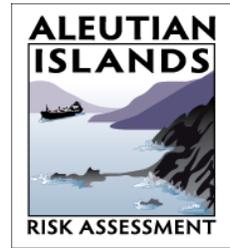


# Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) STATUS REPORT: 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2014



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 January 9, February 6, March 13, and March 27. Members also participated in the Advisory Panel webinar on January 30 to discuss the Task 1-2 recommendations.
- **Advisory Panel Solicitation:** The Management Team approved three new Advisory Panel members in the categories of Subsistence User, NGO-Environmental, and Mariner in Local Trade, Oil Barge/Tankers.
- **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.
- **Budget:** No updates or issues.

## 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.

After circulation to the Advisory Panel and Management Team, the report, “Impact of Environmental Conditions on Vessel Incident Response in the Aleutian Islands” was completed in February 2014. It is available at:  
[http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/files/140205AIRA\\_ResponseGapAnalys](http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/files/140205AIRA_ResponseGapAnalys)

[is\\_vFpress.pdf](#)

- **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. Nuka Research has developed a summary of the results.

The Glosten Associates, Inc. developed a Purpose Built Tug design concept, which was delivered to Nuka Research on December 31, 2013.

- **Subtask 1-2D. Tug Location Study**

The Glosten Associates, Inc. delivered the Tug Location Study to Nuka Research on November 1, 2013.

- **Subtask 1-2E. Salvage Study**

Pearson Consulting began compiling information regarding salvage operations in the region. The draft information was presented and discussed at the Analysis Team meeting in November.

- **Subtask 1-2F. Spill Response Study**

Moran Environmental Recovery proposed an outline for outreach and research to the Analysis Team on August 2. The recommendations related to spill response are incorporated into the Task 1-2 draft recommendation.

- **Subtask 1-2G. Management and Funding Study**

Findings from research conducted over the summer were summarized in advance of the contractor meeting in Seattle in November. The recommendations related to management and funding are incorporated into the Task 1-2 draft recommendation.

- **Subtask 1-2H. Optimal Response System**

A summary of the recommendation and associated cost estimates was circulated to the Advisory Panel and Management Team in January. Following a webinar briefing on the recommendation and associated options, the Management Team directed that the Advisory Panel should be invited to submit written comments. These were received and compiled for the Management Team's consideration in early March.

An in-person Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2014. Planning for the agenda and meeting logistics is underway.

- **Subtask 1-2I. Benefit-cost Analysis**  
Work on this subtask will be conducted following the Advisory Panel meeting scheduled for April 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 immediately following the benefit-cost analysis.

### **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.

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. Teleconferences were scheduled for October 16 and December 5 with ADEC and the U.S. Coast Guard (SCP Executive Committee) to discuss status on the drafting and update of the SCP. Based on directions from the Executive Committee members, Pearson Consulting began updating the Resources and Sensitive Area Section of the SCP. A Subarea Committee/Logistics and Sensitive Area Workgroup meeting was conducted on January 28<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage to review updated sections and obtain input from workgroup members. The resources section update has been completed. Additional input from agencies continue to be provided for completion of the sensitive area section of the plan. Work began to update the response section of the plan. The U.S. Coast Guard has scheduled a meeting on April 14 in Anchorage to discuss the status of the plan and Pearson Consulting and Nuka Research will attend.

- **Subtask 3B. Geographic Response Strategies**  
The Geographic Response Strategies workgroup initially met on February 20 after the Subarea Committee meeting to begin the process of developing these plans for the subarea. The workgroup had a follow up meeting and teleconference on December 12<sup>th</sup>. During this conference more sites were selected for GRS development. Other individuals were identified that were not in attendance who were necessary for selection in the West B Zone. An additional teleconference was held with these individual and a final list of selected sites was established. The site surveys and outreach are being planned with communities of Adak and Atka and is scheduled to happen over the summer. A Tactics Committee will develop draft GRS after the site survey activities, the drafts will then be made

available for the workgroup to review prior to approval and inclusion in the subarea contingency plan.

The project websites 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>

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

Data was collected to update the oil spill and oil storage facility risk maps. Work on this subtask will continue 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**

A meeting with the Advisory Panel and Workgroup, scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> will focus on the proposed routing measure for the region, which will be incorporated into the application (Task 4D).

A webinar was conducted on November 26 with workgroup, Advisory Panel and Management Team members to clarify the Advisory Panel's recommendation for pursuing a PSSA designation. The Advisory Panel members indicated they want to pursue a PSSA designation and routing measures.

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**

The contract team is currently drafting the PSSA application and the Aleutians Bering Sea LCC is working 3-years of satellite vessel traffic data to support the discussion and recommendation for routing measures in the Aleutians.