

# ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

## Meeting Summary

**0845–1700 Wednesday May 16, 2018  
Juneau Federal Building, Room 541-A  
Juneau, Alaska**

Sign-in sheets can be viewed [here](#).

A copy of the agenda is available [here](#).

Copies of the presentations and handouts are available on the Alaska Regional Response Team website, under ARRT Meetings at <https://alaskarrt.org>

### Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Mr. Marc Randolph, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) coordinator, welcomed the meeting attendees and conducted introductions. The ARRT co-chairs—Mr. Mark Everett, (USCG); Mr. Calvin Terada, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and Ms. Kristin Ryan, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)—welcomed all attendees to the meeting and offered opening remarks.

### RADM Opening Comments

Rear Admiral Matt Bell, new district commander at USCG District 17, introduced himself, welcomed the ARRT meeting attendees, and provided some opening comments.

### Review of Actions Since Last Meeting and Biennial Work Plan

Mr. Everett and Marc Randolph, USCG ARRT Coordinator, provided a review of the ARRT's actions and activities since the last meeting, held in Anchorage, Alaska, in January 2018. Of note, the ARRT coordinators completed and tri-chairs signed the Alaska Unified Plan administrative update; the Oil Spill Response Institute provided funding and issued a contract regarding Food Safety Policy; and the ARRT co-chairs offered comments on the draft Regional Contingency Plan. A list of the major events can be found [here](#).

### Working Group, Subcommittee, and Task Force Reports

#### Science and Technology Committee

Ms. Catherine Berg, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Scientific Support Coordinator, provided an update on the Science and Technology Committee (STC). Multiple STC members were involved in the Shuyak response. The Food Safety Work Group, led by Sara Fletcher of Nuka Research, is leading the work group. The initial Food Safety Work Group teleconference will be June 11, 2018; any

ARRT members are welcome to participate. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify agency roles and responsibilities.

CAPT White asked on behalf of Mr. Alba Brice with Calista Corporation whom to contact regarding concerns about Fukushima radiation and food safety. CDR Matt Hobbie will communicate and coordinate with Mr. Brice to provide him the information he needs.

### **Wildlife Protection Committee**

Dr. Philip Johnson, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Regional Environmental Officer and chair of the Wildlife Protection Committee, reported that the committee reconstituted this year and has members representing the DOI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, EPA, USCG, industry, and tribal organizations.

Two meetings have been held, and a third is scheduled for early June. The committee identified a number of necessary updates to the current Wildlife Protection Guidelines, but these updates will be pending the activation of the new Regional and Area Contingency Plans. They discussed how to make the guidance documents more responder-friendly and how the Wildlife Protection Guidelines will be incorporated into the Area Contingency Plans.

### **Cultural Resource Protection Committee**

Dr. Johnson and Dr. Richard Vanderhoek, Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, are leading the committee and plan to activate it in fall 2018. They are working to determine how to update the membership and provide training to potential historic properties specialists, including agency staff and contractors. At present, in the event of a large incident, there is a potential shortage of available and qualified historic properties specialists. The resource agencies may be able to provide staff until cultural resource contractor support is available, including staff from outside of Alaska.

## **ARRT Coordinator Reports**

### **Fall ARRT Meeting and Outreach Strategy**

Mr. Knowles presented to members the change in date and location of the fall 2018 ARRT meeting from mid-October in Utqiagvik to Anchorage at a time that coincides with the inaugural Alaska Inland and Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committees meetings, anticipated in late October or early November. He also noted that the ARRT leadership agreed to keep future meetings in the on-scene coordinator (OSC) hub cities (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez, and Juneau).

### **Discussion of Regional Response Team (RRT) Job Aid and the Incident-Specific RRT**

Mr. Knowles reviewed and described the existing response planning framework: the standing RRT vs. the incident-specific RRT. He reminded the members of the RRT Job Aid tool. He emphasized that the standing RRT is a planning, policy, and coordinating body, whereas the incident-specific RRT supports the OSC and coordinates issues not handled by the Unified Command. Most commonly, the incident-specific RRT advises on the use of countermeasures and assists the OSC in mobilizing agency resources. A copy of his presentation is available [here](#).

## **Area Contingency Plan / Regional Contingency Plan Task Force Update**

Mr. Knowles, Mr. Randolph, and Shannon Miller, ADEC ARRT Coordinator, presented on the status of the development of the Regional Contingency Plan and four ACPs. A copy of their presentation is available [here](#).

## **General Discussion Topics and Special Presentations**

### **State-of-the-Science for Dispersant Use in Arctic Waters**

Dr. Nancy Kinner made a presentation on the state-of-the-science for dispersants in arctic waters. This presentation was in part prepared to address lessons learned from recent exercises that identified the need to develop a summary of the state of dispersant science and to develop outreach and educational materials explaining dispersant science to be included with public information provided in the event of a decision to use dispersants. A copy of her presentation is available [here](#).

Comments:

- CDR Matt Hobbie recommended that this information also needs to be provided to the Area Committees, in advance of an incident.
- CDR Jereme Altendorf recommended that an easily understood “info-graphic, tweet, and soundbyte” communications package, including “mini-videos” needs to be developed to stay ahead of public misinformation in the event of a large incident. Dr. Kinner noted that SeaGrant has already developed many infographics on dispersants.
- Rhonda Kaetzel, with the Department of Health and Human Services, recommended that the ARRT or National Response Team consider working with science writers who can distill hard science to simplified language “soft science.”
- Ms. Kaetzel also noted a separate critical need for improved tribal interactions and information sharing to address the more intensive connection to the land and its resources experienced by native communities and people.

### **Harvest Alaska (Hilcorp)**

Mr. Glenn Faulkner made a presentation on Harvest Alaska (a Hilcorp subsidiary) and their assets in Cook Inlet, in particular the company’s proposed changes to the Cook Inlet Pipeline system, with an objective to get rid of the Drift River facility and Christy Lee marine terminal and extend the Cook Inlet Pipeline (CIPL) across Cook Inlet to the Nikiski refinery. This would eliminate tanker traffic (cost and risk), eliminate drift river storage, lower costs, and reduce impacts from volcanic activity. The extension of the CIPL would use the “CIGGS-A” gas pipeline to transport oil, estimated to be complete by mid-September 2018.

Comments & Questions:

- Ms. Berg asked the age of the existing gas line that is planned to become an oil-transit pipeline. Mr. Faulkner’s response: The pipeline was constructed in the late 1960s and rated for gas pressure. It is a proven pipeline and tested and run with smart tools.

- Mr. Everett asked if the existing memoranda of understanding/agreement are adequate to address Cook Inlet. Mr. Terada stated that the pipeline is permitted by PHMSA and under USCG jurisdiction for response.
- Ms. Ryan stated that the State is still working to determine its role in permitting the plan.

## **On-Scene Coordinator Reports**

### **U.S. Coast Guard Southeast Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone**

CAPT Steve White, USCG Sector Juneau Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), gave a presentation on recent USCG activity in Southeast Alaska. He highlighted the response to release from the M/V Lumberman in Juneau, Alaska. This led to a discussion of derelict and semi-derelict vessels, and what happens when harbor masters evict boats for failure to pay and then the boat ends up being abandoned and risk becoming a source of an oil spill or damaging other vessels or structure. He also provided a summary of the planned Echo Cove Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) boom deployment field test. A copy of his presentation is available [here](#).

### **U.S. Coast Guard Prince William Sound COTP Zone**

CDR Michael Franklin, FOSC for Marine Safety Unit Valdez, reviewed the spills and responses in Prince William Sound since January 2018. He highlighted the release at the Valdez Marine Terminal release from a loading arm and a fuel truck spill from rollover in Valdez. He also spoke on the transition from Crowley to Edison Chouest Offshore for tanker escort services. A copy of his presentation is available [here](#).

### **U.S. Coast Guard Western Alaska COTP Zone**

CDR James Binniker, USCG Sector Anchorage FOSC, reviewed the recent responses and lessons learned in Western Alaska. He highlighted the Port William Shuyak Island response (February 26 to April 30, 2018). He spoke on a number of difficulties and lessons learned. He noted that although this incident was only 40 miles from Kodiak, there was no local infrastructure to support the response, and everything needed for the response and crew support had to be brought in. This added to the expense of the response, which totaled \$9 million. Mr. Everett requested that Sector Anchorage provide a copy of the incident after action report. A discussion followed of whether an inventory should be prepared to identify similarly vulnerable structures, at risk of a collapse and resulting oil spill. Mr. Vinnie Catalano (Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council; RCAC) recommended that the Shorezone aerial imagery could be used to identify shore-side structures. Mr. Gary Sonnenberg (U.S. Forest Service; USFS) noted that the USFS has been working on responses to canneries on Forest Service land. A separate discussion focused a question from Ms. Berg on whether the ARRT needed to be consulted before or after testing a surface washing detergent if that tactic had been utilized. Through this discussion, a recommendation was made that the ARRT develop a checklist or tool to guide the decision-making and approval process.

CDR Binniker also noted that USCG will conduct the Arctic Guardian Oil Spill Seminar and Equipment Deployment exercise in July 2018 and participate in the Mutual Aid Drill/PREP Exercise in August 2018. A copy of his presentation is available [here](#).

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Mr. Bob Whittier, EPA FOOSC, presented on the EPA's recent response and preparedness activities. The EPA is preparing for a large asbestos removal at Miller Salvage Yard in Fairbanks (June 2018) and an oil spill response course in Nome (August 13 to 17, 2018). The EPA will be assisting with the DOI's Inland Oil Spill course in September 2018. He also noted that Andeavor Oil will be testing the new GRSs developed for the inland zone on the Kenai Peninsula.

## **Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**

Mr. Graham Wood reviewed the major responses, including a response in Savoonga, Alaska, to a 22,000-gallon release due to a tank overfill and a truck rollover response at the Kenai Lake near Cooper Landing, Alaska. He also highlighted the Pirate Cove GRS test deployment and planned GRS test at Echo Cove near Juneau.

## **Public Comments**

No meeting attendees requested to offer public comments.

## **Concluding Comments and Remarks**

Representatives of the ARRT member agencies and the OSCs offered closing comments and remarks, and the meeting adjourned at 1630. The Marine Exchange invited ARRT members and meeting attendees to an open house at their facility following the meeting.

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## **Upcoming Meetings**

- ARRT Meeting: October or November, date TBD, ARRT Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska
- Task Force/Committee Meetings:
  - **Food Safety Task Force** Food Safety Work Group teleconference will be June 11, 2018
  - **Cultural Protection Committee** will schedule a meeting for fall 2018.

## **Follow-up Subjects and Assignment of Tasks**

(Assigned party in bold)

- Develop a decision-making tool for the use of surface-washing agents. (unassigned)
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**Participant Summary:**

**Member Agencies Attendance**

<b>Member Agency</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	●	
Department of Agriculture	●	
Department of Commerce	●	
Department of Defense	●	
Department of Energy	●	
Department of Health and Human Services	●	
Department of the Interior	●	
Department of Justice	●	
Department of Labor		●
Department of State		●
Department of Transportation	●	
Environmental Protection Agency	●	
Federal Emergency Management Agency		●
General Services Agency		●
U.S. Coast Guard	●	

**Non-member Organizations in Attendance**

Alaska Chadux Corporation
Calista Native Corporation
Coastal Response Research Center, University of New Hampshire
Cook Inlet RCAC
Crowley Fuels
Department of Commerce, National Weather Service
Hilcorp Alaska
Marine Exchange
Nana Corporation
Nuka Research
Prince William Sound RCAC
SEAPRO
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms