

Alaska Regional Response Team
 March 8, 2023, Anchorage, AK and Virtual (Zoom.gov)
Meeting Summary

Meeting Documentation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda • Meeting Presentations
ARRT Documents, Plans, and Guidance (New/Updated since the last meeting)
<i>None currently</i>

Introductions, Tri-Chairs Report, and Review of Actions Since Last Meeting

Ms. Angella Thuotte, USCG ARRT Coordinator, conducted a roll call of the ARRT Members and the On-scene Coordinators. Mr. Graham Wood, ADEC Alternate Tri-Chair, Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA Tri-Chair, and Mr. Mark Everett, USCG Tri-Chair, offered opening remarks.

Mr. Everett presented an overview of the actions of the ARRT since the September 2022 meeting (See Slide 9). Major events and milestones include the following:

- Annual Report to National Response Team (NRT) and Endangered Species Act compliance report is drafted.
- ARRT Tri-Chairs and Coordinators from EPA and USCG attended the National Response Team/ Regional Response Teams Co-Chairs Meeting February 13-16, 2023.
- Announcement from Champion that they will no longer be producing Corexit™, the most common dispersant planned for use.
- USCG Headquarters proposed a national restructuring of the ACP format.

ARRT Committee Reports

Dr. Lisa Fox, U.S. Department of the Interior, reported on the recent activities of the Wildlife Protection Committee and Cultural Resources Committee, Ms. Catherine Berg, NOAA, reported on the Science and Technology Committee and Ms. Victoria Colles, ADEC, reported on the Statewide Planning Committee and Ms. Allison Natcher reported on the Regional Stakeholder Committee Task Force. The table below provides a summary of the major activities of these committees and associated presentation slide numbers.

ARRT Committee	Major Activities	Presentation
Cultural Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARRT CRC Charter: Completed and submitted to ARRT Tri-Chairs for approval. Tri-Chairs signed it in October 2022. • Revising the <i>Alaska Historic Properties Implementation Guidelines for Federal On-scene Coordinators</i> 	Slide 12

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating with Culturally Important Places Work Group and potentially developing new response tools 	
Science and Technology Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking new research on remote sensing and detection of oil in ice – slides summarizing the research projects provided 	Slides 16-29
Statewide Planning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly SPC Meetings to facilitate statewide consistency in area contingency plans Working on developing quarterly newsletters and coordinating updates on ADEC and ARRT websites 	Slides 30-35
Regional Stakeholder Committee Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting a Job Aid for Liaison Officer on a Regional Stakeholder Committee Drafted updated Definitions for RSC and Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) Next step: Drafting RSC content for Area Contingency Plans and the Regional Contingency Plan 	Slides 36-44
Wildlife Protection Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning to initiate a review and administrative update of the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska (WPG) New ARRT Wildlife Protection Webpage, which includes the new training video on carcass collection and documentation <p>Pribilof Islands Working Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revising the Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines (PI WPG), public comment recently closed, expect to finalize by mid-2023 	Slides 13-14s 22-23

Area Committee Reports

Each of the four Area Committees updated their activities and recent significant areas. The Area Committees are working on annual reviews and modifications as necessary to each of the four Area Contingency Plans and other projects, exercises, and training to support response readiness in their areas. The tables below summarize the requests for support from the Area Committees to the ARRT and upcoming activities and work in the Area Committees (Slides 46-73).

Area Committee Requests for Support	
Alaska Inland	Support/ideas/resources for Village Compliance Assessment
	Continue the conversation on logistic support from ARRT member agencies – follow-up on ARRT Tabletop Exercise 9/21/2022
Arctic and Western Alaska	Developing risk assessment methodology for statewide application

	Support for tribal engagement in conjunction with risk assessment outreach
	Assistance in developing UAS protocols and statewide policy
	Assistance in the management of GIS data
Southeast Alaska	Continued support for exploration of GRS documents to GIS format and improvement of technology to conduct validations with modeling software

Area Committee	Next Meeting	Status of ACP	Major Upcoming Exercises/ Trainings and Projects
Alaska Inland <i>Slides 67-73</i>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiating admin subcommittee for 2023 review and modifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA is conducting an exercise on the North Slope to test communications and cold-weather instrument operations.
Arctic and Western Alaska <i>Slides 60-66</i>	May 2, 2023 Anchorage, AK & Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2020.2 Signed January 2023 Added Intentional Wellhead Ignition to ACP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working through Risk Assessment methodology; UAS policy for statewide applicability; Salvage and Marine Firefighting ACP content and GRS validation On-going work on salvage & marine firefighting and GRS validation
Prince William Sound <i>Slides 53-59</i>	April 18, 2023, Cordova, AK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2020.2 Signed January 2023 Future review/modifications will look to streamlining formatting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alyeska Wildlife Deployment Drill, April 20 (Cordova, AK) PWS Tanker Exercise May 16-18 (Hilcorp; Valdez and Anchorage, AK)
Southeast Alaska <i>Slides 47-52</i>	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V2020.1, signed in March 2021 Focusing on upcoming exercises and will revisit plan reviews later in 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PREP Full-Scale Exercise April 18-20, 2023, Ketchikan June 2023: CANUS-Dix exercise

Afternoon: Special Topics

The afternoon session consisted of three special topics presentations. A thorough summary of the presentations is not included in this meeting summary due to the complexity and detail; interested parties should review the presentation slides.

Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines

Ms. Sadie Wright, NOAA Fisheries, presented the revised Pribilof Islands Wildlife Protection Guidelines. These guidelines minimize impacts on wildlife during oil spills on or near the Pribilof Islands or Bogoslof Island. The last update was in 2014. The 2023 update aligns formatting with the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska and national guidance, and improves guidance clarity. Several sections have also been added to the guidelines and are described in detail in the presentation slides. The guidelines went out for public review earlier this winter, and a final document is anticipated in March 2023. (Slides 77-102)

USCG Bering Straits Pollution Response Exercise

Mr. Mark Everett presented an overview of the Bering Straits Pollution Response Exercise planned for June 2023. The exercise will replace the previously planned Joint Contingency Plan exercise with Russia. Mr. Everett reviewed the major exercise elements: 1. Ecological Risk Assessment; 2. Community-based Waste Management Workshop; 3. JRT Notification/Activation; 4. Alaska RRT Incident-Specific Activation; 5. Full-scale Exercise; and 6. Spill of National Significance Briefing. Details of operations to be tested during the full-scale exercise are detailed in the slides, including the decision to utilize and apply (simulated) dispersants. (Slides 102-128)

IMO Risk Assessment Model

LCDR Matt Richards presented on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Risk Assessment Model. The purpose of this model is to establish a standardized methodology for determining likelihood and consequence; identification of known hazards; identification of resources at risk, including both impacts to the environment and human uses; evaluation of scenarios using likelihood and consequence to determine total risk for each scenario. Sector Anchorage and the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee are using this model to conduct a risk assessment for their area of responsibility (Slides 129-147)

Report on the 2023 NRT Meeting

Ms. Beth Sheldrake, EPA, presented at the National Response Team meeting held on February 14-15, 2023, in Portland, Oregon. She provided an overview of several topics discussed and reported at the conference, including remote sensing technologies, hazardous materials pipelines, lithium batteries, *in situ* burning, emerging fuels, tribal engagement, and historic properties protection.

Ms. Sheldrake also referenced new rules defining Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and referenced a new video on the WOTUS revisions available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjc6B0o3A2w>. (Slides 148-157)

Meeting Close-out

Public Comment

- **Angela Matz** reminded the group regarding the DOI 40-hour HAZWOPER Courses. Contact her for more information or recommendations. angela_matz@fws.gov
- **Linda Swiss** commended all the work of the Area Committees. However, she also requested feedback from the Area Committees on the input provided by organizations, such as Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (RCAC), who submit comments and are involved in subcommittees and workgroups. She also requested clarification on what documents on ADEC's Reference and Tools website go through public review.
- **Vinnie Catalano** reported that Cook Inlet RCAC has developed a training tutorial for their Cook Inlet Response Tool and GIS Database. These tools are available on Alaska Ocean Observing Website.

Closing Remarks:

The tri-chairs offered closing remarks and thanked all presenters and attendees for participating.

Reminders & Announcements:

- ADEC Promulgated new contingency plan regulations on February 5, 2023; new ODPCP Listserv
- Next RISC Meeting: June 6-7, 2023

Upcoming ARRT Meeting Dates

- Fall 2023: September 12-14, 2023 (NEW DATE)
- Winter 2024: March 5-7, 2024
- Fall 2024: September 10-12, 2024.

Participant Summary:

Seventy-five individuals attended the meeting, representing twelve member agencies and additional other tribal governments, federal, and state agencies, industry, and other non-governmental organizations.

Member Agencies in Attendance		
Member Agency	Present	Not Present
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	●	
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission		●
Non-member Organizations in Attendance		
Federal Agencies		
U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service		
U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipelines and Hazardous Material Safety Administration		
Federally Recognized Tribes & Consortia		
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC)		
Industry		
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.		
Hilcorp Alaska		
Response and Environmental Services		
1-Call Alaska		

Alaska Clean Seas
EBSC
Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.
Pearson Consulting
Prism Alaska
Non-Governmental Organizations
Applied Environmental Research Center (AERC), UAA
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council
International Bird Rescue
Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI)
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

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