

**ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**May 16, 2019**  
**Fairbanks, AK**

Sign-in sheets are available [here](#). The agenda is available [here](#).

<b>Presentations and Background Information from the meeting are available online:</b>
<a href="#">Review of Actions Since Last Meeting &amp; Statewide Planning Committee Update</a>
Area Committees Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Alaska Regional Response Team Charter</a>,</li><li>• <a href="#">Science and Technology Charter</a>,</li><li>• <a href="#">Cultural Resources Committee Charter</a>,</li><li>• <a href="#">Wildlife Protection Committee Charter</a></li></ul>
<a href="#">Tribal Participation Presentation</a> and Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://alaskarrt.org/Home/Documents/12371">https://alaskarrt.org/Home/Documents/12371</a>,</li><li>• <a href="https://www.rrt10nwac.com/TribalTools.aspx">https://www.rrt10nwac.com/TribalTools.aspx</a>)</li></ul>
<a href="#">Area Committee Reports</a>
<a href="#">State-of-the-Science of Dispersants and Dispersed Oil in U.S. Arctic Waters</a>

**Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks**

Mr. Marc Randolph, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) Coordinator, welcomed the meeting attendees and conducted introductions. The ARRT tri-chairs—Mr. Mark Everett, (USCG); Mr. Calvin Terada, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and Ms. Denise Koch, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)—welcomed all attendees to the meeting and offered opening remarks. Ms. Mary Goolie, EPA ARRT Coordinator, and Mr. Craig Ziolkowski, ADEC ARRT Coordinator, and meeting facilitators assisted with introductions.

**Review of Actions since Last Meeting**

Mr. Everett provided a review of the ARRT’s actions, activities, and informational items since the last meeting, held in Anchorage, Alaska, in March 2019. Mr. Everett highlighted some of the major topics of discussion at the National Response Team (NRT)-RRT Co-Chairs meeting held April 30- May2, 2019. The ARRT Committees chairpersons also provided a brief report on actions and planned activities. Please see the above presentation for the summary of actions.

**Statewide Planning Committee Update**

Ms. Goolie and Mr. Ziolkowski provided a summary of the Statewide Planners Summit held on May 14, 2019, in Fairbanks, Alaska. LCDR Matt Hobbie, USCG Sector Anchorage, also addressed the importance of the meeting to improve efficiency in planning by reducing redundancy in work and streamlining plan content. He briefed ARRT on the planners’ concept of a ‘sponsor model’ in which one area committee or another organization may volunteer to address an issue and then share the product with the other area

committees. The goal of conducting work in this manner is to reduce duplication of effort between multiple area committees or other parties. Mr. Terada inquired how the on-scene coordinators (OSCs) would be incorporated in future planning discussion; the agency planners responded that a meeting is planned, potentially for the summer.

### ARRT Committee Discussion

Mr. Terada introduced a discussion on the work of the ARRT and its committees. This discussion was intended to prompt ARRT members to deliberate what the purpose of ARRT committees should be as the ARRT is considering potential re-structuring of how it conducts work and business. In general, there were no decisions made during the discussion; however, major points and questions are summarized below.

- Should the ARRT have standing committees, even when no work is currently assigned to the committee?
- Should the ARRT maintain the current standing committees, realign to correspond with the NRT committees, or realign with Area Committees?
- Science and Technology Committee (STC) – In lieu of the ARRT assigning a current task to the STC, the tri-chairs have asked that the STC keep the ARRT apprised of findings and work that may be of interest to the ARRT. Ms. Catherine Berg, STC Chair, stated that this resulted in monthly STC calls. These have been valuable to the STC members; however, she noted that the STC has some uncertainty as to whether they are actually meeting the ARRT needs.
- Wildlife Protection Committee – They have recently been active in providing an update to the Wildlife Protection Guidelines (WPG) in accordance with the new Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and Area Contingency Plans (ACP). They have not received recent direction from the ARRT, but are functioning in accordance with an established purpose of maintaining the WPG. The current committee is proposing to remain active to conduct annual review of the WPG, similar to the model used for the area committees and annual review of the ACPs. Committee chairperson, Dr. Phil Johnson, U.S. Department of the Interior, emphasized that efficiency is essential: one statewide wildlife committee versus one per area committee.
- Cultural Resources Committee – The committee has been inactive for several years, due to a lack of necessary or assigned work (i.e., the Alaska Implementation Guidelines have not required an update). Dr. Johnson and Judy Bittner, Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, have recently stood-up the committee to coordinate a training for historic properties specialists.
- There is general concern and awareness of the “dilemma of the same ten people.” (A few people are tasked with a substantial workload, often filling multiple job descriptions to accomplish the necessary work.)
- A strategic plan is needed for planning, including the listing, prioritization, and scheduling of the contingency plans and associated references and tools that support the contingency plans.
- The ARRT should determine if or how the “Task Force Model” of assigning a specific task to a small ARRT work group would relate or compare to the proposed Area Committee Sponsorship Model.

The ARRT tri-chairs requested that the Statewide Planning Committee (SPC) incorporate these points in their draft of a revision to the ARRT Charter.

### ARRT Committee Discussion

Ms. Goolie gave a presentation on federally recognized tribes and other tribal organizations and their potential role in response, the ARRT, and area committees. She initiated a discussion with the objective of identifying steps for including tribes and tribal organization in response and planning. Through the discussion, members agreed that the [ARRT Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes](#) should be updated to include language on the new RCP, ACPs and the area committees.

No additional assignments of specific actions were made because of the discussion; however, major comments and several recommendations are summarized below.

- Ms. Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research, noted that approximately half of the comments received on the food safety document came from people representing tribal organizations.
- Ms. Karen Pletnikoff, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, remarked that her organization is a tribal consortium and she appreciates the ARRT recognizing it as having a potential role in response and planning, as they exist to assist tribes and tribal members.
- Ms. Pletnikoff requested that the ARRT adopt language in its plans or guidance that states a tribe may designate anyone to represent the tribe as an ARRT member (not necessarily a tribal elected official).
- Recommendation: The ARRT should develop a single-page summary describing the potential role of tribes. A second flyer should be developed describing the role of regional and village corporations. This would be useful to the tribal organizations and agencies in order to improve engagement and inclusion.
- Recommendation: The ARRT should renew practice of an annual ARRT newsletter to tribes.
- Recommendation: The ARRT should look to the Region 10 RRT/Northwest Area Committee's tribal tools and best practices, and 'Alaskan-ize' and incorporate these as appropriate.
- Recommendation: The ARRT should include multiple agencies in updating the ARRT Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes, similar to the original drafting.
- Recommendation: Public comment and input is critical to the revision process of the tribal guidance.

### Area Committee Reports

#### **Prince William Sound Area Committee**

CDR Michael Franklin, Marine Safety Unit Valdez (MSU Valdez) Federal OSC (FOSC), reviewed the recent activities of the Prince William Sound Area Committee. The area committee is meeting on May 21, 2019. The Administrative Subcommittee is working to validate the contact information in the ACP and targeting completion of the next version of the ACP in fall 2019. CDR Franklin also highlight key cases

and enforcement. Mr. Tom DeRuyter, Southeast State OSC (SOSC), spoke on the behalf of Geoff Merrell, SOSC, who was unable to attend and agreed with CDR Franklin's report.

### **Southeast Alaska Area Committee**

CAPT Steve White, USCG Sector Juneau FOSC, presented on recent activity in Southeast Alaska and the Southeast Alaska Area Committee. The area committee is meeting on August 13, 2019, and is working to recruit members. On April 3, 2019, USCG and ADEC met with Canadian counterparts regarding the CANUSDIX Joint Contingency Plan. USCG, ADEC, and several other agencies participated in a full-scale exercise at Hecla Mine in Hawk Inlet. In Glacier Bay, the National Park Service worked with ADEC and USCG in a boom deployment exercise. Mr. DeRuyter remarked on the value of the recent Southeast Alaska exercises, particularly the development of relationships and partnerships between the participating organizations.

### **Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee**

LCDR Hobbie spoke on the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee. They are working to develop a Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) validation process, an exercise and training calendar and to establish work groups on Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GUIEs), unmanned aerial systems (UAS), and stakeholder engagement. The next area committee meeting is November 19, 2019, in Anchorage, AK. The ACP Version 2018.1 is anticipated in November 2019.

CDR Mark Kuperman, USCG Sector Anchorage, reported on the Marine Safety Task Force, a summer-season surge operation tasked with inspecting bulk oil facilities throughout Western Alaska in influence enforcement number. They plan to identify aging infrastructure in need of attention and seek improved engagement with the facility operators and the communities.

Mr. Tom DeRuyter, SOSC, added that the exercise and training calendar is an effort to improve coordination between government agencies and to identify and prioritize agency participation in industry exercises.

*\*\*Request for ARRT Support: Support to the unmanned aerial systems work group and the Intentional Wellhead Ignition work group.*

*\*\*Recommendation for Follow-up: Mr. Gary Sonnenberg, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), remarked that that UAS are not allowed to be possessed or operated, or to land, in areas designated as wilderness; however, this restriction may be waived with the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding for their use. The ARRT should coordinate with the UAS work group and USFS to explore this option further.*

### **Alaska Inland Area Committee**

Mr. Matt Carr, EPA FOSC, and Tom DeRuyter, ADEC SOSC, reported on the recent activities of the Alaska Inland Area Committee. The area committee is working on an update to the ACP, with a target date of completion in early 2020. The tentative date for next area committee meeting is the last week of January 2020.

They also reported to the ARRT that Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) is investigating the issue of subsidence of North Slope oil wells, which has caused two releases from impacted wellheads. The AOGCC has stated that BP Exploration Alaska has not demonstrated that additional wells are not also at risk of subsidence related problems.

### [Special Topic: State-of-the-Science of Dispersant and Dispersed Oil in U.S. Arctic Waters](#)

Mr. Doug Helton, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, presented on the findings final report on the State-of-the-Science of Dispersants and Dispersed Oil (DDO) in U.S. Arctic Waters. He noted that there are differences in ecosystem and areas of potential dispersant use in the Arctic. He also spoke on the findings on the risks to workers, the public, and subsistence users – particularly the difficulty in attributing symptoms to the DDO versus general work stress and the lack of data. He also highlighted that there has been very little research on food safety; particularly in regards to the very high consumption rates of local populations in the Arctic. Please see his presentation (hyperlink above) for the summary of the reports and [https://crrc.unh.edu/dispersant\\_science](https://crrc.unh.edu/dispersant_science) for the full reports.

### [Public Comments](#)

Ms. Pletnikoff was the only attendee who requested to offer public comments. She requested and thanked the ARRT for their consideration of inclusion of tribal consortia in membership and involvement in the ARRT and ARRT tribal consultation guidance. She recommended that, in consideration of a greatly reduced participation of tribal staff at the Alaska Forum on the Environment 2020, ARRT should focus its outreach efforts at the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Providers Conference. She also recommended that the USCG develop a single-page summary on the Marine Safety Task Force and how village facilities can be in compliance with regulations.

### [Concluding Comments and Remarks](#)

Representatives of the ARRT member agencies and the OSCs offered closing comments and remarks, and the meeting adjourned.

### [Upcoming Meetings](#)

- Prince William Sound Area Committee meeting: May 21, 2019, in Cordova, AK
- Southeast Alaska Area Committee meeting: August 13, 2019, in Juneau, AK
- ARRT Meeting: January 30, 2020, in Anchorage, AK, at the BP Energy Center.

### [Follow-up Subjects and Assignment of Tasks](#)

1. **SPC** will prepare an initial draft revision of the ARRT Charter. SPC will include a proposal for re-organization of committees/working groups as part of the charter revision. **(Mr. Everett lead)**
2. TBD task force will review and update the guidance for tribal coordination and participation **(Task Force activation and member TBD, Mr. Terada lead)**

3. Coordinate with the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee UAS work group and USFS to explore development of a MOU regarding UAS operations in USFS wilderness areas (**Assignment TBD**)
4. Closed task: Dr. Kinner's request for assistance from ARRT on developing outreach and communication tools is no longer active.

### Requests for ARRT Support:

1. Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee: Request for ARRT Support on the UAS work group. Specifically, assistance is needed facilitating input from National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the science of wildlife interactions as well as FAA for appropriate airspace management during response activities.
2. Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee: Request for support for the Intentional Wellhead Ignition work group. Specifically, assistance and input is needed from the ARRT STC.

### Participant Summary:

<b>Member Agencies in Attendance</b>		
<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	●	
<b>Non-member Organizations in Attendance</b>		
Alaska Chadux Corporation		
Alaska Clean Seas		
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association		

Association of Village Council Presidents
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
Cook Inlet Spill Response Inc.
North Slope Borough
Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC
Prince William Sound RCAC
State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources,
State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of Justice, ESF #13 (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms)
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Council