

Cook Inlet Risk Assessment

PROJECT REPORT



September 25, 2012

The **goal** of the risk assessment is to answer the following questions:

- What can go wrong?
- How likely is it?
- What are the impacts?
- Can the impacts be mitigated?

The risk assessment will examine the current types and sizes of vessels plying Cook Inlet, dominate accident types and attempt to identify future oil spill risks based on vessel size, type and frequency. The first phase of the risk assessment will be limited to a semi-qualitative analysis. The study will rely primarily on historical data, expert opinion, and lessons learned from prior studies. Study results will provide a basis for the identification and initial ranking of risk reduction measures.

The following list the key milestones for the project by Task as described in the work plan.¹

Task 1- Provide for Project Communications

All project communication continues to be directed through the project website at <http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/index.html>. The website was activated in March 2011 and has been updated on an as needed basis since activation. Private websites for the Management Team and Advisory Panel have also been updated on an as needed basis. The email contact list was expanded by adding individuals that have expressed an interest in being kept informed of the projects progress. Team members have made presentations on this project at the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage, AK and Clean Pacific in Long Beach, CA. This task is ongoing throughout the project.

Task 2- Facilitate and Provide Administrative Support to the Management Team and Advisory Panel

The first Advisory Panel meeting was held in Anchorage on October 20th of which the Management Team members attended. The purpose of the meeting was to present administrative procedures and operations, orient the members to the project work plan and provide an overview of the draft Vessel Traffic Study. Meeting summarizes are posted on the Project websites.

¹ http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/documents/110426CIRADraftWorkPlan_rev2.pdf

A second meeting of the Advisory Panel was held in Anchorage on April 23, 2012. The purpose of this meeting was to review the draft report from Task 4.

Task 3- Conduct a Traffic Study

Cape International Services² was sub-contracted to perform the study and began analysis of the AIS vessel traffic data during the 2nd Qtr. of 2011. A draft report was submitted to the Management Team and Advisory Panel at their first meeting in October. Following the October meeting, the report was released for public review and comment. The public comment period ended on November 30th. Comments and suggestions received were incorporated into the final report. This task was completed February 7, 2012. The final report can be downloaded at: <http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/documents/120206CIVTSvFINAL.pdf>.

Task 4- Prepare a Baseline Spill and Accident Causality Studies

Glosten Associates³ was sub-contracted to perform this task and they began reviewing data associated with the studies during the 4th quarter of 2011. Research and analysis associated with this task has been completed. A draft report was presented to the Advisory Panel and Management Team on April 23, 2012. The Advisory Panel members and public provided comments on the report. The final report was issued June 30, 2012 and posted on the project website.

Task 5- Coordinate and Facilitate a Consequence Analysis Workshop

The next key element of this risk assessment is to examine the consequences of a significant oil spill in the region. The goal of the Consequence Analysis Workshop is to bring together subject matter experts in the field of oceanography, geology, biology, subsistence use, socioeconomics, fisheries and resource management to discuss impacts to resources in the region from oil spills. The discussion will include resource values or importance, duration and degree of impact. The workshop goal is to develop a consensus among the group in ranking resource values based on time of year and location. In preparation for the workshop, a webinar was conducted with the Advisory Panel and Management Team on August 23rd to identify six oil spill scenarios. Scenario parameters were identified and two scenarios for each sub-region of Cook Inlet were developed via consensus agreement. Spill trajectory files were developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each scenario. A list of subject matter experts in the region was developed and each expert contacted to identify their availability to participate at the workshop. The workshop was originally scheduled for September 20-21 and subsequently re-scheduled due to numerous schedule conflicts. The workshop is now scheduled for October 30-31 in Anchorage. The Advisory Panel and Management Team will use

² <http://www.capeinternationalservices.com/>

³ <http://www.glosten.com/>

the results of the Consequence Analysis Workshop for identifying risk reduction options in the region.

Task 6- Identify Risk Reduction Options

This task is scheduled to begin 1st Qtr. 2013.

Task 7- Evaluate Risk Reduction Options

This task is scheduled to begin 1th Qtr. 2013.

Task 8- Prioritize Risk Reduction Options and Prepare Phase I Final Report

This task is scheduled to begin 1th Qtr. 2013.