



Alaska Regional Response Team

Wildlife Protection Committee

Charter

Purpose:

The Alaska Regional Response Team (RRT) Wildlife Protection Committee (Committee) assists the Alaska RRT in fulfilling requirements set forth in the *National Contingency Plan* (NCP) (40 CFR 300.210), namely that the Alaska RRT's Area Contingency Plans include: "...coordinated, immediate and effective protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and minimization of risk of injury to...wildlife resources and habitat." (40 CFR 300.210(c)(4)(i)).

To fulfill NCP requirements and at the request of the Alaska RRT, the Committee prepares, maintains, and revises as necessary, the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska* (WPG), which addresses primary, secondary, and tertiary wildlife response actions for oiled (or potentially oiled) migratory birds, marine mammals, and terrestrial mammals. The WPG is incorporated as Appendix IV of the *Alaska Regional Contingency Plan*. The WPG is also referenced in the four Alaska Area Contingency Plans.

Activities:

The Committee maintains and revises the WPG to ensure it is current and consistent with wildlife response-related "best practices" and national guidelines, and that it incorporates appropriate lessons learned from incidents and exercises.

Representation:

The Committee is chaired by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC), and additional Committee Members are representatives from the three Alaska agencies with jurisdiction and expertise for migratory birds, marine mammals, fish and fisheries, and terrestrial mammals: DOI-U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; U.S. Department of Commerce-NOAA¹ Fisheries²; and the State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Committee Advisors consist of representatives from other agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA-Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Forest Service, and USDA-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Representatives from Alaska Native Tribes and stakeholder groups (e.g., wildlife rehabilitators, environmental conservation organizations, regional citizens' advisory councils, oil industry, and oil spill removal organizations) also serve as Committee Advisors. Committee Members and Advisors may identify additional participants to provide advice and input to the Committee. Each Committee Member and Committee Advisor will be responsible for

¹ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

² Also known as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

representing their respective agency, members, or stakeholders. Committee Members will periodically review inclusion of advisors to ensure relevant interests are appropriately represented.

Work Groups:

Ad hoc work groups may be formed to address specific tasks associated with the WPG or as assigned by the Alaska RRT. Work group members include Committee Members and other participants as appropriate. A Pribilof Islands Work Group maintains the *Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response*. An Administrative Work Group meets for the purpose of conducting preliminary planning or specific work related to the WPG. Such work may include discussion about content updates and revisions, research into specific topic areas directly related to the WPG, coordination with other Alaska RRT Committees, or other closely related matters. The Administrative Work Group includes the Committee Members along with Committee Advisors including but not necessarily limited to: OR&R, ADEC, and USDA-APHIS.

Work Products and Decision-Making:

The Committee will establish or approve a process for receiving information from each work group. Proposed revisions to the WPG will be submitted to Committee Advisors for review. Following concurrence by Committee Members, WPG revisions will be submitted to the Alaska RRT for action. The goal of the Committee will be decision-making by unanimous consent. If unanimous consent is not possible, the Committee Chairperson will present the resulting information to the Alaska RRT for action.

Leadership:

The Committee Chairperson will be responsible for activities including but not limited to: scheduling and chairing meetings; communicating Committee-related information to Committee Members and Advisors and other participants; tracking progress on action items; preparing and maintaining appropriate records; and reporting progress to the Alaska RRT as noted below.

Meetings:

The Committee and work groups will meet as needed to fulfill the purposes as outlined above or as requested by the Alaska RRT. All Committee Members, Advisors, and work groups, as appropriate, will be provided timely notice of meetings and review periods for drafts and final work products to allow for coordination and consultation with their respective constituencies.

Records:

The Chairperson and work group leaders will be responsible for preparing and distributing Committee records in accordance with Article VII, Section 7 of the Alaska RRT Charter.

Signature Page

This Charter for the Wildlife Protection Committee is approved as revised
by the following duly authorized agency representatives:

Signed by:

Patrick M. Hilbert

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Patrick Hilbert

Chair to the Alaska Regional Response Team

U. S. Coast Guard, Arctic District

5/20/2026

Date

Signed by:

Stephanie Wenning

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Stephanie Wenning

Chair to the Alaska Regional Response Team

Environmental Protection Agency

Emergency Response Program

5/27/2026

Date

DocuSigned by:



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Teresa Melville

Chair to the Alaska Regional Response Team

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

5/27/2026

Date