

Cook Inlet Risk Assessment
Quarterly Project Report to Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

January 19, 2015

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 and dominant 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.

An update by project task is provided below. Project tasks are based on the original workplan.¹

Task 1- Provide for Project Communications

All project communication is 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. (In December 2013 it was converted to Joomla for easier maintenance due to software changes with the previous program being used.) Private websites for the Management Team and Advisory Panel have also been updated on an as needed basis. The email contact list has been expanded to include individuals that have expressed an interest in being kept informed of the projects progress. Project newsletters were sent in February, March, April, July, August, and September, October, November, and December 2013; and February, August, September, and November 2014.

Team members have made presentations on this project at the Alaska Forum on the Environment in Anchorage, AK, Clean Pacific in Long Beach, CA and at the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee Informational Meeting in November 2014. This task is ongoing throughout the project.

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

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 20, 2011 with Management Team participation. 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 summaries are posted on the Project websites.

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.

The third Advisory Panel meeting was held on February 20, 2013 in Anchorage. At this meeting, Advisory Panel members reviewed and refined the list of proposed risk reduction options.

The final Advisory Panel meeting was convened on September 4, 2014 to review the research and analysis conducted, and develop final recommendations.

The Management Team met on an as-needed basis throughout the project. This included meetings in August, September and November 2014.

Task 3- Conduct a Traffic Study

Cape International Services² was sub-contracted to perform the vessel traffic study and began analysis of the AIS vessel traffic data during the 2nd quarter 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 Study

The Glostén Associates³ was sub-contracted to perform this task and began reviewing data associated with the studies during the 4th quarter of 2011. 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 at: http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/documents/CIRC_Task4RiskAssessmentRptRev-29June2012.pdf

Task 5- Coordinate and Facilitate a Consequence Analysis Workshop

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

³ <http://www.glosten.com/>

The Consequence Analysis Workshop was held in Anchorage on October 30-31, 2012. The meeting information is available online at: <http://www.nukaresearch.com/projects/cira/meetings.html>. Forty experts participated in the workshop, representing a range of expertise and experience with Cook Inlet's wildlife, fisheries, subsistence resources, oceanography, spill response, shipping, salvage, ports, and other resources and features. This included 14 members of the Advisory Panel (including some alternates).

The Consequence Analysis Report was finalized with Management Team approval in February 2013 after extensive review by the subject matter experts, Advisory Panel, and public. It is posted on the project website at: http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/documents/130222_CIRA_CAWS_v1_lr.pdf

Task 6- Identify Risk Reduction Options

At a February 22, 2013 meeting in Anchorage, the Advisory Panel considered a list of 23 risk reduction options (RRO).

The facilitation team drafted descriptions of the risk reductions proposed for immediate or ongoing implementation. Additional research, sometimes informed by Advisory Panel members, was conducted to develop the descriptions. The risk reduction options are summarized in two separate but complementary documents:

- RROs for Immediate or Sustained Implementation (approved by Management Team after Advisory Panel review in early July 2013): <http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/documents/130708RROsforImmediateorSustainedImplementation.pdf>
- Analysis of RROs Requiring Further Consideration (contained within updated project work plan approved by Management Team in August 2013): <http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/documents/130814SummaryofWorkPlanforCIRAAug13-Sep14.pdf>

Task 7- Evaluate Risk Reduction Options

The Draft Final Report (see below) includes the analyses conducted by contractors and input provided by the Advisory Panel regarding the consideration of each risk reduction option. This includes interim deliverables produced by Northern Economics, Inc. and The Glostén Associates as well as Nuka Research and Pearson Consulting. The Draft Final Report is available at: http://www.cookinletriskassessment.com/files/140917_CIRA_Final_Report_DRAFT_w_Appendices.pdf

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

The Draft Final Report was circulated to the Advisory Panel for review in mid-September, and then disseminated for public review. In response to public requests,

the public comment period was extended until October 27, 2014. A final report was submitted to the USCG on September 29, 2014 to comply with contractual obligations.

Comments on the draft Final report were received from twelve different entities and consolidated into one document for review by the Management and Project team. Draft responses to comments were developed and are currently under review by the Management Team. The report will be updated to include the public comments and response and finalized.