Summary - Draft

Attendees: Philip Johnson, DOI; Ernie Weiss, Aleutian East Borough; LT. Matt Mitchell, Sector Anchorage; Nick Knowles, EPA; Shawn Decker, Sector Anchorage; Doug Burn, ABSI LCC; James Beckham, Alaska Network; Jeanette Alas, ADFG; Lori Verbrugge, USFWS; Todd Duke, Resolve; Tim Robertson, Nuka Research; Leslie Pearson, Pearson Consulting; Eric Vogel, Sector Anchorage; Rick Bernhardt, ADEC; Doug Limpinsec, NOAA; Gary Folley, ADEC; Steve Russell, ADEC; Gay Harpole, ADEC, Hector Citron, Sector Anchorage; Matt Melton, Alaska Chadux, Simon Lisiecki; Jason Boyle, USCG District 17; Colin Daugherty, Alaska Chadux; Kion Evans, ADEC; Judy Miller, AK Response Co.; Shane Montoya, Sector Anchorage; Jim Butler, Alaska Network; Melissa Parks, Pew Foundation; Karen Pletnikoff, Aleutian Pribilof Island Association; Layton Lockett, Adak City Manager; David Osterback.

Purpose

To provide a status report on the Subarea Contingency Plan update and changes.

Brief Update on the Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) Program (CMDR. Hector Citron, Sector Anchorage)

LT. Mitchell provided a status history of the Subarea Committee’s exposure to the APC Guidance. The Subarea Committee was introduced to the Guidance and approval criteria in August 2014.

CMDR Citron discussed the APC process. The regulations provide some guidance on the submittal and approval process. Currently District 17 and Sector Anchorage have established a working group to review and identify the best way forward in reviewing and approving APC’s. APC’s are reviewed internally and included an expedited Endangered Species Act review by National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife. In addition, the Alaska Regional Response Team specifically the State of Alaska has reviewed submitted APC’s. No other stakeholder outreach is conducted. The working groups goal is to establish a new or modified process for APC review. The outcome may be a possible update to the guidance or marine safety information bulletin.

Update on the Aleutian Islands Routing Measures (Leslie Pearson, Pearson Consulting LLC and Douglas Burns, Aleutian Bering Sea Islands LCC)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) routing measure proposal for establishing five areas to be avoided was submitted to IMO in December 2014. The IMO Navigation Safety & Communications subcommittee met during the week of March 8th and approved the proposal on March 13. The proposal will move forward to the IMO Marine Safety Committee, which meets in June for formal adoption. After the proposal is adopted the U.S. has six months to implement the proposal. David Osterback asked whether routes were part of the IMO proposal since there have been conflicts with fishing gear in the past. At this time, no specific routes have been identified. Jim Butler asked whether the IMO ATBA’s allow for route deviations. The ATBA’s once adopted will be recommended and not mandatory, which will allow vessel masters to deviate for storm avoidance.

Doug Burns, Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands Landscape Conservation Cooperative provided a briefing on additional analysis that examines and compares the existing vessel routes to the
proposed routes by the ATBA’s, and there proximity to seabird colonies and Stellar Sea Lion haul outs/rookeries. The proposed route will result in approximately 17% reduction in exposure or risk to seabird colonies and a 21% reduction in exposure or risk to Stellar Sea Lion haul outs.

A presentations on these agenda items can be downloaded at the following website: http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/meetings.html

**Status update to the Subarea Plan (L.T. Matthew Mitchell, Sector Anchorage)**

The primary updates that have occurred with Change 2 of the Aleutian SCP are: Administrative, Sensitive Area Section, additional geographic response strategies, the Response Section, which includes a reference annex and an APC annex. The Administrative updates include: community profiles, agency contacts, local contacts, and potential places of refuge. For the Sensitive Areas Section content on endangered species, land sensitivities and the Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines have been updated. Five new geographic response strategies were added in the West Zone B and fourteen in West Zone A. A new subsection was developed in the Response Section titled, “Marine Response and Salvage Recovery”. This subsection incorporates information from six different reports developed during Phase B of the Risk Assessment. A special procedures subsection incorporates the Dutch Harbor Severe Weather Plan and recommended routing measures from the risk assessment. The APC Annex includes the COTP Western Alaska expectation for APC’s. APC administrators shall participate with applicable subarea committees and provide annual reports to describe their build-up activities. Dissemination of a written build-up report is sufficient when applicable subarea plans are not being revised.

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**Aleutian Islands Risk Assessment Recommendations-The Way Forward (Gary Folley, ADEC)**

The AIRA recommendations are directed to agency decision makers (i.e. government agencies-federal, state and local). What do we do with the recommendations? The suggested way forward is to establish a task force as part of the Aleutian Subarea Committee. The task force should be co-chaired by the Coast Guard and State. The task force should bring together stakeholders to review the recommendations systematically, identify any cost, legal barriers, jurisdictional responsibilities and risks, and implement the recommendations.

**Public Comments**

Matt Melton, Alaska Chadux shared with the committee the build up of response resource in Adak and Dutch Harbor.

Jim Butler, Alaska Network elaborated in that the Network in 2014 funded OSRO (AK Chadux) acquisition/staging of 2 large vessel booming packages & a Western Alaska Rapid Response equipment package. Augmented equipment hubs in Dutch Harbor and Anchorage, new hub in Adak will be established in the spring of 2015. Grant added over 1 mile of ocean boom, nearly 1/2 mile of containment boom & increased EDRC by over 6000 bbl. A second grant to Chadux provided over 1 mile of ocean boom, over 4 1/2 miles of containment boom and increased EDRC by nearly 11,000 bbl. This grant yields the equivalent of 2 large vessel booming packages, 10 rapid response packages, new equipment hubs in Atka, Cold Bay, St. Paul and Kotzebue and enhancement of existing hubs in Anchorage, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor and Nome. Additional information regarding the Networks accomplishments for 2014 and goals for 2015 will be posted on the following website: http://www.aleutiansriskassessment.com/meetings.html

Karen Pletnikoff asked how are the Pribilof Island GRS and Sensitive area going to be developed and included in the SCP, and whether local entities have been included in providing information. Karen recommended engaging the local environmental observer network and utilizing the observers as community outreach. Karen offered to provide assistance in coordinating efforts.
**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Public review of the updated SCP
- Drawing from the Subarea Committee, establish a task force or working group to review and implement the recommendations from the risk assessment.
- Further the GRS process to the Pribilof Islands
- The Subarea Committee should decide and direct the remaining funds from the risk assessment.
- Consider the concept of establishing an Aleutian Islands Waterway Committee
- Schedule a presentation with the LEO network on the Subarea Committee Planning to coordinate efforts.