

# Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee Meeting Summary

November 8, 2018

10:00 AM

UAA Student Commons Building

Room 106

3700 Sharon Gagnon Lane

Anchorage, AK

## Attendees

### Committee Members

Captain David Arzt, Marine Pilots – Primary  
Scott Brown, Port Director, Harbormaster, Local Government – Primary (*Webinar*)  
Steven Gabelein, Passenger Vessels – Primary (*Webinar*)  
Andrew Hartsig, Conservation Organizations – Primary  
Captain Chris Iszler, Assist Tugs – Primary (*Webinar*)  
Peggy McLaughlin, Managing Board of Directors Representative, WSC Chair  
Captain Ed Page, Vessel Monitoring and Tracking – Primary  
Leslie Pearson, At Large – Primary  
Karen Pletnikoff, Susistence Users – Primary (*Webinar*)  
Bert Ray, P&I Clubs – Primary  
Thomas Robinson, Alaska Native Interest – Primary (*Webinar*)  
Ingo Rose, Tank Vessels – Primary  
Jennifer Tungul, Terminal Operators – Primary (*Webinar*)  
Ernie Weiss, Port Director, Harbormaster, Local Government - Alternate  
Chris Woodley, At Sea Fish Processors – Primary

### Ex Officio

LT Bart Buesseler, NOAA Office of Coast Survey  
CDR Justin Jacobs, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage  
CAPT Sean Mackenzie, U.S. Coast Guard, COTP  
Bernie Nowicki, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
LT David Parker, U.S. Coast Guard, Sector Anchorage  
Aaron Poe, Aleutian Bering Sea Islands LCC  
Jeff Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (*Webinar*)

### Other

Marshall Blankenship, 1-Call Alaska/Resolve Marine  
Patrick Burns, Crowley Fuels  
Megan Johnnie, Crowley Fuels  
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research and Planning Group  
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group

## Call to Order

The third Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (WSC) meeting was called to order at 10:01AM by Chairwoman McLaughlin.

## Approval of Agenda

**Motion Arzt, Page to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passes by non-objection.**

## Approval of Meeting Summary, May 1, 2018

**Motion Pearson, Hartsig to approve the meeting summary of May 1, 2018. Motion passes by non-objection.**

## Ex Officio Reports

### USCG

CAPT MacKenzie stated that it has never been more important and relevant for Waterways Safety Committees, especially in Alaska. It is powerful when this Committee speaks with one voice. From April to October of 2018, there were no major incidents in the region. There were minor incidents involving 23 injuries, 14 loss of propulsions, and 7 mystery sheens, one of which was a vessel spotted with a 23-mile sheen. USCG was able to get on board this vessel, investigate and ultimately prosecute.

### NOAA

LT Buessler reported that he is the point person for recommendations for updates to the Coast Survey in Alaska. NOAA conducted survey work in Unimak, False Pass, and Otter Cove this Summer. There are plans for more surveys in the Nunivak area.

### USFWS

Jeff Williams reported that the majority of the land in the AIWSC geographic scope is located within a maritime refuge. There are increased water temperatures, wildlife die-offs (particularly seabirds), and invasive species (rats). Best practices developed by the AIWSC aligned with the preservation of natural resources will be important to the Refuge.

### ABSI, LCC

Aaron Poe reported that there is now funding in place for a Geo-Fencing project through the Arctic Domain Awareness Center. Utilizing vessel traffic analysis and other data technology, they will develop a tool to create virtual fences around sensitive areas in the region. Mr. Poe also stated that an Oil Spill Modeling Analysis is underway for the area, which will simulate worst case scenarios. Information from this study will be communicated back to the industry and maritime users in the region.

## Managing Board Report

Chairwoman McLaughlin reported on behalf of the Managing Board that they are working toward a sustainable funding plan for the organization to ensure its future viability. They are looking at membership contributions as one way to fulfill budget needs. There is funding available through June of 2019. These funds should get us up to the approval and publication of the Waterway Safety Plan. Another potential source of funding is through the State Legislature. Buddy Custard, Tim Robertson and Ed Page have been working with an ad-hoc group to approach the Governor with a request to allocate a small portion of the Excess Cruise Ship Head Tax funds to be utilized by all of the Safety Committees in Alaska.

## Committee Chair Report

Chairwoman McLaughlin stated that Leslie Pearson has been instrumental in getting the Draft Plan to its current review state. The review of this draft is the main subject of today's meeting, with a

goal to go through it section by section, lay out action items and schedule workgroup meetings to accomplish a new draft by the end of year.

### **Workgroup Reports**

#### **Waterway Safety Plan Workgroup**

Leslie Pearson stated that over the summer there were attempts to schedule workgroup meetings, but then moved the Draft into a Google Doc where it had better input. There are a number of areas that still need work, but it is getting close. She is looking forward to working with the subcommittees that come out of today's session.

#### **Navigation Workgroup**

David Arzt reported that the Navigation Workgroup is still working on their parts of the Plan, stating that they will have their language developed by the end of the year.

### **Facilitator's Report**

Mr. Robertson stated that, as the staff of the AIWSC Organization, Nuka Research has been busy facilitating workgroups, developing the website, and ensuring good communications within the organization. He asked the Committee to please provide feedback on how we are doing and how we can do better. Logistics are particularly hard for this group. These in-person meetings are one forum, but there is also a forum online via the website. Send us news that you would like posted so that we can keep the website relevant and useful. Work is progressing on a sustainable funding plan, which is crucial for moving the Organization forward into the future. There are vacant seats still available and we welcome anyone who is interested and qualified to join the Committee.

### **Break 10:54 – 11:07**

#### **Review and Revise Waterway Safety Plan**

The group discussed, at length, each section of the Waterways Safety Plan Draft. *See Action Item table for more details.*

### **Lunch Break 12:30AM – 1:30PM**

Discussion of the WSP Draft sections continued. *See Action Item table for more details.*

#### **Heavy Weather Guidelines**

The U.S. Coastguard (USCG) presented the Heavy Weather Guidelines to the group. The document is long-standing and has not changed in 3 years, but now that the AIWSC is operational, the USCG would like the Committee's review and recommendation. They requested that the document be posted on the website and be acknowledged in the WSP after comments and approval by the Committee. It was decided that after Committee comment regarding: (1) Notification Requirements for vessels dragging anchor within 3 nautical miles and (2) the definition of hazardous condition as it pertains to the context of that section, that USCG would take it back to their lawyers for review then return it to Nuka Research for circulation and an email vote of the Committee.

#### **Review Action Items**

- Nuka Research will work up a spreadsheet for WSP Tasking and begin scheduling workgroup meetings
- Bert Ray requested that a Communication Plan be developed for disseminating information to the Committee – this will be an agenda item for the next meeting

**WSP Task Table – Generated from Meeting Discussion**

<b>WSP Section</b>	<b>Issue to Address</b>	<b>Workgroup</b>
<u>Section 1.5</u> Environmental Issues of Concern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at Section Title – make more descriptive</li> <li>• Add more to Native Culture</li> <li>• Update/make relevant – reference to species</li> </ul>	Aaron Poe, Tom Robinson, Andrew Hartsig, Karen Pletnikoff, Chris Woodley
<u>Section 1.6</u> Economic Areas of Concern	Get updated info for statistical references – McDowell Info	Chris Woodley, Ernie Weiss, Nuka Research
<u>Section 1.7.1</u> Areas to Be Avoided (ATBA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need good graphics/ update current oil spill graphic and reference</li> <li>• Add Pribilof spills</li> <li>• <b>See section 3.3</b></li> </ul>	Karen Pletnikoff, Bert Ray, David Arzt, Ed Page, Jeff Williams, Aaron Poe
<u>Section 2.1</u> Places of Refuge for Storm Avoidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meld language/ consolidate</li> <li>• Combine with 3.6</li> </ul>	LT Parker, Tim Robertson, Rich Packard, David Arzt (NO TELECONFERENCE NECESSARY – via phone calls & email)
<u>Section 2.2</u> Coast Pilot	Call out Coast Pilot and provide link in beginning instead of end	Ed Page
<u>Section 2.4</u> Notice to Mariners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rework location of section w/in document</li> <li>• Reference USCG implementation</li> <li>• Add Marine Casualty Prevention Plan</li> </ul>	David Arzt, LT Parker
<u>Section 2.5.1</u> Medical Transfer	Edit and work through language	Peggy McLaughlin, Bert Ray, USCG
<u>Section 2.5.2</u> Vessels Under Distress	STRIKE from document	Nuka Research
<u>Section 2.5.3</u> Tsunami Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up w/ tsunami warning center – where info came from</li> <li>• Haz-mat mitigation plans (ref)</li> <li>• Refer to independent community’s plans</li> </ul>	Navigation Workgroup, Ed Page, Peggy McLaughlin, USCG
<u>Section 2.5.4</u> Sub Chapter M Awareness	STRIKE	Nuka Research
<u>Section 2.5.5</u> Man Lost at Sea	STRIKE	Nuka Research
<u>Section 2.6</u> Priority Area for Bottom Survey	Adjust to make relevant – awareness	LT Buesseler, Navigation Workgroup

<u>Section 2.7</u> Fishing Vessel Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulate peak periods of traffic – 2 separate traffic patterns meet in high concentration area</li> <li>• Longliners/crab vessels leave gear out – need way of marking or tracking</li> <li>• Vessels without AIS in Unimak Pass</li> <li>• Cod fishing in Unimak Pass</li> </ul>	Chris Woodley, Frank Vargas, Aaron Poe, Ed Page
<u>Section 2.8</u> Marine Mammal Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rough draft needs tightened up</li> <li>• Bring in Wildlife Committee of Subarea Plan</li> </ul>	Leslie Pearson, Melissa Good, Jeanette Alas, LT Buesseler, Jeff Williams, NIMS
<u>Section 2.9</u> Oil Spill Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add contact #s for notification agencies</li> </ul>	WSP Workgroup
<u>Section 2.10</u> Military Vessels	STRIKE from document	Nuka Research
<u>Section 3.1</u> Dutch Harbor Fairway	Needs language	Navigation Workgroup
<u>Section 3.3</u> ATBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine with Section 1.7.1 (once edits completed)</li> <li>• Move all language out of Historical into this section</li> <li>• Add maps and graphics</li> </ul>	Nuka Research (and subgroup listed under 1.7.1)
<u>Section 3.4</u> Severe Weather Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duplicative of Sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2</li> <li>• Needs wordsmithing</li> </ul>	LT Parker (USCG)
<u>Section 3.5</u> Offshore and Nearshore Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove reference to containment boom</li> <li>• Needs wordsmithing</li> </ul>	LT Parker (USCG)
<u>Section 3.5.1</u> Tanker Tethering	Needs language	Navigation Workgroup
<u>Section 3.6</u> Anchoring and Moorage	Move to PPOR Section (2.1)	Nuka Research
<u>Section 3.7</u> Derelict Vessel	Re-work and reference new State legislation (SB92)	Ed Page
<b>Main Document Organization</b>	Include box at beginning of document highlighting and identifying dynamic info and resources for mariners w/in	<b>Leslie Pearson, David Arzt, Bert Ray, Nuka Research</b>

	Find right place for Historical, Economik, Environmental sections – at end? Special appendix?	
	Move ATBA from Historical to Navigation	
	Include reference to Coast Pilot in general info	
	Add figure #s to all graphics cohesively throughout document	
	Rethink standards of care location	
	Move Emergency Towing (Sec 3.2) to general information (out of Standards of Care)	

**Committee Comments**

CDR Jacobs commended the Committee, stating that this group has moved very productively and quicker than any he has been involved with in Alaska.

Karen Pletnikoff volunteered to represent the Organization at the National Harbor Safety Committee Conference.

**Next Meeting**

Webinar at end of January for WSP Review.  
 Next in-person Committee meeting will be in late Spring

**Adjourn**

**Motion Hartsig, Pearson to adjourn. Motion Passes with no objection. Meeting adjourned at 1:31PM**