

Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) STATUS REPORT: 4th 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 on November 6, 2013. Members also participated in the Advisory Panel webinar on November 18 to discuss the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area task.
- **Advisory Panel Solicitation:** An effort to fill vacant Advisory Panel member positions was made during this quarter. Applications were received from interested entities seeking to fill the alternate NGO-Environmental and alternate Mariner in Local Trade, Oil Barge/Tankers. The Management Team will meet via teleconference on January 9th to discuss appointments.
- **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 once per month.
- **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.

The draft response gap analysis report was circulated to the Advisory Panel and

Management Team on December 23.

- **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, which is currently being implemented. The recommendations related to spill response will be drafted for the Task 1-2 draft recommendation report.

- **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 will be drafted for the Task 1-2 draft recommendation and report.

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

The Analysis Team members working on the Task 1-2 recommendation met in Seattle on November 13-14 to develop their recommendations to the Advisory Panel and Management Team for Task 1-2. A summary of the recommendation has been developed and cost estimates are currently being added to the document. It has been circulated for review by the Analysis Team members who all provided comment.

- **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. 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 Section of the SCP. A Subarea Committee/Logistics and Sensitive Area Workgroup meeting is scheduled for January 28th in Anchorage to review updated sections and obtain input from workgroup members.

- **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>

The workgroup met again on December 12th to discuss site priorities..

- **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 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 on analyzing 3-years of satellite vessel traffic data to support the discussion and recommendation for routing measures in the Aleutians.