



## ARRT Annual Report 2013

### ANNUAL REPORT ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (ARRT) CY 2013

#### Executive Summary

**Period of Report: 01 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2013.**

**I. Introduction:** N/A

**II. Challenges:** Some of ARRT's current challenges include:

- a. Revising dispersant use and preauthorization plan.
- b. Pursuing ESA Section 7 Compliance and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Analysis for the Unified Plan.
- c. Ensuring consistent, meaningful engagement with federally-recognized tribes.

**III. Lessons Learned:** N/A

**IV. Best Practices:** N/A



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**Period of Report: 01 Jan 2013 to 31 Dec 2013.**

## I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

### A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities:

Drill Ship KULLUK Grounding; Potential Release: On 31 Dec 2012 the Drill ship KULLUK was forced aground after several failed attempts to tow vessel away from land during a storm. The KULLUK grounded on Sitkalidak Island (part of the Kodiak Island archipelago). The vessel carried approximately 130K gallons of diesel fuel. The vessel was refloated after the storm subsided without incident. An ARRT incident specific activation occurred for informational purposes only when it became apparent the vessel was going to ground. The KULLUK was the drill ship used by SHELL during exploratory drilling in 2012; and the incident received worldwide media attention. Additional information can be found at:



[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy13/121227201/121227201\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy13/121227201/121227201_index.htm)

F/V Lone Star Sinking: On June 30, 2013, The Lone Star's anchor line struck the vessel's transducer while they were anchoring the vessel, causing damage to the hull. The vessel began taking on water and capsized in 18 feet of water. The vessel has approximately 13,000 gallons of fuel onboard at time of sinking. Approximately 7,000 gallons of fuel were removed during the salvage operations. Commercial fishing within 6 statute miles of the sinking was closed until the vessel was salvaged on October 21, 2013. Additional information can be found at:



[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy13/130630201/130630201\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy13/130630201/130630201_index.htm)

Galena Flooding: On May 27, 2013, an ice jam developed on the Yukon River during the Spring thaw, flooding the remote village of Galena. The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) was the OSC for the response. Although this response was a high priority for the state of Alaska, they did not request a natural disaster declaration. Floodwaters dislodged and damaged fuel tanks and dozens of transformers containing PCBs and other associated containers of hazardous materials. This case is ongoing. Additional information can be found at:



[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum\\_fy13/130607301/130607301\\_index.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sum_fy13/130607301/130607301_index.htm)



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Other Response Activities: Overall, 9 additional response summaries were completed and posted on the State of Alaska website for other significant spills. A complete list of all response activities is online at ADEC's website:

[http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr\\_active.htm](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/response/sr_active.htm) (under Active Response and FY13/14).

### **B. Alaska RRT Meetings/Incident Specific Activation:**

Meeting: Tri-Annual ARRT Public Session – September 25, 2013 in Juneau: USCG-coordinated. Twenty-nine participants signed in. Nine Alaska RRT member agencies attended. A special presentation was given by Mr. Jason Lehto (NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center). Mr. Lehto presented on the Alaska Oil Spill Risk Analysis conducted by NOAA. The report should be completed by December 2013. Meeting summaries can be viewed on line at the ARRT website:

<http://alaskarrt.org/files/summary%20to%20post.pdf> (Summary notes).

Meeting: Tri-Annual ARRT Public Session – May 22, 2013 in Valdez: USCG coordinated. Thirty-nine persons signed in. Nine Alaska RRT member agencies attended. A special presentation was given by Dr. Tara Reimer Jones, President and CEO of the Alaska SeaLife Center. Dr. Reimer Jones presented information on her organization's oil spill response and wildlife rehabilitation capabilities. Meeting summaries can be viewed on line at the ARRT website: <http://alaskarrt.org/files/May%202013%20Mtg%20Summary.pdf> (Summary notes).

Meeting: Tri-Annual ARRT Public Session – February 21, 2013 in Anchorage: EPA coordinated. Twenty-seven persons signed in. Nine Alaska RRT member agencies attended. Mr. Doug Helton (NOAA) provided an overview of the new policy memo for the Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats (RULET) risk assessments. Meeting summaries can be viewed on line at the ARRT website:

<http://alaskarrt.org/files/ARRTNotes%202-21-13.pdf> (Summary notes).

Activation: The Alaska RRT was activated once in CY 2013 for informational purposes during the Drill Ship KULLUK Grounding and once as part of the 16July2013 internal ARRT dispersant exercise. Several agencies failed to respond to the activation notification requested or participate in the exercise. ARRT is taking actions necessary to address.

### **C. Committee and Working Group Updates:**

Science and Technology Committee (STC): The Science and Technology Committee (STC) did not meet this FY. All three tri-chairs members were replaced for USCG, EPA and ADEC. The Dispersants Work Group continues to update the Alaska Unified Plan



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ANNEX F APPENDIX I – ARRT OIL DISPERSANT GUIDELINES/  
PREAUTHORIZATION PLAN FOR ALASKA. Additional information is online at the  
ARRT website: <http://alaskarrt.org/> (What’s new).

Wildlife Protection Committee: The Wildlife Protection Committee did not meet this FY.

Cultural and Historic Properties Committee: The Cultural and Historical Properties  
Committee met several times to work on the revision of the Historical Properties  
guidelines.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Compliance Workgroup (ESA Workgroup): The  
ESA Workgroup met several times to review progress and coordinate work on the  
Biological Assessment (BA). The BA is in the final review before going to the Services  
sometime in 2014.

The Tribal Engagement Policy Task Force: The Tribal Engagement Policy Task Force met  
several times. The task force provided a draft policy guideline for engagement with  
federally-recognized tribes including, among other topics, setting policy for membership on  
the ARRT.

## II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

**A. Training:** USCG District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) conducted 20 First Responder  
Operations Level HAZWOPER training classes for over 326 USCG personnel and  
qualified four new USCG HAZWOPER Instructors.

DRAT coordinated three ICS classes in Juneau; ICS-300a, ICS-400, and ICS-620. The  
USCG Exercise Support Team conducted ICS-300a, ICS-320, ICS-400, JIC, and RISC  
Communication training prior to the 2013 government led Area Exercise in Valdez, AK.

### **B. Exercises/Workshops:**

North Slope Mutual Aid Drill 30 August to 01 September 2013: This year’s drill was  
hosted by Eni Petroleum (Eni) and exercised their Spy Island Drillsite (SID) and Oliktok  
Production Pad (OPP) response plans located IVO Simpson Lagoon. Alaska Clean Seas  
(ACS), the Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) participated in the exercise. The drill  
exercised one of the response scenarios found in Eni’s response plan.

16 July ARRT Internal Dispersant Tabletop Exercise: The ARRT participated in a two-  
hour internal dispersant exercise. Discussions focused on the ARRT’s approval of a  
monitoring plan for a full-scale dispersant application in a Chukchi Sea drilling rig-based



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spill scenario. Participants were given an overview of ARRT actions from Shell Alaska Venture's 2012 exercise; artificialities for this exercise; and scenario details for Day-3+ (e.g., actions, timelines, objectives, etc.). The exercise was specifically designed to establish a learning environment for the participants. The exercise focused on increasing awareness and understanding of the participants on the potential consequences associated with implementing a full-scale dispersant application plan in a remote location.

The exercise highlighted one of the challenges in conducting a telephonic exercise. Telephonic exercises rely on extensive read-ahead materials and advanced reading/preparation by the participants. Understandingly with everyone's busy work-load, some participants did not read the preparation materials beforehand. Those participants were confused about the discussion topics and detracted from the exercise. The ARRT was activated as part of the exercise. A detailed After Action Report (AAR) can be found at: [http://alaskarrt.org/files/16Jul13\\_Exercise\\_AAR\\_01Nov13.pdf](http://alaskarrt.org/files/16Jul13_Exercise_AAR_01Nov13.pdf)

Alaska Arctic SONS 13 Seminar based Exercise: The ARRT organized and hosted a four hour seminar exercise focusing on a Chukchi Sea drilling rig-based spill scenario). The exercise received exceptional support with over 50+ personnel from state, federal and industry participating on the Joint Design Team (JDT) in four different workgroups. A detailed After Action Report (AAR) is available upon request from the ARRT USCG Co-chair.

Annual POLAR TANKER Exercise in Prince William Sound: ConocoPhillips hosted the Annual exercise during the Oct 7-9 2013. Unfortunately due to the Federal Government Shutdown and associated travel restrictions, USCG participation was extremely limited.

### National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Exercises:

- One Government-led PREP full scale exercise occurred in Prince William Sound FOSC zone.
- PREP Government Initiated Unannounced Drills (GIUs). USCG COTPs initiated: six (6) of ten (10) required annual unannounced drills. 4 of 4 at Sector Anchorage, 2 of 4 at Sector Juneau and 0 of 2 at MSU Valdez. EPA did not initiate any unannounced drills in the Alaska Region.
- PREP Equipment Deployment Exercises: Equipment deployments occurred throughout Alaska. Types are listed below:
  - Aerial Dispersant Delivery System (ADDS) training exercises. The USCG Air Station Kodiak air crews participated in two ADDS deployments this year in



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Kodiak and Valdez. Participants included USCG, Lynden Air and Alyeska SERVS.

- Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS) training exercises. Four (4) SORS training exercises occurred in Sitka, Homer, and Kodiak AK.
- Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) training exercise: Two (2) VOSS training exercises were conducted.
- Pre-Stage Oil Spill Response Equipment deployments. One (1) USCG led equipment deployment exercise occurred in Metlakatla, AK, one of the eighteen (18) pre-staged sites throughout Alaska.
- USCGD17 DRAT Remote equipment sites visited. The USCGD17 DRAT owns 49 containers containing near shore boom and oil spill response equipment in 18 cities for use by community first responders. 45 containers in 14 cities were visited by USCG members. At each site routine maintenance and inventory of all contents was conducted. No training with community responders was conducted this year.

### C. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts:

Alaska Subarea Contingency Plans (SCPs): ADEC, Coast Guard and EPA coordinated. Stated goal: complete two (2) of ten (10) Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) updates every year.

The Sector Anchorage Working Group (WG) completed updates to the Bristol Bay and Western Alaska SCPs in Feb 2013. Both SCPs have been published. In addition, final updates to the Southeast Alaska SCPs were completed and finalized in April 2013. The Interior Subarea Committee continues to work on developing Change Two to the Interior SCP. The Committee was re-established in 2012 and expects to have the new version of the plan published by the end of 2014. The Prince William Sound Subarea Committee continued work on Change Three to the PWS SCP and expects to publish this plan update by mid-2014. The Aleutians Subarea Committee continues work on Change Three to the Aleutians SCP and expects to have this plan update published by the end of 2014. All SCPs can be seen at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/plan.htm>

Potential Place of Refuge (PPOR) Guidelines Revision 1: DOI and ADEC coordinated. Revision 1 was reviewed and approved by the ARRT on 25 September 2013. The Unified Plan has been updated to reflect revision 1 and can be seen at: [http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/plans/uc/Annex%20%20\(Jan%2010\).pdf](http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/plans/uc/Annex%20%20(Jan%2010).pdf)



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### III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

New Rep	Organization	Date	Departed Rep
Kristin Ryan	ADEC	6-1-2013	Larry Detrick
Christian Anderson	DOD	8-1-2013	Todd Stull
Mark Wagner (STC Tri-chair)	USCG	8-1-2013	CDR Bo Stocklin
Marcia Combs (STC Tri-chair)	EPA	8-1-2013	Gary Folley

### IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

**Issue:** ARRT letter to NRT dated September 10, 2009 requesting the NRT re-evaluate the 1995 guidance containing recommended limits for short term exposure to particulate matter (PM) and potential impacts to safe distances in guidance for *in situ burning* as an alternative countermeasure. Still pending.