

# Ad-hoc Alaska Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Task Force

## Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Anchorage, AK

**ACTION ITEMS** appear in **red text**.

A participant list is included at the end, including emails and phone. **Please let Rachel know if there is anything that needs to be corrected on that list.**

### Overview

One-year Task Force Goals were reviewed and again agreed upon by the participants.

- 1) Increase coordination and understanding for dealing with ADV between agencies/stakeholders
- 2) Create an AK ADV Manual to establish best practices and templates for dealing with ADV
- 3) Create a web-based database for understanding the scope of ADV statewide

### Joint Agency Vessel of Concern Reporting Form

Costs to the state and municipalities for response and recovery need to be captured at some point. This is critical in educating the public and the legislature on the scope and depth of the ADV problem in Alaska. **Rachel will draft a follow-up form that can be used to capture cost information.**

The group reviewed the first draft of the Reporting Form, which was based on the OR/WA form and edited during the Feb. 6 Task Force meeting. **Rachel will make the following additional changes to the form before sending it out for use.** The format will also be tweaked to better fit all of the information. From top to bottom:

- **Bold** the note to include photos if possible. Having photographs is extremely helpful.
- **Emily will create an ADV email that will be maintained at DNR.** The DNR fax number 907-269-8913 will be added.
- Add (if there is room) a space to report the land owner, if known.
- Add date & time of report
- Include 'unknown' as an option for current registration
- Add ADF&G/other numbers to the vessel information
- Consider removing the 'Vessel Type' selection if there isn't space
- Add 'Submerged' to the list of afloat, aground or tidal dependent.
- Change 'any' to 'all' HAZMAT
- Include space for phone, mailing address and email under owner contact information.
- Add the method of contact and the date(s) under Owner Information
- Include a good amount of space for other notes/comments.
- Add an arrow indicating there is a back side to the form (evaluative matrix – discussed by the group next)

As part of the database conversation (discussed later on in the day), the group agreed that it would be good to include the information for accessing the USCG public database on the VOC reporting form online when that is available at some point in the future (due to space limitations on paper).

### VOC Evaluative Matrix

This matrix is located on the opposite side of the Joint Agency VOC Reporting Form, and provides an opportunity to give a more qualitative assessment of a VOC. After a long discussion, the group decided to adopt the OR/WA evaluative matrix language (categories and rank descriptions) as-is. After folks have an opportunity to try it out, we can re-asses and make changes. It was agreed to try and capture if the vessel is in a sensitive area, tribal lands, wilderness and critical habitat, etc. This matrix does not determine response or absolute assessment of a VOC. It is a field tool.

Changes to the rest of the Matrix page include:

- Change the scoring language to a 'stoplight' – 5-12: Green, 13-17: Yellow, 18-28: Red. Rachel will review the math to make sure the numbers seem appropriate.
- Change the language so that if a box is shaded it is automatically a RED, and the 24-hr response number should be contacted immediately.
- Add a line above the Total Score to include additional points for a vessel on protected lands/sensitive areas (if known) – i.e. Critical Habitat, tribal lands, wilderness areas.
- Create a notes/other circumstances box at the bottom.
- Add some language at the top of the page encouraging photographs and giving some instruction to the user.

Rachel will make these changes and send out the final VOC Reporting Form to the group to begin using.

### Case Studies

For moving forward with creating an ADV Guide and Recommendations, the group agreed to proceed with case studies. We can then work through past events and analyze what was done, what worked and what didn't, the associated costs, and what could have prevented each incident. Below is the list of agreed upon cases to look at, with the associated point person who will work with the involved parties to pull together the basic information to work from. These will be compiled for review, and the group will work through a number of them during subsequent in-person meetings.

- Sound Developer (Cordova) – Holly
- Leading Lady/Kupreanof (Homer) – Emily
- M/V Seabird (Hoonah) – Sarah
- Pacific Producer (Ouzinkie) – Emily
- Steamboat Slough (Bethel) – Steve
- Collector beaches – Sitka and Thane (Doug)

For each case, we would like to gather information on the vessel description, response/situation report/background story, cost and cost recovery, agencies involved, environmental impact, pictures, and lat/long of location. Rachel will send out a template for point people to use. Please try to get these back to Rachel by August 30<sup>th</sup> for a follow-up meeting in October.

A primary issue to address will be how to possibly fund an ADV program in the future. We will keep a list of ideas that need to be vetted for practicability, legality, and feasibility. **Rachel will send out information on how programs are funded in other states. Mike can help provide information.**

### Database

**Emily will move forward with talking with folks at DNR to understand the ability and costs for creating something to work with through their current system.** It was pointed out that the LAS system is somewhat cumbersome, and it would be good to create something that is more user-friendly. Right now we need something pretty basic that all stakeholders can access – including municipal and federal partners. Jade at DEC has an Access database currently developed. DEC can be considered as a backup if there is a snag with DNR hosting a database, however DNR has a much longer relationship with ADV over time (i.e. once environmental threats are removed) and it would be best to keep a database there. Rachel reviewed the FL database. A more robust system would be a good thing for a state program to address once established. **Rachel will follow-up with Emily and we will hope to get something basic up and operational this summer.**

### Newsletter

The group discussed the audience for an ADV Task Force newsletter, the aim of which is to provide an update on what the group is working on. The list grew long, and included:

- State & Federal legislators
- Task Force members
- Alaska Assoc. of Harbormasters & Port Administrators
- Alaska Municipal League
- Governor's Office
- Native Corporations
- Environmental Groups
- Regional Citizens' Advisory Councils
- SWAMSEA/SE Conference
- Federal Agencies: USFWS, USFS, NPS, USFS
- AK State Parks
- AK Office of Boating Safety
- AK Division of Forestry
- Spill Response organizations (ARRT, SeaPro, CISPRI)
- AK Oil & Gas Authority

The group discussed the need to educate a wide base of stakeholder groups early in the process.

The content was agreed upon to include:

- ADV/Task Force overview (Rachel)
- Facts and figures – number of vessels in Jade's database (**Rachel will ask Jade for an update**)
- A lot of photos (**Emily and Holly will send to Rachel – others are also encouraged to send along ADV photos**)

- Highlight of the Leading Lady/Kupreanof update (Emily will send Rachel a quick update from the December events)
- HB131 – Mike will provide some language, with links to background info
- Task Force members – names and representative agencies (Emily & Mike will help find another Army Corps contact to make sure they are engaged)
- Sidebar of links to other state programs

Rachel will aim to get this out for distribution in June. She will send out a quick draft for feedback by June 20, and then distribute widely by June 27. **Please get materials to Rachel by June 12.**

### Municipal Sub-Group

Holly and her team at Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot drafted some resources aimed primarily at municipalities that lack ADV ordinances. Rachel and Bryan will set up a separate municipal sub-group to review these resources and work with Holly to finalize. Also to address is the identification of vessels of concern between municipalities, and between munis and state/federal agencies. Holly will look into this further.

### Next Task Force Meeting

Rachel will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule our next in-person meeting sometime between September 29 and October 10.

### Parking Lot

- Cost reporting:
  - DNR has a bonding matrix that may be helpful for estimations. Emily will send Rachel a copy.
- Need to address means & methods of disposal for vessels
- State ferries – what happens to them when they are retired? See the Chilkat for an example of a problem.
- Floating houses in SE (Prince of Wales) – not registered as vessels but act like magnets and attract more vessels.
- Create an email listserv that includes OR/WA to discussing ADV/VOC
- Funding brainstorm: expanding owner liability/secondary liability, marine fuel tax (legal? Part goes to superfund.), fees on registrations, penalty fees for storage, barge registration

Alaska Ad-hoc Abandoned & Derelict Vessel Task Force			
May 21, 2014 Anchorage Meeting			
Participant List			
Name	Agency	Email	Phone
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