
# Alaska Regional Response Team

March 5, 2025

# MEETING PURPOSE AND "RULES"

- This is a business meeting of the **ARRT**
  - Questions and discussions 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.

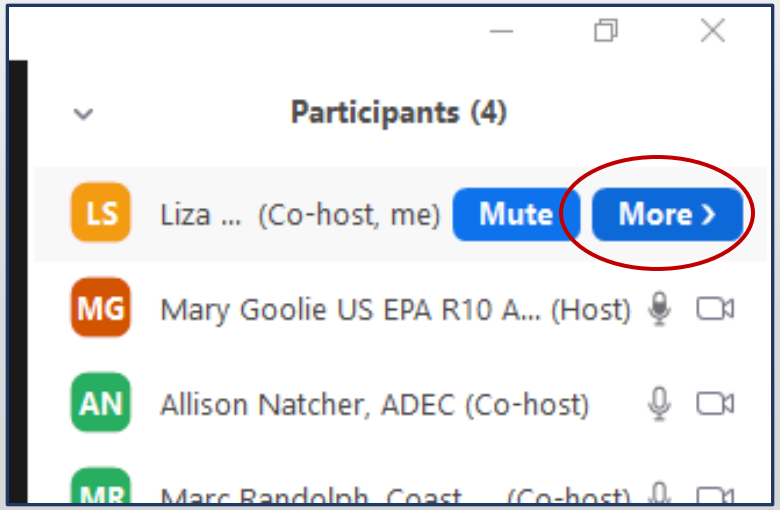
# MEETING SIGN-IN

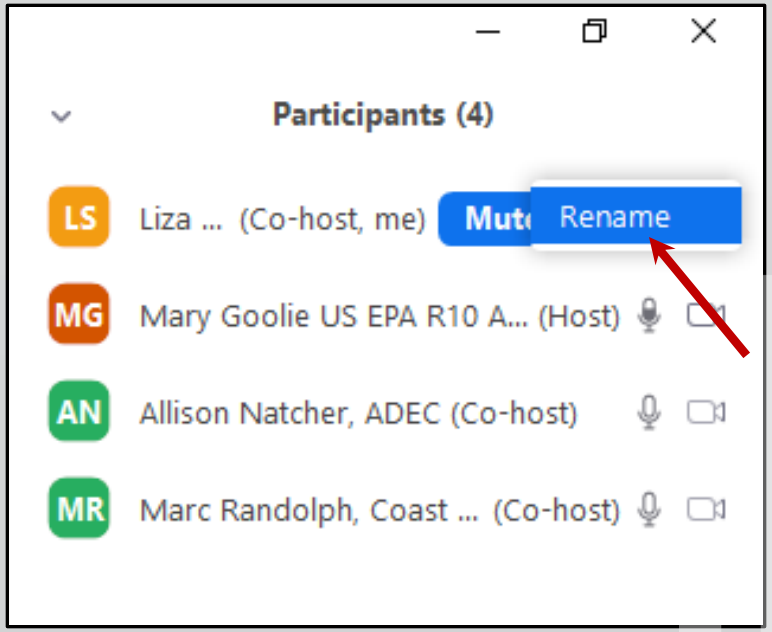
www.AlaskaRRT.org

# TIPS: USING ZOOM

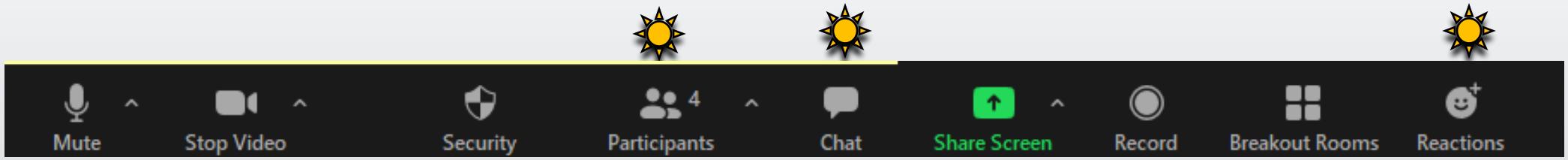
- Change your name to, **FULL NAME** and **AGENCY**

**Please mute your mic & 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.*

# MORNING AGENDA

9:00 INTRODUCTIONS AND REVIEW ACTIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

9:40 ARRT COMMITTEE REPORTS (10 Minutes Each)

10:40-10:50 BREAK

10:50 AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS (10 Minutes Each)

11:30 LUNCH (Until 1:00)

# INTRODUCTIONS & REPORT FROM TRI-CHAIRS


## Alaska Regional Response Team

# MEMBER ROLL CALL

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

For other attendees and members of the public, an attendee list will be based on Participant Names

# NEW MEMBERS, OSCS, AND AREA PLANNERS

- Patrick Hilbert, D17 USCG, Tri-Chair
- Mary Goolie, US EPA, RRT10 & ARRT Coordinator
- Angella Gebert, D17 USCG, ARRT Coordinator – currently assigned to D14 through 05/2025

# SINCE LAST MEETING (Sept 2024)

## Alaska Regional Response Team

- Regional Stakeholder Committee and Liaison Officer Job Aids - public comment with the Arctic Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan update (Feb 2025)
- ARRT Tribal Task Force – continuing work on updates to the *ARRT and Alaska Area Committees Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes and ANCSA Corporations*

## ARRT Staffing Changes

**USCG**

- Patrick Hilbert - ARRT Tri-Chair (vice Mark Everett); alternate CG chair not identified ATT
- Angella Gebert – On Active Duty in Hawaii thru May

**EPA**

- Mary Goolie – now serving as both RRT10 and ARRT Coordinator

## Other Goings On

**EPA (temporary) Reduced Response Capacity**

- EPA has a massive FEMA mission assignment ($350M) to clear about 13,000 properties in the Los Angeles area, including dealing with all high-capacity batteries and energy storage systems

**CG Alaska Region (D17)**

- Productive international engagement with Canadian Coast Guard on exercising Canadian/US Joint Contingency Plan (Annex for Dixon Entrance and North/Beaufort Sea). Hosted Canadian CG Arctic Region Marine Environmental and Hazards Response staff in Juneau Dec 2024.
- Staff attended JCP Table Top Exercise in Victoria, BC in Sep hosted by Canadian Coast Guard Western Region
- Expect in person engagements to exercise JCP in CY 2025
- D17 Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO), LCDR Adam Parga, attended DOD hosted National Response Framework/Stafford Act training. EPLO support your CG's for All Hazard Response in AK at FEMA Region 10.

# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM COMMITTEES


## Alaska Regional Response Team


# WILDLIFE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

# WILDLIFE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (WPC)

Core Agencies

*(WPC Charter, pg. 1 "Representation")*

- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- U.S. Department of Commerce - National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska*
  - is not in need of a substantive update at this time
- Core Agencies met with USCG in November to coordinate work on UAS best practices / protocols
- Next full WPC meeting – Scheduling in process for first quarter of 2025


# CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

# CULTURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE (CRC)

- Revision is underway:
  *Alaska Historic Properties Implementation Guidelines for Federal On-Scene Coordinators*
- Introduction & Laws/Regulations Subgroup met multiple times and completed their review and proposed text revisions
- Response Subgroup has convened and begun review and proposed text revisions
- Tribal Outreach Subgroup was contacted and will convene in 2025
- Project announcement was distributed to the ARRT Tribal contacts list in January
- Additional subgroups will convene in 2025
- Next full CRC meeting – TBD

# Contact Information

- ADFG: jeanette.alas@alaska.gov
- DOI: lisa_fox@ios.doi.gov
  grace_cochon@ios.doi.gov
- NMFS: sadie.wright@noaa.gov
  david.gann@noaa.gov
- SHPO: judy.bittner@alaska.gov
- USFWS: bridget_crokus@fws.gov


# SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Liza Sanden (DOC/NOAA)
  - liza.sanden@noaa.gov
- Sara Benovic (DOD/ Navy)
  - sara.l.benovic.civ@us.navy.mil
- Mike Donnellan (ADEC)
  - mike.donnellan@alaska.gov

# PROJECT: RCP ERRATA SHEETS

Task: Produce Errata sheets for the Alaska RCP/ Dispersant Use Plans and In Situ Burning Guidelines to reflect changes due to the updated:

- NCP Subpart J regulations and new
- SMART protocols for Dispersants & In Situ Burning

Purpose: Allow for incorporation of content from current regulation and agency policy into these document, prior to a comprehensive revision to either document.

# NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

**2 Official Projects**

- Updating SMART Protocols for Dispersants and In Situ Burning (priority)
- Updating old fact sheets (as time allows; 16 fact sheets, average age 20 years old.)

**Hot Topics & Potential Prjects:**

- Developing & hot topics: emerging fuels, pre-production plastic pellets (aka "nurdles), and UAS/remote sensing
- Potential Project: FAQs for SMART/Subpart J Monitoring
- Operationalizing recent oil spill research and technology


# STATEWIDE PLANNING COMMITTEE

# Statewide Planning Committee Members

**ARRT Coordinators**

- **EPA:** Mary Goolie
- **USCG D17:** Angella Gebert
- **ADEC:** Ytamar Rodriquez

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

- **USCG PWS:** LT Shelby Frasca & Andy Watland
- **USCG SEAK:** LT Lindsay Wheeler
- **USCG AWA:** CDR JoEllen Arons & Gina Winters
- **ADEC:** Julie Liford-Parker
- **EPA:** Mary Goolie

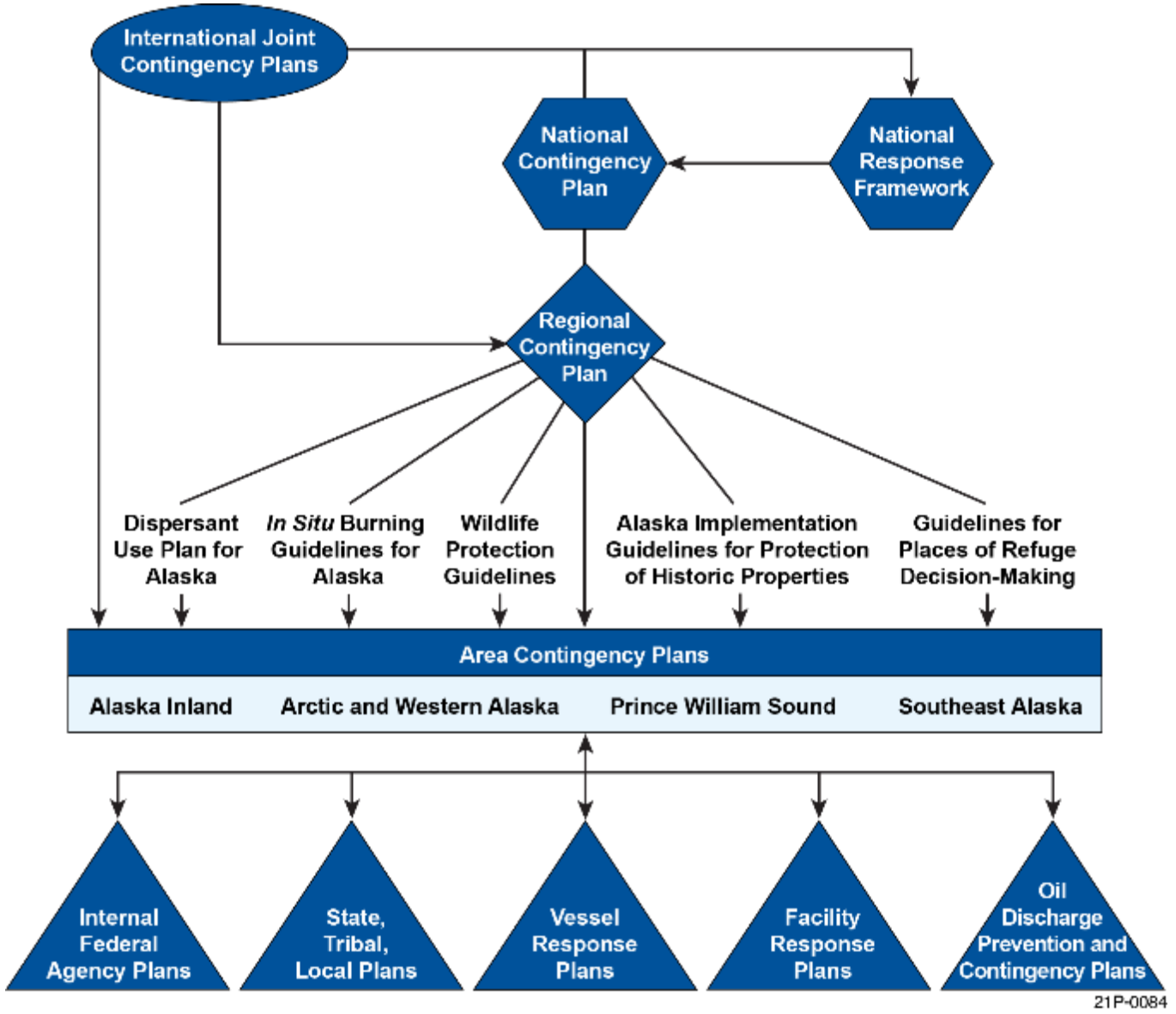
# Statewide Planning Committee Activity

- Monthly SPC Meetings
- Upcoming ACP Reviews: Arctic Western Alaska ACP
- Outreach: Bi-Monthly announcement email & biennial newsletter
- Recommending and coordinating ADEC and ARRT Website Updates
- Continue to coordinate with the SPC members on the new USCG ACP template
- Leading the update with planning partners on the Sensitive Areas Compendium

*Overall: Interagency coordination of planning efforts*

| Requirements for material to be provided in an ANNEX to the RCP: identified in 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i)-(ii)A-I and Other Sources | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **REGULATION** | **Regulatory Text** | **Criteria Met?** | **Notes** |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i) | "Area Committees shall incorporate into each ACP a detailed annex containing a Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan that is consistent with the RCP and NCP" | YES | Find legal definition or any existing guidance on contents of a "Sensitive Environments Plan" |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i) | "The annex shall be prepared in consultation with the USFWS and NOAA and other interested natural resource management agencies and parties." | YES | The WPG and SAC were prepared by interagency efforts |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i) | "It shall address fish and wildlife resources and their habitat, and shall include other areas considered sensitive environments in a separate section of the annex, based upon Area Committee recommendations" | YES | Generally met by the Wildlife Protection Guidelines and the current compiled Sensitive Areas C0ompendium. Further review needed to verify content. |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i) | "The annex will provide the necessary information and procedures to immediately and effectively respond to discharges that may adversely affect fish and wildlife and their habitat and sensitive environments" | YES | For example, see WPG sections: 3640.2 – Wildlife Response Strategies 4610.1 – Resources at Risk (RAR) Summary |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i) | "including provisions for a response to a worst case discharge." | Under Review | Area Contingency Plans address WCD, verify additional requirements |
| | | | |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(ii) states "The Annex Shall:" | "(A) Identify and establish priorities for fish and wildlife resources and their habitats and other important sensitive areas requiring protection from any direct or indirect effects from discharges that may occur. " | Under Review | |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(ii) states "The Annex Shall:" | "(B) Provide a mechanism to be used during a spill response for timely identification of protection priorities of those fish and wildlife resources and habitats and sensitive environmental areas that may be threatened or injured by a discharge." | Under Review | |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(ii) states "The Annex Shall:" | "(C) Identify potential environmental effects on fish and wildlife, their habitat, and other sensitive environments resulting from removal actions or countermeasures, including the option of no removal." | Under Review | |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(ii) states "The Annex Shall:" | (F) Identify and plan for the acquisition and utilization of necessary response capabilities for protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife resources and habitat. | Under Review | |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(ii) states "The Annex Shall:" | (G) Identify appropriate federal and state agency contacts and alternates responsible for coordination of fish and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation and protection of sensitive environments; i | Under Review | |
| 40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(ii) states "The Annex Shall:" | (I) Define the requirements for evaluating the compatibility between this annex and non-federal response plans (including those of vessels, facilities, and pipelines) on issues affecting fish and wildlife, their habitat, and sensitive environments. | Under Review | |
| | | | |
| Clean Water Act (CWA), section 311(j)(4) | A description of the area covered by the plan, including areas of special economic or environmental importance that might be damaged by a discharge. | Under Review | Reference from the EPA Area Contingency Planning Handbook V2.0 2018 |
| | | | |

# Plan Relationships



## Regional Contingency Plan

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

## Area Contingency Plan

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


# REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE TASK FORCE

# 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
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC)
- Cook Inlet RCAC
- Alaska Clean Seas
- Crowley Marine
- Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
- Hilcorp Alaska LLC

## Task Force Meeting History

- 12/11/2024
- 04/16/2024
- 2/28/2024
- 1/17/2024
- 9/5/2023
- 7/25/2023
- 6/14/2023
- 4/28/2023
- 2/21/2023
- 1/24/2023
- 12/20/2022
- 11/30/2022
- 11/15/2022
- 9/27/2022
- 8/2/2022

# RSC Task Force

**Deliverables in draft**

- 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

# What’s Happening Now/What’s Next

- Tri-Chair completed review for all deliverables
- Public Review (2025 with the Arctic Western Alaska ACP Public Review)

Contact us:

Alaska Regional Response Team Coordinators

Mary Goolie – EPA
goolie.mary@epa.gov
Angella Gebert – USCG
angella.r.gebert1@uscg.mil
Ytamar Rodriquez– ADEC
Ytamar.rodiquez@alaska.gov


# TRIBAL COMMITTEE TASK FORCE

# Tribal Task Force

Task Force Initiated by ARRT Tri-Chairs March 2023

## Task Force Members

- Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Coast Guard
- Alaska Department Environmental Conservation
- Native Village of Napaimute
- Chickaloon Village Traditional Council
- Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
- Kawerak
- Department of the Interior
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Department of Defense/Navy
- Department of Transportation

## Task Force Meeting History

- 06/12/2024
- 04/16/2024
- 02/13/2024

# Proposed Tasking from the ARRT Tri-Chairs

1. Review Article VIII of ARRT Charter.
2. Review Presidential Memoranda of January 26, 2021 and November 30, 2022.
3. Review current guidance and other relevant law, regs, policies and documentation.
4. Make recommendations re:
    a. Edits to current guidance
    b. Inclusion of DOI guidance re. ANCSA Corporations
    c. Adopting new approaches & technologies for better outcomes
    d. Establishing a permanent ARRT Tribal Affairs committee and identifying committee goals
5. Produce/present report to ARRT full membership.

Contact us:

Alaska Regional Response Team Tribal Task Force Co-Chairs

Mary Goolie – EPA
goolie.mary@epa.gov
CDR Jim McFerran– USCG
james.c.mcferran@uscg.mil

Supporting Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators

ALASKA RRT

# BREAK

Please don’t forget to SIGN IN

# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS


## Alaska Regional Response Team


# ARCTIC AND WESTERN ALASKA AREA COMMITTEE

# Area Committee Update

## Notable initiatives:

- Geographic Response Strategy Progress
  - 30-31 January - USCG/ADEC conducted Validation/app training.
  - 8 April - OGA/Industry training.
  - Commenced initial planning for summer GRS validations. Tentative locations include:
    - Aleutians
    - Western Cook Inlet
    - NW Arctic
    - Kachemak Bay
    - Gulf of Alaska

# Area Contingency Plan Update

- Completed initial AWA plan revision; adjudicating public comments.
  - Integrated BSEE Offshore Coastal Zone Area Contingency Worst Case Discharge project. Incorporated as a link into the next ACP update.
  - Reinvigorated Intentional Wellhead Ignition workgroup.
  - **Anticipate the final plan released in June 2025**

# Case Summary – M/V PAN VIVA

- On 11 October 2024, M/V PAN VIVA (Panamanian Flagged Bulk Carrier) was beset by severe weather located 30 NM north of Unalaska during transit from China to Oregon.

- The vessel was not laden with cargo and reported being unable to maintain course/speed.

- For approximately 48 hours, the vessel drifted and dragged anchor to within 1 nm of Unalaska Island.

- An IMT was stood up with the RP, federal, and state to pre-position response resources and monitor for a potential incident.

- On 14 October 2024, M/V PAN VIVA departed without incident using a tug escort.

# Case Summary - F/V CUTWATER

- On 04 January 2025, the Coast Guard received a report that the F/V CUTWATER (45 ft, USA) was sunk in Adak, AK.
- While initially proactive, the RP lacked the ability to complete the response.
- On 28 January 2025, the CG assumed responsibility for the case and hired Global Diving to salvage the vessel.
- Contrary to RP claim that the vessel was empty, the contractors successfully recovered 450+ gallons of petroleum products, case closed.
- The team successfully live streamed response footage via UAS to Anchorage IMT.

# Special Announcements

- Fall/Winter Highlights:
  - 23-27 September 24: Conducted a joint exercise, boom deployment, & ICS training at the Red Dog Mine.
  - 07-09 January 25: Conducted community ICS training in Unalaska with state, local, and tribal partners.
  - 09 January 25 – Statewide Planning Committee presented at the Arctic Marine Group LLC Port Summit.
- Upcoming Exercises/Engagements:
  - 08-12 June – PREP GRS with Field Deployment (Nome)
  - Industry schedule pending updates for Spring/Summer

**Next Area Committee Meeting: May 7th 2025 UAA Gorsuch Commons**

# Area Committee Requests for Alaska RRT Support

AWA requests support:

- To draft an ESA consultation programmatic review.
- To identify a location to host Priority Protection Site GIS data.
- To develop a job aid for UAS protocols and delineate processes for wildlife, exercise, and response.

# Area Committee Contacts

ADEC Area Planning website:

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

Contact us:

Julie Liford-Parker

Julie.Parker@alaska.gov

CDR JoEllen Arons

Joellen.m.arons@uscg.mil

Gina Winters

Gina.m.winters@uscg.mil


# PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA COMMITTEE

# PWS Area Committee

Report to Alaska Regional Response Team

March 05, 2025


Andrew Watland Andrew.M.Watland2@uscg.mil

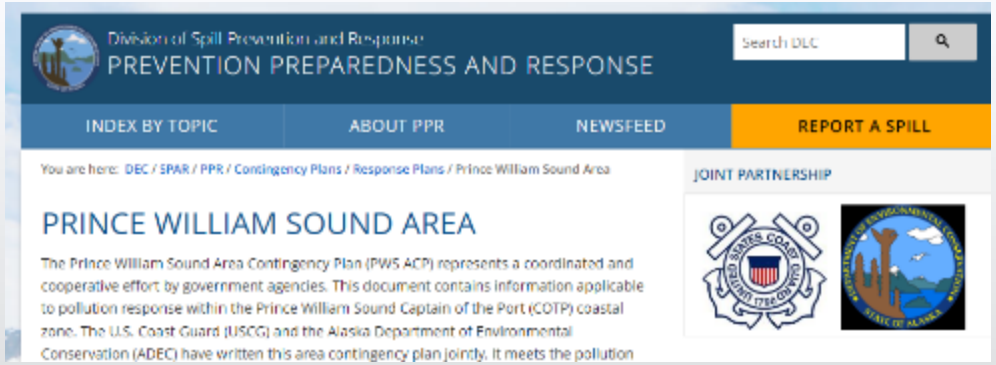
Julie Liford-Parker Julie.Parker@alaska.gov

# Area Committee Update

Notable initiatives within the Prince William Sound Area Committee:

- Last PWS Area Steering Committee Meeting: Valdez AK, Jan 28, 2025
- Last Area committee Meeting: Cordova AK, October 8th, 2024
- Next Area Committee Meeting: Valdez AK, April 10, 2025
- Copper River Delta GRS Development Project, February 18,2025
- Upcoming exercise dates: PWS Shippers EX, Polar Tankers/ConocoPhillips May 13-15th 2025 in Valdez AK @ Civic Center

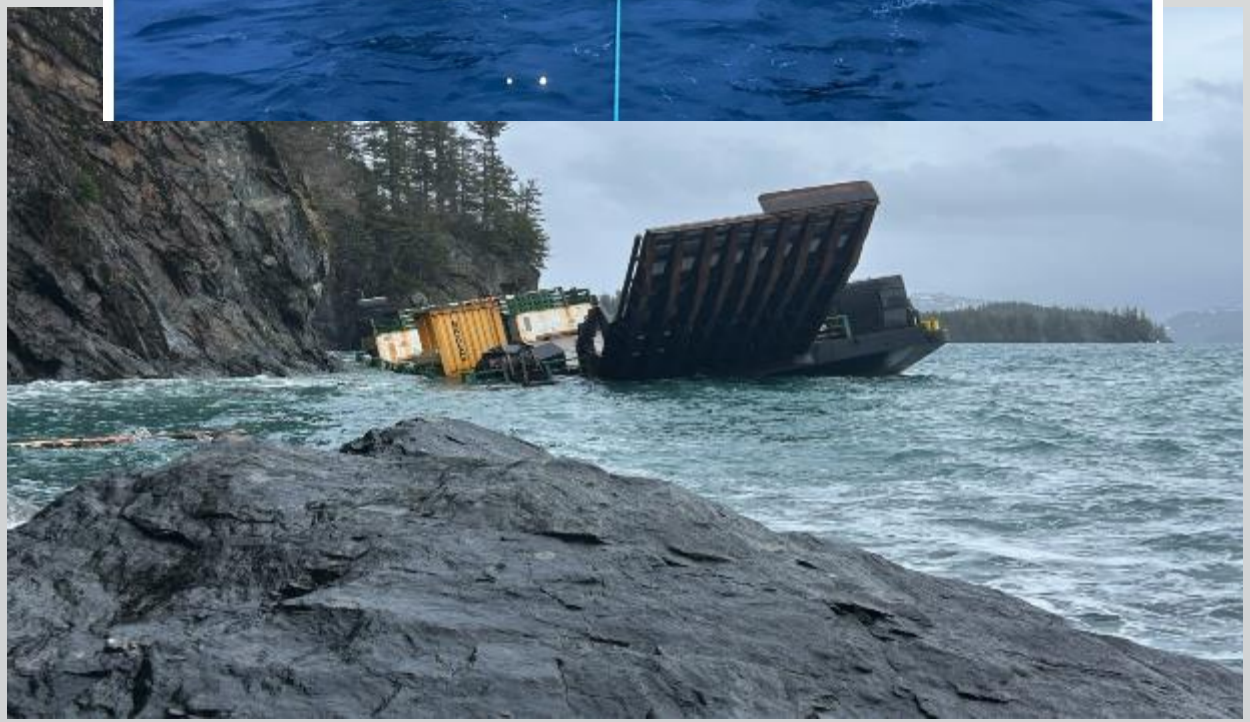
# Area Contingency Plan Update




- Current Version (October 2020.1, current version approved 2022, on website)
- Plan updates:
  - “Furniture move” in progress:
    - All text remains unchanged, only copied and pasted to reflect architecture updates
  - “Red line copy” after “furniture move” is completed:
    - New references and links to updated information
    - Update contacts, addresses, phone numbers, OSROs etc.
  - Public Comment period estimated in April-May 2025

# Case Summary/ Enforcement

- January 11th, CORDOVA PROVIDER ran aground onto Axel Lind Island.
- 900 gal of diesel and 100 gal of hydraulic oil was removed on Jan 20th.
- Est. value is 2.9 million. This was a Major Marine Casualty. NTSB and CG-INV and are investigating.
- Salvage plan including a scuttle location was coordinated with Federal and State partners.



# Special Announcements

Copper River Delta GRS Project has begun.

- PWSRCAC project, Jeremy Robida is project manager.
- NUKA Research & Planning, LLC is contractor.  Nuka has much prior GRS experience in PWS and AK.
- Goal is to identify and develop 10 GRS sites in the Copper River Delta vicinity.
- Workgroup process with local community, industry and government.
  - February 18-first workgroup meeting.

# Area Committee Requests for Alaska RRT Support

- Continued support for GRS/GIS projects

# Area Committee Contacts

ADEC Area Planning website:

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

Contact us:

Sarah.K.Rousseau@uscg.mil

Anna.Carey@alaska.gov

Andrew.M.Watland2@uscg.mil

Julie.Parker@alaska.gov


# SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA COMMITTEE

# Southeast Alaska Area Committee

Report to Alaska Regional Response Team

5 March 2025

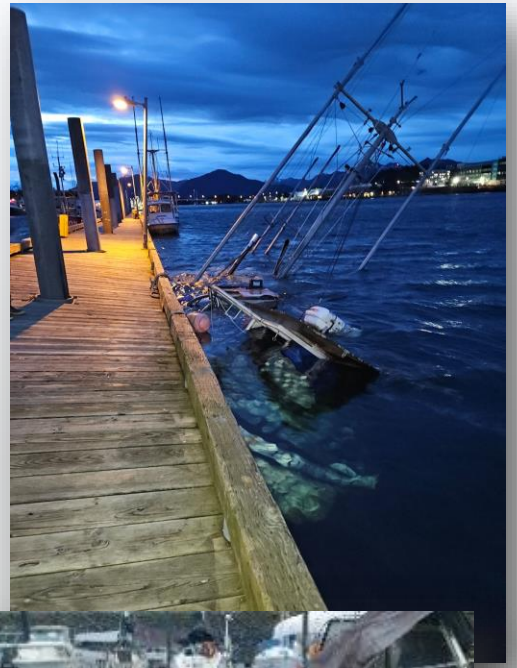
Rachael Krajewski, ADEC

LT Matt Naylor, USCG

# Area Committee Update

Notable initiatives within the SEAK Area Committee:

- Continue to conduct annual GRS validations
  - Next GRS validation/drill in planning stages; planning for exercising Berg Bay GRS, April 2025 in Glacier Bay National Park
- Monitor status of GRS to GIS conversions across Alaska; offer support to AWA as needed
- Continue to host and participate in incident exercises with partners
  - CG-IMAT exercise: Jan 2025
- Updating SEAK ACP IAW new Coastal Zone ACP Architecture
  - No significant updates to report
- Next AC Meeting: Sitka, May 2025 (tentative)



# Case Summary: F/V TROIKA “NEAR MISS”

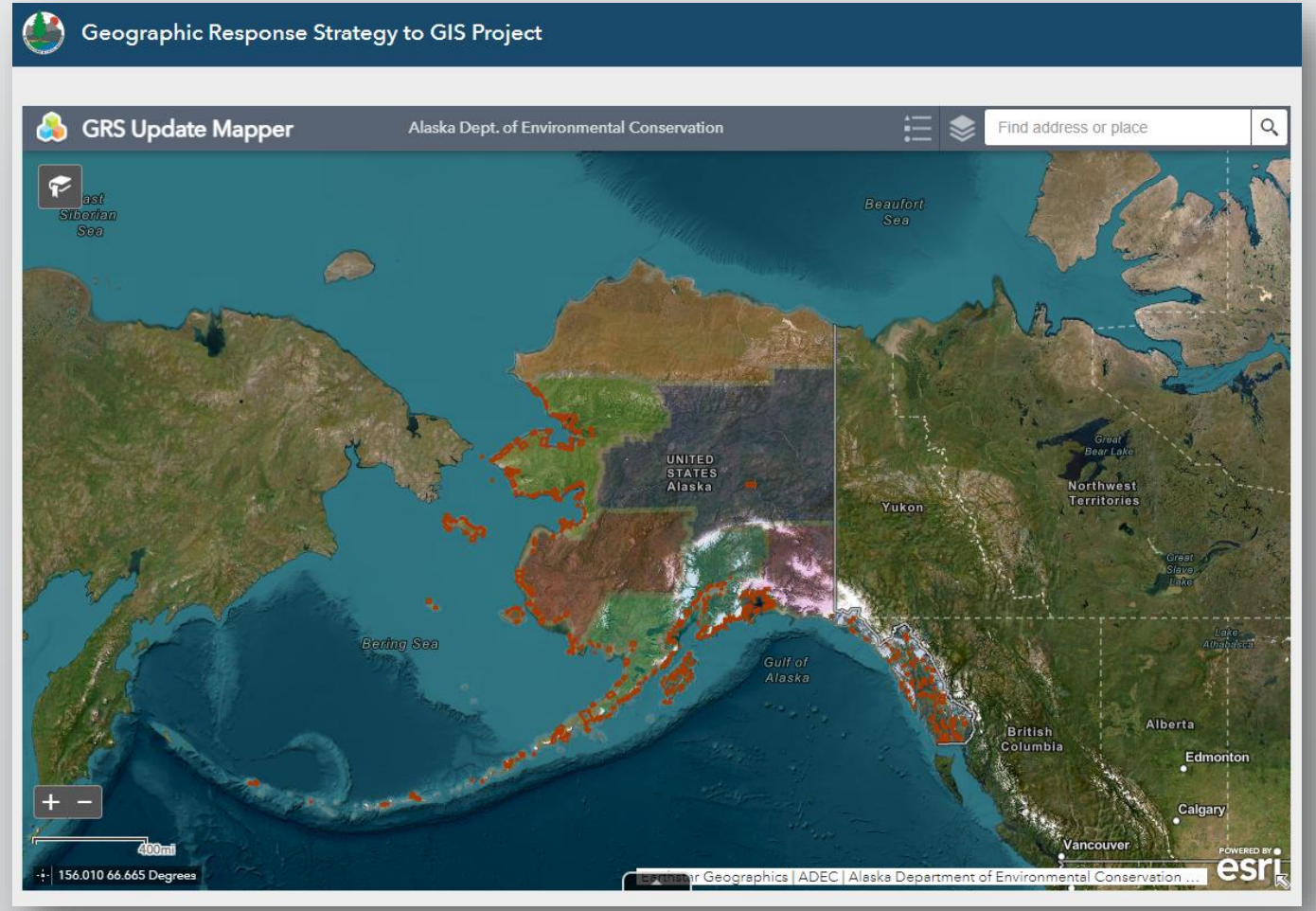
- On 9 January 2025, USCG & ADEC were notified of an unmanned 58-ft seiner, F/V TROIKA, that had broken free of its moorings in Metlakatla (approx. 15 miles SE of Ketchikan)
- Entire SEAK region experiencing high winds (40+ kts) and choppy seas (~8+ ft) at the time
- Vsl contained approx. 500 gal of diesel fuel and 50 gal of other oil products onboard
- Vsl floated freely for some time before grounding at Driest Point on Annette Island, approx. 3 mi N of Metlakatla
- Vsl sustained hull damage via 8 inch crack on port quarter; did not affect fuel tanks
- Response focused on retrieving vsl and patching hull breach
- Through dedicated efforts of vsl owner and local harbomaster/FD/volunteers, vsl was safely recovered, patched, and transported back to Metlakatla
- Highlight of response was effective comms among all parties involved and rapid collaboration to successfully retrieve vsl prior to any actual discharge of oil products

# CG-IMAT WORKSHOP
# January 2025 - JUNEAU, AK

- Hosted by USCG Sector SEAK and USCG Incident Management Assist Team (IMAT)
- 30+ participants from ADEC, USCG, Tlingit & Haida, and City & Borough of Juneau
- Included full ICS refresher and hands-on training
- Training scenario involved loss of propulsion and grounding of tug & barge carrying oil products IVO Ketchikan
- All participants participated in a simulated IMT and produced an IAP
- Workshop included multiple injects from coaches, simulated press briefings, and exercised all parts of the ICS Operational Planning Cycle

# Area Committee Requests for Alaska RRT Support

- Continued support for transition of GRS products to GIS format; SEAK AC is standing by to help as needed
- USCG Sector SEAK in process of hiring replacement Emergency Management Specialist; new hire's role will be to assist with review and updates for SEAK ACP



# Area Committee Contact

ADEC Area Planning website:

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

Area Secretary:

LT Lindsay Wheeler, USCG

lindsay.m.wheeler@uscg.mil

ADEC SOSC:

Rachael Krajewski

rachael.krajewski@alaska.gov

ADEC State Planner:

Julie Liford-Parker

julie.parker@alaska.gov

January 2025: Response to sunken vsl SEAS THE DAY, Juneau, AK


# ALASKA INLAND AREA COMMITTEE

# Alaska Inland Area Committee Update


**Working Groups Sponsored by AK Inland Area Committee**

- **Administrative:** Completed public comment. 2025 Plan will be published this spring.
- **In Situ Burning: Task Completed.** Checklist is incorporated into 2025 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 2025.1 signed Spring 2025**

**2025 Tasks:** Proposed September Area Committee/ Admin Subcommittee meeting

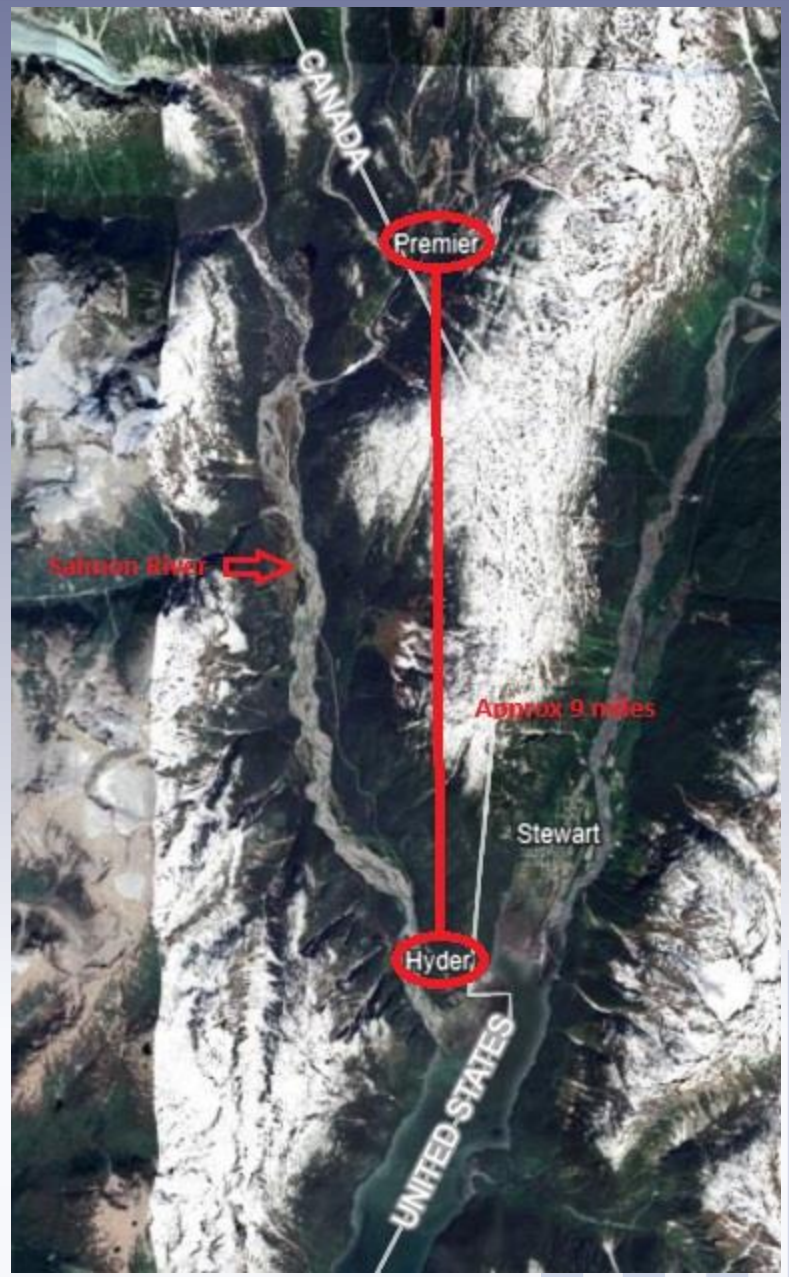
**Focus of Modifications:**

- Incorporate applicable changes made in AWA and PWS ACPs
- Incorporate products of ISB Working Group

*Contact Mary Goolie and Julie Liford-Parker with proposed plan modifications or to be on the AK Inland Admin Subcommittee*

# Salmon River

- NRC report on November 4, 2024
- USGS water sensor in Hyder, AK showing readings above pH 11.
- Concern of potential release from upriver mines, in BC
- Coordination with :
  - ARRT Tri-Chairs
  - Federal, Tribal, and State Partners
  - Industry partners
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - Hyder Community Council
- November 11 USCG traveled top site and confirmed readings were due to a faulty sensor and that no spill had occurred.



# Red Dog Truck Rollovers

Truck Rollovers along the DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) Road, a private 52-mile access road between the Red Dog Mine and the Port on the Chukchi Sea

4 truck rollovers over the last two winters releasing Zn, Pb, and Cd mining concentrate to the tundra

- MP 31.4 (Jan ’25)
- MP2.5 (Nov ’24)
- MP 29 (Feb ’24)
- MP 14.5 (Oct ’23)

Multiple landowners along the road (NANA, NPS, and ADNR) and National Historic Landmark designation

Other stakeholders include Teck, ADF&G, DOI, USFWS, and the Red Dog Subsistence Advisory Group

# Special Announcements


- Initiating AK Inland Workgroup for UAS Job Aid using AWA UAS Protocol already in place
- Proposing Capacity Building Outreach and Training- Coordinated by EPA, ADEC
  - EPA hosted HAZCAT Training in January 2025
  - Proposed HAZCAT and Radiation Sessions for HAZMAT Workgroup in Fairbanks Fall 2025
- Planned work at Nabesna and Utica Mine in 2025
- Future focus discussions on:
  - Lithium-ion batteries
  - Trucking incidents
  - Remote camp spill prevention
- Upcoming exercises:
  - Eielson AFB March 17-21, 2025
  - Alyeska Pipeline August 2025
  - Mutual Aid Drill December 2025
  - Hilcorp Tabletop Drill June 4, 2025


# Area Committee Requests Alaska RRT Support

- Support/ideas/resources for Village Compliance Assessment.
  - Tank Farm Facilities
  - Response equipment
  - Trained personnel (i.e. HAZWOPER training)
- Increased concerns of aging underground home heating oil tanks
- School District Outreach
- Continue the conversation on logistical support from ARRT member agencies

# Area Committee Contacts

ADEC Area Planning website:
http://alaska.gov/go/7EKN

Contact us:
huelskoetter.torri@epa.gov
whittier.robert@epa.gov
anna.carey@alaska.gov
rachael.krajewski@alaska.gov
kimberley.maher@alaska.gov
bernie.nowicki@alaska.gov

# AREA COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Prince William Sound** | Continued support for GRS/GIS project |
| **Alaska Inland** | Support/ideas/resources for Village Compliance Assessment<br>• Tank Farm Facilities<br>• Response equipment<br>• Trained personnel (i.e. HAZWOPER training) |
| | Increased concerns of aging underground home heating oil tanks |
| | School District Outreach |
| | Continue the conversation on logistical support from ARRT member agencies |
| **Arctic and Western Alaska** | To draft an ESA consultation programmatic review |
| | To identify a location to host Priority Protection Site GIS data |
| | To develop a job aid for UAS protocols and delineate processes for wildlife, exercise, and response |
| **Southeast Alaska** | Continued support for transition of GRS products to GIS format; SEAK AC is standing by to help as needed |
| | USCG Sector SEAK in process of hiring replacement Emergency Management Specialist; new hire's role will be to assist with review and updates for SEAK ACP |

Supporting Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators

ALASKA RRT

# LUNCH

## Meeting will restart at 1:00 PM (Alaska time)

- If you want to offer a public comment, sign up in “Chat” or the sign up sheet located in the room
- Must sign up by the end of this lunch break.

Please
SIGN IN

# WELCOME BACK

# Meeting Sign-In

www.AlaskaRRT.org

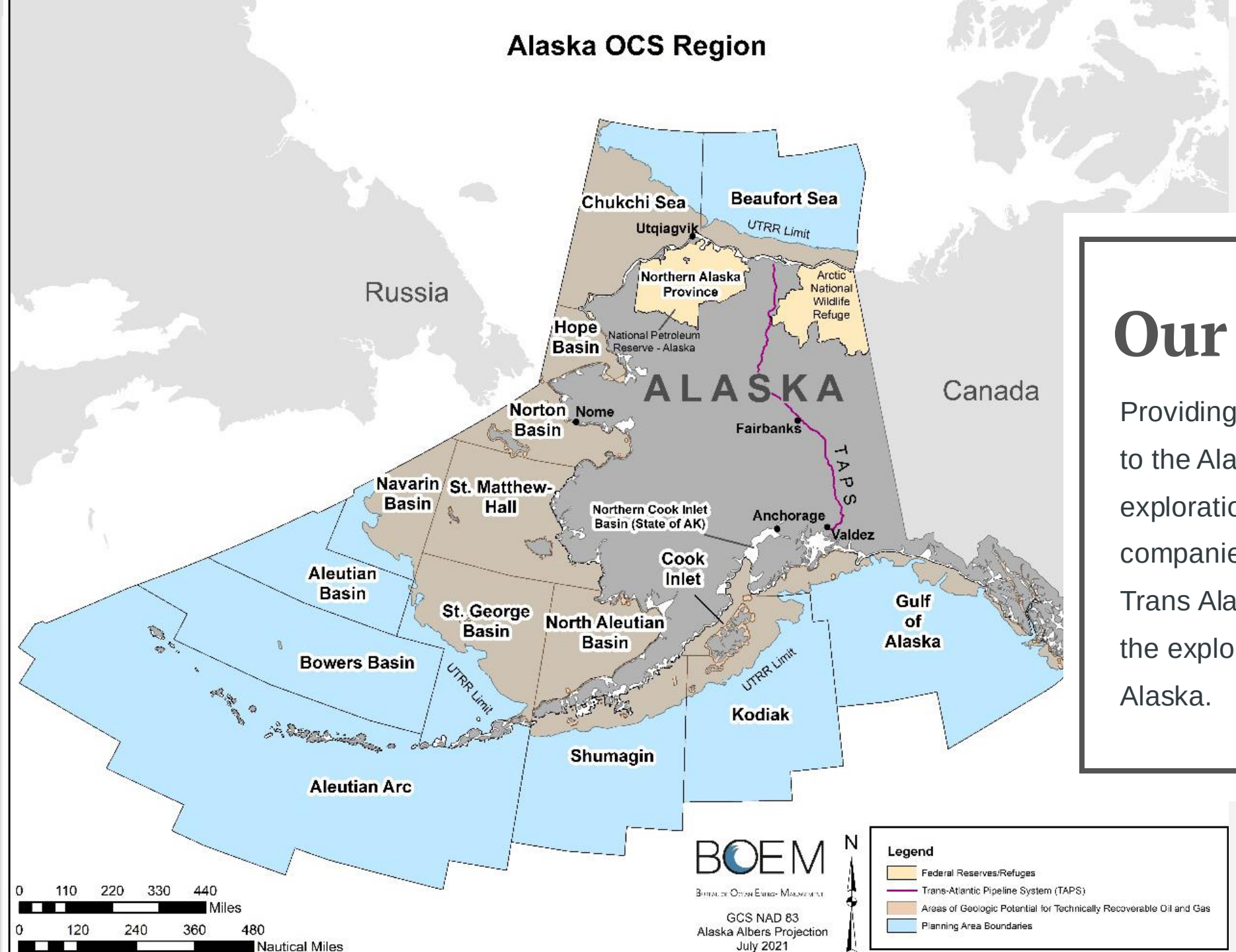
# AFTERNOON AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| 1:00 | Alaskan Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) (30 Minutes) |
| 1:30 | Environmental Protection Agency Consequence Management Advisory Team (30 Minutes) |
| | 2:00 - 2:15 BREAK |
| 2:15 | United States Forest Service: Alaska Resources (30 Minutes) |
| 2:45 | NOAA Essential Fish Habitat Training (45 Minutes) |


# ALASKAN OIL SPILL RESPONSE ORGANIZATIONS (OSROs)

# Alaska Clean Seas

## Overview




# Our Mission

Providing oil spill response services to the Alaska North Slope crude oil exploration and production companies, the first 25 miles of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and the exploration areas of the OCS of Alaska.


# Our Membership & Resources

ACS currently has nine oil and gas companies engaged in exploration and production as members, operating across the North Slope. In support of these operations, ACS personnel and response resources are strategically positioned throughout the member lease areas.

# Partnerships

- / USCG
- / USF&WS
- / ADEC
- / BLM
- / CRREL
- / NOAA
- / OSHA
- / USNA
- / BSEE
- / ADF&G
- / DOD
- / EPA
- / NSB

# Response Tiers


## Tier One

*Small*

Small, routine, short duration spill responses with locally available personnel and equipment.


## Tier Two

*Medium*

Medium to large spill responses managed with an IMT, ACS, Mutual Aid with NSSRT, and in-region resources from the ACRT.


## Tier Three

*Large*

Large, long-duration, complex responses with an IMT in Unified Command or Area Command and Out-of-region resource requirements.

# Response Teams

## ACS

**83 full-time staff (plus additional contractors), nearly all of whom are available for response operations.**

## NSSRT

115 qualified responders are available every day through member companies and ACS as part of the North Slope Spill Response Team (NSSRT).

## ACRT

Additional 275+ fully trained personnel are available from Auxiliary Contract Response Teams (ACRT)

# Response Equipment

**320000’**
Boom

**93**
Vessels

**229**
Skimmers

**2579**
PMs

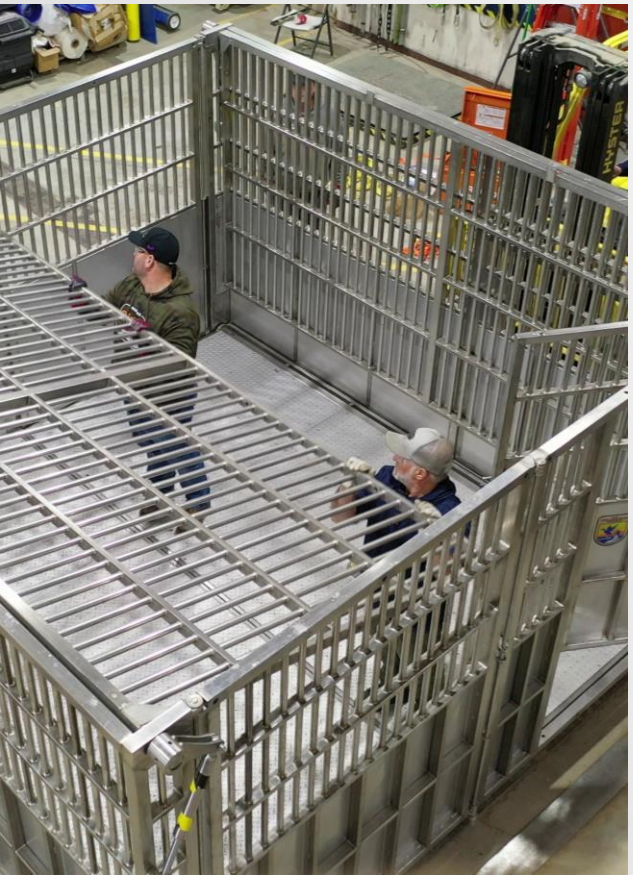

# Technical Manual

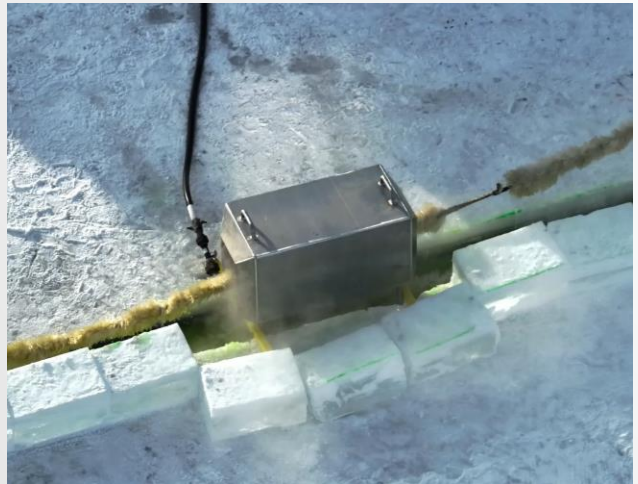
**Collaborative effort of industry, agency and OSRO personnel**

- Identifies Priority Sites, sensitive areas and specifies tactics and operational procedures.
- Used in tandem with other guides.
- Updated annually.

## Available

*www.alaskacleanseas.org*





## R&D

ACS supports external R&D and maintains an internal Tactics and Equipment Development committee.

## Wildlife

ACS works with many partners to support wildlife research programs and inter-agency training.

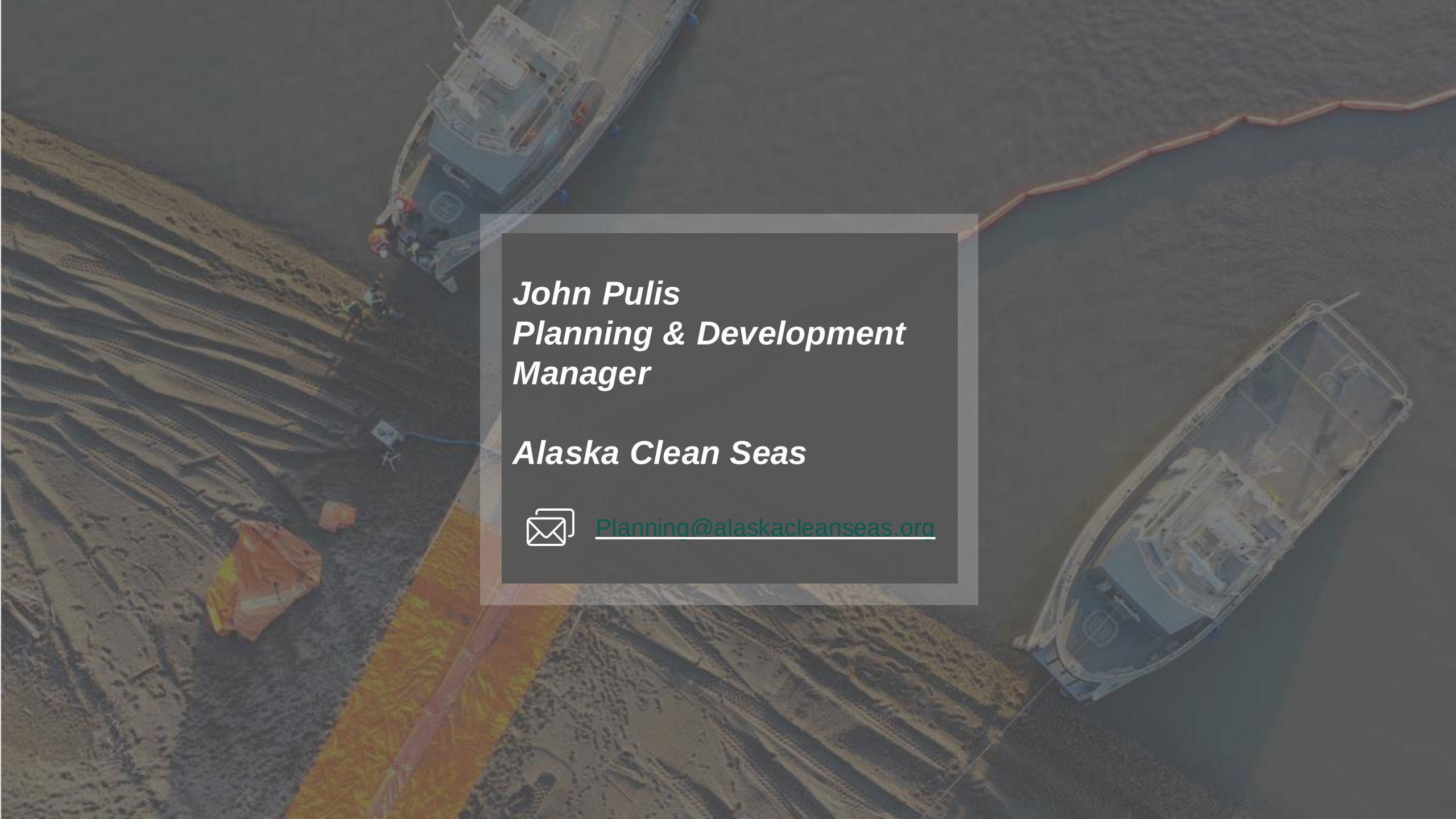
## Unmanned Systems

ACS maintains an unmanned program that supports training, prevention, responses, and livestreaming.

# Pathways to Success

**These key actions are critical to the success of ACS's mission.**

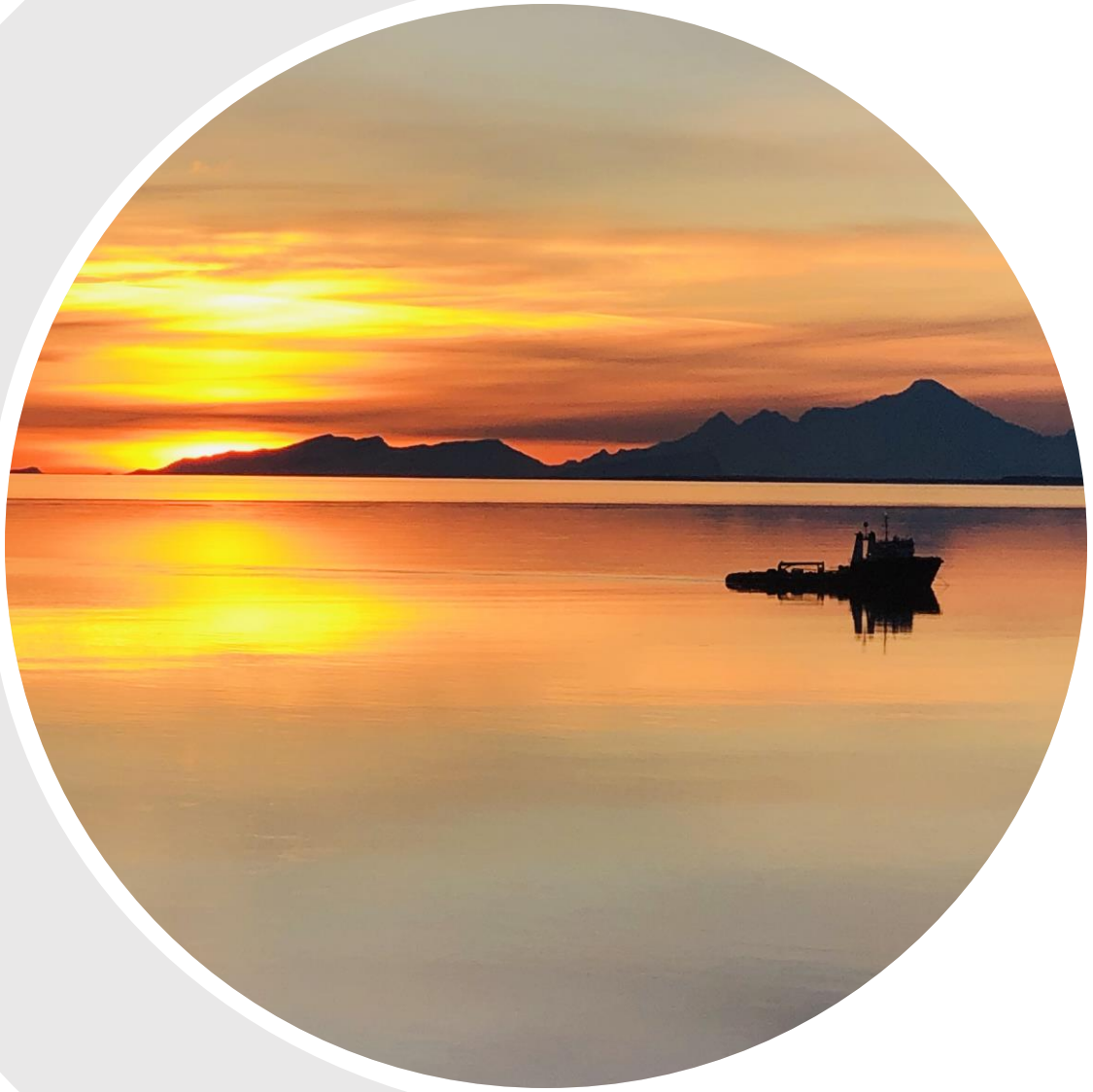
- Must maintain Safety as a high priority
- Maintain high level of readiness
- Continue to conduct realistic, demanding training and drills
- Coordinate the efforts and resources of a variety of organizations to ensure success
- Continue to explore innovative techniques and applications of existing tactics and equipment to the Arctic environment



***John Pulis***
***Planning & Development Manager***

***Alaska Clean Seas***

Planning@alaskacleanseas.org



# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM UPDATE

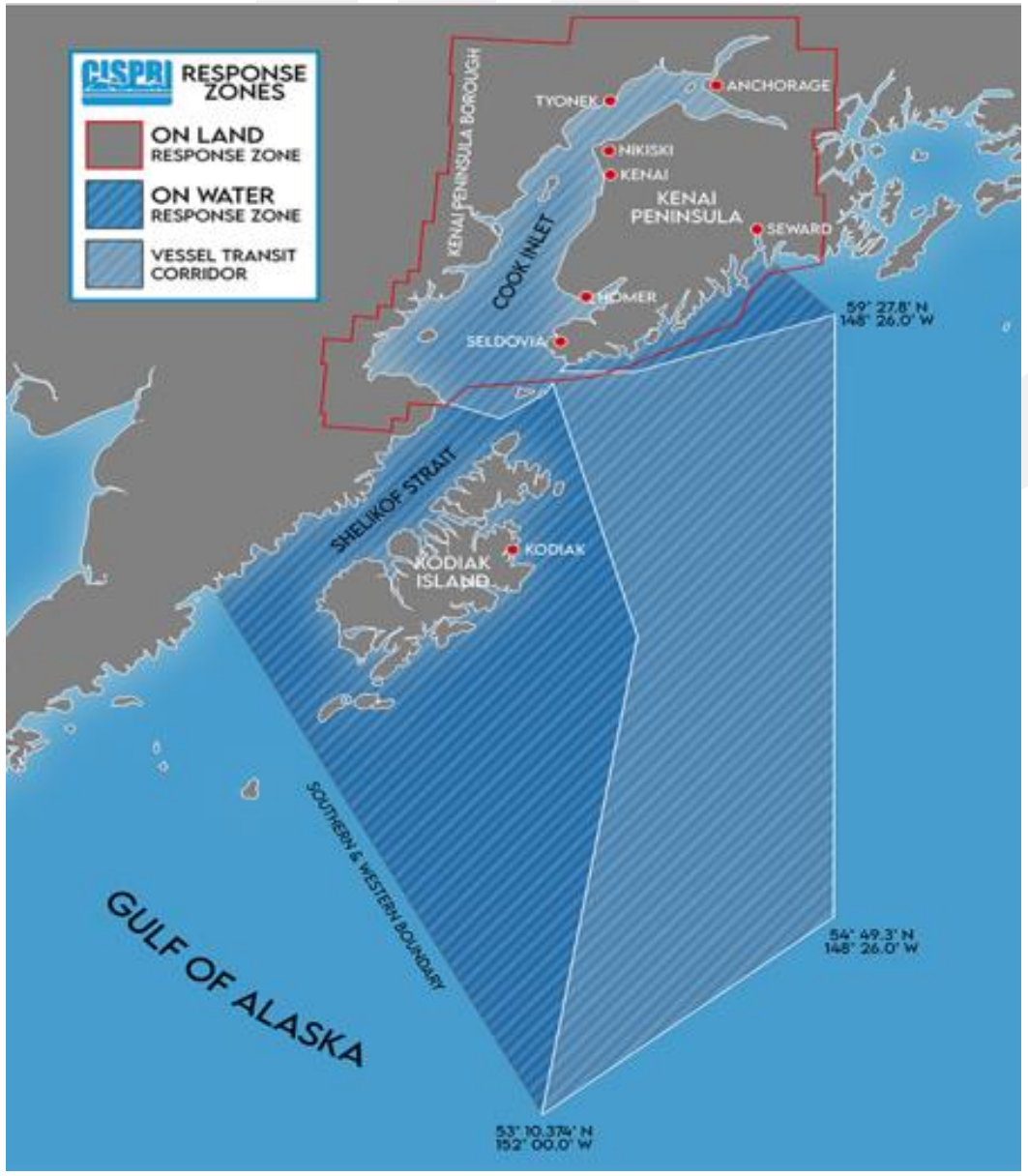
5 MARCH, 2025

# MISSION STATEMENT

The CISPRI Team will provide our Member companies with the most professional, cost-effective contingency plan assistance and spill removal possible. CISPRI personnel will continuously strive toward quality improvements to satisfy evolving expectations and requirements of our Member companies, governmental agencies and the general public.

# CISPRI Response Zone

- OSRO coverage for South Central Alaska
- Expanded coverage zone



# CONTRACT FISHING VESSEL PROGRAM

# CONTRACT FISHING VESSEL FLEET

- 70 vessels
- Primary and Secondary fleet
- CISPRI provides insurance for these vessels when deployed
- Critical to our response success

**OVERVIEW**

CISPRI is an Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) that meets National Planning Criteria (NPC) within the CISPRI Response Zone, which includes all Cook Inlet waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone approach to Cook Inlet, extending to 200 miles offshore. CISPRI submitted their first letter to the Western Alaska Captain of the Port in late 2018, explaining that CISPRI met National Planning Criteria (NPC) within the CISPRI Cook Inlet Response Zone. That's a large claim to make considering the massive amount of response equipment and vessels to meet NPC, and CISPRI's Membership has over the years directly funded the multi-an expenditures to meet the most stringent NPC. It's understood in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that if an OSRO meets NPC within a specific geographic area, then the lesser Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) is not supposed to be approved within the NPC-achieved zone. Despite this, the USCG continues to allow vessels covered under APCs to do business within Cook Inlet, which directly undermines CISPRI's Members with allowing a lesser planning standard being allowed to operate within the same geographic area as an NPC-providing OSRO.

In 2023, a congressional lobbying effort was put forth by one of the APC-administrator networks to rethink how to best administer to Western Alaska (WAK) in terms of oil spill planning standards. This effort was undertaken initially with no solicitation or input from other Alaska-based OSRO's, and the intent was to move forward without any other outside input. CISPRI did learn of this undertaking during the final stages of the congressional planning effort and was successful in having Cook Inlet "carved out" of the much larger WAK geographic area.

CISPRI and its Members have invested millions of dollars in equipment purchase, continued maintenance and personnel training to ensure operational readiness and Member compliance with both State and Federal law.

**ISSUES AT HAND**

The proposed WAK planning standard area is massive, as it includes Cook Inlet, the Alaska Peninsula including the Aleutian Islands, the Bering Sea (US side), the west coast of Alaska and the northern coast of Alaska. It is CISPRI's position that trying to develop a "one size fits all" planning standard to the massive WAK area will not likely yield positive results and we'd have a much better outcome with establishing some smaller sub-regions within the WAK area.

The Cook Inlet region is very active in oil and gas production development and tank vessel traffic carrying persistent oil products into the Port of Alaska has increased significantly within the last ten years. Cook Inlet is also a very complex operating and response environment that requires a lot of vessels, response equipment and properly trained staff to meet the NPC requirements.

The USCG is charged with the enforcement of the CFR but despite numerous discussions and presentation of the clear conflict between the CFR and current practice, the APCs continues to be allowed to operate unfettered within the Cook Inlet.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- CISPRI respectfully requests that the Alaska Congressional Delegation strongly encourage the USCG to enforce the relevant CFR found in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 155 Subpart D and no longer allow any APC-covered vessels from operating in the Cook Inlet.
- CISPRI recommends that the establishment of smaller subregions within the WAK would allow focused attention to the nuances and challenges of the smaller subregions, and the USCG should avoid trying to apply a broadbrush "one size fits all" solution. Some examples of smaller subregions within the WAK could be Cook Inlet and the Aleutian Islands. Both areas include the most vessel traffic within the WAK and have specific challenges and nuances specific to their particular geographic area and waterways.
- CISPRI's position includes that by allowing APC-covered vessels into Cook Inlet, this further undermines CISPRI's Membership and provides an unfair economic advantage to vessel operators that do not have to bear the expense of CISPRI Membership.

- CISPRI's position includes that both the APD&T Agreement and other APC's have their place given that much of Western Alaska does not have any or only limited OSRO services. Cook Inlet, given the population density, the unpredictable and challenging waterway that is Cook Inlet, the environmentally sensitive areas within Cook Inlet and the fact that CISPRI does meet NPC within Cook Inlet should exclude Cook Inlet from the WAK planning standard.
- CISPRI provides several classes of Membership to address various levels of Member risk and to ensure a fair and equitable system is in place to help share the expenses associated with operating CISPRI at its current high level.

# THANK YOU


# Environmental Protection Agency Consequence Management Advisory Team

# EPA Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Consequence Management Advisory Team (CMAT)

Alaska Regional Response Team meeting
March 5, 2025

# Presentation Overview

- EPA CBRN Response “Network”
- EPA CBRN CMAT Background and Mission
- EPA CBRN Subject Matter Experts
  - Subject Matter Expertise
  - Training, Exercises, Field Studies
  - National Security Strategies – Knowledge Products
  - National Workgroups
- EPA CBRN Field and Assets
  - PHILIS Mobile Laboratories
  - ASPECT Aerial Detection
  - Environmental Response Laboratory Network
- Collaboration
- CMAT Contact Information

## Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)

Responsible for monitoring or directing responses to all oil spills and hazardous substance releases reported to the federal government. OSCs coordinate all federal efforts with, and provides support and information to, local, state and regional response communities.

Geographic Regions

Region 1 – Boston
Region 2 – New York City
Region 3 – Philadelphia
Region 4 – Atlanta
Region 5 – Chicago
Region 6 – Dallas
Region 7 – Kansas City
Region 8 – Denver
Region 9 – San Francisco
Region 10 – Seattle

## Special Teams

Environmental Response Team (ERT)
**All-hazard response*

Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)
**Radiological and nuclear*

**CBRN Consequence Management Advisory Team (CMAT)**
****All-hazard, focus on CBRN***

National Enforcement Team (NCERT)
**Federal law enforcement for environmental crimes*

## Office of Research and Development (ORD)

### Offices & Research Centers

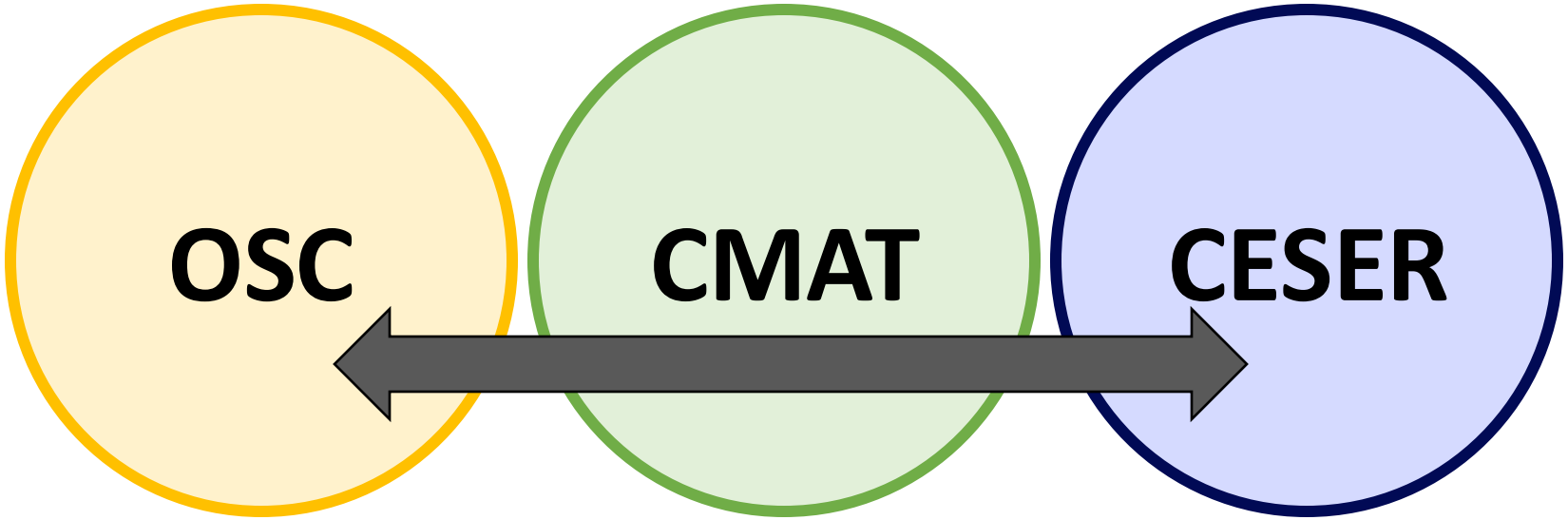
- Office of Resource Management (ORM)
- Office of Science Advisory, Policy, and Engagement (OSAPE)
- Office of Science and Information Management (OSIM)
- Center for Computational Toxicology and Exposure (CCTE)
- Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling (CEMM)
- ***Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response (CESER)***
- Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA)

### Research Programs

- Air, climate, and Energy
- Chemical Safety for Sustainability
- Health and Environmental Risk Assessment
- ***Homeland Security and Emergency Response***
- Safe and Sustainable Water Resources
- Sustainable and Healthy Communities

# CBRN RESPONSE NETWORK

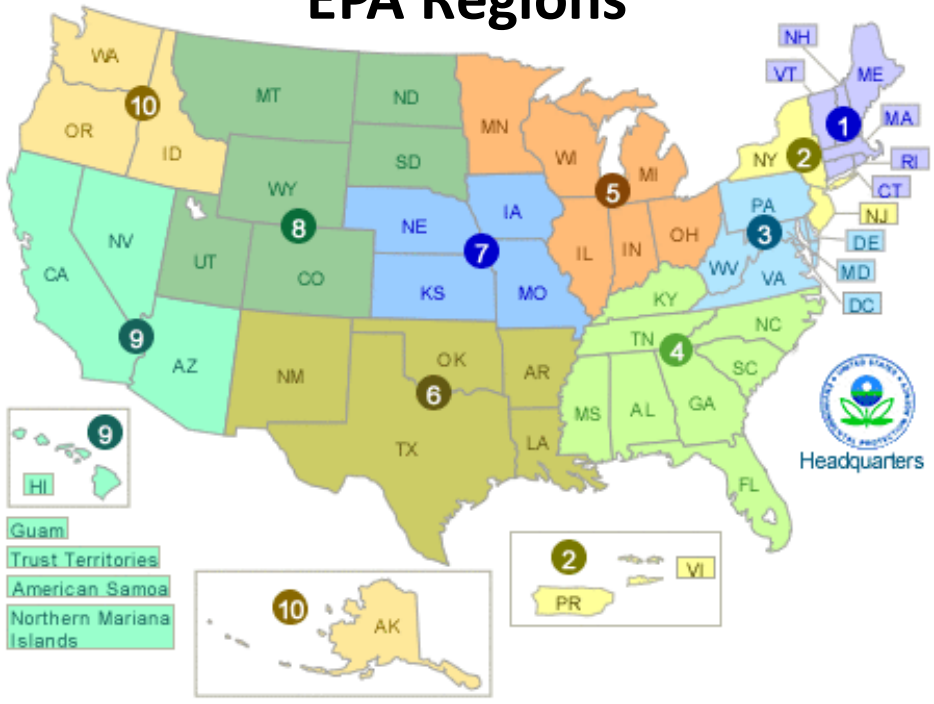
- Federal OSCs use the subject matter expertise from CMAT and CESER to facilitate their CBRN responses.
- CMAT is often used to translate the science from CESER into operational and tactical guidance.
- CMAT may serve as the Scientific Support Coordinator and Environmental Unit Leader (or Assistant Environmental Unit Leader) for chemical, biological, or pharmaceutical threat agent incident.
    - Neither CMAT nor CESER will serve as Incident Commanders or Operations Section Chiefs during a response.



# CMAT Background

- CMAT is an EPA Special Team that provides unique, specialized expertise in support of the 10 EPA Regions.
- CMAT is EPA's response capability for civil CBRN national security incidents that occur domestically.

**EPA Regions**



# CMAT Mission

**Provide 24/7/365 support during the consequence management phase of CBRN incidents, including characterization of contaminants, decontamination, clearance/re-occupancy guidance, and waste management.**

- *Science-based technical assistance and advice, as well as personnel.*
- *Provide assets and response capabilities.*

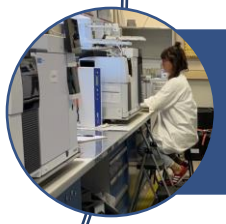
## CBRN Focused But All-Hazard Capable

- Surge capacity support to Regions for non-CBRN incidents.
- Allow specialized staff to “exercise” emergency response procedures.

# CMAT Capabilities

**Subject Matter Experts** (SMEs) – CBRN SMEs provide on-site support during a response, conduct large scale exercises, and develop response guidance, training, and best-practices

**Portable High-Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System** (PHILIS) – suite of mobile laboratories with highly sensitive confirmatory analytical capabilities for chemical agents (traditional, fourth generation, pharmaceutical-based)



**Environmental Response Laboratory Network** (ERLN) – network of 140 public and private laboratories with CBRN capabilities; member of the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN)

**Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology** (ASPECT) – near real-time chemical, radiological, and photographic data collection from a fixed wing aircraft

# EPA CBRN Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

# CMAT Subject Matter Expertise

- Expertise: Sampling and monitoring, decontamination, toxicological and risk assessment support, data management, and waste transportation/disposal.
- Develop National Security Strategies (guidelines, SOPs, best practices) and response trainings.
- Provide on-site support during emergency responses.

# Training

**CMAT SMEs have been training OSCs and other Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (FSLTT) response partners for almost two decades.**

- **Chemical Warfare Agent (CWA) In-Person Training**
  Taught CWA operational tactics to all 10 regions and FSLTT partners.
- **National BioDefense Strategy Biological Incident Response Training**
  Taught Regional OSCs how to conduct a biological agent response. Region 6 was the first region in FY24, and Regions 9, 2, and 1 will take place in FY25.
- **OSC Readiness CBR Training**
  Developed and taught 4-6 courses per year at the annual OSC Readiness.
  - Bio Response; CWA Response; Toxicology and Risk Assessment; Meteorology for OSCs

# Full-Scale Exercises / Field Studies

CMAT (building upon EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD)'s bench-scale research) has designed and participated in field studies to advance response to chemical and biological threat agents.

# Field Study Examples

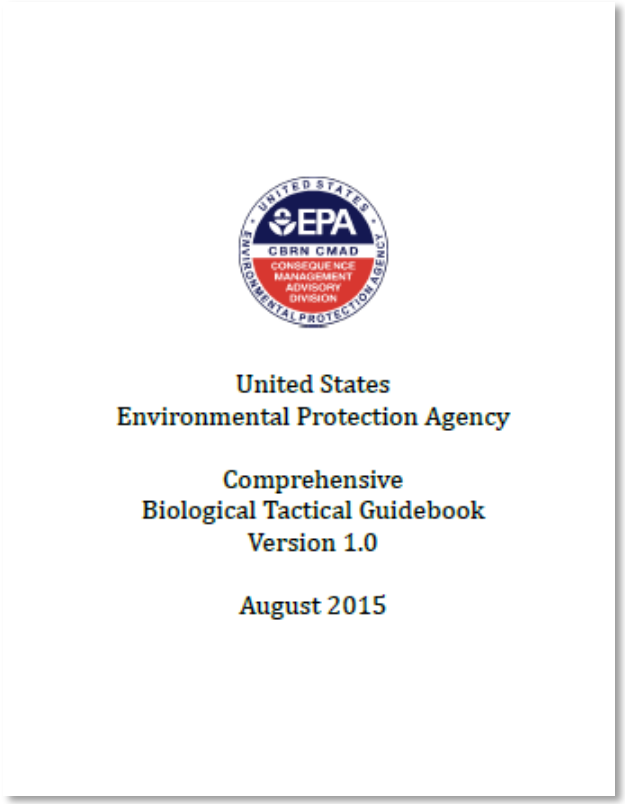
## Collaboration within EPA and with other federal agencies to conduct large scale research-based and training-based field exercises

- **Analysis for Coastal Operational Resiliency (AnCOR): 2019-2025**
  - Develop capabilities and strategic guidelines to prepare for a wide-area release of a biological threat agent.
  - Test research-based decontamination methods at the field scale, demonstrate remediation of marine assets – rapid return to service, minimal damage to vessel.
- **Operational Testing and Evaluation of Chemical Remediation Activities (OTECRA): 2022-2023**
  - Assess CWA remediation methods and technologies developed at the bench- and pilot-scale to be implemented in a full-scale response.
  - Develop operational and tactical response guidance.

# National Security Strategies – Knowledge Products

**CMAT develops documents (guidelines, SOPs, best practices) critical for OSC problem-solving**

- Comprehensive Guidebooks and Quick Start Reference Preparedness Documents for Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Threat Agents
- Agent-Specific Frameworks – 1st in development is for Ricin Response
- Revisions and updates to H&S ER Manual Chem/Bio Chapter
- White Papers to clarify the roles of the Environmental Clearance Committee and Technical Work Groups identified in EPA's Incident Management Handbook (IMH)
- New chemical and biological threat agent decontamination lines


United States
Environmental Protection Agency

Comprehensive
Biological Tactical Guidebook
Version 1.0

August 2015

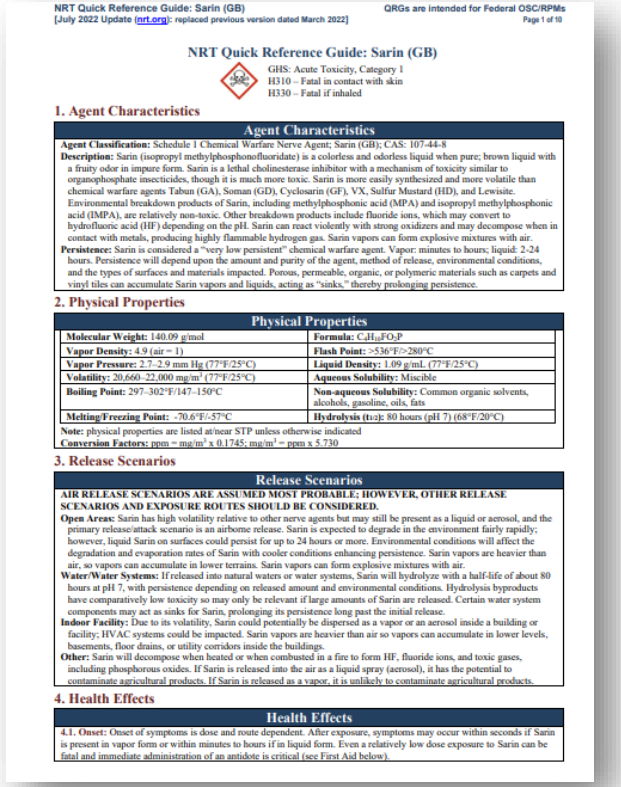
# Lead CBRN National Workgroups

## Lead intra-agency workgroups for CBRN preparedness:

- Chemical Warfare / 4th Gen / Pharmaceutical-based
- Biological
- Radiological/Nuclear
  - Members include emergency responders from all 10 EPA Regions, representatives from EPA's Homeland Security Research Program, and representatives from other EPA Special Teams.
  - Identify and eliminate response capability gaps.
  - Develop best practices and guidelines to enhance the nation's readiness for CBRN events.

## Lead inter-agency workgroup for CBRN preparedness:

- Chair the National Response Team CBRN Subcommittee
  - NRT Quick Reference Guides (QRG)
  - Emerging Biological Threat (EBT) Briefs



NRT Quick Reference Guide: Sarin (GB) — QRGs are intended for Federal OSC/RPMs
[July 2022 Update (nrt.org): replaced previous version dated March 2022] — Page 1 of 10

**NRT Quick Reference Guide: Sarin (GB)**

GHS: Acute Toxicity, Category 1
H310 – Fatal in contact with skin
H330 – Fatal if inhaled

**1. Agent Characteristics**

**Agent Characteristics**

**Agent Classification:** Schedule 1 Chemical Warfare Nerve Agent; Sarin (GB); CAS: 107-44-8

**Description:** Sarin (isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate) is a colorless and odorless liquid when pure; brown liquid with a fruity odor in impure form. Sarin is a lethal cholinesterase inhibitor with a mechanism of toxicity similar to organophosphate insecticides, though it is much more toxic. Sarin is more easily synthesized and more volatile than chemical warfare agents Tabun (GA), Soman (GD), Cyclosarin (GF), VX, Sulfur Mustard (HD), and Lewisite. Environmental breakdown products of Sarin, including methylphosphonic acid (MPA) and isopropyl methylphosphonic acid (IMPA), are relatively non-toxic. Other breakdown products include fluoride ions, which may convert to hydrofluoric acid (HF) depending on the pH. Sarin can react violently with strong oxidizers and may decompose when in contact with metals, producing highly flammable hydrogen gas. Sarin vapors can form explosive mixtures with air.

**Persistence:** Sarin is considered a "very low persistent" chemical warfare agent. Vapor: minutes to hours; liquid: 2-24 hours. Persistence will depend upon the amount and purity of the agent, method of release, environmental conditions, and the types of surfaces and materials impacted. Porous, permeable, organic, or polymeric materials such as carpets and vinyl tiles can accumulate Sarin vapors and liquids, acting as "sinks," thereby prolonging persistence.

**2. Physical Properties**

**Physical Properties**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Molecular Weight:** 140.09 g/mol | **Formula:** $C_4H_{10}FO_2P$ |
| **Vapor Density:** 4.9 (air = 1) | **Flash Point:** >536°F/>280°C |
| **Vapor Pressure:** 2.7–2.9 mm Hg (77°F/25°C) | **Liquid Density:** 1.09 g/mL (77°F/25°C) |
| **Volatility:** 20,660–22,000 mg/m³ (77°F/25°C) | **Aqueous Solubility:** Miscible |
| **Boiling Point:** 297–302°F/147–150°C | **Non-aqueous Solubility:** Common organic solvents, alcohols, gasoline, oils, fats |
| **Melting/Freezing Point:** -70.6°F/-57°C | **Hydrolysis ($t_{1/2}$):** 80 hours (pH 7) (68°F/20°C) |

**Note:** physical properties are listed at/near STP unless otherwise indicated
**Conversion Factors:** ppm = mg/m³ x 0.1745; mg/m³ = ppm x 5.730

**3. Release Scenarios**

**Release Scenarios**

**AIR RELEASE SCENARIOS ARE ASSUMED MOST PROBABLE; HOWEVER, OTHER RELEASE SCENARIOS AND EXPOSURE ROUTES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.**

**Open Areas:** Sarin has high volatility relative to other nerve agents but may still be present as a liquid or aerosol, and the primary release/attack scenario is an airborne release. Sarin is expected to degrade in the environment fairly rapidly; however, liquid Sarin on surfaces could persist for up to 24 hours or more. Environmental conditions will affect the degradation and evaporation rates of Sarin with cooler conditions enhancing persistence. Sarin vapors are heavier than air, so vapors can accumulate in lower terrains. Sarin vapors can form explosive mixtures with air.

**Water/Water Systems:** If released into natural waters or water systems, Sarin will hydrolyze with a half-life of about 80 hours at pH 7, with persistence depending on released amount and environmental conditions. Hydrolysis byproducts have comparatively low toxicity so may only be relevant if large amounts of Sarin are released. Certain water system components may act as sinks for Sarin, prolonging its persistence long past the initial release.

**Indoor Facility:** Due to its volatility, Sarin could potentially be dispersed as a vapor or an aerosol inside a building or facility; HVAC systems could be impacted. Sarin vapors are heavier than air so vapors can accumulate in lower levels, basements, floor drains, or utility corridors inside the buildings.

**Other:** Sarin will decompose when heated or when combusted in a fire to form HF, fluoride ions, and toxic gases, including phosphorous oxides. If Sarin is released into the air as a liquid spray (aerosol), it has the potential to contaminate agricultural products. If Sarin is released as a vapor, it is unlikely to contaminate agricultural products.

**4. Health Effects**

**Health Effects**

**4.1. Onset:** Onset of symptoms is dose and route dependent. After exposure, symptoms may occur within seconds if Sarin is present in vapor form or within minutes to hours if in liquid form. Even a relatively low dose exposure to Sarin can be fatal and immediate administration of an antidote is critical (see First Aid below).


# EPA CBRN Field Assets

# EPA's Analytical Mobile Asset

## Portable High-throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System (PHILIS)

EPA's suite of mobile laboratories for on-site analysis of environmental samples for toxic chemicals: CWAs, PBAs, and toxic organic industrial chemicals (TICs).

- **ALL HAZARDS RESPONSE** – Natural disasters, accidental and intentional releases.
- Detection limits down to human health risk-based clearance levels.
- NELAP Accredited Laboratories – confirmatory analysis

# PHILIS Information

## Description

- Suite of 8 mobile laboratory vehicles
- Based in two strategic locations to maximize access to the entire continental US (NJ and CO)
- Up to 100 samples per day
- Matrices: Soil, surface/ground water, drinking water, air, wipes
- Low limits of detection suitable for environmental clearance
- Preliminary data within 24-48 hours, QA Level II data within 4 days
- Allows for timely and effective decision-making during responses


## Deployment

- 24/7/365 deployment capabilities
- On the road within 6 hours of a deployment request
- Can operate using internal generators for 4 days before restocking supplies and fuel

# Next Generation of PHILIS (PHILIS 2.0)

## Objective

Modernize PHILIS by transitioning from vehicle-based laboratory platforms to deployable ISO container laboratories.

## Purpose

- Allow for OCONUS deployments – i.e., equitable response capabilities
- Replace vehicle-based platforms that are over 20 years old and no longer cost effective to repair.

# PHILIS - BIO

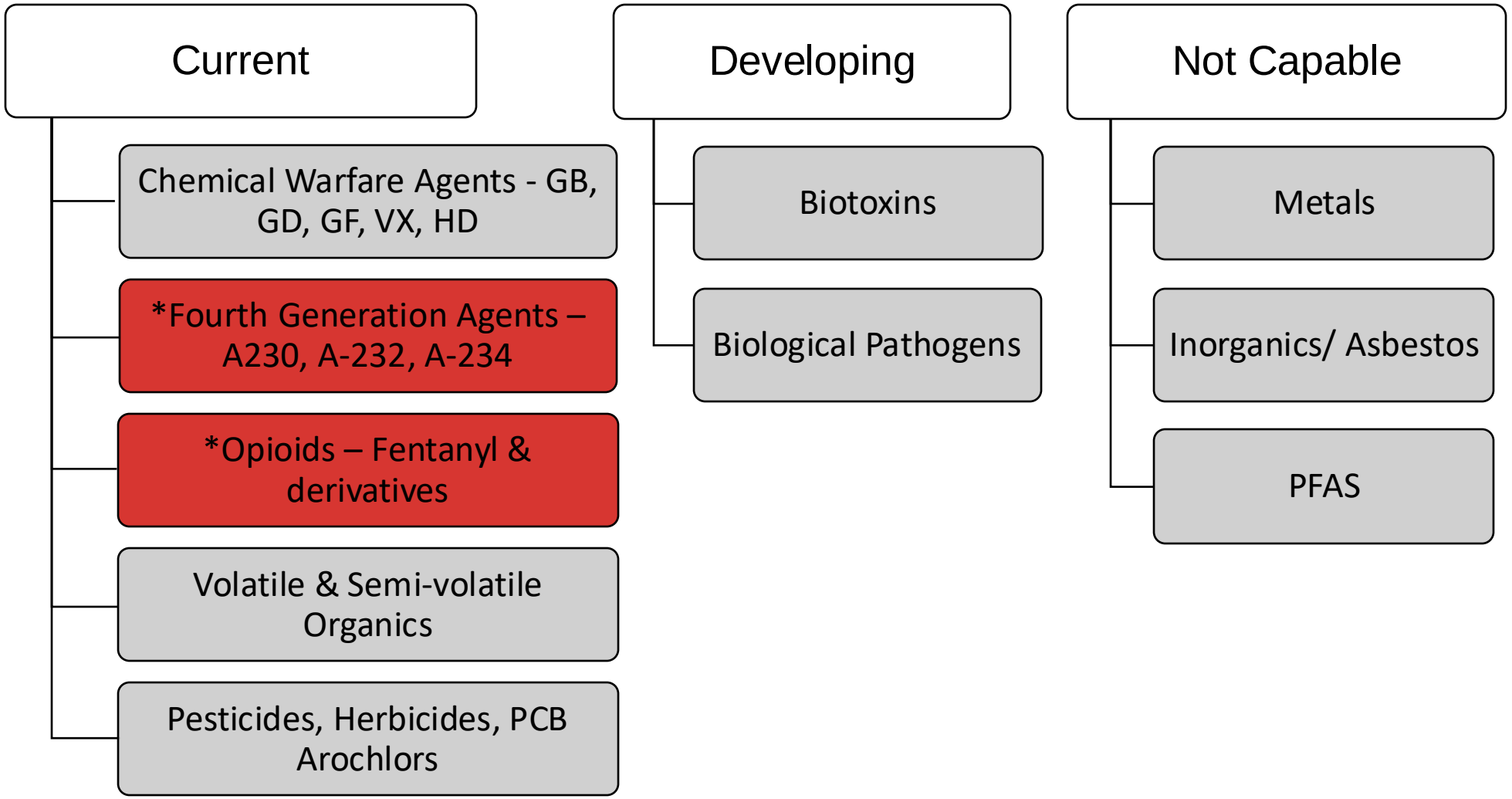
## Objective

Modernize PHILIS with the capability to perform biological assays in the field.

## Purpose

Provide a 24/7/365 mobile laboratory response capability to EPA emergency responders to support in situ response and remediation activities to biological hazards.

# PHILIS Chemical Analysis Capabilities



# Emerging Threats: Fourth Generation Agents (FGAs)

- PHILIS West stores dilute (5 ppm) standards of A-230, A-232, and A-234 on-site for routine method development and proficiency testing.
- The EPA has worked with research staff from Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL) Chemical Forensics Laboratory on analytical methods for environmental sample matrices. LLNL currently supplies EPA with the standards for both traditional CWAs and FGAs. Currently pursuing similar arrangement with CCDC-CBC to supply standards.
- The PHILIS program has documented enhanced H&S protocols established for handling the FGA standards.

# EPA Needs for FGA Responses

- Build more lab capability and capacity for the analysis of FGAs in environmental samples.
- Continue to partner with other federal labs to provide surge capacity in the event of an FGA incident.
- Partner with the Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) and other federal agencies to provide surge capacity in the event of an FGA incident.
- Create a plan on how, what, and when to share to communicate classified information with civilian contractor support base in the event of an FGA incident.

# Other Emerging Threats: Opioids


## How Much Does it Take?

**2-3 milligrams of Fentanyl can induce respiratory depression or arrest and possibly death**


# EPA's Aerial Detection Asset

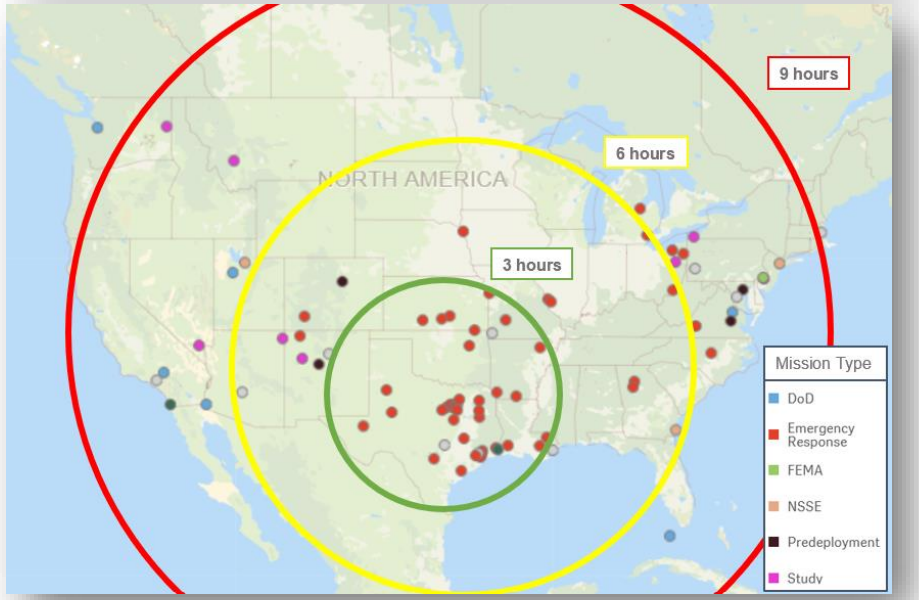
## Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT)

### Description

- Airborne sensing system for chemical, radiological, thermal, and photographic data collection during emergency responses.
- Enhances situational awareness.
- Supports decision-making processes.

### Advantages

- Near real-time data collection.
- Airborne deployment allows for rapid assessment of large areas.

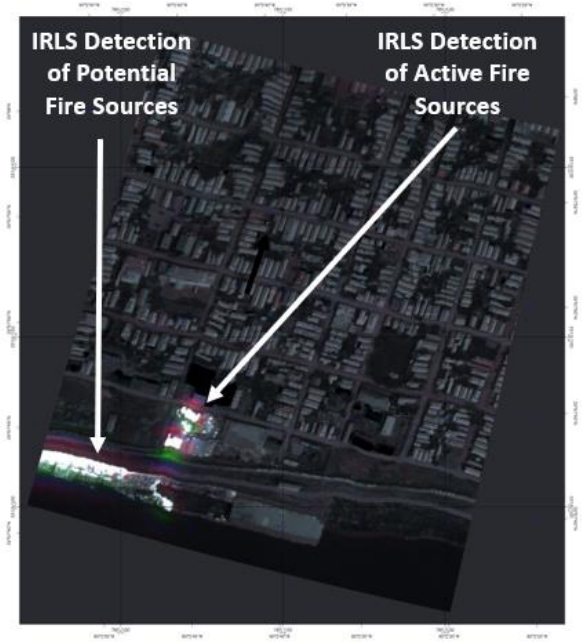
# ASPECT Capabilities

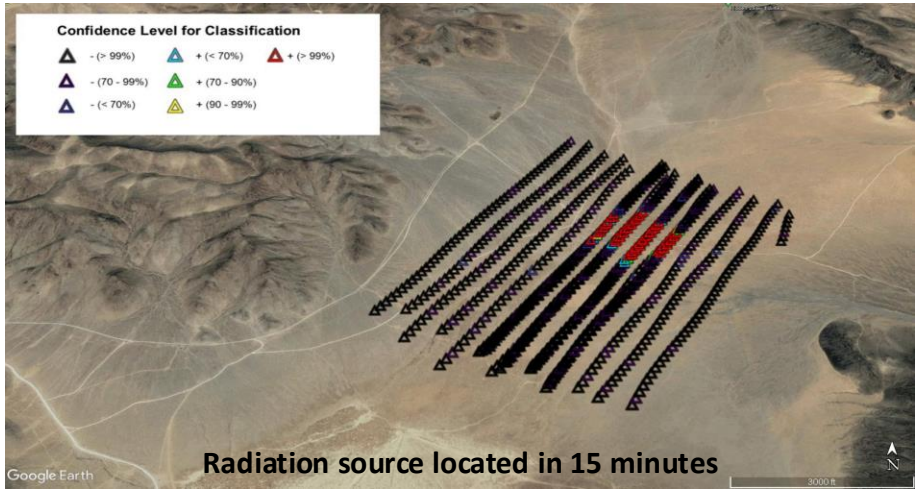
## Deployment

- Stationed near Dallas, TX
- Available 24/7/365
- 1 hour to wheels up
- 0-9 hours to reach any location in the contiguous U.S.

## Analytical and Other Capabilities

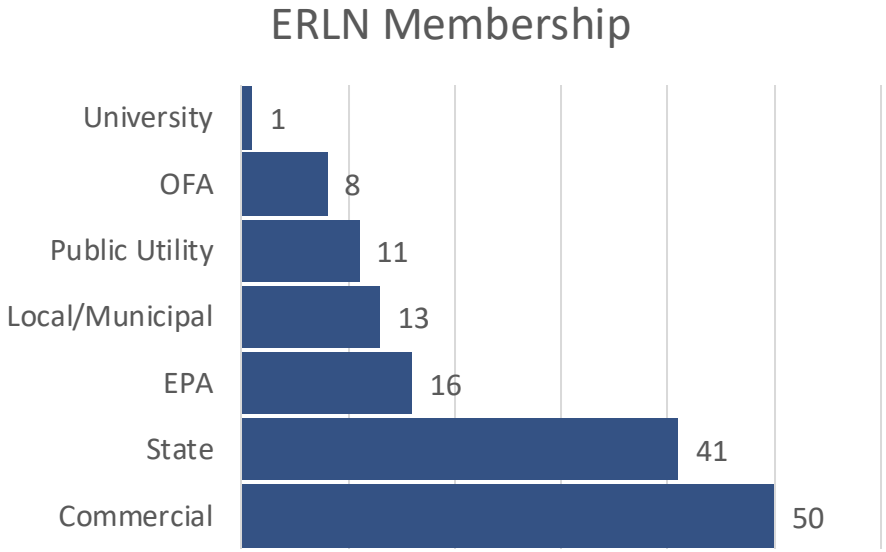
- TIC/CWA Plume Detection and Identification
- Surface Oil Detection and Imaging
- Radiological Surveying and Source Location
- Thermal Imaging
- Orthogonal and oblique high-resolution aerial photography

# Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN)

- Laboratory network supporting the emergency response community by providing analysis of CBRN contaminants in environmental samples.
- Can be used to support incidents of any scale during preparedness, response, and remediation phases.





- Provides rapid support from a network of laboratories with known data quality.
- Current membership: 140
- The ERLN is part of the larger interagency Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks – a partnership of 9 federal agencies and 7 federal CBRN laboratory networks established to provide coordinated laboratory support for a wide-area CBRN incident.

# Collaboration

- A high level of collaboration is critical to effective preparation and response to CBRN incidents.
- CMAT collaborates with:
  - EPA Regions and On-Scene Coordinators
  - EPA Program Offices
    - Office of Research and Development
    - Office of Indoor Air and Radiation
    - Office of National Security
  - Special Teams
    - Environmental Response Team (ERT)
    - Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)
  - Interagency/International
    - FBI-led Weapons of Mass Destruction Strategic Group
    - FEMA's Nuclear Incident Response Team
    - FEMA's Domestic Emergency Support Team
    - Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks
    - DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction, S&T
    - DOD US Army DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center
    - DOD Defense Threat Reduction Agency
    - DOD Irregular Warfare Support Directorate
    - DOE Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
    - UK MOD Defense Science Technology Laboratory
    - UK Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs

Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction

FEMA

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

DEVCOM CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL CENTER

[dstl] The Science Inside

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

# CMAT Contact Information

## Liaison Information

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Senior Biologist

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**CBRN CMAT 24/7 Phone Duty Officer**

CMAT@epa.gov

(202) 250-8770

https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/cbrn-consequence-management-advisory-team

# CMAT Contact Information


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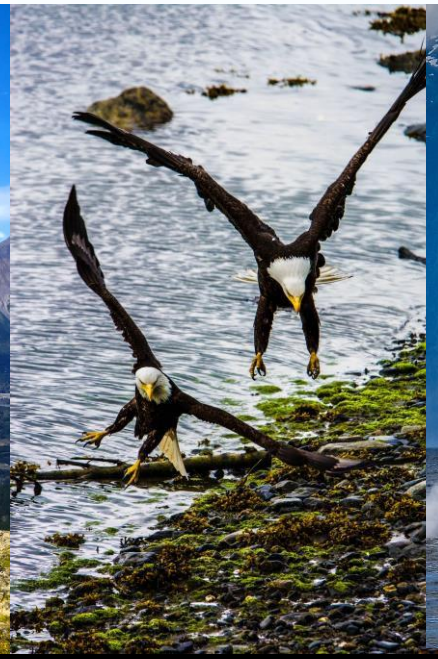
# UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE: ALASKA RESOURCES

United States Department of Agriculture

# USDA/Forest Service Support to Alaska Regional Response Team



Forest Service March 2025

# US Department of Agriculture

## WHO WE ARE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is made up of 19 agencies plus staff offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad.

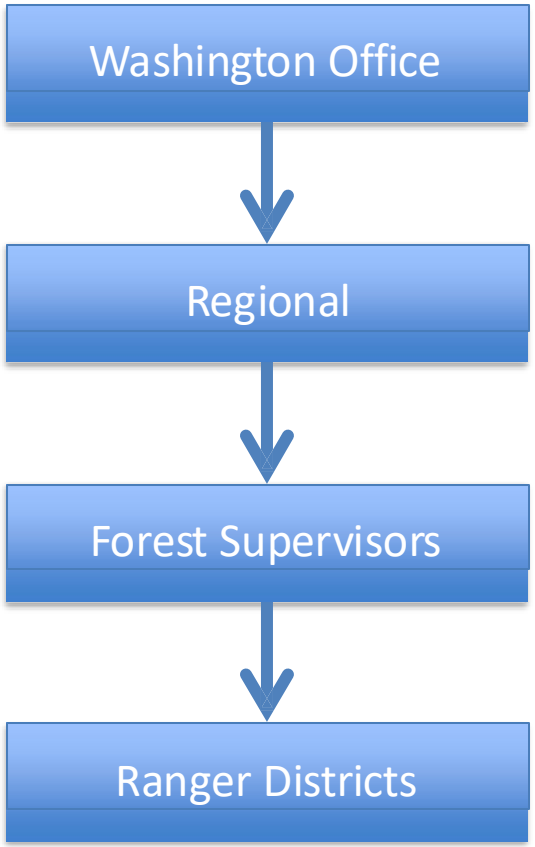
## WHAT WE DO

We provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.

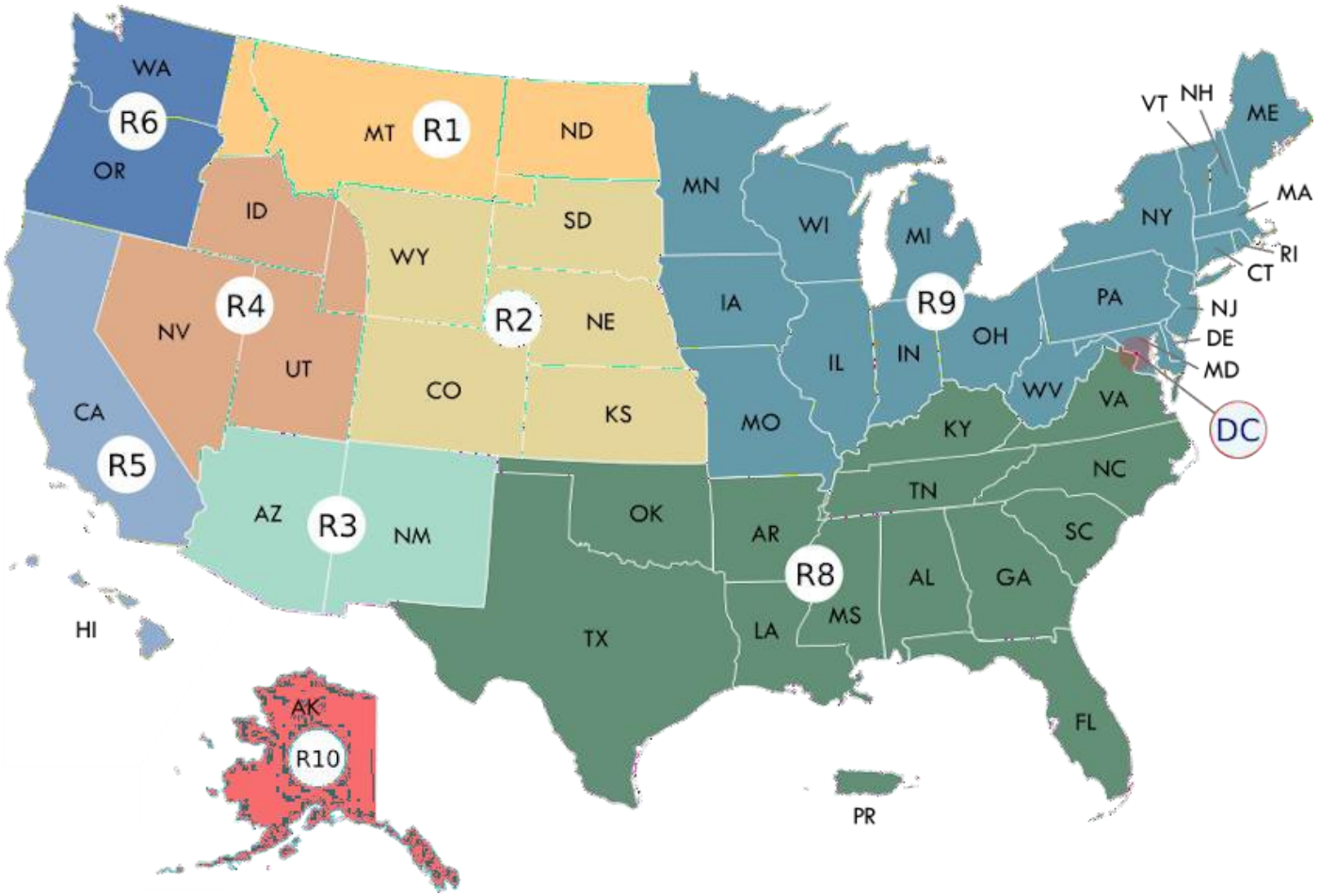
# USDA Agencies support for RRT (40 CFR § 300.175)

- **Overall Coordination.**
  - Forest Service
- **Support for spills on agency-managed lands**
  - Forest Service
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service
- **Technical services**
  - Forest Service
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

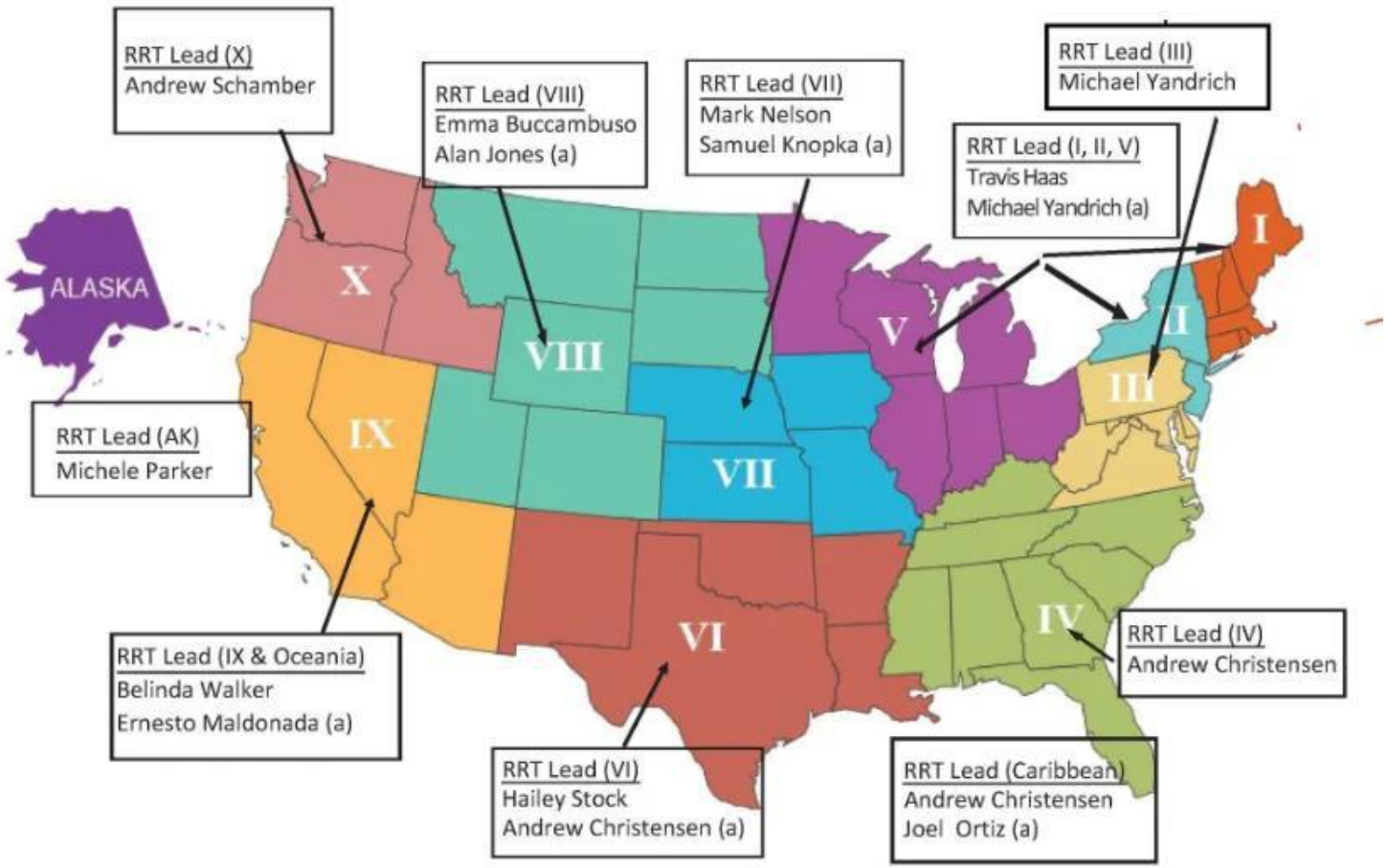
# Forest Service Organizational Flow Chart



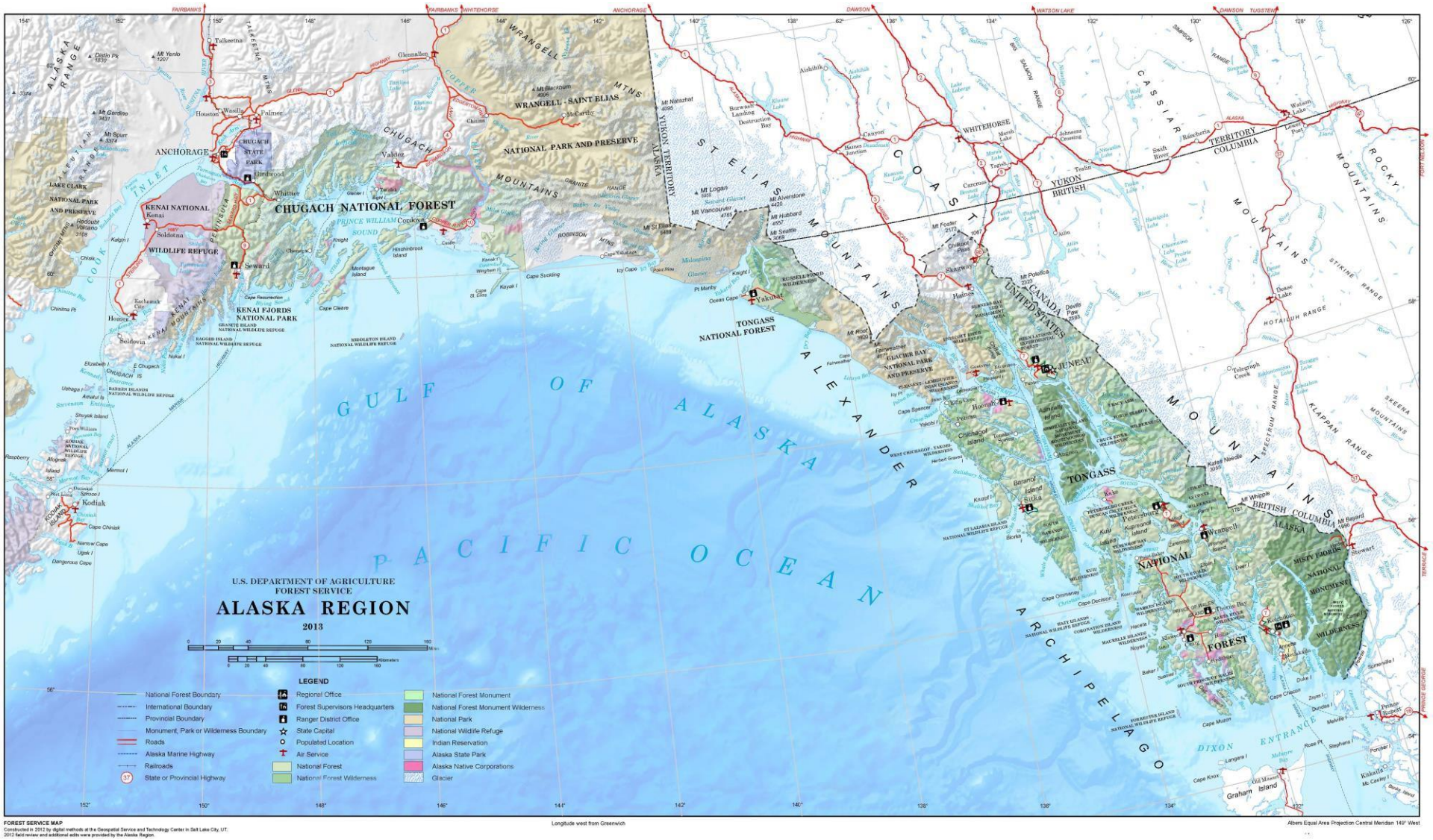
# Forest Service Regions



# USDA RRT Support – RRT Representatives



# Forest Service Region 10



# Alaska Region Forest Service

- Manages the two largest national forests in the nation with over 22 million acres
- Staff work with partners to manage lands for a variety of goods and services for the public
- Also work to maintain and enhance forest health and productivity
- Regional Office is in Juneau

# Chugach National Forest

- Makes a 210-mile arc around Prince William Sound & is approximately 5.4 million acres in size
- Office is in Anchorage
- Ranger Districts are in Girdwood, Cordova and Seward

# Tongass National Forest

- Largest national forest
- Covers most of southeast, stretching the 500-mile length of the Alaska Panhandle & is approximately 16.8 million acre
- Office located in Ketchikan
- Ranger Districts in Yakutat, Juneau, Hoonah, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Craig, and Thorne Bay

# USDA Forest Service Support

- Personnel
  - Engineers, GIS, Research, Biologists
- Laboratory
- Field capability to measure, evaluate, monitor, and control as needed, releases of pesticides and other hazardous substances.
- Assets like campsites, cabins, staging areas, docks, boats, landing craft, plane, drones, law enforcement, and communication (radio towers) equipment.

# USDA Forest Service Support

- Contracting Mechanisms
  - MATOC
  - HAZMAT BPA
    - 13 contractors that can perform work across Alaska
- Available data (GIS maps, LiDAR & Drone data)
- Incident Management Team/Support
  - Knowledge of Incident Command System (ICS)
- Existing partnerships

# Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

- Protects public health by preventing illness from meat, poultry, and egg products
- Ensure products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled

# Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Approximately 2,300 Service Centers in communities nationwide
- Provide information on potential impact of spills or releases to USDA conservation easements
- Scientists who know soil

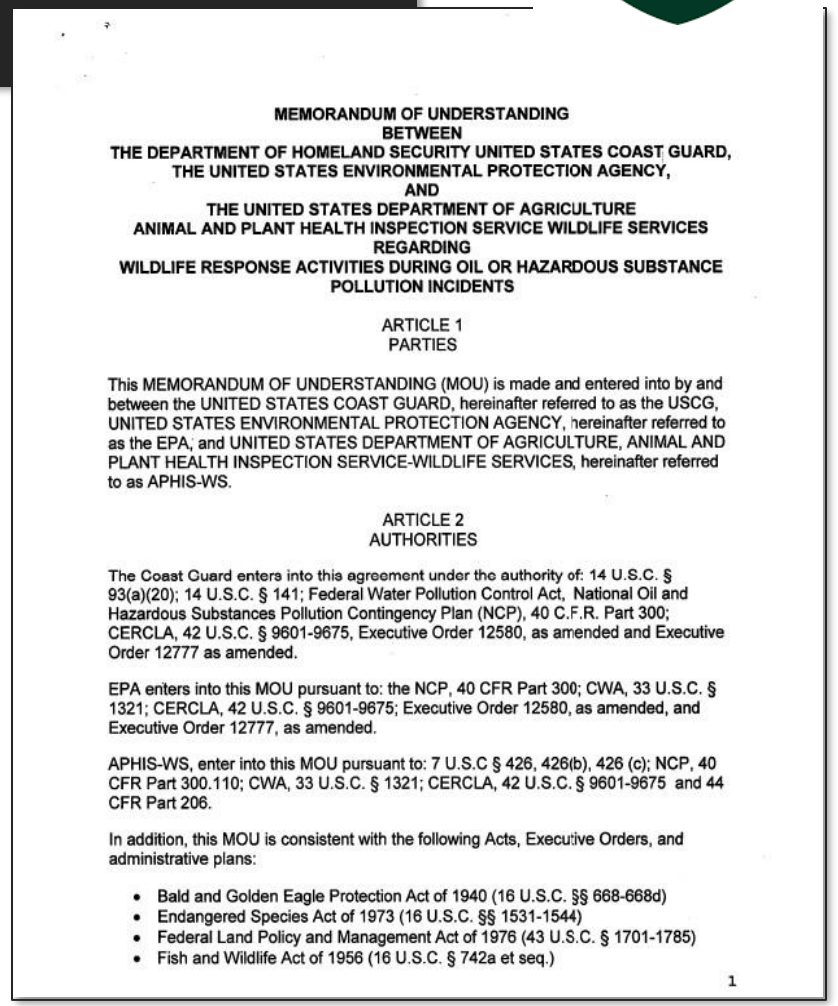
# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Wildlife Services

  Provides federal leadership in protecting wildlife from impacts to oil/hazardous substance spills

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Service based Agency
  - Can be contracted through RP, OSRO, or USCG/EPA (PRFA)
- 2020 MOU with USCG and EPA for direct access to APHIS services



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**
**BETWEEN**
**THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,**
**THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,**
**AND**
**THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
**ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE WILDLIFE SERVICES**
**REGARDING**
**WILDLIFE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES DURING OIL OR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE POLLUTION INCIDENTS**

ARTICLE 1
PARTIES

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, hereinafter referred to as the USCG, UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, hereinafter referred to as the EPA, and UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE-WILDLIFE SERVICES, hereinafter referred to as APHIS-WS.

ARTICLE 2
AUTHORITIES

The Coast Guard enters into this agreement under the authority of: 14 U.S.C. § 93(a)(20); 14 U.S.C. § 141; Federal Water Pollution Control Act, National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 C.F.R. Part 300; CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601-9675, Executive Order 12580, as amended and Executive Order 12777 as amended.

EPA enters into this MOU pursuant to: the NCP, 40 CFR Part 300; CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321; CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601-9675; Executive Order 12580, as amended, and Executive Order 12777, as amended.

APHIS-WS, enter into this MOU pursuant to: 7 U.S.C § 426, 426(b), 426 (c); NCP, 40 CFR Part 300.110; CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1321; CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601-9675 and 44 CFR Part 206.

In addition, this MOU is consistent with the following Acts, Executive Orders, and administrative plans:

- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. §§ 668-668d)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1531-1544)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. § 1701-1785)
- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. § 742a et seq.)

1

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Wildlife Hazing
  - Wildlife Protection Guidelines
    - Assist with both secondary and tertiary responses

12 **3640.2 – Wildlife Protection Strategies**

13 Wildlife protection during oil spill response is categorized into three basic strategies, summarized as
14 follows:

15 • **Primary Strategy: Keep the spilled oil away from wildlife and their habitats** – Controlling the
16 release and spread of spilled oil and removal of oiled debris, including oiled carcasses, from the
17 environment.

18 • **Secondary Strategy: Keep wildlife away from spilled oil** – Hazing/deterring wildlife from oiled
19 areas to clean areas, and pre-emptive capture, handling, transport, and release of unoiled
20 wildlife.

21 • **Tertiary Strategy: Respond to impacted wildlife** – Capture, handling, transport, cleaning,
22 rehabilitation, holding, and release of oiled or injured wildlife.


# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Wildlife Hazing
  - Wildlife Protection Guidelines

- Integrated Approach
  - Habitat Modification
  - Exclusion
  - Active & Passive Hazing
  - Pre-emptive Capture

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Provide wildlife hazing/deterrence expertise inside ICS
  - Assist state & federal agencies to complete IWP/CWP
- Direct Hazing Activities

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- APHIS Emergency Response Team
- 40- hour Hazwoper certified biologists & specialists
- APHIS-Nationwide
- APHIS Oil Spill Coordinator-AK
- Local APHIS Agency
- Deterrence Equipment


USDA ARRT Support Services

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Wildlife Hazing Training for OSROs & Cooperators

- Requirement for wildlife permits
  - Recordings of activities
- Allow immediate response
- Personnel & Wildlife Safety

# Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Aggressive Wildlife Protection

- Provide response personnel with protection against predatory or aggressive wildlife

# USDA ARRT Support Services

## USDA ARRT USDA Representative


Michele Parker

Environmental Program Manager

michele.parker@usda.gov


## APHIS Representative


Katie Krombach  Wildlife

Biologist

katie.krombach@usda.gov


# NOAA ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT TRAINING

# Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in Alaska

## An Introduction to EFH: Regulatory Authority, Descriptions, and Consultations

**March 5, 2025**

NOAA FISHERIES

# Objectives

- Introduction to EFH
- Process for EFH Consultations with NOAA Fisheries
  - Necessary components of an EFH Assessment
  - Coordination with partner agencies
- Build relationships between agency staff



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# Introduction to EFH

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# What is Essential Fish Habitat?

EFH is defined as "**those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity**" in provisions added to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) in 1996.

The EFH Final Rule (EFH FR) offers specific definitions, coordination, and consultation procedures for actions that **may adversely affect EFH**. (*67 FR 2343, January 17, 2002*)

An **adverse effect** is defined as "any direct or indirect effect that reduces the quality or quantity of the habitat" (*50 CFR 600.810(a)*).



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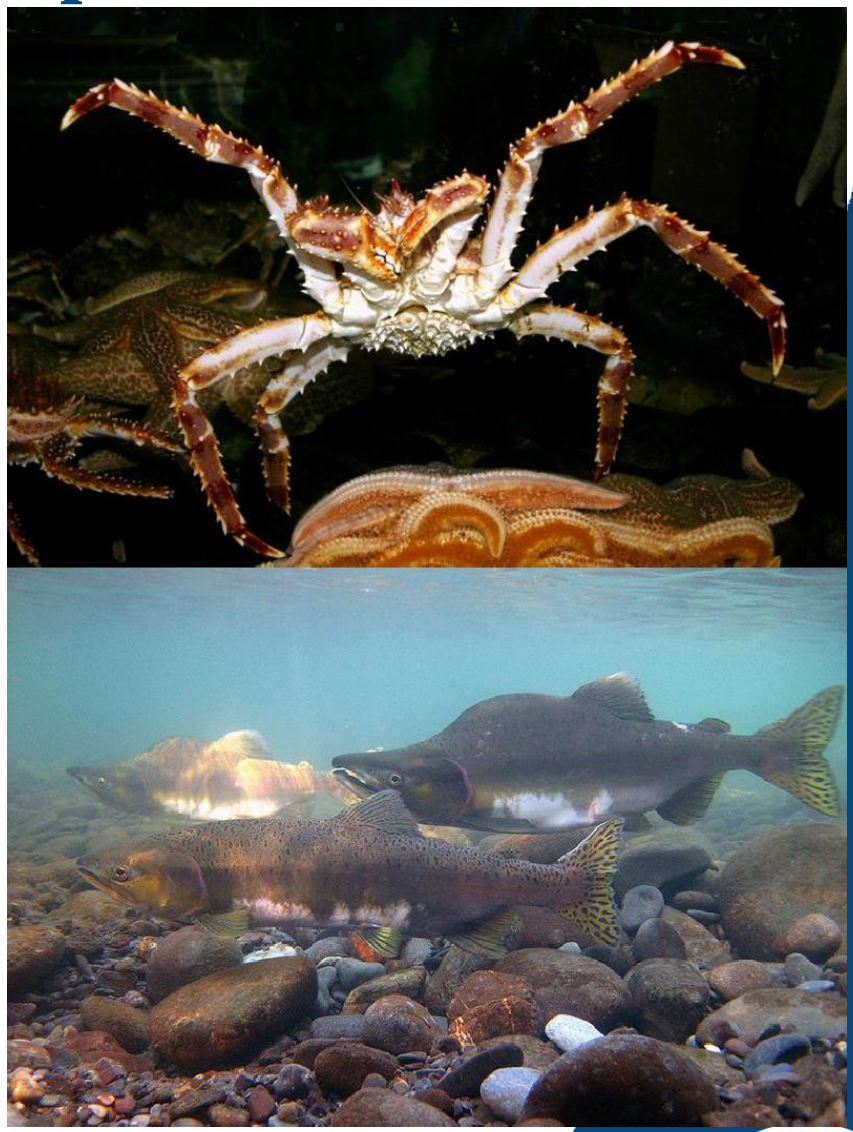
# Who gets EFH descriptions?

- Any species listed in a Fishery Management Plan (FMP)

- Six Alaska FMPs:
  1. Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands
  2. Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska
  3. Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab
  4. Scallop Fishery off Alaska
  5. Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ Off Alaska
  6. Fish Resources of the Arctic





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# EFH Descriptions

- EFH Text: is the legal definition for EFH and serves as the 'basis' for effect determinations. EFH Text describes the physical & biological environment and the location of EFH for each species by life history stage, if known.

- EFH Maps: compliment EFH Text Descriptions, are developed using species distribution models, and spatially represent the area of EFH.



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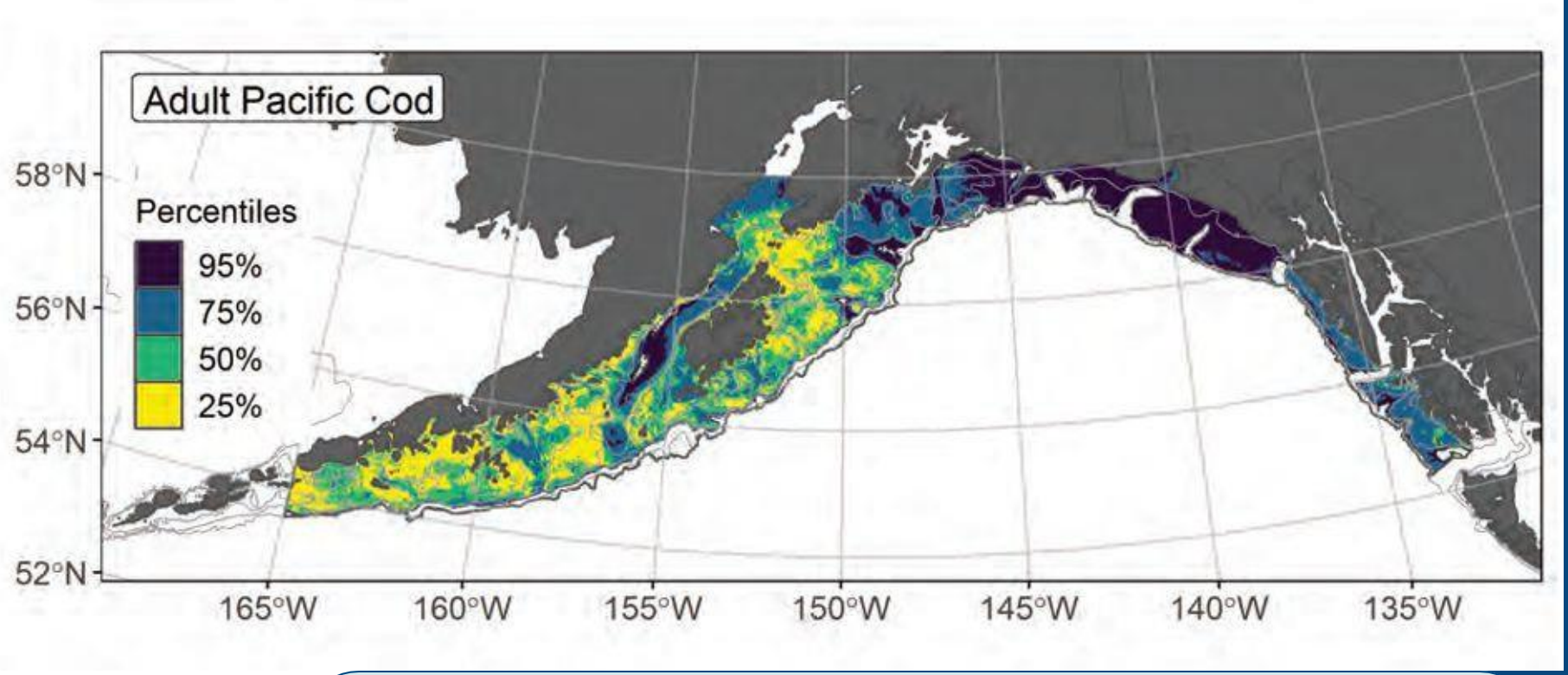
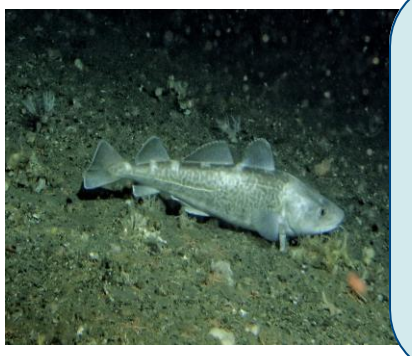
# Gulf of Alaska Pacific cod example



**Adults:** Adults occur in depths from the shoreline to 500 m. Average depth of occurrence tends to vary directly with age for at least the first few years of life, however mature fish are not limited to a specific depth range and their distribution is thought to change seasonally. Preferred substrate is soft sediment, from mud and clay to sand. Adult Pacific cod abundance was highest at depths less than 175 m on bathymetric rises west of the Kenai Peninsula.



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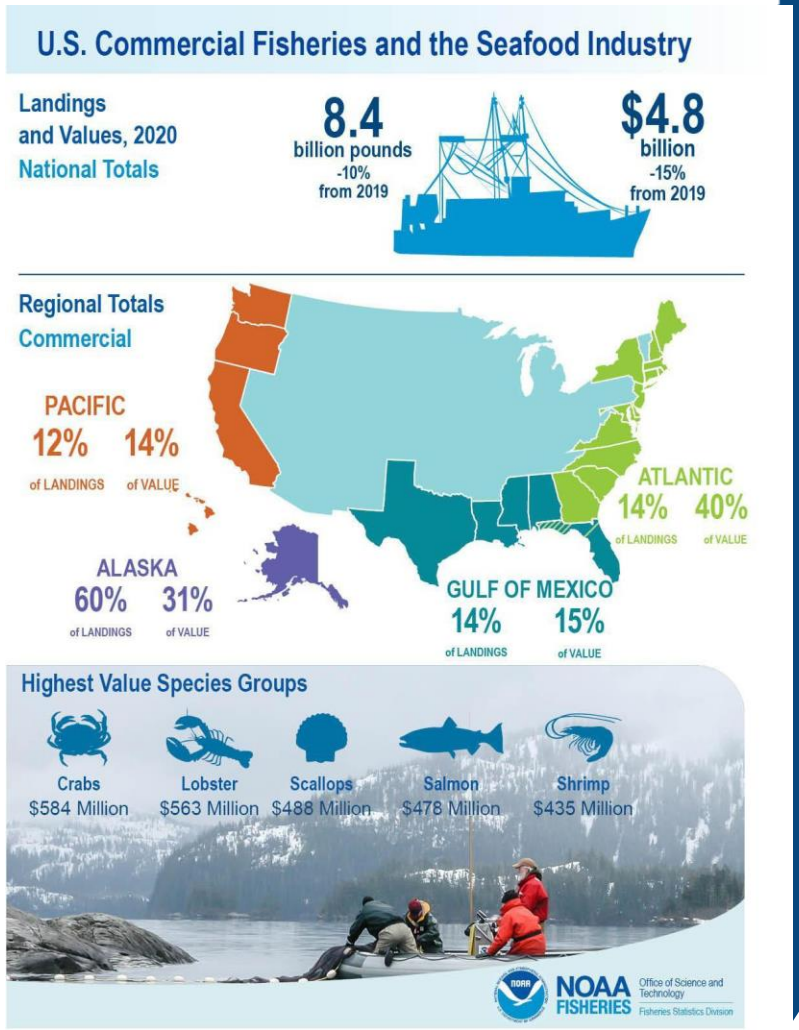
# Action Agency Perspective

AKA “Why should I care?”

1. Conserving EFH is the best way to ensure fishery sustainability into a future where humans may become increasingly reliant on seafood.
2. Habitat is not necessarily renewable and therefore conserving more than is needed currently serves as a buffer in an uncertain future.
3. NMFS and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council incorporates EFH information and cumulative impacts into management decisions and stock assessments.



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# Process for EFH Consultations with NOAA Fisheries

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# EFH Assessments and Consultations

- Section 305(b) requires Federal action agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries on activities that **may adversely affect EFH**.



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# What is an Adverse Effect?

- Any impact that reduces the quality and/or quantity of the EFH (*50 CFR 600.810(a)*).
- May include direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate
- Loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components.

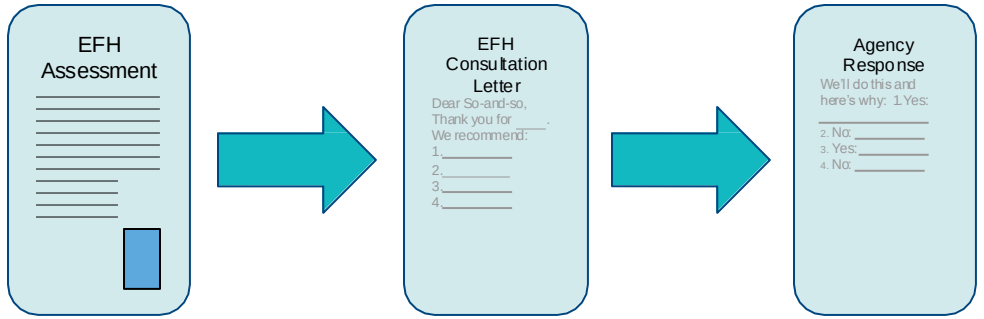


NOAA FISHERIES

# EFH Assessments and Consultations

- Section 305(b) requires Federal action agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries on activities that **may adversely affect EFH**.

- NOAA Fisheries is required to recommend measures to conserve EFH; however, measures are advisory.



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# EFH Consultation - Not ESA

**NOT** to be confused with Section 7 Consultations:

Section 7 is guided by the ESA

Under Section 7(a)(1): agencies are directed to implement programs for the **conservation** of threatened and endangered species.

Under ESA Section 7(a)(2): agencies must **consult** with NOAA Fisheries when any project or action may affect an ESA-listed marine or anadromous species or designated critical habitat.



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# EFH vs ESA

| EFH ≠ Critical Habitat | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Statute** | **MSA** | **ESA** |
| **Species** | **Managed/fished** | **Listed** |
| **Basis** | **Science only** | **Science, economics, national security** |
| **Purpose** | **Sustainable fishery, healthy ecosystem** | **To promote survival and recovery** |
| **Criteria** | **Obligate habitat for one or more life stage** | **Physical or biological feature** |
| **Relative scope** | **Broad** | **Narrow** |
| **Example difference** | **Pacific Salmon: marine nearshore & offshore** | **Beluga: Cook Inlet DPS only** |



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# Resources to Inform an EFH Assessment

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# Assessment Resources

These are data sources we use when reviewing projects and can be used to inform EFH assessments:

What fish are here?

- Alaska EFH Mapper
- The Nearshore Fish Atlas (marine habitats)
- The Anadromous Waters Catalog (freshwater habitats)

What habitat features are here?

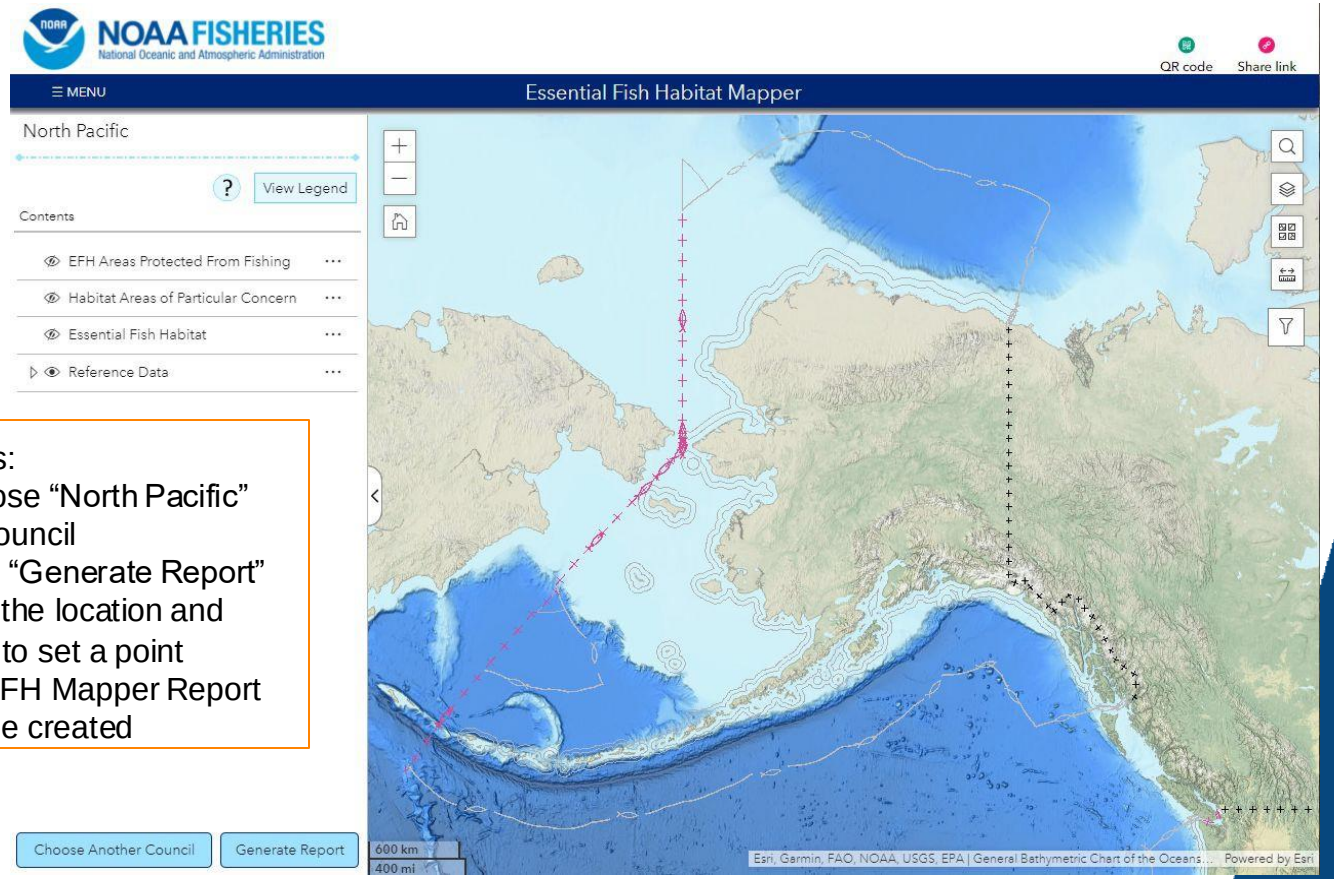
- ShoreZone imagery and mapping (coastal estuarine/marine habitats)

What are potential impacts on those species' habitat, and what are possible mitigation measures I can put in place?

- Non-Fishing Effects Report

# EFH Mapper

- Identifies EFH species
- Available online at: https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/apps/efhmapper/




Quick Steps:

1. Choose “North Pacific” for council
2. Click “Generate Report”
3. Find the location and click to set a point
4. An EFH Mapper Report will be created



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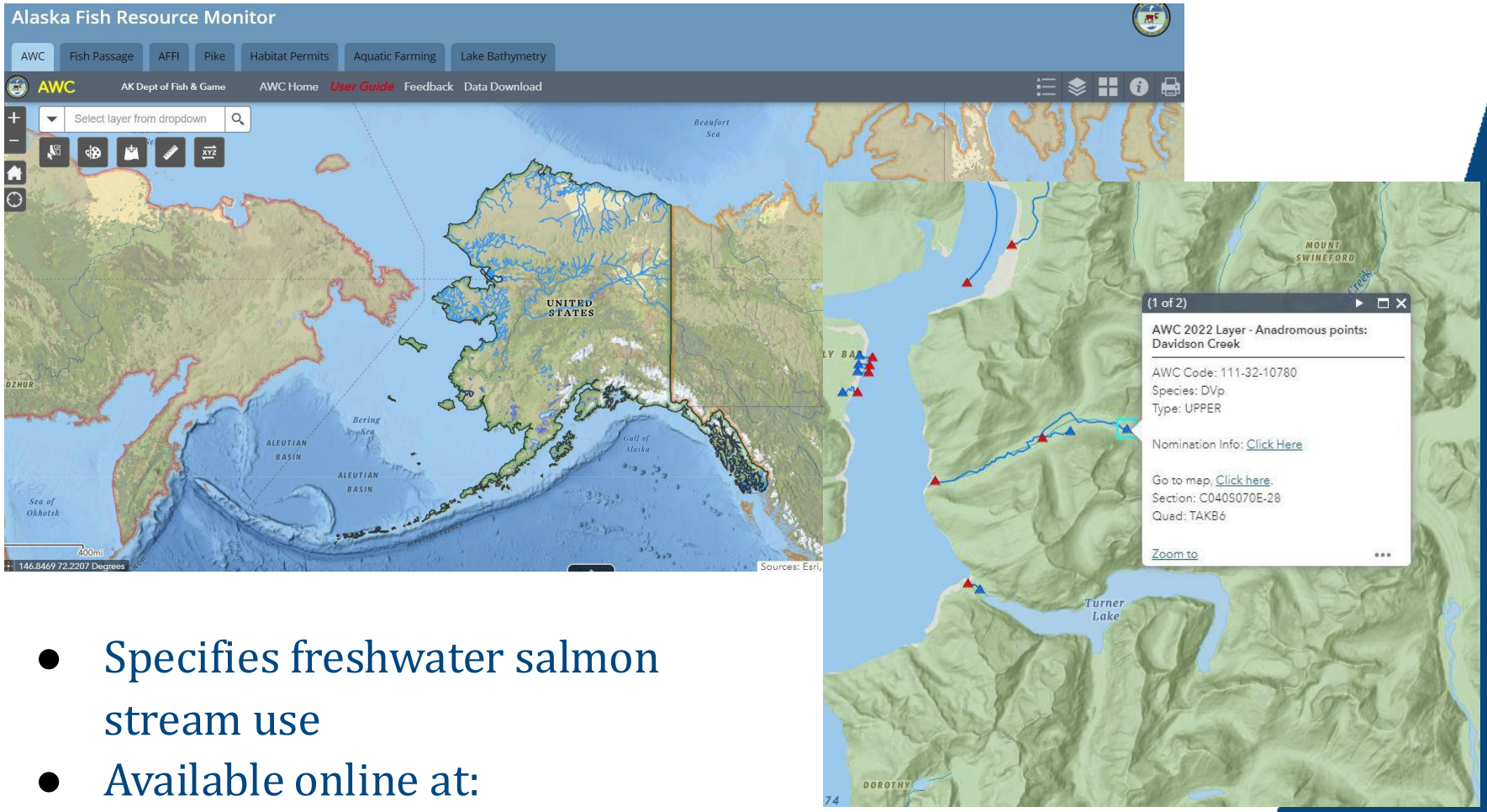
# Anadromous Waters Catalog




- Specifies freshwater salmon stream use
- Available online at: https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/SARR/AWC/index.cfm?ADFG=main.interactive



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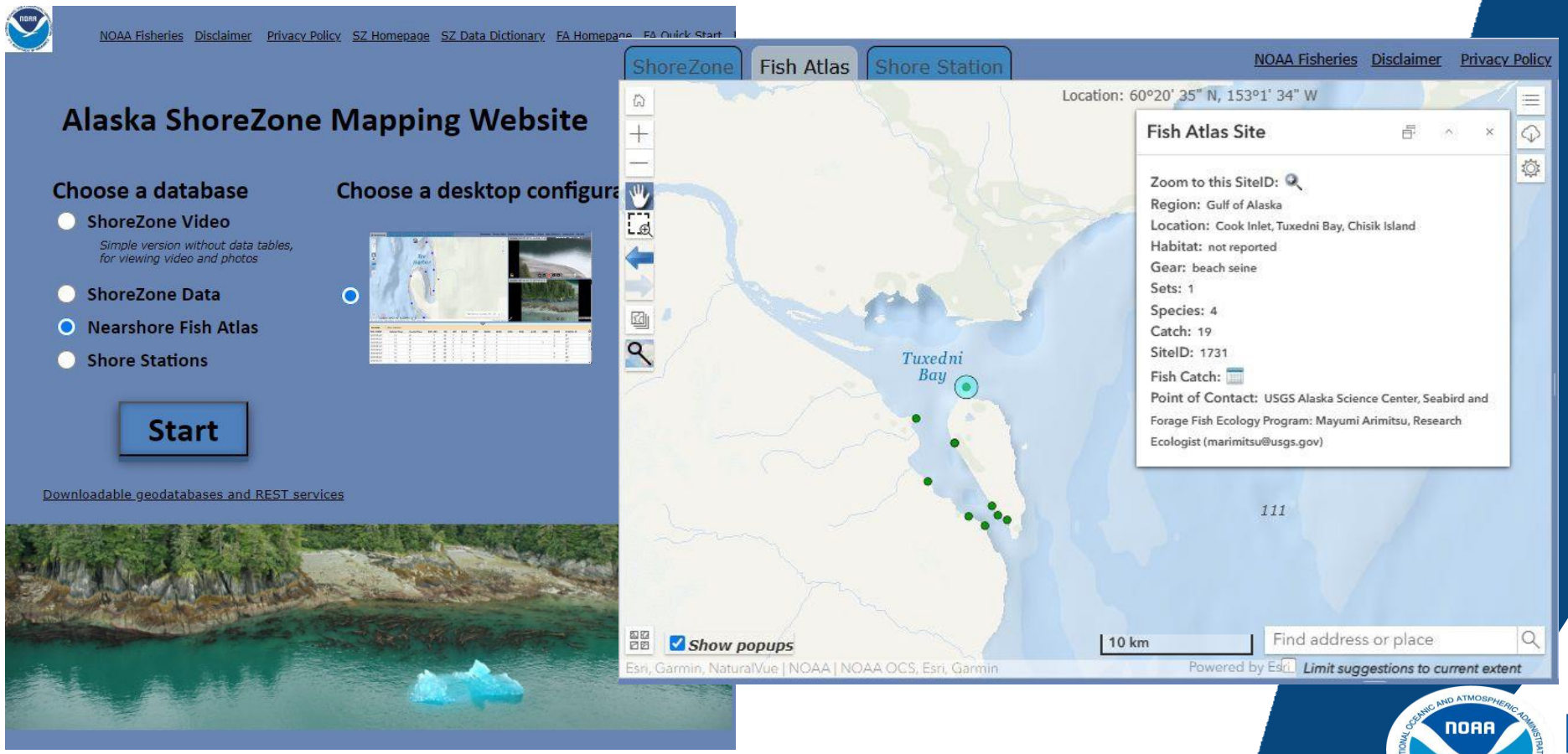
# Nearshore Fish Atlas

- Identifies FMP and prey species in nearshore habitat
- Available online at: https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/mapping/sz/



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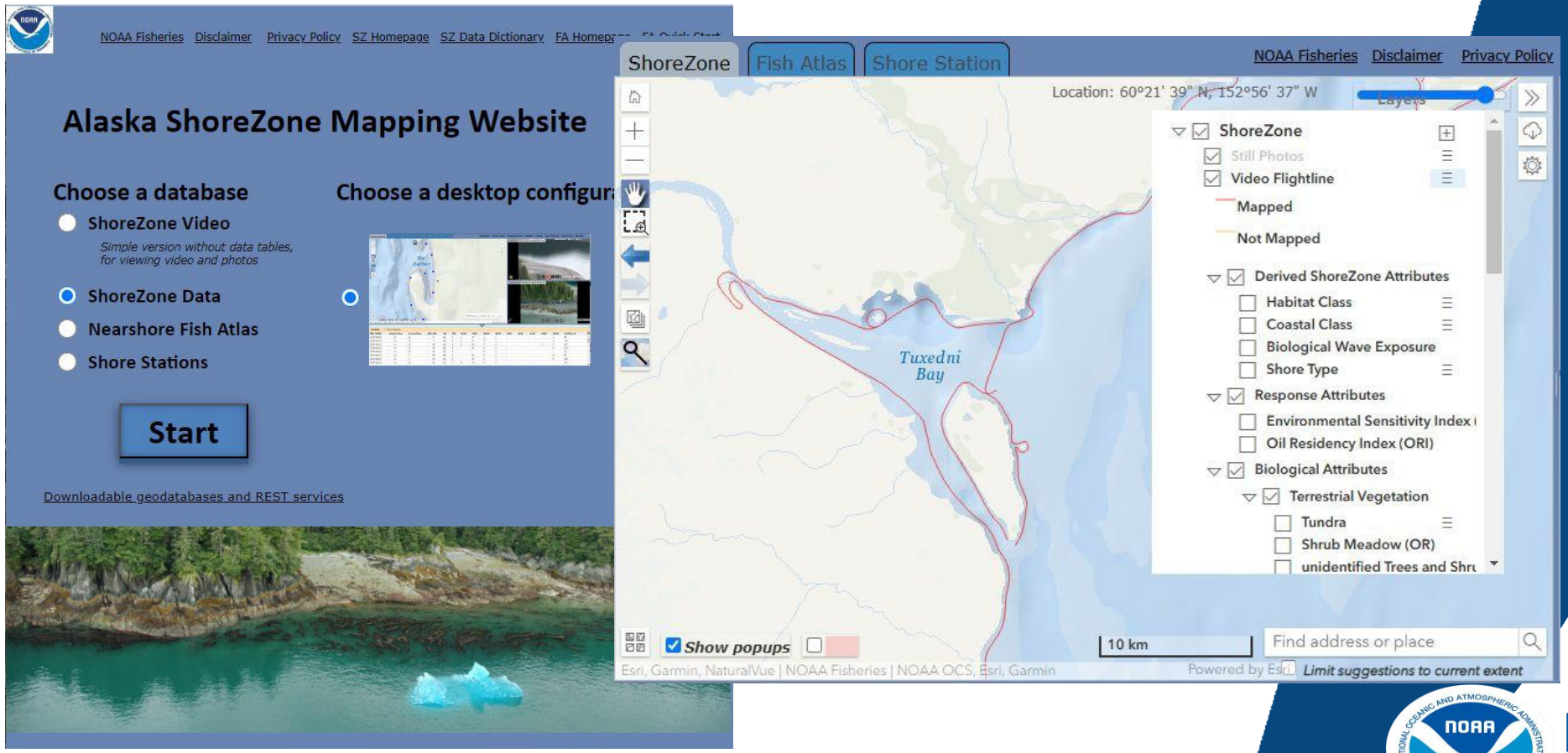
# Alaska ShoreZone

- Identifies habitat characteristics of the shoreline
- Available online at: https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/mapping/sz/



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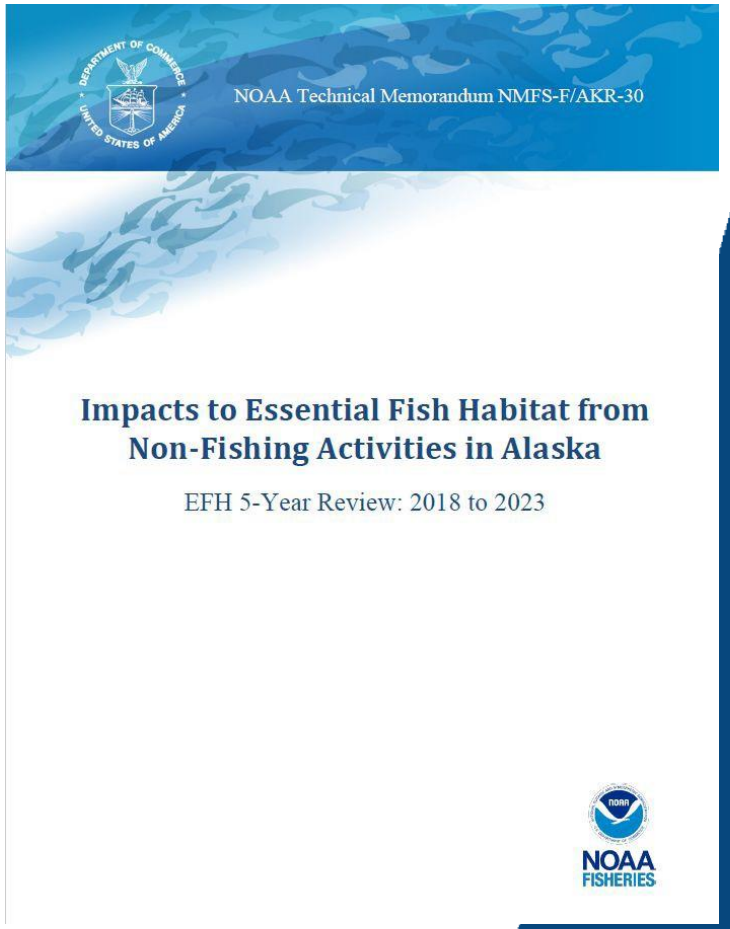
# Impacts to EFH from Non-Fishing Activities

- *Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat from Non-fishing Activities in Alaska (2023)*

- The document:
  - describes numerous non-fishing activities in Alaska.
  - provides specific EFH conservation recommendations; ones that NOAA may offer during EFH consultation for any adverse effects on EFH.



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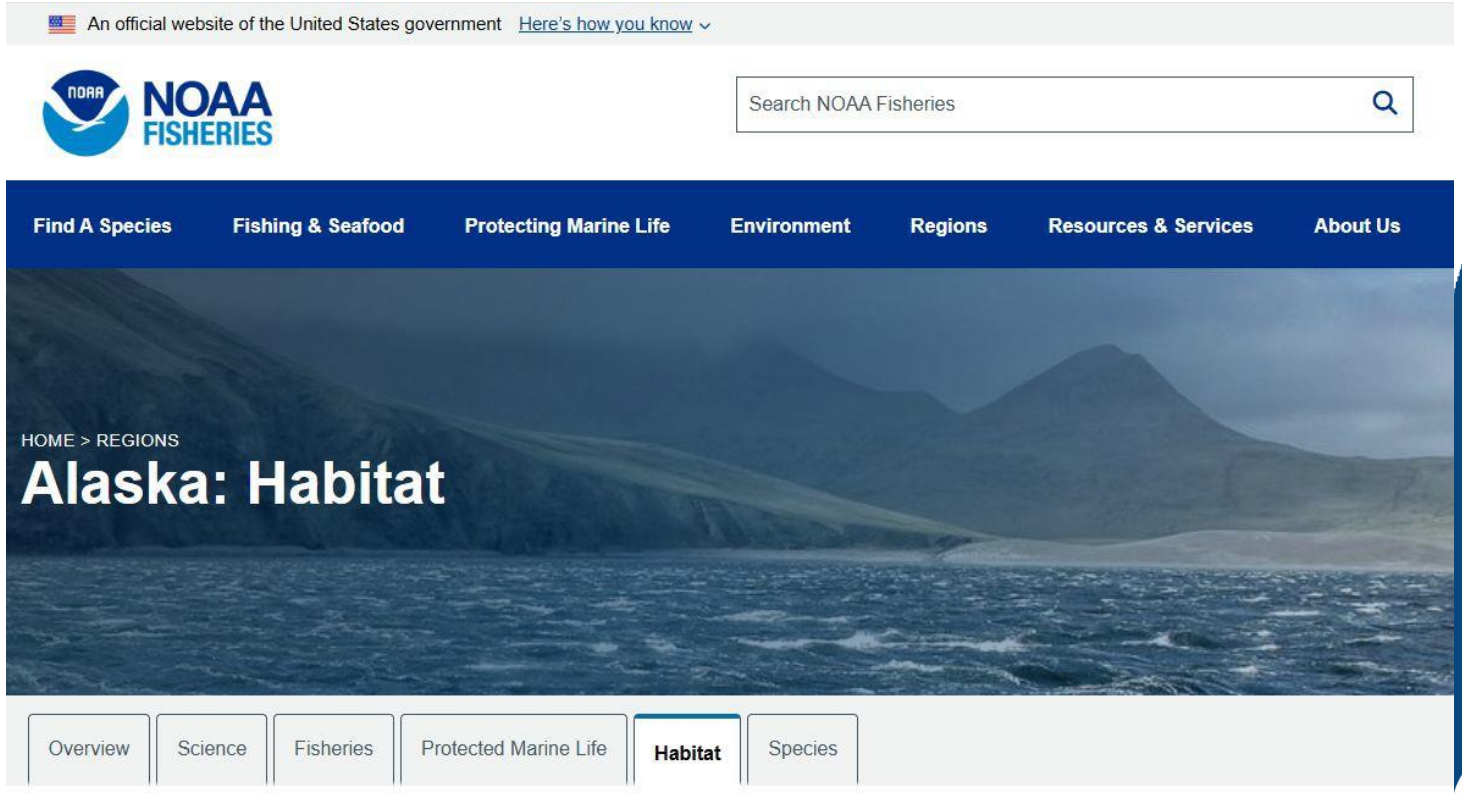
# Assessment Resources

NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region Website - Habitat Tab

- EFH info and links
- Links to the previous resources AND MORE!
- Habitat Programs
- Habitat Restoration in Alaska



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# Assessment Resources

EFH in Alaska Site Includes:

- Description and Identification
  - The most recent text descriptions
  - Maps and the Alaska EFH Mapper
- Consultation Resources
- Habitat Assessment Reports
- Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs)
- Regulations

More Information:

- Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) in Alaska page
- FAQs
- EFH Fact Sheet
- Contact information


Available online at:
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/habitat-conservation/essential-fish-habitat-efh-alaska



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# Process for EFH Consultations with NOAA Fisheries:

## Key Takeaways

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# Quick Recap

- EFH is everywhere. There are multiple resources for identifying EFH components in a given area.
- EFH supports commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing
- “Adverse effects” are defined broadly
- Concluding an adverse effect is not a show stopper for permitting.
- EFH and ESA are different and managed by different NOAA Fisheries’ Divisions.



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# Clean Water Act and NMFS

**Section 404 - Placement of Dredged and fill material**

- 1992 MOA w/USACE (404q) elevating
- 404 B1 guidelines

We don't typically engage but can:

- **Section 401 - Water Quality Certification**
- **NPDES & APDES**



NOAA FISHERIES

# Thank You! *Questions?*

Contact: Luke Byker, lucas.byker@noaa.gov
Seanbob Kelly, seanbob.kelly@noaa.gov

For consultation coordination, please use our Habitat Conservation Division service email:
nmfs.akr.habitat@noaa.gov

NOAA FISHERIES

# PUBLIC COMMENT


Alaska Regional Response Team



# NEXT MEETINGS

- September 11, 2025
- March 5, 2026
- September 10, 2026

# REVIEW OF PARKING LOT ISSUES & CLOSING REMARKS


Alaska Regional Response Team