

# Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) STATUS REPORT: 3<sup>rd</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 July 18 and August 7.
- **Advisory Panel Meetings:** The Advisory Panel met on April 16-17 in Anchorage, AK and June 27. April 16 focused on the recommended Optimal Response System (Task 1-2). April 17 and June 27 focused on routing measures and the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area applications (Task 4).
- **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)

- **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 & Subtask 1-2F. Spill Response Study.** A combined report summarizing the Analysis Team's consideration of salvage and spill response was released for review with the final recommendations.
- **Subtask 1-2G. Management and Funding Study**  
A combined report summarizing the Analysis Team's consideration of salvage and spill response was released for review with the final recommendations.
- **Subtask 1-2H. Optimal Response System**  
Following the April 16 meeting in Anchorage (and previous webinar discussions and written comment opportunities), Nuka Research drafted a summary of the recommended Optimal Response System for review by the Advisory Panel, Management Team, and Peer Review panel. This was released first to the Advisory Panel, then disseminated for public comment until September 26.
- **Subtask 1-2I. Benefit-cost Analysis**  
Northern Economics delivered their draft benefit-cost analysis, which was shared with the Advisory Panel and David Bouvet of the Peer Review Panel. David Bouvet's comments were received in early July and will be shared with Northern Economics.
- **Subtask 1-2J. Reporting**  
A series of draft reports summarizing the results of Task 1-2 and providing justification for the recommendations will be shared with the Management Team, Advisory Panel, and Technical Peer Review panel in late July for review, then circulated for public review until September 26. They will be finalized following the Management Team's review and guidance on how to address comments.

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

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

On February 20, 2013 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, 2013. Teleconferences were scheduled for October 16 and December 5, 2013 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, 2014 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 scheduled a meeting on April 14 in Anchorage to discuss the Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) guidance and seek input from the Subarea Committee members on any changes to the guidance. On May 14th a follow-up meeting scheduled by the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage to gain consensus on the APC guidance and discuss options for enhancing response capabilities in the region. The draft "Optimal Response System" report was presented to the Subarea Committee on August 27 and an update on the plan revision was provided. The next Subarea Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for early November.

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

The Geographic Response Strategies workgroup initially met on February 20, 2013 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.

A community outreach meeting was held in Adak on July 22, 2014 with Nuka Research and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation staff

presenting information on spill response and the GRS's. Seven individuals attended the meeting and were briefed on the Subarea Contingency Plan and how GRS are incorporated into the plan. The individuals present reviewed and approved of the sites currently selected for GRS development and recommended additional locations that could be added to the list of candidate sites.

After the meeting Nuka and the ADEC staff were able to survey 7 sites that were near Adak. This gave the survey team an opportunity to redesign draft plans after observing conditions at each site. These edits plans are being finalized and will be posted to the project website prior to a Tactics Committee reviewing the plans.

Prior to the visit, Adak Fuels was preparing for an annual inspection and drill. At the request of ADEC, the company and local city government agreed to assist in facilitating a deployment of a draft GRS tactic for Clam Lagoon. The local first responders, fire department, city manager and other local residents were involved with the deployment. The strike team had 3 vessels and approximately 12 responders involved in the deployment.

The mobilization and deployment went well, but ultimately the tactics that was prescribed for the location was overwhelmed by the incoming currents and ultimately failed. In debriefing the exercise the first time responders noted that the experience would be helpful in future deployments. The Clam Lagoon GRS will be modified to account for the lessons learned.

The Tactics Committee will meet in early November to review the draft GRS and then these will be made available for review by the entire workgroup.

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**  
Updated information is being added to the PPOR maps.

#### **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.

A webinar was conducted on November 21, 2013 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

A meeting with the Advisory Panel and Workgroup, held on April 17, 2014 focused on the proposed routing measure for the region, which will be incorporated into the application. On June 27, an Advisory Panel web conference was held to review and discuss the proposed routing measures and Areas to be Avoided (ATBA).

- **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**  
Based on input from the Advisory Panel two IMO routing measure applications were developed: (1) propose establishing five ATBA's in the Aleutian Island regions; and (2) proposed 2-way route through the passage west of Buldir Island. The two draft IMO applications and a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) application were distributed for internal review by the Panel and Management Team on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Comments are due by mid-October and a web conference is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2014.