

Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) STATUS REPORT: 1ST QUARTER 2012



Meetings/Teleconferences

- The Management Team met on an as need basis via teleconference to discuss the potential funding of Phase B risk reduction projects, final development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Phase B studies and posting of the RFP.

Risk Reduction Projects

- The Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment (AIRA) Management Team approved funding of \$220,000 to the Marine Exchange of Alaska (MXAK) for extending Automatic Identification System (AIS) vessel tracking coverage in the Aleutian Islands. A long range AIS radio was installed in January on an Adak mountaintop that has extended vessel-tracking coverage by over 10,000 square miles and at times is receiving vessel reports greater than 150 miles offshore. Another AIS mountaintop site will be installed on Nikolski, which should track vessels over 100 miles away and provide an additional 15,0000 square miles of vessel coverage. This AIS site also provides coverage where the *M/V Selendang Ayu* drifted to shore.

Expanding vessel traffic coverage was identified and recommended as a risk reduction measure that warranted immediate implementation by the AIRA Advisory Panel.

The Panel envisioned a program whereby any vessel operating in the area would be monitored by an automated system with alarms in place to report any anomalies in the behavior of the vessel, given a set of assumptions for each vessel type. The Advisory Panel and Management Team recognize that enhanced vessel monitoring and reporting would have three primary objectives:

- Detect anomalous vessel activity (i.e. identify vessels that are adrift) so a timely and effective response can be undertaken
- Immediately locate vessels that may be able to render assistance such as, tugs, fish processing vessels, etc.
- Validate vessels compliance with Reduced Risk Vessel Routing measures, safety fairways and Areas To Be Avoided (ATBA)

An enhanced vessel monitoring program can also directly reduce the risk of drift groundings by increasing situational awareness for vessel operators and the appropriate agents and agencies; and also indirectly reduce the risks of collisions and power grounding by gathering data on vessel movements that can be analyzed in future risk assessments and identify risk reduction measures where appropriate.

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation by funding the expansion of the Emergency Towing System project. Two additional systems are intended to be purchased and strategically located in the Aleutian Islands region.

Contact List and Public Communication

- The project contact list developed by Nuka Research was updated as needed during the 1st Quarter.

AIRA Website

- The AIRA internal Management Team website was updated on an as needed basis.
- The AIRA Public website was updated on in February to announce the funding and expansion of the AIS vessel tracking coverage. The website was also updated in March with the announcement and posting of the Phase B RFP.

Upcoming Schedule

- RFP Pre-proposal web conference on April 4, 2012
- RFP Deadline is May 2, 2012
- Estimated Notice of Award for Phase B RFP in late June 2012