 2012 vessel traffic. (Tim Robertson)
- o. Timeline for proposals at IMO (Stephanie Altman, NOAA). See below.

9. Timeline for submitting documents to IMO (prepared by Stephanie Altman in an email dated 12 Sept 2013

- Essentially, any proposal must be fully developed and submitted to the US interagency IMO working group by April 1, 2014.
- The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 67) meets October 13-17, 2014
- Paper deadline for MEPC 67 has not been set. Bulky documents generally have to be submitted 13 weeks in advance of the meeting, thus requiring the US to submit any proposal +/- July 10, 2014 to the IMO.
- PSSA proposal with associated protective measure and/or routing measures would have to be provided to the US interagency IMO working group by +/- April 10, 2014.
- Routing measure proposals will go to Navigations, Communication, and Search and Rescue

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