

Alaska Regional Response Team  
 March 8, 2023, Anchorage, AK and Virtual (Zoom.gov)  
**Meeting Summary**

Meeting Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Agenda</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting Presentations</a></li> </ul>
ARRT Documents, Plans, and Guidance (New/Updated since the last meeting)
<i>None currently</i>

**Introductions, Tri-Chairs Report, and Review of Actions Since Last Meeting**

Ms. Angella Thuotte, USCG ARRT Coordinator, conducted a roll call of the ARRT Members and the On-scene Coordinators. Mr. Graham Wood, ADEC Alternate Tri-Chair, Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA Tri-Chair, and Mr. Mark Everett, USCG Tri-Chair, offered opening remarks.

Mr. Everett presented an overview of the actions of the ARRT since the September 2022 meeting (See Slide 9). Major events and milestones include the following:

- Annual Report to National Response Team (NRT) and Endangered Species Act compliance report is drafted.
- ARRT Tri-Chairs and Coordinators from EPA and USCG attended the National Response Team/ Regional Response Teams Co-Chairs Meeting February 13-16, 2023.
- Announcement from Champion that they will no longer be producing Corexit™, the most common dispersant planned for use.
- USCG Headquarters proposed a national restructuring of the ACP format.

**ARRT Committee Reports**

Dr. Lisa Fox, U.S. Department of the Interior, reported on the recent activities of the Wildlife Protection Committee and Cultural Resources Committee, Ms. Catherine Berg, NOAA, reported on the Science and Technology Committee and Ms. Victoria Colles, ADEC, reported on the Statewide Planning Committee and Ms. Allison Natcher reported on the Regional Stakeholder Committee Task Force. The table below provides a summary of the major activities of these committees and associated presentation slide numbers.

ARRT Committee	Major Activities	Presentation
Cultural Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARRT CRC Charter: Completed and submitted to ARRT Tri-Chairs for approval. Tri-Chairs signed it in October 2022.</li> <li>• Revising the <i>Alaska Historic Properties Implementation Guidelines for Federal On-scene Coordinators</i></li> </ul>	Slide 12

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborating with Culturally Important Places Work Group and potentially developing new response tools</li> </ul>	
Science and Technology Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tracking new research on remote sensing and detection of oil in ice – slides summarizing the research projects provided</li> </ul>	Slides 16-29
Statewide Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly SPC Meetings to facilitate statewide consistency in area contingency plans</li> <li>Working on developing quarterly newsletters and coordinating updates on ADEC and ARRT websites</li> </ul>	Slides 30-35
Regional Stakeholder Committee Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drafting a Job Aid for Liaison Officer on a Regional Stakeholder Committee</li> <li>Drafted updated Definitions for RSC and Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC)</li> <li>Next step: Drafting RSC content for Area Contingency Plans and the Regional Contingency Plan</li> </ul>	Slides 36-44
Wildlife Protection Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning to initiate a review and administrative update of the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska (WPG)</li> <li>New ARRT Wildlife Protection Webpage, which includes the new training video on carcass collection and documentation</li> </ul> <p>Pribilof Islands Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revising the Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines (PI WPG), public comment recently closed, expect to finalize by mid-2023</li> </ul>	Slides 13-14s 22-23

## Area Committee Reports

Each of the four Area Committees updated their activities and recent significant areas. The Area Committees are working on annual reviews and modifications as necessary to each of the four Area Contingency Plans and other projects, exercises, and training to support response readiness in their areas. The tables below summarize the requests for support from the Area Committees to the ARRT and upcoming activities and work in the Area Committees (Slides 46-73).

Area Committee Requests for Support	
Alaska Inland	Support/ideas/resources for Village Compliance Assessment
	Continue the conversation on logistic support from ARRT member agencies – follow-up on ARRT Tabletop Exercise 9/21/2022
Arctic and Western Alaska	Developing risk assessment methodology for statewide application

	Support for tribal engagement in conjunction with risk assessment outreach
	Assistance in developing UAS protocols and statewide policy
	Assistance in the management of GIS data
Southeast Alaska	Continued support for exploration of GRS documents to GIS format and improvement of technology to conduct validations with modeling software

Area Committee	Next Meeting	Status of ACP	Major Upcoming Exercises/ Trainings and Projects
Alaska Inland <i>Slides 67-73</i>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiating admin subcommittee for 2023 review and modifications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA is conducting an exercise on the North Slope to test communications and cold-weather instrument operations.</li> </ul>
Arctic and Western Alaska <i>Slides 60-66</i>	May 2, 2023 Anchorage, AK & Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V2020.2 Signed January 2023</li> <li>Added Intentional Wellhead Ignition to ACP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working through Risk Assessment methodology; UAS policy for statewide applicability; Salvage and Marine Firefighting ACP content and GRS validation</li> <li>On-going work on salvage &amp; marine firefighting and GRS validation</li> </ul>
Prince William Sound <i>Slides 53-59</i>	April 18, 2023, Cordova, AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V2020.2 Signed January 2023</li> <li>Future review/modifications will look to streamlining formatting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alyeska Wildlife Deployment Drill, April 20 (Cordova, AK)</li> <li>PWS Tanker Exercise May 16-18 (Hilcorp; Valdez and Anchorage, AK)</li> </ul>
Southeast Alaska <i>Slides 47-52</i>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V2020.1, signed in March 2021</li> <li>Focusing on upcoming exercises and will revisit plan reviews later in 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PREP Full-Scale Exercise April 18-20, 2023, Ketchikan</li> <li>June 2023: CANUS-Dix exercise</li> </ul>

## Afternoon: Special Topics

The afternoon session consisted of three special topics presentations. A thorough summary of the presentations is not included in this meeting summary due to the complexity and detail; interested parties should review the presentation slides.

### Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines

Ms. Sadie Wright, NOAA Fisheries, presented the revised Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines. These guidelines minimize impacts on wildlife during oil spills on or near the Pribilof Islands or Bogoslof Island. The last update was in 2014. The 2023 update aligns formatting with the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska and national guidance, and improves guidance clarity. Several sections have also been added to the guidelines and are described in detail in the presentation slides. The guidelines went out for public review earlier this winter, and a final document is anticipated in March 2023. (Slides 77-102)

### USCG Bering Straits Pollution Response Exercise

Mr. Mark Everett presented an overview of the Bering Straits Pollution Response Exercise planned for June 2023. The exercise will replace the previously planned Joint Contingency Plan exercise with Russia. Mr. Everett reviewed the major exercise elements: 1. Ecological Risk Assessment; 2. Community-based Waste Management Workshop; 3. JRT Notification/Activation; 4. Alaska RRT Incident-Specific Activation; 5. Full-scale Exercise; and 6. Spill of National Significance Briefing. Details of operations to be tested during the full-scale exercise are detailed in the slides, including the decision to utilize and apply (simulated) dispersants. (Slides 102-128)

### IMO Risk Assessment Model

LCDR Matt Richards presented on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Risk Assessment Model. The purpose of this model is to establish a standardized methodology for determining likelihood and consequence; identification of known hazards; identification of resources at risk, including both impacts to the environment and human uses; evaluation of scenarios using likelihood and consequence to determine total risk for each scenario. Sector Anchorage and the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee are using this model to conduct a risk assessment for their area of responsibility (Slides 129-147)

### Report on the 2023 NRT Meeting

Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA, presented at the National Response Team meeting held on February 14-15, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. She provided an overview of several topics discussed and reported at the conference, including remote sensing technologies, hazardous materials pipelines, lithium batteries, *in situ* burning, emerging fuels, tribal engagement, and historic properties protection.

Ms. Sheldrake also referenced new rules defining Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and referenced a new video on the WOTUS revisions available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjc6B0o3A2w>. (Slides 148-157)

## Meeting Close-out

### Public Comment

- **Angela Matz** reminded the group regarding the DOI 40-hour HAZWOPER Courses. Contact her for more information or recommendations. [angela\\_matz@fws.gov](mailto:angela_matz@fws.gov)
- **Linda Swiss** commended all the work of the Area Committees. However, she also requested feedback from the Area Committees on the input provided by organizations, such as Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC), who submit comments and are involved in subcommittees and workgroups. She also requested clarification on what documents on ADEC's Reference and Tools website go through public review.
- **Vinnie Catalano** reported that Cook Inlet RCAC has developed a training tutorial for their Cook Inlet Response Tool and GIS Database. These tools are available on Alaska Ocean Observing Website.

### Closing Remarks:

The tri-chairs offered closing remarks and thanked all presenters and attendees for participating.

### Reminders & Announcements:

- ADEC Promulgated new contingency plan regulations on February 5, 2023; new ODPCP Listserv
- Next RISC Meeting: June 6-7, 2023

### Upcoming ARRT Meeting Dates

- Fall 2023: September 12-14, 2023 (NEW DATE)
- Winter 2024: March 5-7, 2024
- Fall 2024: September 10-12, 2024.

**Participant Summary:**

Seventy-five individuals attended the meeting, representing twelve member agencies and additional other tribal governments, federal, and state agencies, industry, and other non-governmental organizations.

Member Agencies in Attendance		
Member Agency	Present	Not Present
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	●	
Department of Agriculture	●	
Department of Commerce	●	
Department of Defense	●	
Department of Energy	●	
Department of Health and Human Services	●	
Department of the Interior	●	
Department of Justice		●
Department of Labor	●	
Department of State		●
Department of Transportation	●	
Environmental Protection Agency	●	
Federal Emergency Management Agency		●
General Services Agency	●	
U.S. Coast Guard	●	
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission		●
Non-member Organizations in Attendance		
Federal Agencies		
U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service		
U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipelines and Hazardous Material Safety Administration		
Federally Recognized Tribes & Consortia		
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC)		
Industry		
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.		
Hilcorp Alaska		
Response and Environmental Services		
1-Call Alaska		

Alaska Clean Seas
EBSC
Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.
Pearson Consulting
Prism Alaska
<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>
Applied Environmental Research Center (AERC), UAA
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
International Bird Rescue
Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI)
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

DRAFT



# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

March 8, 2023



# Meeting Purpose and “Rules”

- *This is a business meeting of the **ARRT***
  - *Questions and discussion is for ARRT Members and OSCs*
- *Items discussed that are the responsibility or content of the Area Committees will be **referred to appropriate Area Committee** and not included in the meeting discussion, except for how the ARRT can provide support, if requested/needed*
- *While open to the public, it is not a public meeting*
  - *As time allows, questions may be taken from the public. Please type questions in the Chat box. Non-ARRT members are invited to sign up for Public Comment.*

# Meeting Sign-In

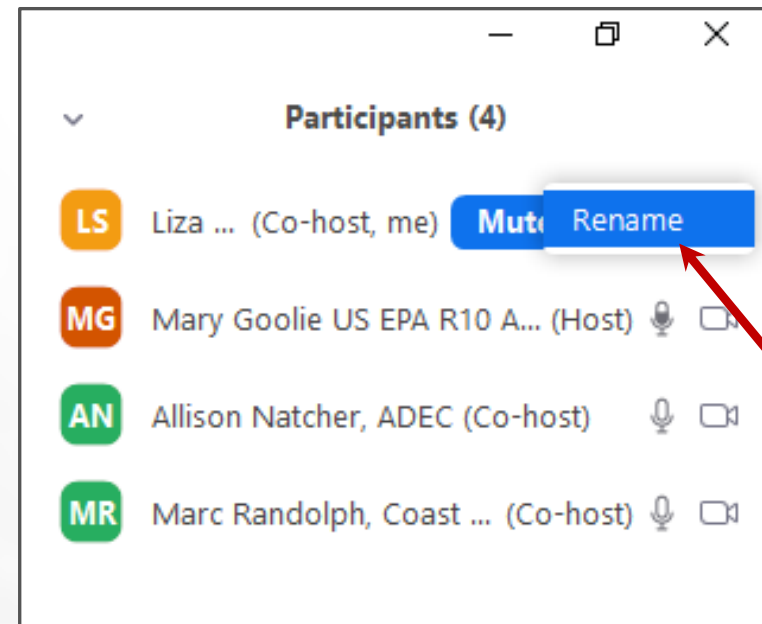
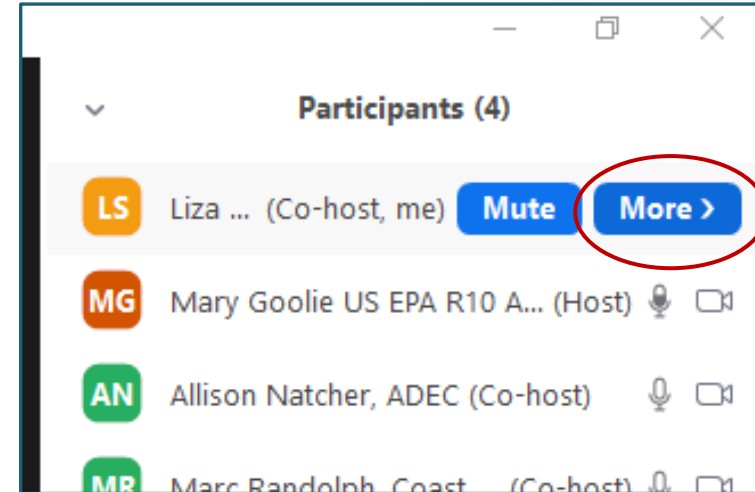


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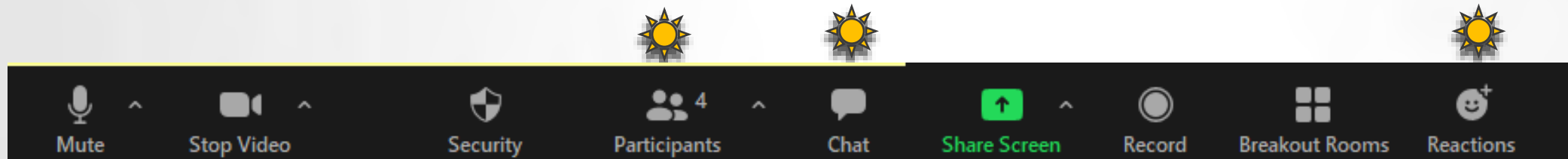
# Tips: Using Zoom

- Change your name to, **FULL NAME** and **AGENCY**

**Please mute your microphone  
&  
turn off video,  
except when speaking**



# ZOOM TIPS: RAISE HAND AND CHAT



**ARRT Members & Representatives, raise your hand to speak or enter question/ comment in chat.**

Chat

Find “Raise Hand” Under Reactions

*Please use “Everyone” Chat when asking or responding to questions or making general comments requests during this meeting.*

*Non-ARRT members, sign up for Public Comment by entering your request in Chat.*



# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

INTRODUCTIONS &  
REPORT FROM TRI-CHAIRS



## INTRODUCTIONS

*ARRT Coordinators will facilitate ARRT member and FOSC/SOSC roll call.*

*For other attendees and members of the public, the attendee list will be based on Participant Names in Zoom.*



## New Members, OSCs, Area Planners

Angella Gebert, USCG

# Since Last Meeting (SEP 2022)



## Alaska Regional Response Team

- Annual Report to NRT
- Annual ESA Compliance Report
- SUPSALV Oil in Ice Ex - JBER

## Other

- Champion COREXIT announcement
- USCG HQ Proposal to Restructure ACP Format
- NSAR Implementation Plan
- White House memo on tribal relations
- WOTUS Update

## National Response Team

- NRT monthly member meetings
- NRT/RRT Co-Chairs Meeting 13-16 FEB
- NRT Chair Kathleen Salyers retirement

## Relevant Agreements

- IPM for Bering Strait SpillEx (RUS-US)
- New Canada-US Joint Contingency Plan





# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM COMMITTEES



A light gray map of the state of Alaska is positioned in the background on the right side of the slide.

**Cultural Resources Committee  
Wildlife Protection Committee  
Pribilof Islands Working Group**

# Cultural Resources Committee (CRC)



*Cabin site near American Creek, Katmai National Park*

- ARRT CRC Charter – signed
- CRC met three times (November 2022 – February 2023)
- *Alaska Implementation Guidelines*
  - Revision process underway
  - Conceptual review complete
  - New content may include:
    - Adverse effects
    - Mitigation
    - Responder job aid
- Culturally Important Places Project—collaborate on work products
- Next meeting (tentative) Fall 2023

# Wildlife Protection Committee (WPC)

- *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska (WPG)*
  - Will review and start administrative update
  - Work to begin this year
- ARRT Wildlife Protection Webpage
  - <https://www.alaskarrt.org/Home/Documents/50>
  - One-stop-shop for wildlife protection guidance and resources
- Next meeting – Spring 2023



*Chinitna Bay, Lake Clark National Park*

# Pribilof Islands Working Group

## WPC Subcommittee

### *Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines* (PI WPG) revision

- NMFS leader on revision effort
- Review and comment on draft by Working Group, EPA, and USCG  
*(December 2022)*
- Draft released for public comment  
*(January 9 – February 7, 2023)*
- Next step – finalize document  
*(March 2023)*



# Questions?

Contact us:

DOI: [lisa\\_fox@ios.doi.gov](mailto:lisa_fox@ios.doi.gov)

[grace\\_cochon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:grace_cochon@ios.doi.gov)

SHPO: [judy.bittner@alaska.gov](mailto:judy.bittner@alaska.gov)

NMFS: [sadie.wright@noaa.gov](mailto:sadie.wright@noaa.gov)

FWS: [angela\\_matz@fws.gov](mailto:angela_matz@fws.gov)

ADFG: [jeanette.alas@alaska.gov](mailto:jeanette.alas@alaska.gov)

ADEC: [mike.donnellan@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.donnellan@alaska.gov)



# Science and Technology Committee

## March 8, 2023

Contact us:

[Catherine.Berg@noaa.gov](mailto:Catherine.Berg@noaa.gov)

[Mike.Donnellan@alaska.gov](mailto:Mike.Donnellan@alaska.gov)

[Latier.Andrea@epa.gov](mailto:Latier.Andrea@epa.gov)

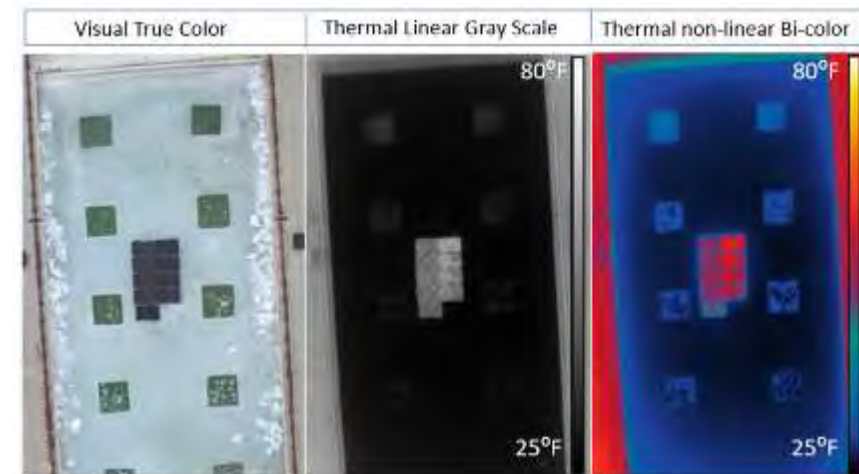
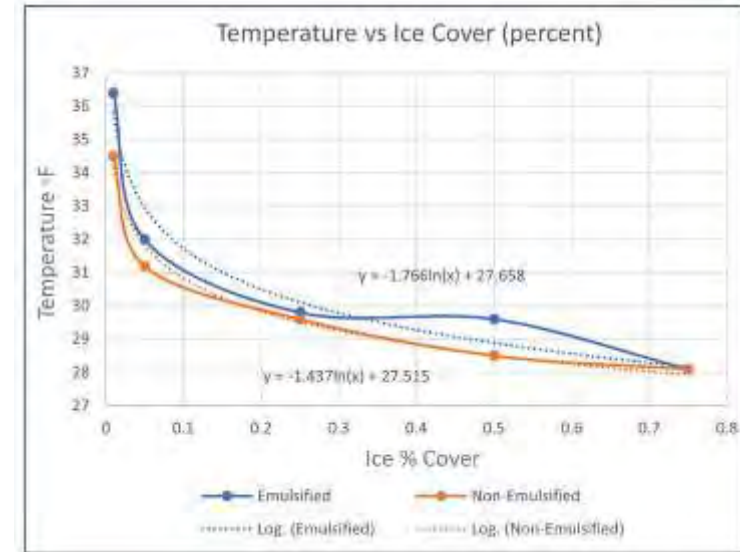
[Evan.P.Sutton@uscg.gov](mailto:Evan.P.Sutton@uscg.gov)

[Angela\\_Matz@fws.gov](mailto:Angela_Matz@fws.gov)

# Remote Sensing of Oil in Ice

**Presence of ice complicates multispectral and thermal relationships seen in temperate waters (without ice)**

- Oil presence and type (fresh, weathered, emulsified)
- Oil thickness
- Light levels
- Operational status (cold weather)
- Data management
- What are optimal channel combinations for detection?






# Research in Ice Environment

*USCG RDC (CRRC, Water Mapping, ASA, EPA, OSRI, USACE)*

Volume 1: [UAS Characterization of Oil in Ice Volume 1: Laboratory Results \(dtic.mil\)](#)

Volume 2: [UAS Characterization of Oil in Ice Volume 2: Supplemental Laboratory Data \(dtic.mil\)](#)

Advancing Detection Capabilities for Monitoring Oil Spills in Ice Environments



Technical Research Proposal for Development of UAS and AUV Operations presented by:

Lisa DiPinto, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration

In collaboration with

Robyn Conroy, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist  
US EPA National Risk Management Research Lab

Scott Pegau, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist and Program Manager  
Prince William Sound Science Center  
May 13, 2019

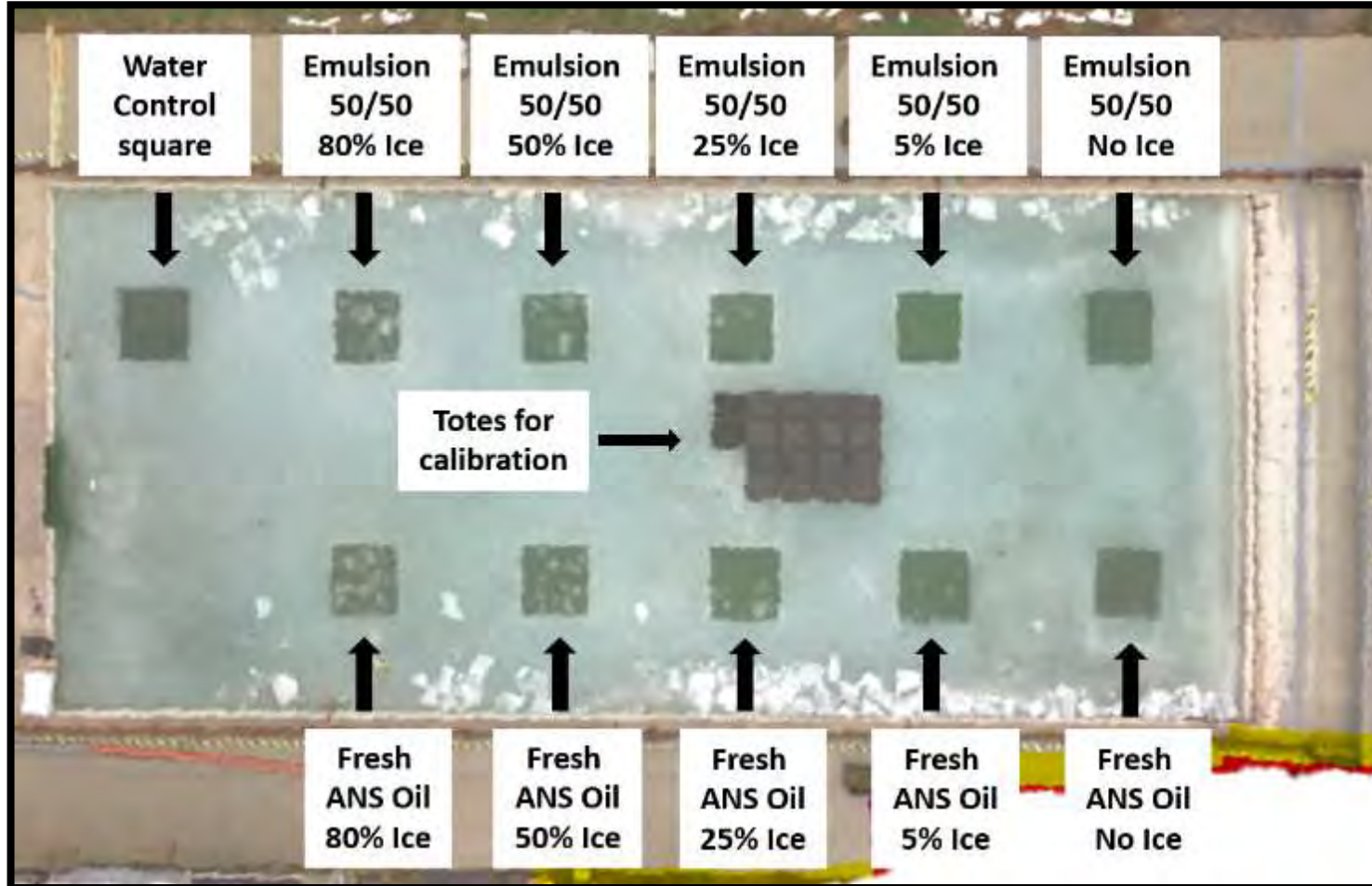
**Phase 1:** Testing at CRREL facilities in New Hampshire for sensor calibration



**Phase 2:** Field testing in cold/ice marine environment



# CRREL Test Design



- 10-16" thick ice sheet with 1mx1m squares
- Alaska North Slope (ANS) oil used
- Nine thickness categories plus no oil evaluated
  - (0, 10, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 um)

# Conclusions from CRREL Experiments

Multispectral and thermal sensors mounted on UAS (and likely on higher altitude platforms)

- Able to characterize different levels of oil thickness (~50-100um to 750 um range)
- Differentiate between emulsified and non-emulsified oil
- Emulsions have higher thermal radiation overnight, easier to detect than fresh un-emulsified oil using thermal sensors
- Characterize ice cover, including seeing ice covered with oil
- Identified best combination of channels to discern fresh from emulsions from ice (Near IR, RedEdge, Red)

Acoustic sensors mounted on ROV

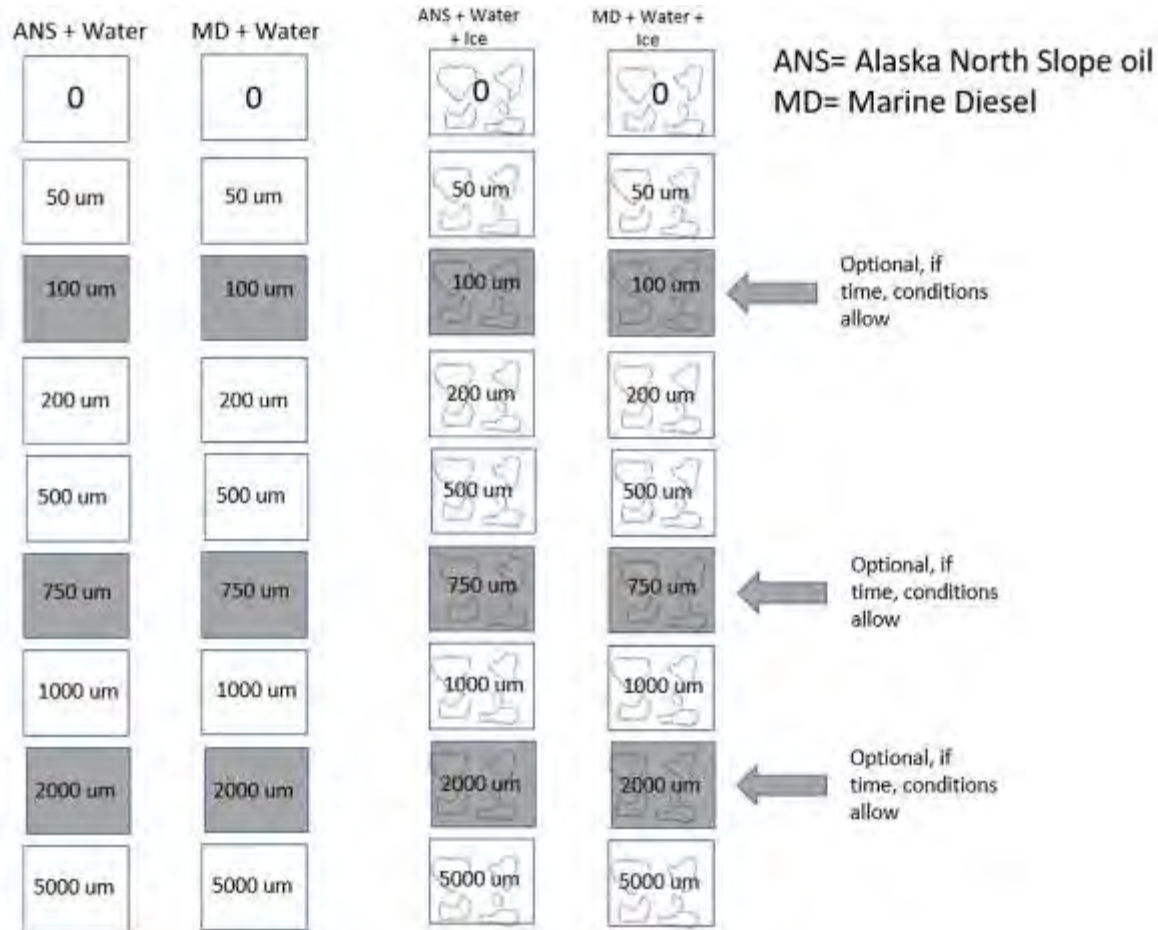
- Better suited for thicker slicks (>1,000 um)

Operational workflow for data processing developed

# Phase 2: Field Experiments – Oliktok, AK



# Experimental Design: Oliktok AK



# Data Standards and Delivery

## Standards development:

- Consistent, uniform data
- Data Collection and processing workflow
- Field data collection
- File naming, formatting, and content
- Data processing and documentation
- Delivery of products in ***response operational timeframes***

## Supporting:

- Comprehensive project data management
- Providing situational awareness and decision support products to the ERMA COP in Operational timeframe

# ERMA Common Operational Picture

**ERMA®** Environmental Response Management Application  
Arctic

Information | Help | Recent Data | Dashboards | Admin

Search Layers, Folders, and Bookmarks

Geographic Search

Add Map Data | Change Password | Logout

Layers | Legend | Draw | Query Tools | Zoom | Download | Print

**Active View:** Oulitok Point, AOI Edit Info

Clear Layers Collapse Folders Show All Layers  Manage

- Habitat Classification (Scale Dependent) Geo
- Oil Residency Index (Scale Dependent) Geo
- Alaska Color Infrared Orthomosaic, 2.5-m (State of Alaska) Geo
- Alaska Panchromatic Orthomosaic, 2.5-m (State of Alaska) Geo
- Alaska True Color Orthomosaic, 2.5-m (State of Alaska) Geo
- Alaska Statewide High Resolution Imagery, 50-cm (State of Alaska) Geo

**Special Projects**

- RDC Oil in Ice AOI
- 202205311936aIR
- 202205311936aRcls
- 202205311936aRGB
- 202205311936aRGBcls
- 20220531\_1936(b)\_RGB
- c20220531\_1936b\_RGBcls


**Bookmark Views:** New > clean >

100 m

**Scale:** 1 : 3,667    **Zoom Level:** 15.3    **Location:** 70.5033°, -149.8706°    **Projection:** 3857: WGS84 Web Mercator

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration Privacy Act Statement | US DOC  
NOAA | NOS | NOAA Office of Response & Restoration | Disclaimer  
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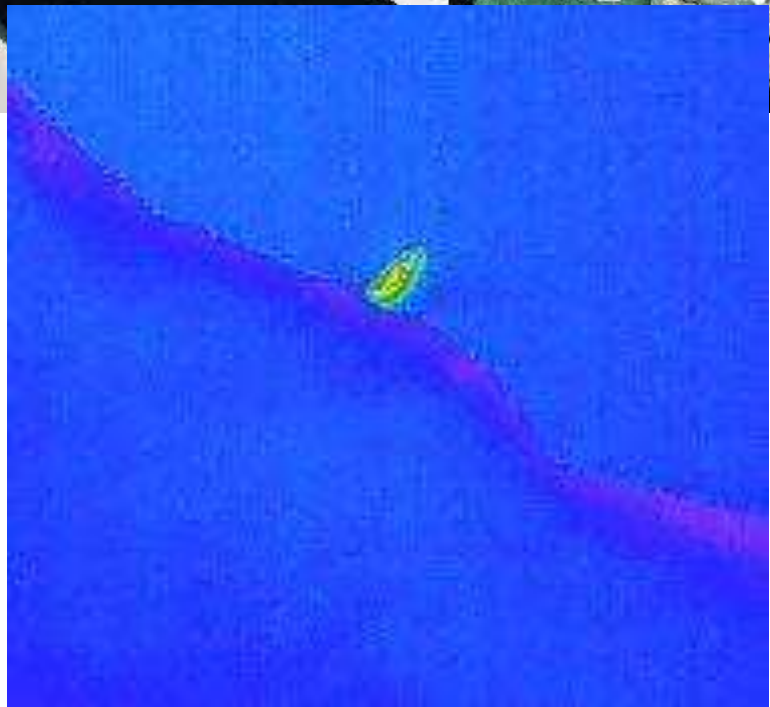


# Final Phase Testing Completed: Offshore Barrow, AK



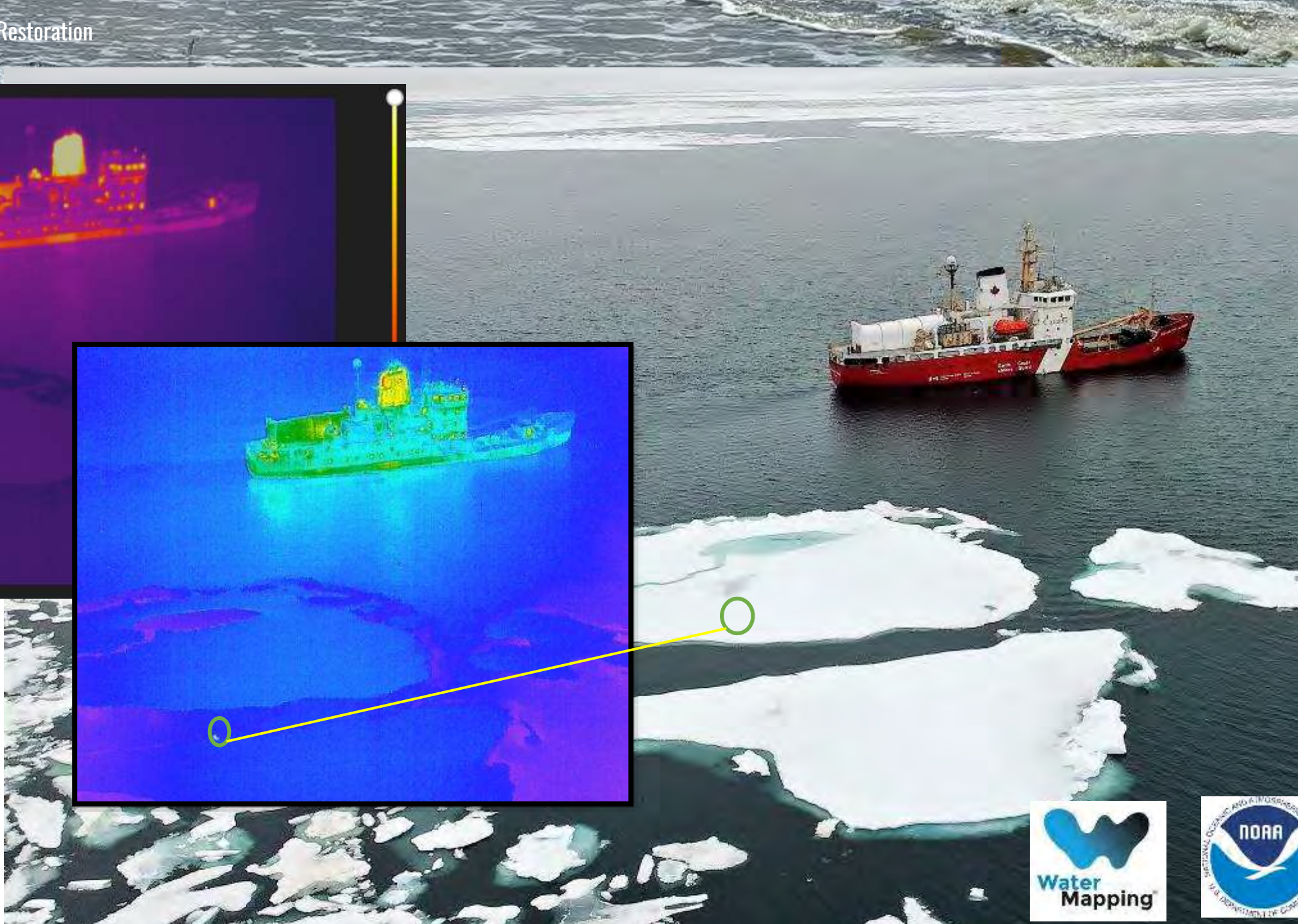
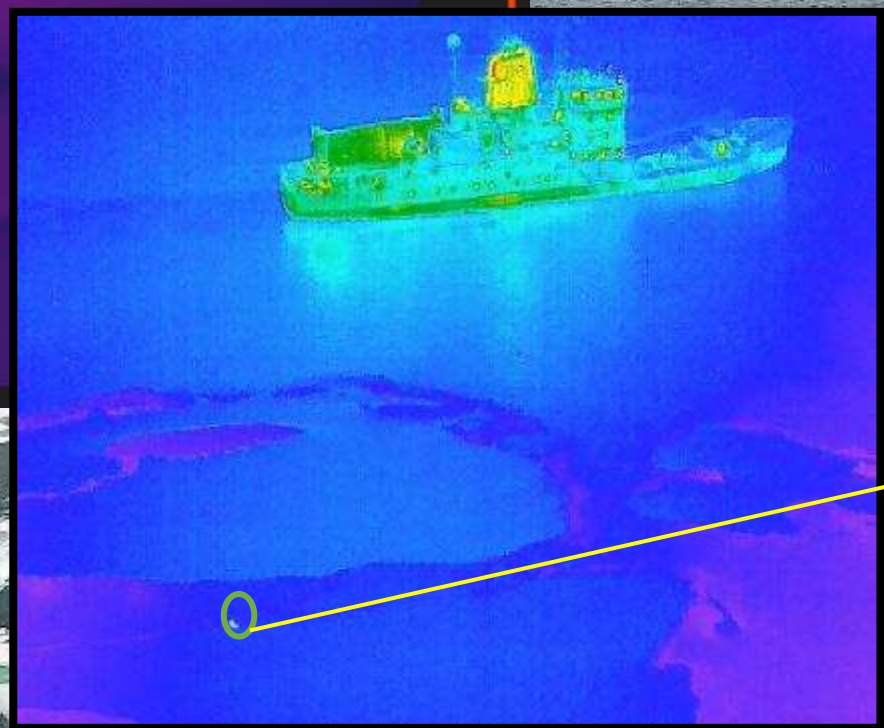
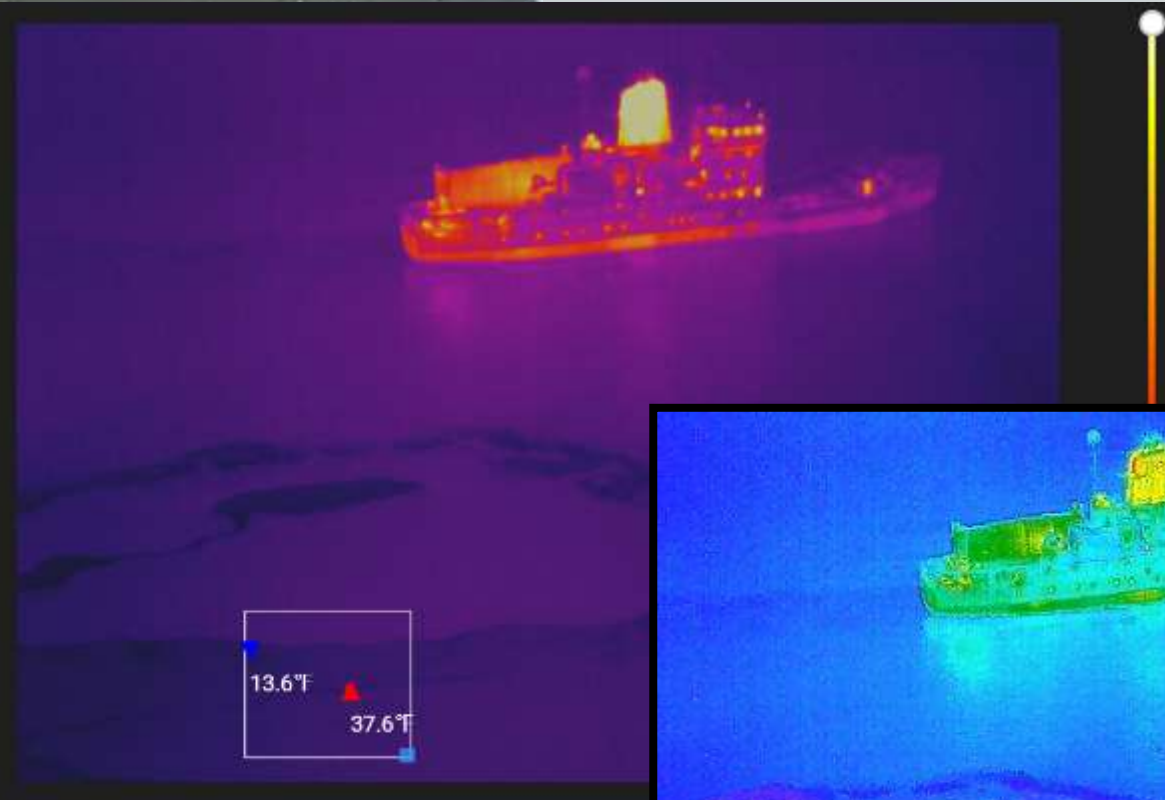
With the generous support of the CAN CG we collected data aboard the *CCGC Sir Wilfred Laurier*



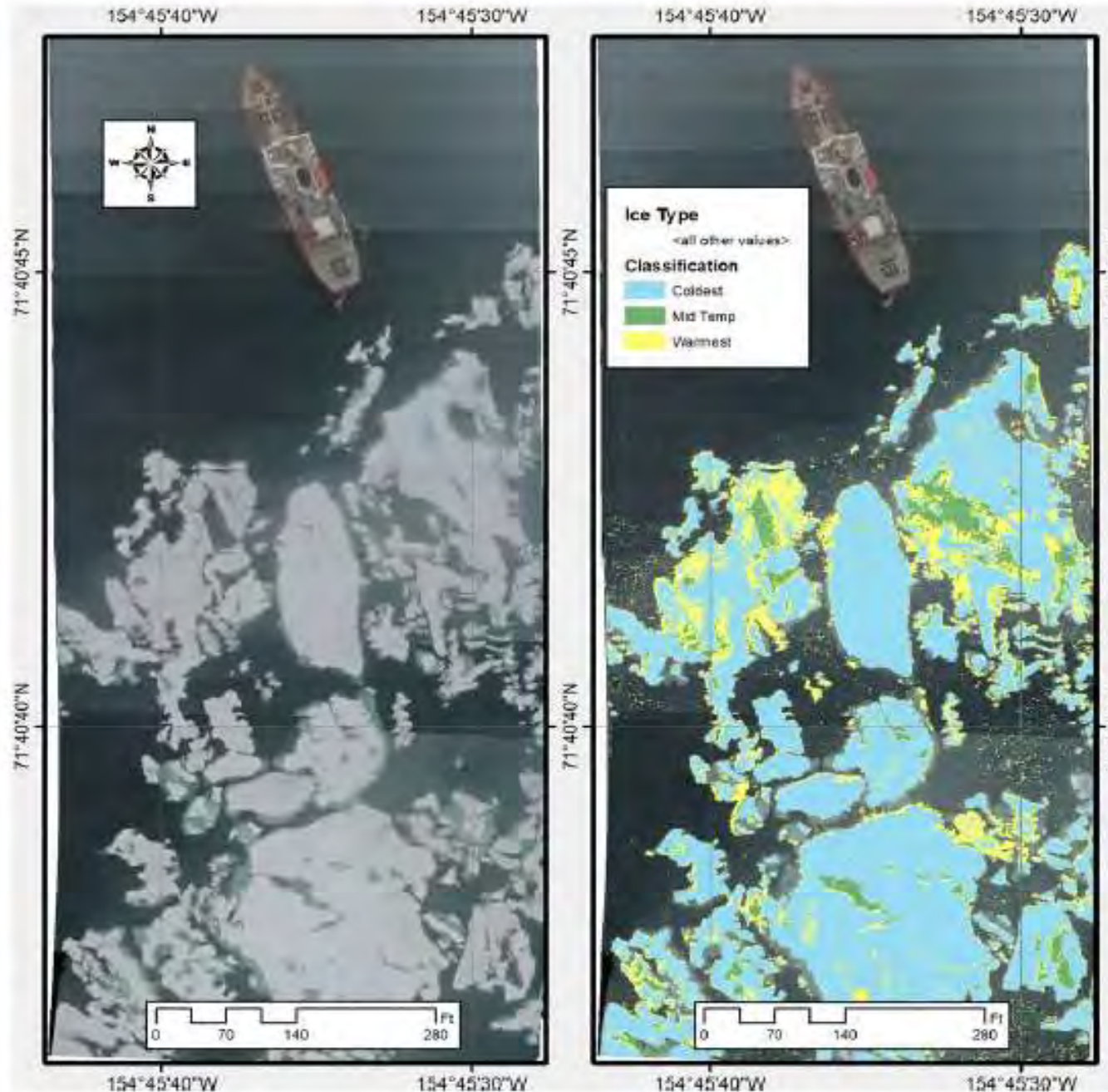


Field Campaign *Sir Wilfred Laurier*  
(Beaufort Sea, July 28, 2022).





# Near Real Time Oil Spill Classification (Arctic-Ice Conditions)



Real-time data that can be downloaded and displayed in ERMA.



Available on You Tube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfATpjHGg4A>

[response.restoration.noaa.gov](https://response.restoration.noaa.gov)



A large, light gray map of the state of Alaska is positioned in the background on the right side of the slide.

# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM STATEWIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

## Statewide Planning Committee members

### ARRT Coordinators

- **EPA:** Mary Goolie
- **USCG D17:**  
Angella Gebert
- **ADEC:** Allison  
Natcher

### USCG Area Secretaries and ADEC/EPA Area Planners

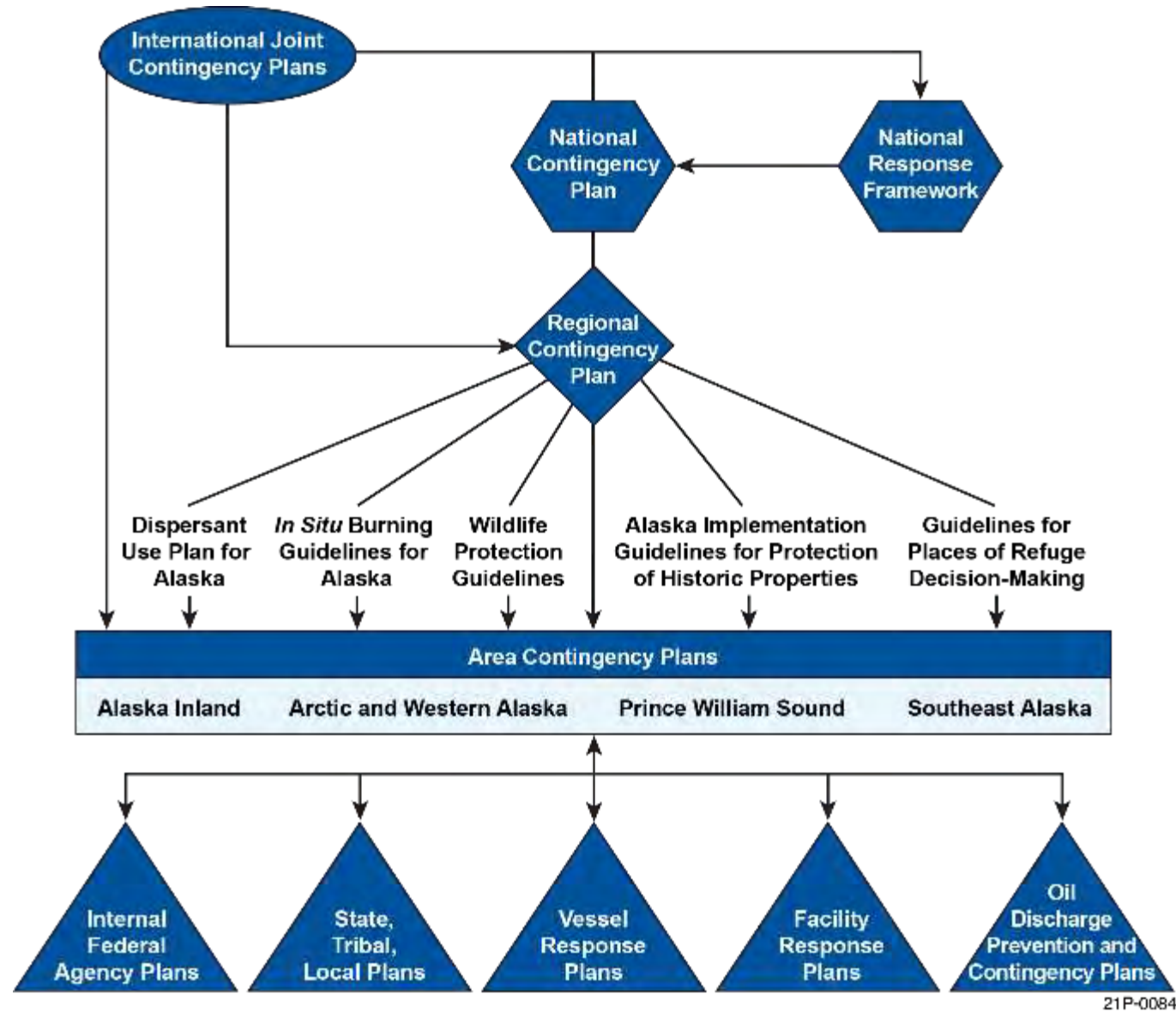
- **USCG PWS:** LT  
Shelby Frasca
- **USCG SEAK:** Kathy  
Hamblett and LT  
Joe Zarlengo
- **USCG AWA:** LCDR  
Matt Richards
- **ADEC:** Victoria  
Colles
- **EPA:** Mary Goolie

# Statewide Planning Committee Activity

- Monthly SPC Meetings
- Upcoming ACP Reviews: AK Inland ACP
- FAQs & Outreach: Plan Review Process, quarterly newsletter
- Recommending & coordinating Website Updates on ADEC and ARRT

*Overall: Interagency coordination of planning efforts*

# Plan Relationships



21P-0084



## Regional Contingency Plan

- Planner Centric
- Region-wide policy issues
- Updates: ARRT

## Area Contingency Plan

- Responder Centric
- Area resources and procedures
- Updates: Area Committee



March 8, 2023

# Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) Task Force

Mary Goolie (EPA ARRT Coordinator)



# RSC Task Force

Task Force Initiated by ARRT Tri-Chairs 2/17/2022

## Task Force Members

- Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Coast Guard
- Alaska Department Environmental Conservation
- Native Village of Eyak
- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC)
- Cook Inlet RCAC
- Alaska Clean Seas
- Crowley Marine

# RSC Task Force

## Deliverables (under development)

- Liaison Officer Job Aid
- Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) Member Job Aid
- Updated Definitions for RSC and Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC)
- Updated RSC content/language for Area Contingency Plans and the Regional Contingency Plan

# RSC Task Force

## Task Force Meeting History

- 2/21/2023
- 1/24/2023
- 12/20/2022
- 11/30/2022
- 11/15/2022
- 9/27/2022
- 8/2/2022

# Liaison Officer Job Aid



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<b>RSC MEETINGS: MEETINGS WITH UC .....</b>	<b>7</b>
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<b>RESPONSE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED TO THE RSC.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>LOFR BEST PRACTICES &amp; FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>11</b>



## Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) Definition

The RSC is a group of stakeholders directly impacted by an incident. They are invited to share their local knowledge with response leadership. RSC members are expected to present issues of local concern, share local knowledge, and help identify resources that could be useful to the response. The RSC may include representatives from tribal and local governments, the Regional Citizens Advisory Council (if RCACs are active in that Area), landowners, leaseholders, businesses/corporations, and directly affected special interest groups.





## Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) Definition

**The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) established two RCACs in Alaska: the Prince William Sound RCAC and the Cook Inlet RCAC. The RCACs are independent, non-profit organizations that monitor and advise on oil industry programs to include areas such as spill prevention and response, crude oil terminal and tanker safety, and environmental impact assessments. The RCACs' role in the spill response organization are defined in the Prince William Sound ACP and Arctic and Western Alaska ACP.**

Plans to exercise the  
Liaison Officer Job Aid  
at the Hilcorp Alaska  
Shippers Drill (Prince  
William Sound) in May  
of 2023

---





Contact us:

Alaska Regional Response Team  
Coordinators

Mary Goolie – EPA

[goolie.mary@epa.gov](mailto:goolie.mary@epa.gov)

Angella Gebert – USCG

[angella.s.thuotte@uscg.mil](mailto:angella.s.thuotte@uscg.mil)

Allison Natcher – ADEC

[allison.natcher@alaska.gov](mailto:allison.natcher@alaska.gov)

---





**BREAK**



Please  
SIGN IN





# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

## AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS



# SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA COMMITTEE

Report to Alaska Regional Response Team  
8 March 2023

LT Matt Naylor (USCG)  
Rachael Krajewski (ADEC)

# AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE

Notable initiatives/events within the SEAK Area Committee:

- April 2023: Ketchikan PREP Area Full Scale Exercise with Centerline Logistics
  - April 18: Equipment Deployment Drill & Bostwick Estuary GRS Test
    - USCG, ADEC, SEAPRO
  - April 19: Unified Command & ICS Position Training
  - April 20: Unified Command Functional Exercise

# CASE SUMMARY/ENFORCEMENT TUG TAGISH

- 29 Dec 22: 110-ft tug TAGISH sank at the National Guard Pier in Juneau, AK; owner estimated 50-100 gal oil products onboard; USCG, ADEC, & city/harbor personnel placed boom around vsI; USCG gave owner 48 hrs to devise subsequent response plan
- 30 Dec: ADEC issued Letter of Interest
- 31 Dec: Owner worked w/ local contractor, plugged vents via divers & shifted to daily cleanup via sorbent pads while boom remained in place





# CASE SUMMARY/ENFORCEMENT TUG TAGISH

- 04 Jan: Continued sheening observed for several days after vents plugged; USCG issued Administrative Order to owner to remove pollution emitting from the TAGISH, or have plan to do so, by noon on 09 Jan
- 09 Jan: Owner unable to fund pollution removal by deadline; USCG federalized the response at noon
- 09 Feb: After numerous delays, contracted barge and crane ensemble arrived on-scene
- 14 Feb: Barge and crane recovery operations continue after weather and operational delays



# AREA COMMITTEE NEEDS FOR ALASKA RRT SUPPORT

- Continued support for exploration of GRS documents to GIS format and improvement of technology to conduct validations with modeling software

# AREA COMMITTEE CONTACT

ADEC Area Planning website:

<http://alaska.gov/go/7EKN>



October 2022: Crashed diesel truck, Auke Bay (Juneau), AK

A light gray map of Alaska is positioned in the background on the right side of the slide, showing the state's outline and major water bodies.

# PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA COMMITTEE

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Area Committee update

Notable initiatives within the PWS Area Committee:

- Area Committee Meeting was held in October, with high in person attendance
- Keeping ADEC PWS Area Page up to date





# Area Contingency Plan update

- Current Version (2020.1)
- Plan was signed January 2023
- Future considerations:
  - Continue to streamline formatting
  - No public comment this year



## Case Summary/ Enforcement

- Dec 12, Privateer, off of Esther Island. Very remote area to run aground. USCG rescued 3 men and 1 dog.
- Dec 28, Sea Dreamer, in VSBH. Drone was used for helpful view of the sheen. Great tool that cannot be seen at the same level.



# Special Announcements

- Area Committee Meeting  
April 18<sup>th</sup> (Cordova)
- Alyeska Wildlife Deployment  
April 20<sup>th</sup> (Cordova)
- Fishing Vessel Spring Training  
March through May in  
Kodiak, Homer, Seward,  
Whittier, Cordova, and Valdez
- Shippers Drill May 16-18  
(Valdez/Anchorage)





# Area Committee Needs for Alaska RRT Support

- None at this time



# Area Committee Contacts

PWS Area Planning website:

- [Prince William Sound Area \(alaska.gov\)](http://alaska.gov)

Contact us:

- [Patrick.A.Drayer@uscg.mil](mailto:Patrick.A.Drayer@uscg.mil)
- [Anna.Carey@alaska.gov](mailto:Anna.Carey@alaska.gov)
- [Shelby.E.Frasca@uscg.mil](mailto:Shelby.E.Frasca@uscg.mil)
- [decsparplanning@alaska.gov](mailto:decsparplanning@alaska.gov)



# ARCTIC & WESTERN ALASKA

Report to Alaska Regional Response Team: March, 2022

LCDR Matt Richards [Matt.Richards@uscg.mil](mailto:Matt.Richards@uscg.mil)



# Area Committee Update

---

- UAS GRS Validation
- Typhoon Merbok – Environmental Damage Assessment conducted from Nome to Chevak, AK (17-29 Sep 2022)
- GRS/GIS Program Meeting
- Risk Assessment Methodology



# Area Contingency Plan Update

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Version 2020.2 Area Contingency Plan signed Jan 2023

---

Intentional Wellhead Ignition added

---

No Public Comment slated for 2023

---

Future ACP Updates:

In-Situ Burn pre-assessed areas

Risk Assessment

Section 8000 Marine Firefighting and Salvage



## Typhoon Merbok

- September 2022: Historic storm hit Western Alaska.
- State EOC and USCG Incident Management Team activated.
- USCG responders surveyed 32 villages within a week of the storm.



# Special Announcements

---

- Further risk assessment development
- Development of UAS policy and program expansion
- Expanded scope of Arctic Deployment Operations
- Updated RUS/US and CAN/US JCPs
- Bering Strait Oil Spill Response Exercise: June 2023
- Next AC meeting May 2nd



# Area Committee Needs for Alaska RRT Support

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Developing risk assessment methodology for statewide application

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Support for tribal engagement in conjunction with risk assessment outreach

---

Assistance developing UAS protocols and statewide policy

---

Assistance in GIS data management



# Area Committee Contacts

ADEC Area Planning website:

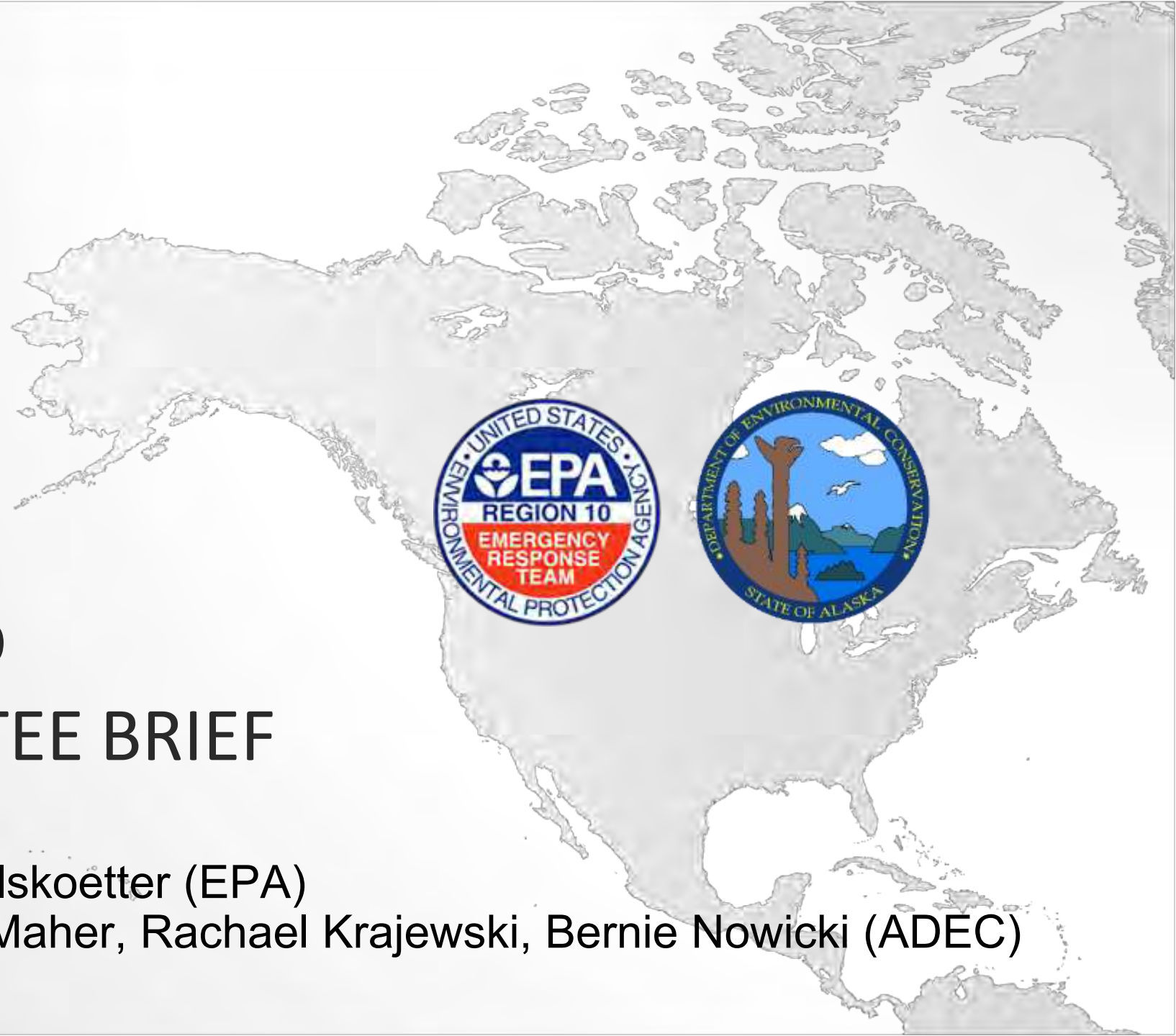
- <http://alaska.gov/go/7EKN>

Contact us:

- AWA-AC@uscg.mil
- decsparplanning@alaska.gov



March 8, 2022



# ALASKA INLAND AREA COMMITTEE BRIEF

Bob Whittier & Torri Huelskoetter (EPA)  
Anna Carey, Kimberley Maher, Rachael Krajewski, Bernie Nowicki (ADEC)



# Alaska Inland Area Committee update

Last Meeting March 6, 2023

Working Groups Sponsored by AK  
Inland Area Committee

- **In Situ Burning: Task Completed.** ISB Decision-Making Checklist posted on ADEC website. Checklist will be incorporated into 2023 ACP
- **Hazardous Substance Response:** Task Update ACP Chapter 7000 & HazSub Job Aid. *On Hold*
- **Response Logistics:** Task Update Chapter 5000 Logistics & Logistics Job Aid. *On Hold*



# Area contingency plan update

**Version 2020.1 approved March 2021**

**2023 Tasks:** Annual Review Kick off at March 6 Area Committee/  
Admin Subcommittee meeting

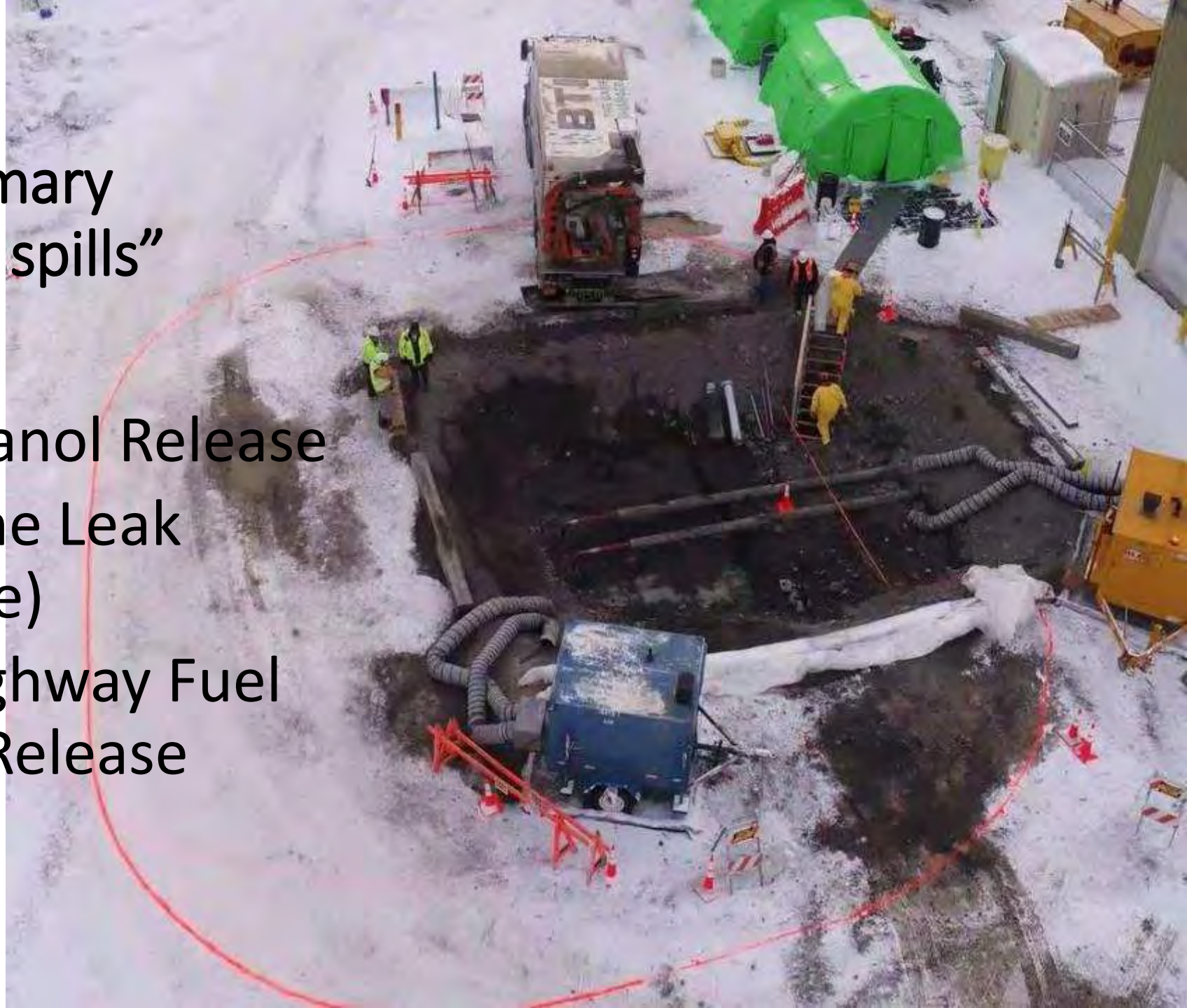
## **Focus of Modifications:**

- Incorporate applicable changes made in AWA and PWS ACPs
- Incorporate potential products of HazSub, Logistics & ISB Working Groups
- Review & Revise Job Aids for Health & Safety, Radiation, Waste Management & Disposal

Contact [Victoria Colles](#) with proposed plan modifications or to be on the AK Inland Admin Subcommittee

## Case/ Exercise Summary “Not your typical oil spills”

- Dalton Hwy Methanol Release
- Alyeska/ TAPS Brine Leak (Chromium release)
- Mile 133 Parks Highway Fuel Truck Accident & Release




# Special Announcements:

- ADEC and EPA Coordinating with USCG MSTF on inspections (Summer 2023)
- Proposing Capacity Building Outreach and Training- Coordinated by EPA, ADEC, ANTHC (Fall 2023)
- Upcoming exercises
  - Alpine October
  - North Slope Comms EPA START March
  - TAPS Exercises Gunn Creek July 13, Dan Creek August 7





Needs  
Requiring  
ARRT  
Support

- Support/ideas/resources for Village Compliance Assessment
  - Continue the conversation on logistic support from ARRT member agencies – follow-up on ARRT Tabletop Exercise 9/21/2022
- 

ADEC Area Planning website:

<http://alaska.gov/go/7EKN>

Contact us:

[whittier.robert@epa.gov](mailto:whittier.robert@epa.gov)

[huelskoetter.torri@epa.gov](mailto:huelskoetter.torri@epa.gov)

[kimberley.maher@alaska.gov](mailto:kimberley.maher@alaska.gov)

[anna.carey@alaska.gov](mailto:anna.carey@alaska.gov)

[rachael.krajewski@alaska.gov](mailto:rachael.krajewski@alaska.gov)

[bernie.nowicki@alaska.gov](mailto:bernie.nowicki@alaska.gov)





## LUNCH

Meeting will restart at  
1:00 PM (Alaska Time)

*If you want to offer a public comment,  
sign up in "Chat"  
or email Mary Goolie  
[goolie.mary@epa.gov](mailto:goolie.mary@epa.gov)  
By the end of this lunch break.*





# AFTERNOON AGENDA

- 1:00 Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines  
(30 minutes)
- 1:30 USCG Bering Straits Pollution Response Exercise  
Elements to include Incident-specific activation of ARRT for dispersant application and activation of US-Russia JCP
- 2:00-2:15 BREAK
- 2:15 IMO Risk Assessment Model  
Example: Risk Assessment of Bering Strait  
(30 minutes)
- 2:45 USCG Efforts to Standardize ACP Architecture Nationally
- 3:00 Report on 2023 NRT Meeting (Portland, OR, February 2023)

# Meeting Sign-In

Reminder



<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/YbaVqvQ/AlaskaRRT>



# PRIBILOF ISLANDS WILDLIFE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

# Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines

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UPDATE TO THE ARRT: MARCH 8, 2023

## Outline

Sadie Wright, NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division, Oil Spill Response Coordinator for AKR

- Brief overview of wildlife response planning for oil spills in Alaska
- Focus on Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines
  - > What/Where?
  - > Who?
  - > Why?
  - > Some of the changes
  - > When?
- Heads up on the NOAA Fisheries/USFWS Arctic Health Map effort

# Wildlife Response Planning

---

- Wildlife response planning in Alaska by the Alaska Regional Response Team is tasked to the three wildlife trustee agencies (NMFS, USFWS, and ADF&G)
- In 2020, the Wildlife Trustee Committee completed revision of the statewide Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska
- NMFS has two regional disaster response guidance documents for seals, sea lions, and cetaceans (1-Arctic and 2-Cook Inlet & Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines)
- USFWS has several species-focused oil spill response guidelines (migratory birds, polar bears, and sea otters)

# Pribilof Islands WPG

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- Guidelines for planning and response designed to minimize impacts to wildlife during oil spills on or near the Pribilof Islands or Bogoslof Island
- Last revised/published in 2014
- Public review (January 9 – February 7, 2023)





# Many Partners/Contributors

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- Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation Office
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA Fisheries/NMFS
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- NOAA Office of Response and Restoration
- TDX
- City of St. Paul
- City of St. George
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- US Department of the Interior
- Tanaq
- Review by USCG/EPA

# Revision



Why?

2014 was a long time ago

The new format follows national guidance

And the contacts needed to be updated

Well, I've heard it's a lot more user friendly now

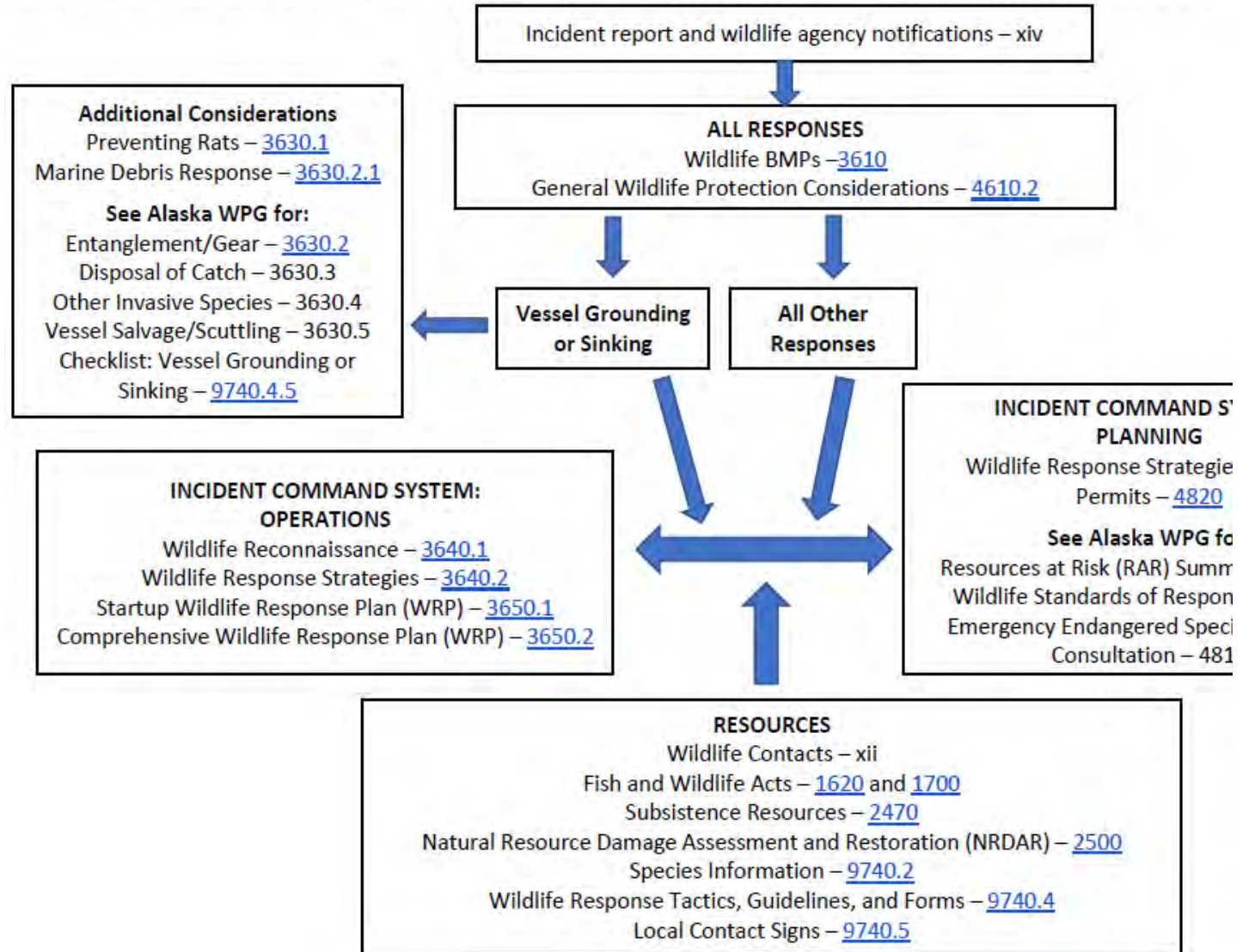
# What changed?

Ø More flow charts and tables to improve information flow and ease of use

Ø Updated contacts, facilities, equipment storage

Ø Appendices with tactics and forms from the statewide Alaska WPG

Figure i-2. Flow chart showing the sections of the PI WPG or Alaska WPG to access detailed information on the listed topics.



# What changed?

## ➤ **New Component: Marine Debris Response**

- Marine debris generated by people and entering the oceans via land or boat-based operations are a threat to the survival of wildlife on the Pribilofs.
- In addition to spill response, incident commanders are provided with priorities for marine debris/gear removal to reduce the severity of the threat of entanglement and microplastic ingestion.



Photo by ADFG, permit  
#14327



# What changed?

## ∅ New Forms

## ∅ Checklists and descriptions for Small Carcass Collection and Large Carcass Documentation

- Remove oiled and unoled carcasses from the environment to prevent secondary contamination of scavengers.
- Document carcass species, locations, and other information to evaluate the impact of the spill on affected populations and to assess overall impact of a spill event on the environment.

### Tactic Description

- Carcasses that are small enough to be removed from the environment (e.g., fish, shellfish, small mammals, and birds) need to be documented, collected, and transferred or disposed of according to protocol. Often, carcasses will be delivered to a wildlife agency representative at a single location – the Evidence Custodian at the morgue facility.
- Carcasses that are too large to remove from the environment need to be documented, photographed, and sampled, if possible. Sample collection from large carcasses is not included in this tactic.
  - For large carcass sampling, see “Dead Marine Mammal Recovery and Field Processing Procedures” in the *NMFS Cook Inlet and Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines*, available from the [NOAA Institutional Repository](#).

### Safety Considerations

- Bear guards, or appropriate bear safety equipment, should be used where bears may be present, or as outlined in the incident-specific Safety Plan.
- Slips, trips, and falls are a particular hazard for carcass collection because people may be focused on searching for carcasses while walking in rough, slippery terrain.
- Avoid steep and unstable surfaces (cliffs, mud, exposed slopes, shoreline rocks with surf, etc.).
- Primary PPE for carcass collection are nitrile gloves. Other PPE (e.g., oil-resistant outer-wear such as Tyvek coveralls) will be outlined in the incident-specific Safety Plan, and is dependent on

## ➤ New Figures/Maps

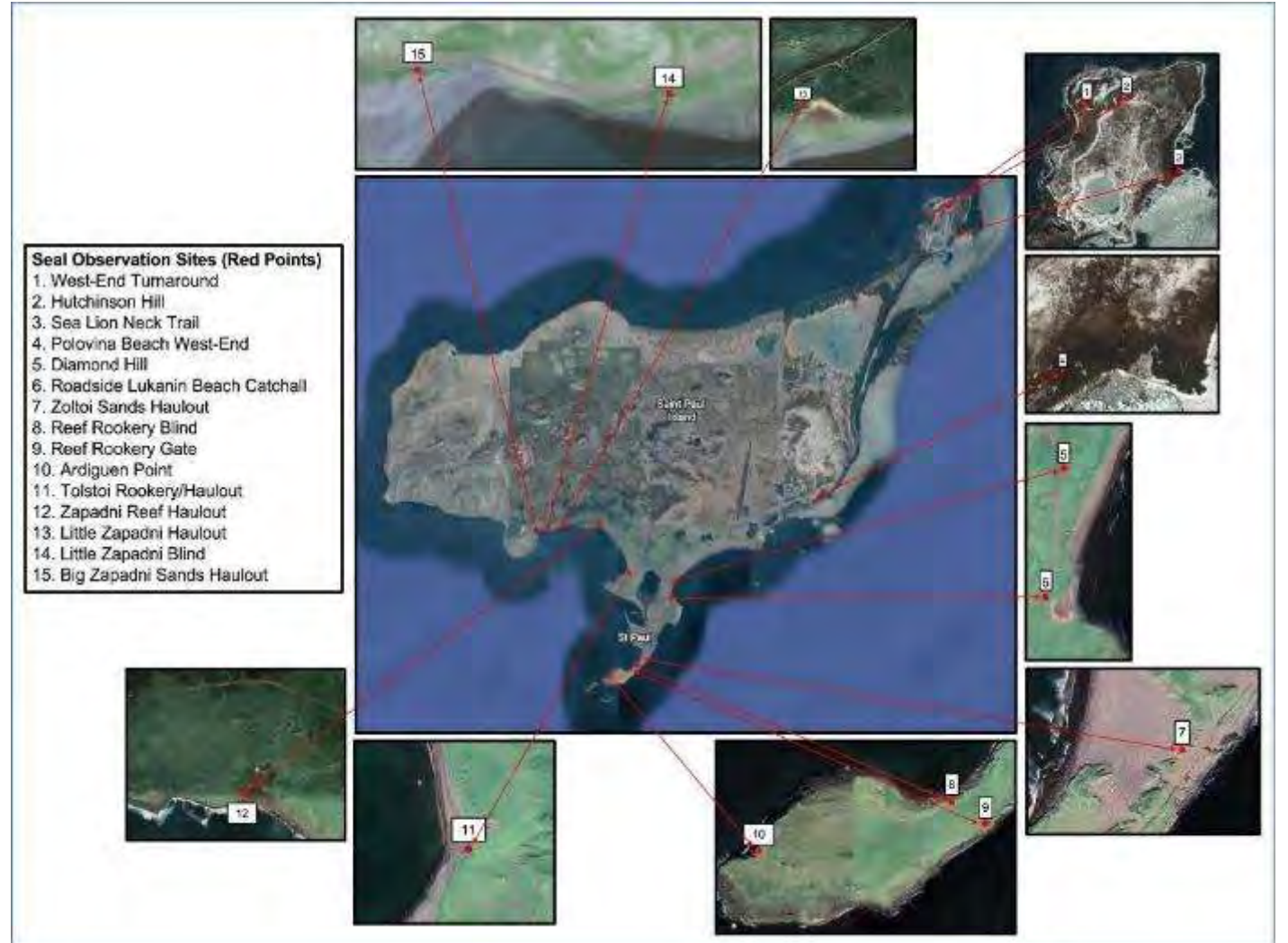


Figure 3-2. Land-based observation locations on Saint Paul Island. Red lines/dots indicate pre-existing observation points for northern fur seals.

What changed?

# What changed?

## Ø New Format/Document Organization

### Ø 3000 Section: Operations

## 3000 - OPERATIONS

### 3600 - Wildlife Operations

The following sections provide information on wildlife response considerations, protection and activities relevant to the Operations Section:

3610 - Wildlife Response Best Management Practices (BMPs)

3620 - General Wildlife Protection Considerations

3630 - Vessel Grounding or Sinking Response

3631.1 - Preventing Rat Introduction to the Pribilof Islands

3631.2 - Entanglement and Fishing Gear

3640 - Wildlife Branch (WB)

3640.1 - Wildlife Reconnaissance (Recon)

3640.1.1 - Authorizations and Permits for Wildlife Recon

3640.2 - Wildlife Response Strategies

3650 - Request for Wildlife Response Activities

3650.1 - Startup Wildlife Response Plan (WRP)

3650.2 - Comprehensive Wildlife Response Plan (WRP)

3650.3 - Inadvertent Impacts of Wildlife Response Activities



# What changed?

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# What changed?

## ➤ New Format/Document Organization

### ➤ 3630.2.1 Section: Marine Debris Response

#### **3630.2.1.1 - Marine Debris Removal Priorities and Protocols**

The removal of marine debris during a spill response can prevent additional impacts to wildlife and is also essential for accounting of items onboard vessels. Furthermore, the removal of marine debris aligns with MARPOL Annex V and related statutes, which prohibit the pollution of the marine environment with waste such as plastic.

During a vessel grounding or sinking, responders should identify potential sources of marine debris onboard the vessel and prioritize debris for removal when it is safe to do so.

Marine debris removal priorities and protocols, as safety and practicality allow, are:

1. Retrieve marine debris that has detached from the vessel in nearby waters or shorelines.
  - Determine if any gear, especially fishing nets, is in the water and still attached to the vessel. Remove or secure.

---

<sup>4</sup> All references to debris and marine debris in this document are specific to non-oiled debris. Information about the collection and disposal of oiled debris can be found in the AWA ACP.

<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/discover-marine-debris/what-marine-debris>

- Examine vessel and the nearby seafloor for fishing gear, lines, and associated synthetic materials. Remove or secure.
2. Remove or secure all loose gear, particularly plastics, from the vessel compartments and decks.
    - Survey the shorelines and waters immediately surrounding the vessel and collect loose items.
    - Survey the deck and remove or secure gear that is loose or could become loose (in particular nets, loops, and lines) and cause wildlife entanglements.
    - Survey remaining compartments, such as the galley, berthing areas, and holds, and remove or secure gear that is loose or could become loose.
  3. Retrieve actively deployed fishing gear associated with the vessel, such as pots or longlines.
    - Determine from the persons onboard if fishing gear was deployed.
    - Work with the vessel owner or the appropriate fishery management agency for a plan to retrieve the gear.

During a marine debris response, the following steps should be taken to ensure marine debris priorities are met:

# Timeline

---

- In ~2021, people involved in the 2014 revision process began to raise the issue of a new revision process
- March 2022: the PI WPG working group first met (virtually) to begin the revision process
- Meetings every 1-2 months to discuss progress and next steps
- Google Drive document established using the 2014 PI WPG and sections of the Alaska WPG documents as a starting point

# Timeline

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- Final draft reviewed by the working group, EPA, and the USCG in December 2022
- ADEC posted the PI WPG on their public notice webpage on January 3, 2023
- Public comment period ended February 7, 2023
- Revise document to address public comments
- Finalize in March 2023

# Timeline

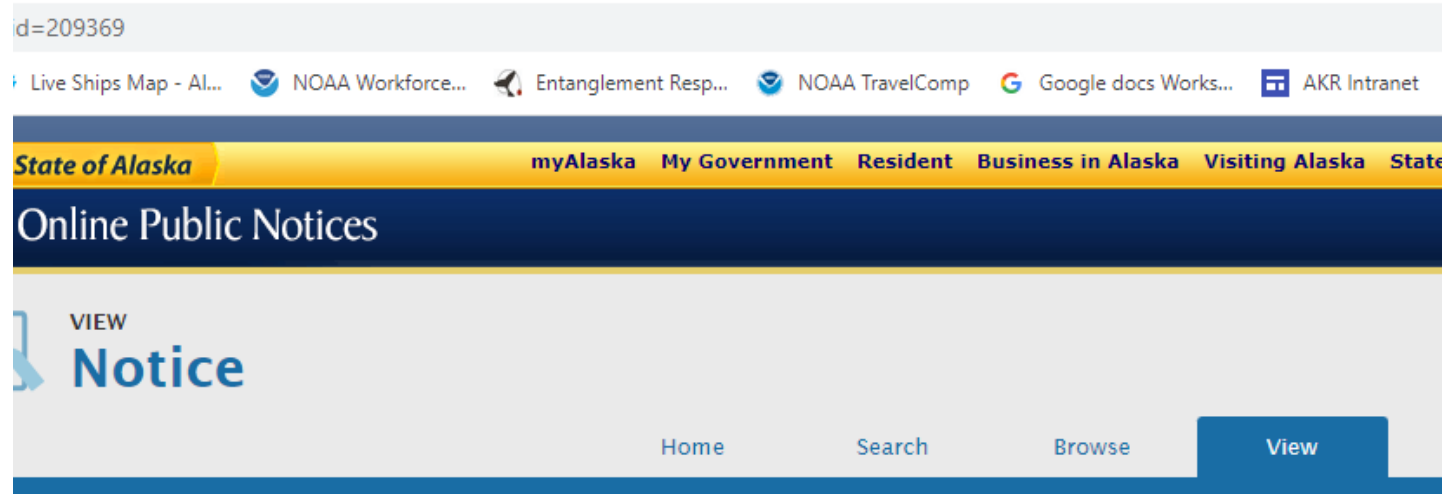
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- Revise document to address public comments
- Finalize in March 2023

# Provide Comments

## Online Comments (Options)

- Search terms: ADEC Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines
- Fourth link the list = ADEC Public Notice



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `d=209369`. The browser's address bar contains several tabs: "Live Ships Map - AL...", "NOAA Workforce...", "Entanglement Resp...", "NOAA TravelComp", "Google docs Works...", and "AKR Intranet". The page header features the "State of Alaska" logo and navigation links for "myAlaska", "My Government", "Resident", "Business in Alaska", "Visiting Alaska", and "State". Below the header is a dark blue banner with the text "Online Public Notices". A large blue button labeled "VIEW Notice" is prominent. At the bottom of the page, there are navigation links for "Home", "Search", "Browse", and "View".

### Notice of Public Comment Period for Proposed Updates to the Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response, Version 2023.1 (January 2023)

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT), Pribilof Islands Working Group, are seeking public input for proposed updates to the *Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response, Version 2023.1 (January 2023)*. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for responders and planners when addressing wildlife concerns during an oil spill response in the vicinity of the Pribilof Islands. This guidance document is incorporated by reference into the *Arctic and Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan* and is considered a companion document to the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska*. The public comment period for this document begins on January 9, 2023 and ends at 1:59 p.m. (Alaska Standard Time) on February 7, 2023.

The *Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response* document, along with associated files to aid reviewers, is available for public review on DEC's response planning public review webpage at: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/public-review/>.

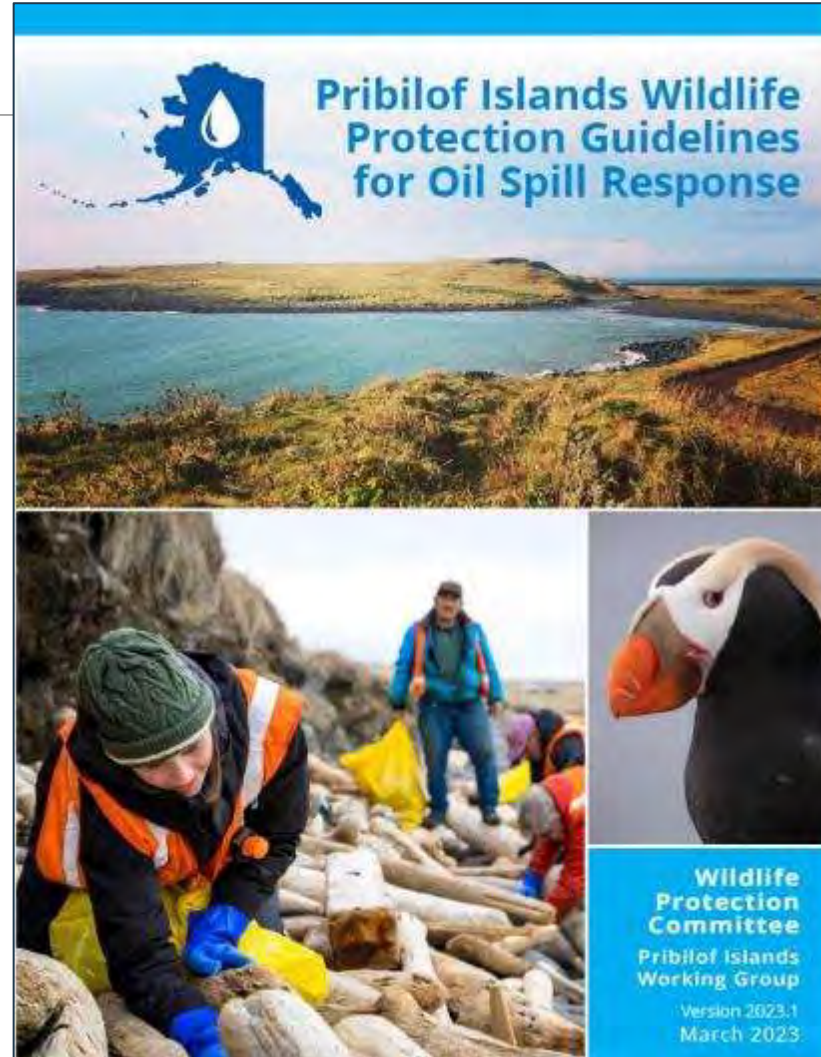
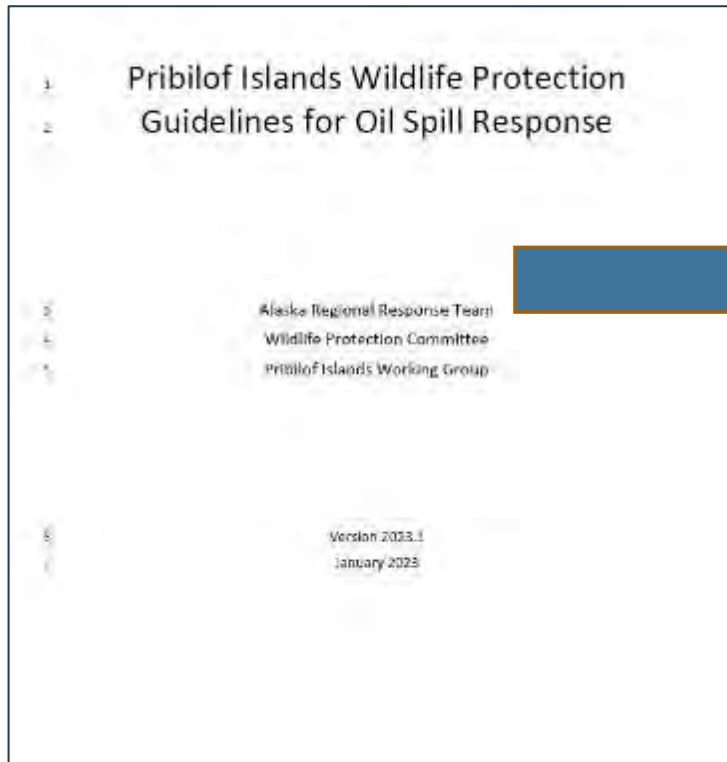
#### Tools

Print  
Short URL

#### Share



# Draft to Final





# Goals

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- Regionally specific plan that streamlines communication and efforts of local and mainland responders, when needed
- Incorporates background information and tactics for wildlife on or near the Pribilofs
- Provides useful tools for documentation, checklists for safe and effective operations and response, and templates to aid wildlife-focused efforts
- Formatting and content aligned with national guidance/requirements to ensure ease of use for responders more familiar with other regions in Alaska or the US
- Maximize protection of wildlife on the Pribilofs while ensuring human safety

# Marine Mammal Research and Response Act

- December 2022: National Defense Authorization Act
- One component: Congress has requested a report on the status of marine mammal stranding capabilities in the Arctic

# Marine Mammal Research and Response Act

- December 2022: National Defense Authorization Act
- One component: Congress has requested a report on the status of marine mammal stranding capabilities in the Arctic
- The report must address:
  - ✓ Oiled marine mammal response and rehabilitation capabilities
  - ✓ Training or other resource needs to meet emerging response requirements
- Due in one year from passage of the NDAA (review will likely take ~4 months)
- NOAA/USFWS will coordinate on all aspects of reporting

# Marine Mammal Research and Response Act

- Collaboration between the USCG/EPA and wildlife trustee agencies have positioned us well for this task
- The Pribilof Islands WPG and the Arctic and Cook Inlet & Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines will provide the framework and content for describing capabilities



Photo by Mike Williams

Thank you!



# USCG BERING STRAITS POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE

Elements to include Incident-specific activation of ARRT for dispersant application and activation of US-Russia JCP



PRESENTATION TO ALASKA RRT:

U.S. COAST GUARD DISTRICT 17 &  
SECTOR ANCHORAGE  
BERING STRAIT POLLUTION  
RESPONSE EXERCISE

Mark Everett

USCG District 17 (Juneau)

Incident Management & Preparedness  
Advisor

Co-Chair, Alaska Regional Response Team  
(ARRT)

# BACKGROUND



Russia – U.S. Joint Contingency Plan for Maritime Pollution Response



Arctic Shield 2023 focus is projecting/testing USCG response capability further into new areas



USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinator planning/response authorities & partnerships



# EXERCISE ELEMENTS

1. Ecological Risk Assessment
  2. Community-based Waste Management Workshop
  3. JRT Notification/Activation
  4. Alaska RRT Incident-Specific Activation
  5. Full Scale Exercise
  6. Spill of National Significance Briefing
- \* DV Day

# ELEMENT 1 - Ecological Risk Assessment

Who	Arctic Western Alaska Area Committee coordinating with industry, natural resource & technical agencies/organizations, local communities, tribes, co-management orgs, etc.
What	International Maritime Organization risk assessment model as a new standard for Alaska
When	TBD, but hope to start Spring 2023
Where	One or more locations in the Bering Strait region & virtual
Why	Assess threats & consequences of major oil spill in the Bering Strait region to better plan for response

# ELEMENT 2 - Community-based Waste Mgmt

## Workshop

	Arctic Western Alaska Area Committee coordinating with industry, natural resource & technical agencies/organizations, local communities, tribes, co-management orgs, etc.
What	Discuss current approaches & expectations about waste stream management operations during a major spill response.
When	TBD, but hope to start Spring 2023
Where	One or more locations in the Bering Strait region & virtual
Why	Enhance shared understanding of waste stream management challenges during a major oil spill in the Bering Strait region to better plan for response.

# ELEMENT 3 - JRT Notification/Activation

Who	Russia – U.S. Joint Response Team (JRT) Chair will notify and simulate activation of the U.S. JRT
What	Procedure in the Russia – U.S. Joint Contingency Plan to support the Federal On-Scene Coordinator-led response
When	May or may not coincide with Element 5 (FSE)
Where	Virtual
Why	Practice protocol to enhance awareness & build competency

# ELEMENT 4 - Alaska RRT Incident-Specific

## Activation

Who	Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) will do an Incident-Specific activation to simulate decision-making for aerial dispersant use/monitoring for a crude oil spill in the Bering Strait
What	Regional Contingency Plan to support the Federal On-Scene Coordinator-led response
When	May or may not coincide with Element 5 (FSE)
Where	Virtual
Why	Practice protocol to enhance awareness & build competency

# ELEMENT 5 – Full Scale Exercise

Who	USCG, U.S. Navy, and commercial land, sea, and air spill response assets
What	Federalized response to a Russian side crude oil spill with trajectory into U.S. waters of the Bering Strait and potential landfall on the U.S. shoreline
When	Activities are planned for one day, 4-6 daylight hours, between 6 am – 6 pm, during the week of 5-9 June.
Where	On and above the waters of the Bering Strait
Why	Practice operational spill response command, control, and coordination

# ELEMENT 5a – Mechanical Recovery of Oil

Demonstration of on-water mechanical oil spill recovery capabilities on the U.S. side of the Bering Strait:

- USCG/U.S. Navy capability (USN) to deploy and operate USN SUPSALV NOFI/Current Buster System (CBS) on a USCG ocean-going buoy tender (WLB).
- Deploy/Operate/Recover the WLB/CBS combination for in real world conditions (without attendant tug/barge support/storage) into the U.S. side of the Bering Strait.

# C-130J Transport Aircraft for Current Buster Anchorage – Nome – Anchorage





# Oceangoing Buoy Tender OSR Platform (with CBS and side support tug/barge)



# ELEMENT 5b – Aerial Dispersant

## Application

Demonstrate Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) aerial dispersant application capability on the U.S. side of the Bering Strait:

- Specially-equipped Boeing 737-500 short-body aircraft at low altitude will aerially spray *freshwater only* from internal tanks through an external nozzle array. Several sorties of 4125 gals each with the number of on-scene spray runs/passes TBD on-scene.
- Single engine spotter aircraft will be airborne in the vicinity of the spray runs/passes to ensure accuracy of application.
- This activity will be conducted in accordance with the Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska contained in the Regional Contingency Plan

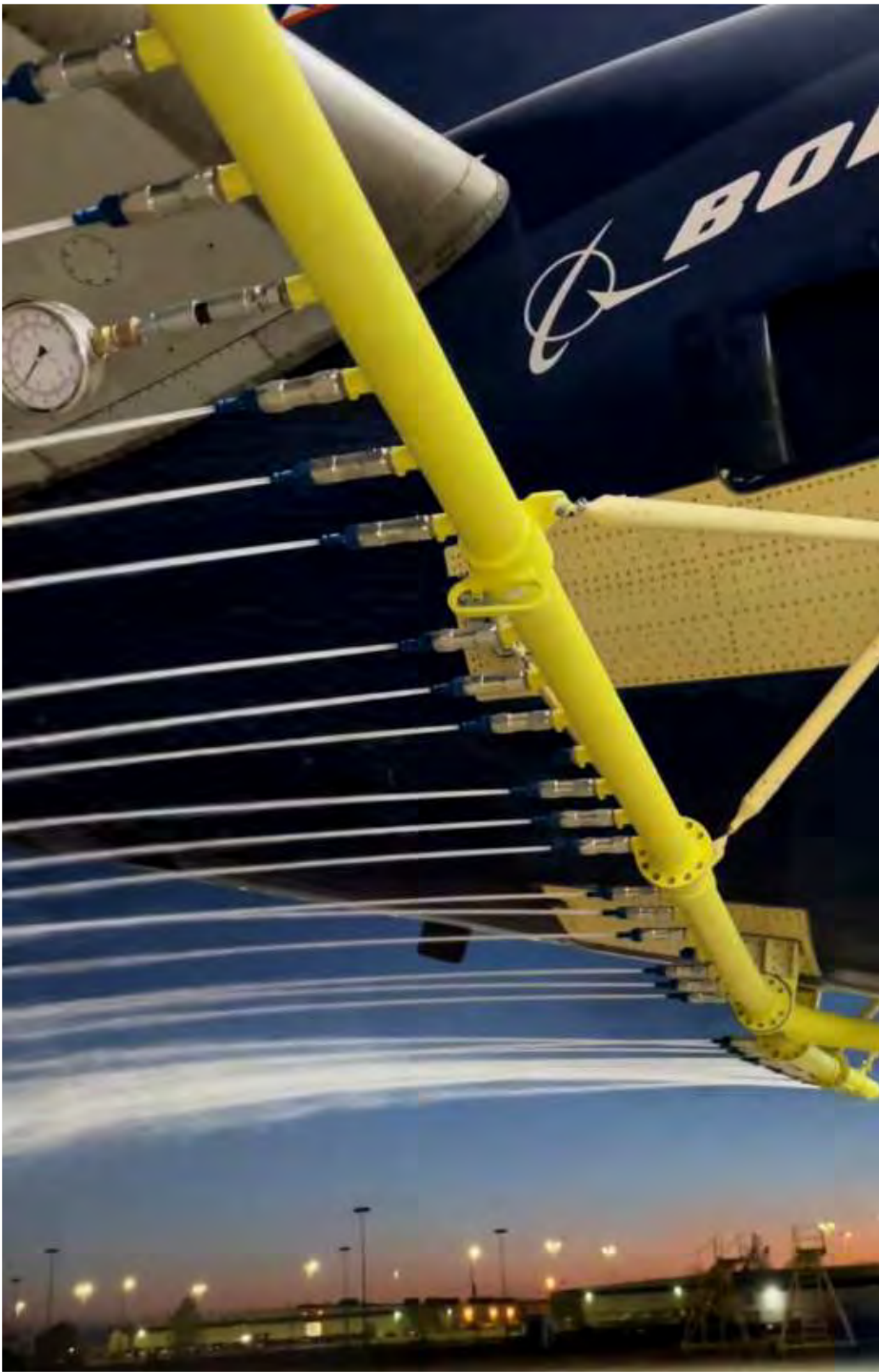
# Marine Spill Response Corp (MSRC) 737



737 Interior tanks (freshwater only for the Ex)  
4125 gals



# Spray nozzle array



# Typical spotter/monitoring aircraft



# ELEMENT 5c – On-Scene

## Command/Control/Comms

Employ USCG major cutter (already deployed for other operations) for on-scene comms/asset coordination platform.

- Deploy/Operate/Recover UAS from this cutter for spill trajectory monitoring.

# National Security Cutter or Icebreaker Ops Branch - Command & Control Platform



May have UAS capability



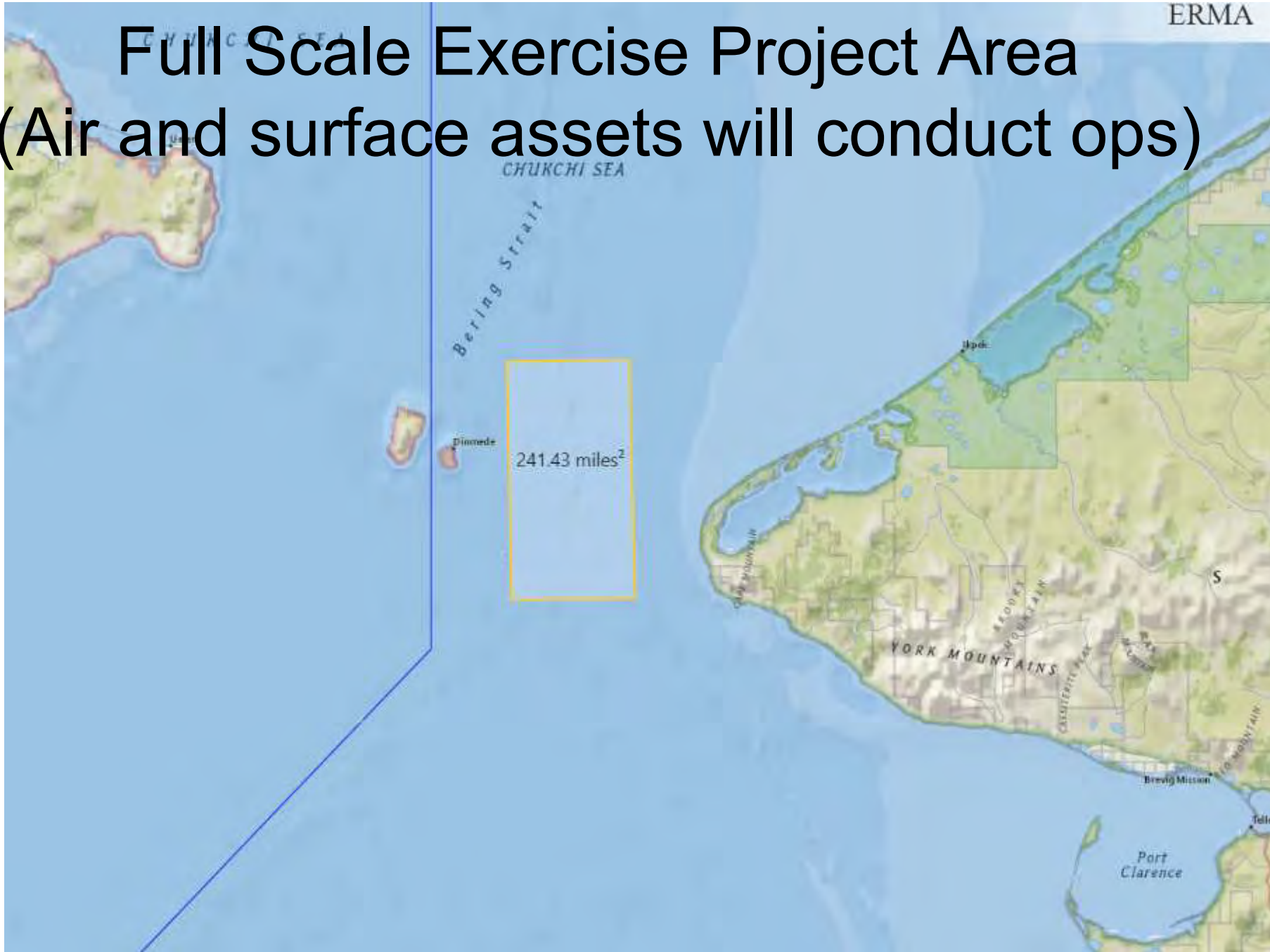
# ELEMENT 5d – Special Teams Support

Request/Deploy USCG Pacific Strike Team (PST) support

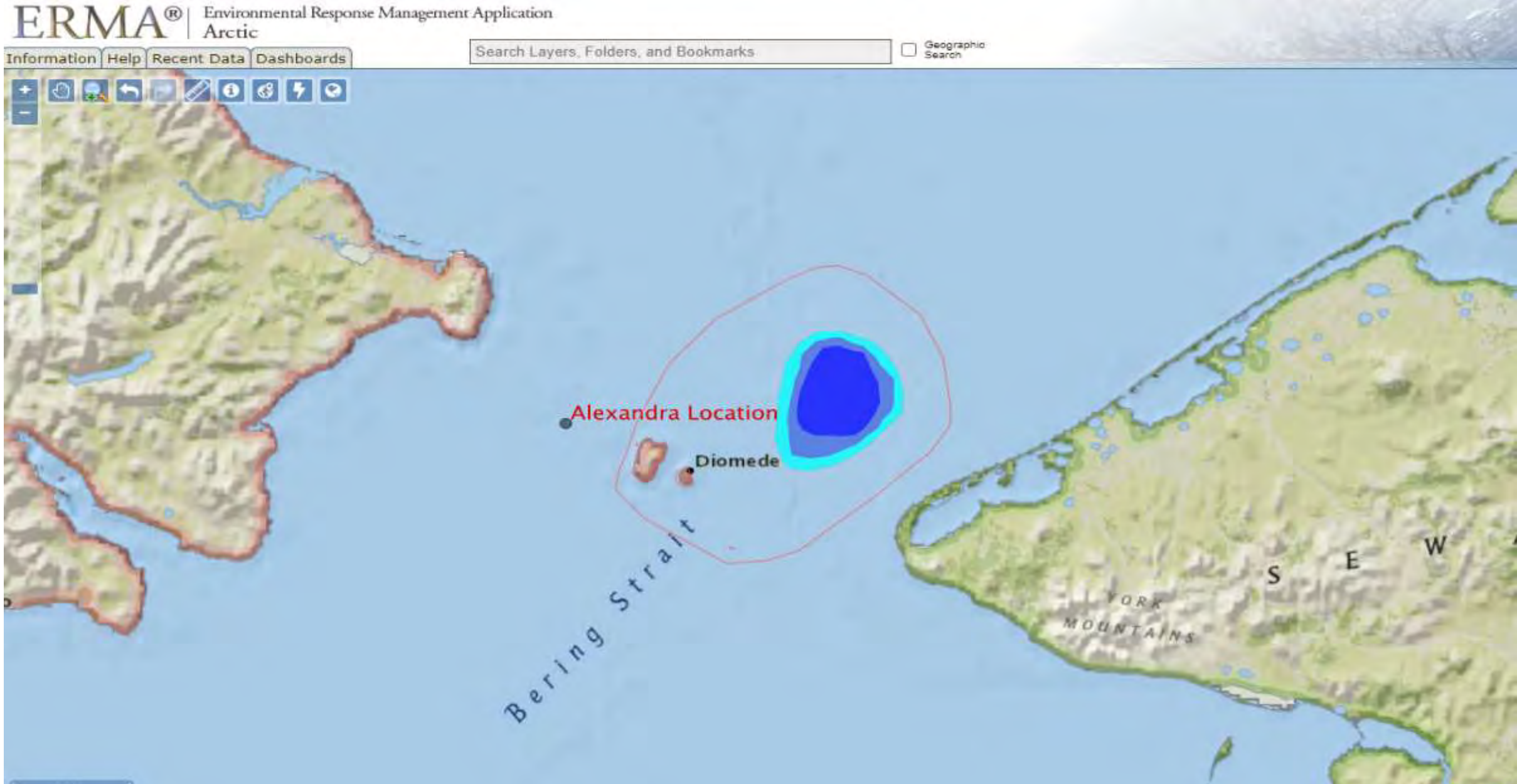
- Simulate SMART dispersant effectiveness monitoring protocols
- Conduct training and assist in personnel qualifications
- Demonstrate deployment/use of special technologies



# Full Scale Exercise Project Area (Air and surface assets will conduct ops)



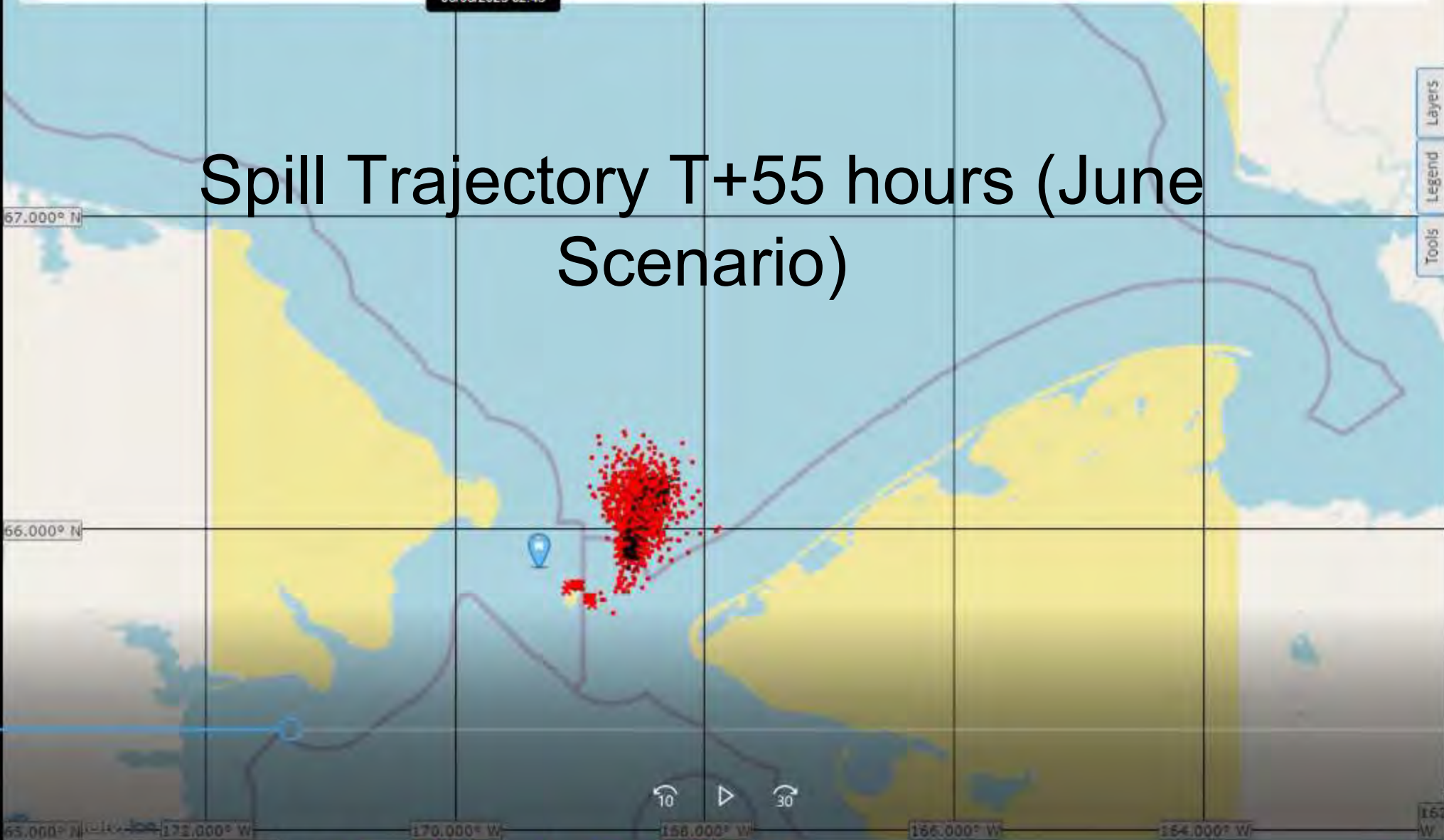
# Spill Trajectory T+55 hours (September Scenario)





06/06/2023 02:45

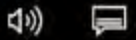
# Spill Trajectory T+55 hours (June Scenario)



Layers Legend Tools

0:00:16

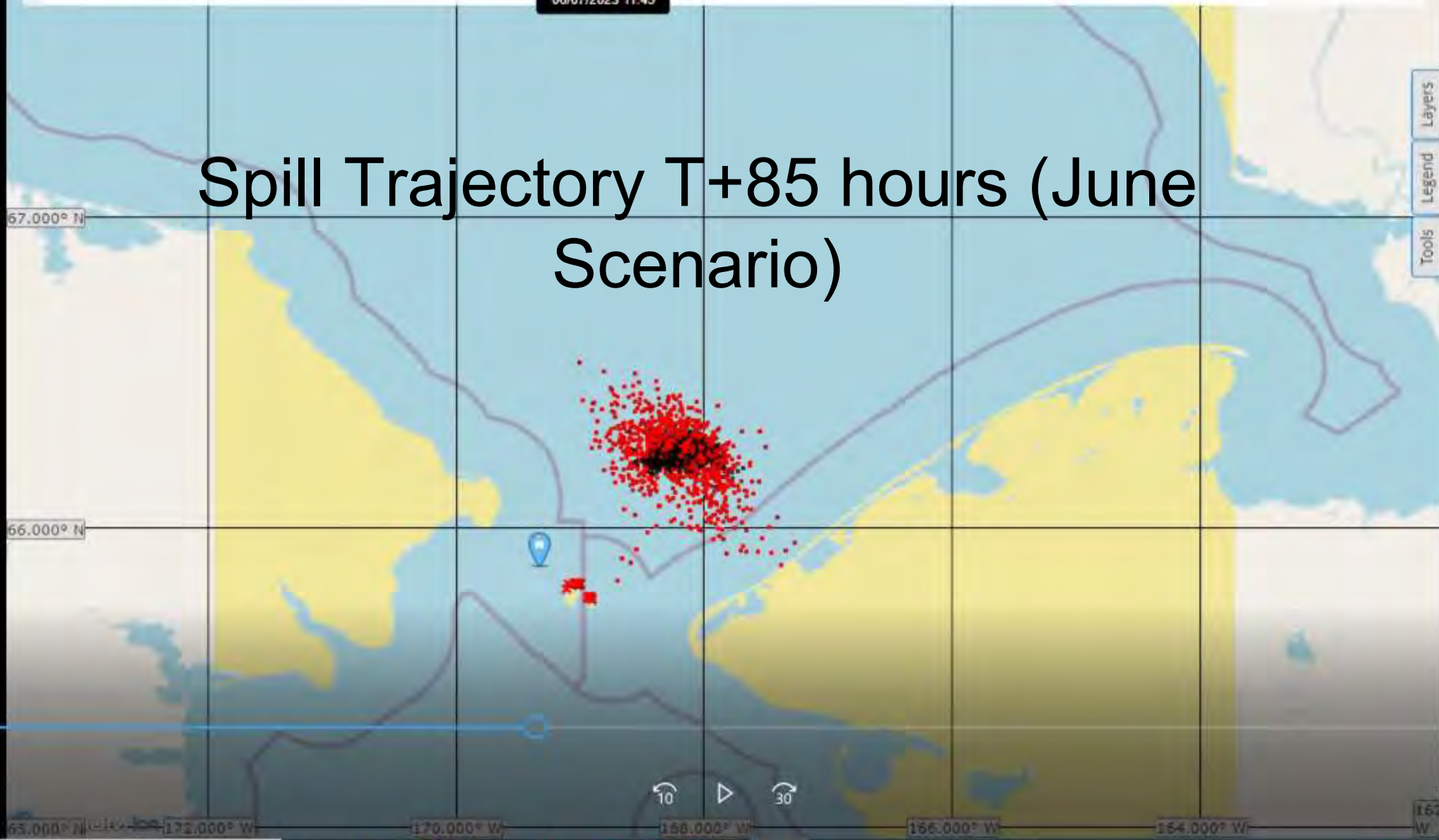
0:00:37





06/07/2023 11:45

# Spill Trajectory T+85 hours (June Scenario)



0:00:53

0:00:00

# ELEMENT 6 – SONS Briefing

Who	Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) will do a scripted briefing for CG Headquarters leaders to practice national protocols for declaration of a SONS
What	Federal On-Scene Coordinator-led response
When	May or may not coincide with Element 5 (FSE)
Where	Virtual
Why	Practice protocol to enhance awareness & build competency

# EXERCISE PRE-PLANNING EFFORTS

- ✓ Internal agency scoping, funding, and calendar coordination
- ✓ Assemble exercise design team. Concepts & Objectives meeting.
- ✓ Initial discussions with USFWS and NMFS (Services) for environmental compliance (i.e., ESA, MMPA, EFH, etc.)
- ✓ Begun drafting request for informal consultation with Services
- ✓ Request G-2-G consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes
- ✓ Outreach to Co-management Organizations
- Incorporate feedback into exercise/scenario design
- ✓ IPM Meeting held 25 JAN
  - Develop planning team schedule, deliverables, etc.



# IMO RISK ASSESSMENT MODEL





# IMO'S OIL SPILL RISK EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS MODEL

LCDR Matt Richards

Chief of Emergency Management and Force Readiness

Coast Guard Sector Anchorage

MANUAL ON  
Oil Spill Risk Evaluation  
and Assessment of  
Response Preparedness  
2010 EDITION

# IMO MANUAL

For purchase at:

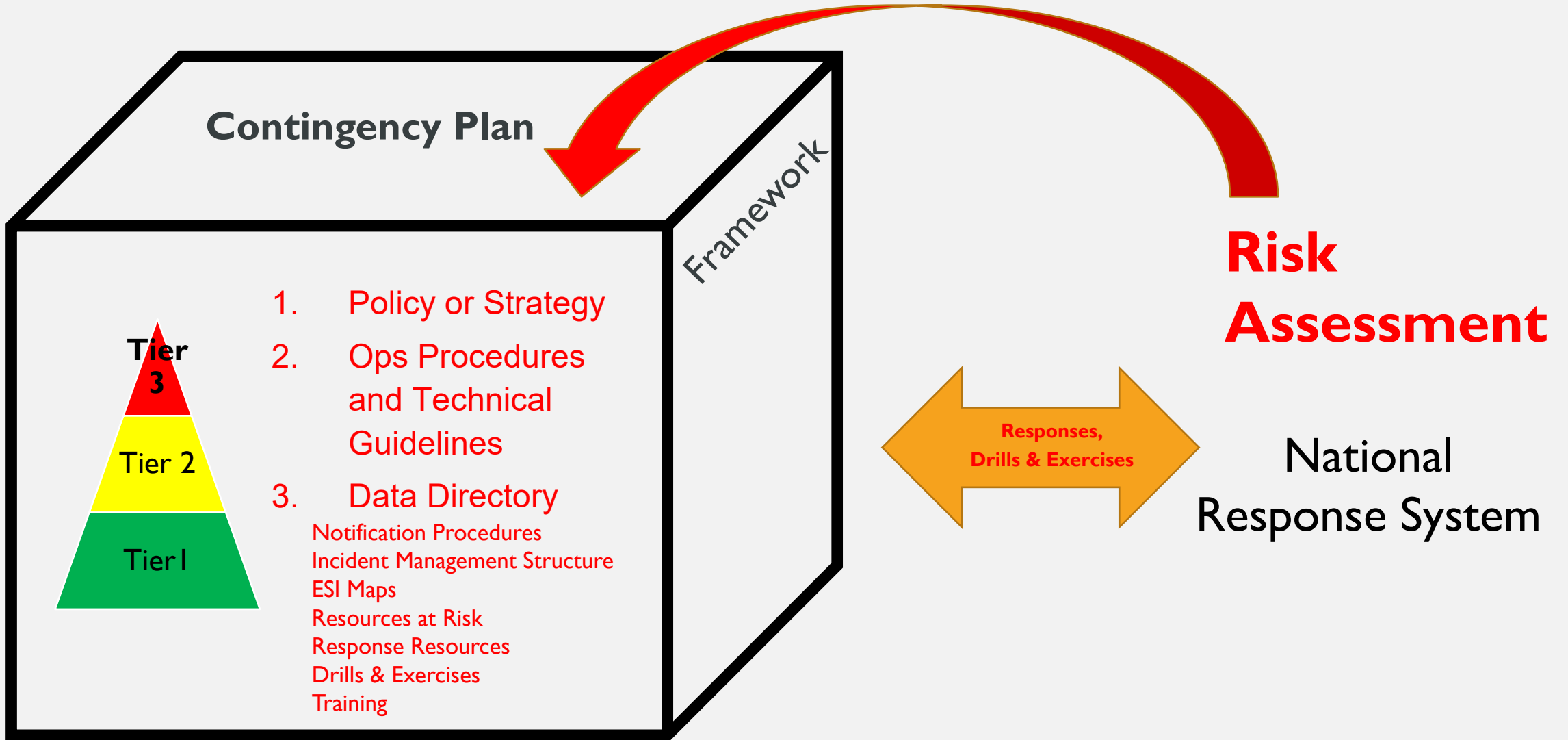
<https://www.imo.org/en/publications/Pages/CatalogueAndBookCodeLists.aspx>



## OBJECTIVES

- Overview of IMO model for risk assessments
  - Methodology for determining likelihood and consequence.
  - Identification of known hazards.
  - Identification of resources at risk (environmental and human use)
  - Evaluation of scenarios using likelihood and consequence to determine total risk for each scenario.


# PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAM/POLICY



# DEFINING TERMS

 Source

 Hazard


 Event

 Frequency

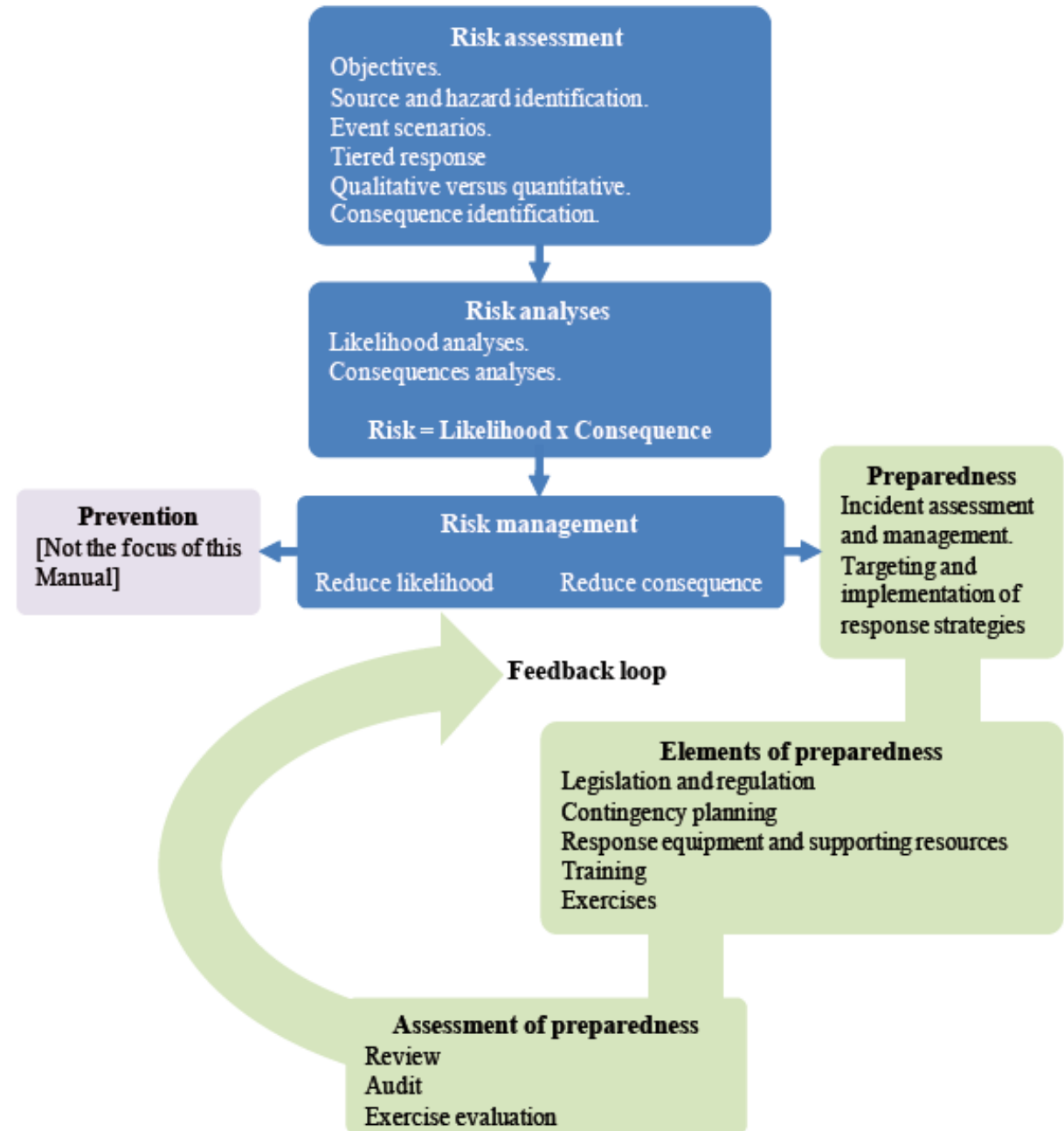
 Probability

 Likelihood

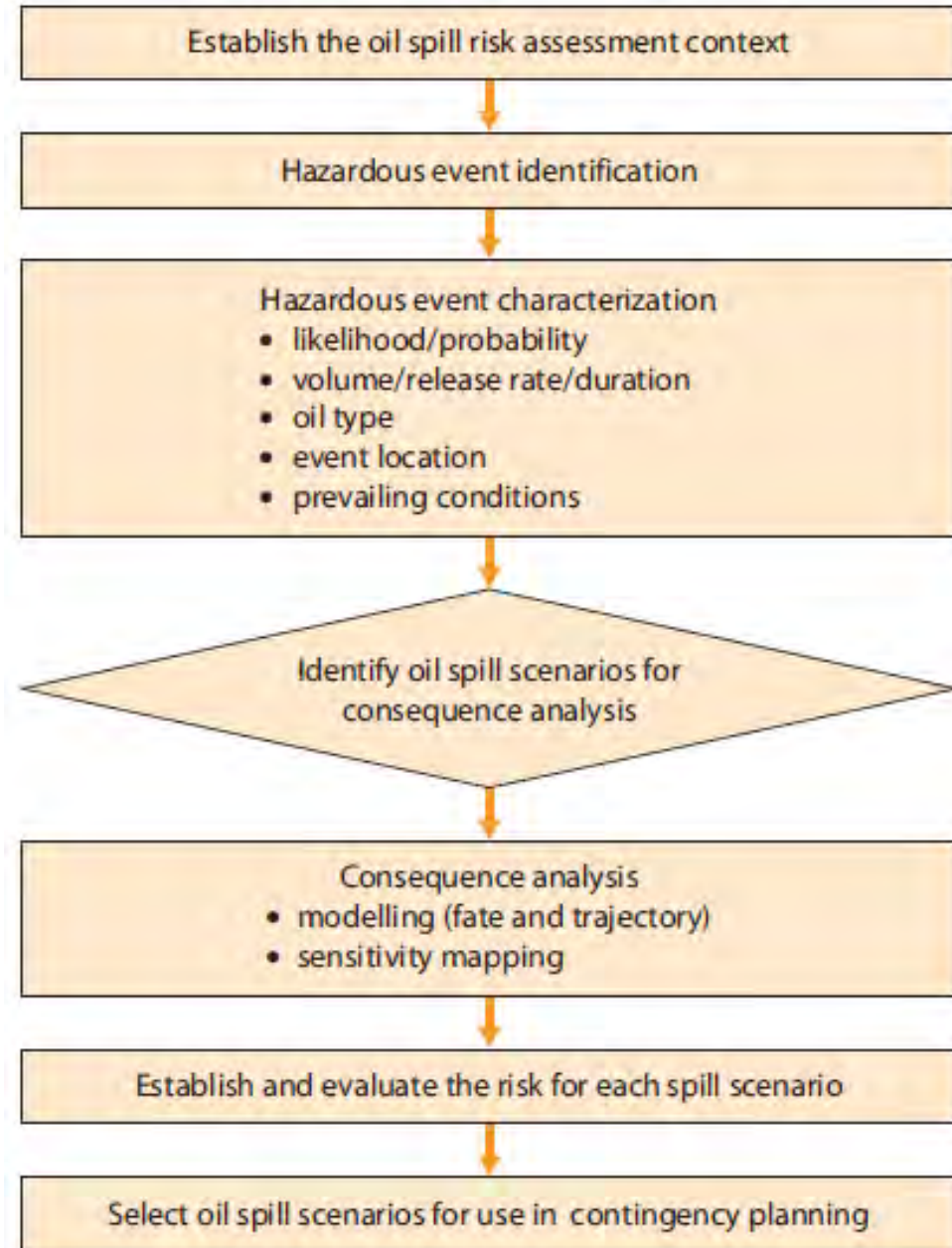
 Consequence

 Risk

# RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS



# RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS



### Scenario information to be determined

- Event
- Likelihood (frequency/probability)
- Oil type
- Volume
- Duration of release
- Behaviour of spilled oil
- Location of event
- Prevailing hydrodynamic and environmental conditions
- Trajectory and fate
- Geographic zone of potential spill impact
- Environmental and socio-economic sensitive resources at risk and potential consequences if impacted.

### Analysis

- What can go wrong?
- What is the chance that it could happen?
- What type of oil and how much of it could be released?
- Where could it happen and what are the local conditions?
- Where could the spilled oil go and how might it behave in the environment?
- What impacts could it have and how severe could the consequences be?

**DATA TO COLLECT**



# LIKELIHOOD

Descriptive term	Likelihood ranges	
	Chance of occurring in a given year	Frequency of occurrence
Certain	>99%	Annually (at least)
Likely	50 to 99%	1–2 years
Possible	5 to 50%	2–20 years
Unlikely	2 to 5%	20–50 years
Rare	1 to 2%	50–100 years
Extremely rare	<1%	>100 years

**Table 1** – *Example of qualitative likelihoods*

# CONSEQUENCE

Resource category		Consequence level description				
		Very low (0)	Low (1)	Moderate (5)	Unknown or high (20)	Extreme (50)
Environment	Shoreline character	Negligible sensitivity	Low sensitivity (e.g. exposed rocky headlands, eroding wavecut platforms)	Moderate sensitivity (e.g. fine grained sand beaches, exposed compacted tidal flats, mudstone, coarse grained beaches)	High sensitivity (e.g. mixed sand and gravel beaches, gravel beaches, shelter rocky coasts, scoria)	Extremely high sensitivity (e.g. sheltered tidal flats, salt marshes, mangroves)
	Plants and animals	None or very few vulnerable species	Minor short-term impacts	Vulnerable species are generally of local value only	Limited but medium term effects	Vulnerable species are of local and regional importance
	Protected sites	No protected sites present	Scenic or wildlife management reserve	Scenic/nature reserve, wildlife refuge	Marine park, marine reserve, wildlife/marine mammal sanctuary	International protected sites (e.g. RAMSAR)
Human	Economic	No resources or activities of economic significance	Low economic significance for the region and nation	Some economic significance of the region, none nationally	High regional economic significance, some national significance	High national economic significance
	Cultural	No cultural importance	Some importance for local community, low regional significance	Important to local and regional community but low national significance	Important to local and regional community, some national significance	High national cultural significance
	Social, amenity and recreation	No community significance	Low community significance for the region and nation	Some community significance for the region, none nationally	High regional community significance, some national significance	High national community significance

Table 4 – Example of categories to determine qualitative consequence level

Source: New Zealand Marine Oil Spill Risk Assessment 2004\*

**Table 2.** Environmental resource categories and the consequence level intervals used for the Alaska oil spill risk assessment.

Environmental Resource Category	Consequence Score Description				
	Very Low (0)	Low (1-<6)	Moderate (6-<20)	High (20-50)	Very High (>50)
Shorelines					
Protected sites					
Plants and animals					
Cetaceans					
Pinnipeds and fur-bearing marine mammals					
Marine and coastal reptiles and amphibians					
Marine and coastal birds					
Fish and invertebrates					
Marine plants and sensitive benthic habitats					

**DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSEQUENCE**

# DETAILED SHORELINE TYPE

$$\text{Shoreline Consequence Score} = \frac{\sum_{\text{ESI type}} (\text{Oiled Length ESI Type} * \text{Shoreline Sensitivity Score})}{\text{Total Length of Oiled Shoreline}} \times 10$$

**Table 3.** Shoreline risk assessment factors and sensitivity score.

ESI Shoreline Rank	Oil Behavior and Persistence	Acute Toxicity Risk	Years to Recovery	Sensitivity Score
1. Exposed Rocky Shores	Oil is mostly kept offshore by wave reflection; Impermeable so oil remains on the rock surface; Persistent oil is usually as a band at the high-tide or splash zones.	Low due to short-term exposure.	<1 to 2 years	Low (1)
2. Exposed Wave-cut Platforms	Similar to above, except that there can be some sediments on the platform and at the high-tide zone where oil can persist for weeks or months.	Low due to short-term exposure, but higher than rocky shores.	Generally <1 to 2 years except where heavy oiling persists in crevices and sediments	Low (1)
3A. Fine- to Medium-grained Sand Beaches	Oil penetration and burial risks are lowest of all beaches.	Moderate, due to moderate biological productivity.	<5 years	Moderate (3)

# DETAILED PROTECTED SITES

$$\text{Protected Site Consequence Score} = \frac{\sum (\text{Length of Protected Site} * \text{Protected Site Sensitivity Score})}{\text{Total Length of Oiled Shoreline}} \times 5$$

**Table 5.** State and federal protected areas included in the risk assessment. Colors denote sensitivity score. Red = very high, score of 5; pink = high, score of 4.



Federal Protected Areas
<b>NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES</b>
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge + Ramsar Site
Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
<b>NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH</b>

State Protected Areas
<b>STATE REFUGES</b>
Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge
Cape Newenham State Game Refuge
Goose Bay State Game Refuge
Izembek State Game Refuge
McNeil River State Game Refuge
Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge
Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge
Susitna Flats State Game Refuge
Trading Bay State Game Refuge
Yakataga State Game Refuge
<b>STATE CRITICAL HABITAT AREAS</b>

# DETAILED SPECIES

Cetacean Consequence Score =

$$\sum (\% \text{ of BIA swept by oil on the water surface above the threshold} * \text{Species sensitivity score})$$

**Table 6.** Cetacean species risk score definitions for the five sensitivity factors.

Score	Habitat Use	Feeding Method	Site Fidelity	Aggregation	ESA Status
5	Cetacean BIA mostly in coastal waters*		Small home range with high site fidelity	Regularly forms groups >10 animals	Endangered
4	Cetacean BIA in coastal and offshore waters**		Regular concentrated feeding area	Forms feeding groups >10 animals	Threatened
3	Distribution maps show presence in coastal waters	Baleen	Regular use of ice pack/edges that move	Occasionally forms small groups	
2	Cetacean BIA in offshore waters only		Large feeding areas	Mostly solitary or in temporary small groups	
1	General distribution is in offshore waters	Toothed	Wide ranging, with no site fidelity noted	Mostly solitary or in pairs	Not listed

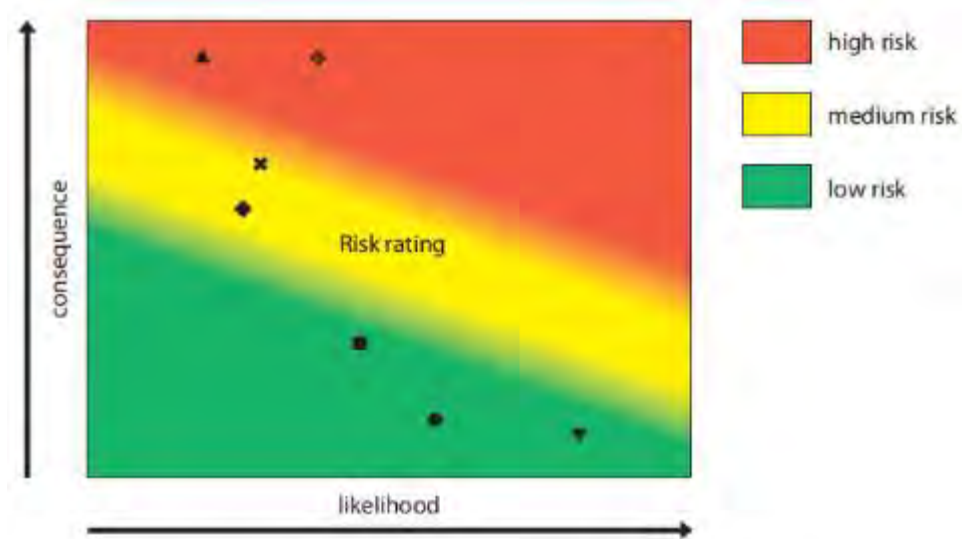
\* Coastal waters defined as within 16 km of the shoreline or within semi-enclosed bays

\*\* Offshore waters defined as being >16 km from the shoreline

# RISK REGISTER

SCENARIO										
#	Source	Event	Oil Type	Spill Volume	Impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk	Response Strategies	Tiered Resources
3	Tankers	Running aground north of Bonaire	Crude (ITOPF Groups 1-4)	12,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Significant environmental damage, Washington Slagbaai National Park, Goto Lac and Bonaire Marine Park potentially effected	1	6	High potential risk	Containment and recovery of oil, shoreline clean-up operations, aerial dispersant may be considered. Aerial surveillance and monitoring	Tier 1: All available resources Tier 2: All available resources Tier 3: OSRL
4	Cross boundary spills	Oil spills drifting from Venezuela to Bonaire	Various	Unable to estimate	Significant environmental damage to the vulnerable east coast of Bonaire including the Lac Bay RAMSAR site  Government and national media interest guaranteed	2	5	Considerable risk	Containment and recovery of oil, shoreline clean-up operations, aerial dispersant application if required. Aerial surveillance and monitoring	Tier 1: All available resources Tier 2: All available resources Tier 3: OSRL
5	Tankers	Substandard vessels (maintenance, crew, etc)	Various	Unable to estimate	Environmental damage to the sensitive habitats of Bonaire	2	5	Considerable risk	Containment and recovery of oil, shoreline clean-up operations and dispersant application may be considered. Continuous monitoring and evaluation	Tier 1: All available resources Tier 2: All available resources Tier 3: OSRL
6	Yachts	Yacht rental (lack of competence) and vessel collision	Marine diesel (ITOPF Group 1)	0.1 - 0.5 m <sup>3</sup>	Environmental consequences are limited but there is a high risk of fatalities due to the perceived lack of competence	2	5	Considerable risk	Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the situation is required until all the oil has dispersed and to ensure no further pollution	Continuous monitoring and evaluation
7	Tankers	Large number of drifting tankers drifting west of Bonaire due to absence of BOPEC anchorages (water depth)	Crude (ITOPF Groups 1-4)	12,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Significant environmental damage, Washington Slagbaai National Park, Goto Lac and Bonaire Marine Park potentially effected	1	6	High potential risk	Containment and recovery of oil, shoreline clean-up operations, aerial dispersant may be considered. Aerial surveillance and monitoring	Tier 1: All available resources Tier 2: All available resources Tier 3: OSRL

# RISK RATING



Assess the risks: likelihood x consequence = risk rating

- = Loss of containment during fuel transfer quayside; 10 tonnes; diesel fuel
- ▼ = Small maintenance leak; 10 litres; hydraulic fluid
- × = Pipeline rupture near shore; 1,000 tonnes; light crude
- = Offloading at sea; 400 tonnes; diesel fuel
- ◆ = Subsea leak; 1,500 tonnes; crude
- ▲ = Subsea well blowout; 1,500 tonnes/day for 30 days; crude oil
- ◇ = Vessel grounding—loaded ultra-large crude carrier



QUESTIONS?

LCDR MATT RICHARDS (907)428-4111  
MATTHEW.D.RICHARDS@USCG.MIL



# REPORT ON 2023 NRT MEETING



Supporting Federal and State On-scene Coordinators  
**Alaska RRT**

# NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM/REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM CO-CHAIRS MEETING – SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

FEBRUARY 14 & 15 2023

Portland, Oregon



- International Coordination
  - Development of International Assistance Guide
- Remote Sensing
  - EPA, USCG, NOAA and USGS technology is advancing quickly
  - P00547 used NOAA and NASA satellite imagery, along UAS and trained observers
  - Lots of new research related to remote sensing of oil in ice environments
  - Data processing can be a chokepoint
  - Standardizing data flows helps facilitate processing



- HazMat Pipelines
  - 3.5M plus miles of pipelines exist in the US, including abandoned pipelines which may or may not have been properly abandoned
  - PHMSA has a gov't only and public map of known pipelines, but may not be comprehensive
- OSC Reports - Golden Ray and P00547
  - Need to standardize content and format for OSC reports to make them more helpful
  - P00547 – Use of a Public Health Assessment Unit in Planning Section to work alongside Environmental Unit



- **Lithium Battery Fires**

- Batteries contain latent energy which can lead to run-away reactions, fires and release of toxic gases
- Fires can be extremely difficult to extinguish
- Must discharge battery energy before shipping and disposal can be challenging

- **USACE and Bureau of Reclamation Oil Spill Response**

- USACE and BOR, especially in the west, maintain spill response equipment and can contribute to oil spill responses in other ways (i.e., first federal official)
- Recommend building relationships with local USACE & BOR resources



- In-Situ Burning

- RRT5: State of Michigan recently withdrew support for any pre-authorization of ISB in their State. RRT5 is working on outreach and education.
- ARRT: Inland Burn Checklist, intentional wellhead ignition
- RRT10: Community Air Monitoring plan
- SMART Protocols
  - Protocols being updated for both ISB and Dispersants, decided to separate
  - ISB being updated to address PM2.5 (prior version used PM10)
  - SMART protocols are designed to support operational decisions, not larger scientific or human health/environmental concerns; will not address new Subpart J monitoring requirements for prolonged or subsea dispersant use
  - Updates will be starting NRT review process in Spring 2023



- Emerging Fuels

- West Coast Workshop sponsored by Ecology and others highlighted
- Low sulfur fuels are not significantly different in chemistry and toxicity, behavior in the environment is rather different
- Skimming very challenging
- Dispersant effectiveness is lower overall
- Dielectric Fluids (mineral oils)
  - Present challenges because they are not visible on the water
  - Windpower is significantly increasing risks in coastal environments





- RRT & Tribal Engagement
  - Thank you to Makah Tribe and Yakama Nation!!
- Historic Properties Protections
  - Make friends with your SHPO and THPO before you disturb any soil or sediment
- FEMA Update
  - New Chemical Incident Consequence Management manual and other CBRN work
- RRT6 and Coordination with Poison Control Centers
  - Can be a great resource, especially when dealing with potential public health threats from chemical releases



- NRT Website

- <https://www.nrt.org/2023NRTRRTMeeting>

- All presentations are available on the “private side” through the login process, request login





# PUBLIC COMMENT



## NEXT MEETINGS:

- September 12-14, 2023
- March 5-7, 2024
- September 10-12, 2024



# REVIEW OF PARKING LOT ISSUES & CLOSING REMARKS