

Alaska Regional Response Team

Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Planning & Response

WILDLIFE PROTECTION COMMITTEE CHARTER

Purpose: The Alaska Regional Response Team (RRT) Wildlife Protection Committee (Committee) assists the Alaska RRT in fulfilling requirements set forth in Section 300.210(c)(4)(i) of the *National Contingency Plan (NCP)*; namely, that the Alaska RRT's Area Contingency Plan include: "...coordinated, immediate and effective protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and minimization of risk of injury to...wildlife resources and habitat."

At the request of the Alaska RRT, the Committee prepares, maintains, and revises, as necessary, the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Alaska (Guidelines)*, which address primary, secondary, and tertiary wildlife response actions for oiled-, or potentially-oiled, migratory birds, marine mammals, and terrestrial mammals. The *Guidelines* are included as Annex G of *The Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases (Unified Plan)*, which serves as the Alaska RRT's Area Contingency Plan.

Activities: The Committee maintains and revises, as appropriate, the *Guidelines* to ensure they are current, consistent with wildlife response-related "best practices" and/or other national guidelines, and incorporates appropriate lessons learned from incidents and/or exercises.

Representation: The Committee is comprised of representatives from Alaska RRT agencies with jurisdiction and/or expertise for migratory birds, marine mammals, and/or terrestrial mammals. These include the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)-Office and Environmental Policy and Compliance, DOI-Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)-National Marine Fisheries Service, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Other members of the Alaska RRT (e.g., U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DOC-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation) and representatives of Federally-recognized tribes and stakeholder groups (e.g., wildlife rehabilitators, environmental community, regional citizens' advisory councils, oil industry, and oil spill cooperatives) may also each identify an individual to provide advice and input to the Committee from their respective interest. Each Committee member and each representative of other participants will be responsible for coordination and consultation with their respective constituency.

Work Products/Decision-Making: All revisions to the *Guidelines* will be submitted to all Committee members and other participants for review. Following concurrence by all Committee members, *Guideline* revisions will be submitted to the Alaska RRT for action. The goal of the Committee will be decision-making by consensus (i.e., unanimous consent). If unanimous consent is not possible, the Committee Chairperson will present the resulting information to the Alaska RRT for action.

Leadership: The Committee will be chaired by a DOI representative. The Chairperson will be responsible for activities including, but not limited to: scheduling and chairing meetings; communicating Committee-related information to Committee members and other participants; tracking progress on action items; preparing and maintaining appropriate records; and reporting progress to the Alaska RRT as noted below.

Meetings: The Committee will meet as needed to fulfill its purpose as outlined above or as requested by the Alaska RRT. All Committee members and other participants providing input to the Committee will be provided timely notice of meetings, and review periods for copies of drafts and final work products that allow for coordination and consultation with their respective constituencies.

Records: The Chairperson will be responsible for preparing and distributing Committee records in accordance with Article VII, Section 7 of the Alaska RRT Charter.