

Northwest Arctic Borough: An Oil Spill Workshop

Northwest Arctic Heritage Center
171 3rd Avenue, Kotzebue, AK
May 22-23, 2012

Goals:

- To discuss community involvement in spill response, natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) and restoration/recovery
- To integrate local community knowledge into Environmental Response Management Application (Arctic ERMA®)
- To enhance relationships between local communities & government agencies regarding planning and preparation for potential oil spill response, NRDA and restoration/recovery

AGENDA - DAY 1

- 9:00 AM **Opening Prayer**
Local Elder
- Welcome - Northwest Arctic Borough**
Mayor Siikauraq Martha Whiting
- 9:15 AM **Welcome and Overview of Meeting**
Overview of Oil Spill Response, Planning & Preparation, Arctic ERMA®, NRDA and Restoration/Recovery
Nancy E. Kinner, *UNH Co-Director, CRRC*
Amy Merten, *NOAA Co-Director, CRRC and Chief NOAA's Spatial Data Team*
- 9:30 AM **Goals and Expectations of This Meeting**
Ukallaysaaq Tom Okleasik, *NWAB*
- 9:40 AM **Participant Introductions & Expectations**
- 10:20 AM **Break**
- 10:30 AM **Introduction to Spill Response for Offshore Oil Developments/Exploration in the Chukchi Sea**
Francis Schiano, *USCG*
- 10:50 AM **Ecological Risk Assessment for the Northwest Arctic Subarea Contingency Plan**
Mary Baker
- 11:00 AM **Introduction to Arctic ERMA®**
Amy Merten
- 11:30 AM **Lunch (provided)**
- 12:30 PM **Small Group Breakout Session I: Discussion of Oil Spill Response & Arctic ERMA®**
Theme: Logistics of spill response, concerns and how local communities can most effectively participate and ERMA® can help
Breakout Group Questions:
- What specific concerns do you have relative to planning and preparation for spill response?
 - What specific concerns do you have relative to spill response implementation and management?
 - What are your initial reactions to the Arctic ERMA Prototype?
 - How could the tool be useful for community involvement in spill response?
 - What information would you like to see included in the tool to support response decisions?
 - What are best practices for community involvement in spill response, planning, and preparation?
- 2:30 PM **Break**
- 2:45 PM **Group Reports to Plenary Session**
- 3:30 PM **Introduction to Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), Restoration/Recovery**
Mary Baker, *NOAA*
- 4:30 PM **Adjourn meeting**
- 5:00 PM **Presentation: "How can science improve decision-making in the Arctic?"**
Fran Ulmer, *USARC Chair*
(This will be held at the Nullagvik Hotel's conference room. Reception to follow)
- 6:30 PM **Movie Night at the Heritage Center (optional)**

AGENDA - DAY 2

- 8:30 AM **Opening Prayer and Announcements**
Ukallaysaaq and Nancy Kinner
- 8:45 AM **Arctic ERMA® in NRDA and Restoration/Recovery**
Mary Baker, Amy Merten
- 9:15 AM **Small Group Breakout Session II: Discussion of NRDA, Restoration/Recovery**
Theme: Logistics of NRDA, concerns, how local communities can most effectively participate, and how ERMA can help
- Breakout Group Questions:**
- What effects of oil spills most concern you (for example, health and use of natural resources)?
 - ◊ Marine mammals
 - ◊ Birds
 - ◊ Fish
 - ◊ Crab or other shellfish
 - ◊ Land mammals
 - ◊ Other cultural concerns (for example, education, language, arts)
 - Are there special habitats or specific areas that you are most concerned about? (for example, sensitive areas, historical sites, camp areas)
 - Given the changing Arctic environment, what background/baseline information do you think we need to consider about the health of the environment before a spill occurs?
 - How could the ERMA tool be useful for evaluating effects of spills?
 - What information would you like to see included in the tool to support evaluation of effects?
 - What are best practices for community involvement in evaluating effects?
- 10:45 AM **Break**
- 11:00 AM **Small Group Breakout Session III: Discussion of NRDA, Restoration & Recovery**
Theme: Exploring restoration options and how ERMA® can help
- Breakout Group Questions:**
- What specific concerns do you have relative to restoration and recovery?
 - Are there examples of habitat areas that could be improved?
 - Are there other sources of contamination that could be controlled?
 - What traditional methods of restoration and recovery are practiced?
 - What could be done to sustain cultural and subsistence practices that might be affected by oil?
 - How could the ERMA tool be useful for planning restoration?
 - What information would you like to see included in the tool to support restoration planning?
 - What are best practices for community involvement in restoration and recovery?
- 12:30 PM **Lunch (provided)**
- 1:30 PM **Group Reports to Plenary Session**
- 2:15 PM **Small Group Breakout Session IV: Populating Arctic ERMA® with Data/Information**
Theme: Determining which information would be most helpful
- Breakout Group Questions:**
- What data sets do not yet exist, but are needed to support planning or decision making?
 - What are the output requirements and/or functionalities of these data?
 - Are there any access restrictions to these data?
 - What are the highest priority data needs?
 - Where do important existing data sets currently reside?
- 4:15 PM **Wrap Up**
- 5:00 PM **Adjourn**