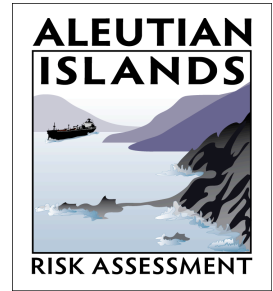


**Aleutian Island Risk Assessment Advisory Panel Meeting Summary**  
**Anchorage, AK**  
**May 14, 2009**  
**10:00 AM- 2:00 PM**



**Advisory Panel Member Attendance**

David Arzt (Marine Pilot); Brent Paine (Primary-Fisheries); Tom Gemmell (Alternate-Fisheries); Shirley Marquardt (Primary-Local Government); Bob Umbdenstock (Primary-Marine Salvor via teleconference); Gene Makarin (Primary-Mariner, Containership); Louis Audette (Primary-Mariner, Oil Barge/Tankers); Marc Smith (Primary-Mariner, Trampers via teleconference); Ed Page (Alternate-Marine, General); Whit Sheard (Primary- NGO, Environmental); Bruce Wright (Primary-NGO, Local); Karol Kolehmainen (Alternate-NGO, Local); Catherine Berg (Alternate- Resource Manager); Reid Brewer (Primary-Subsistence User); David Gregory (Alternate-Subsistence User)

**Management Team Attendance**

Krystyna Wolniakowski (NFWF); Jay Wright (NFWF-via teleconference); Commander James Robertson and Lt. Robert Fields (USCG); Gary Folley (ADEC)

**Facilitation Team Attendance**

Tim Robertson; Amy Gilson; Leslie Pearson (Nuka Research & Planning Group)

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**Purpose:** To provide a project overview to the Advisory Panel’s including role & responsibility; discuss organization and administrative processes/procedures; and allow the Panel members to introduce and meet each other.

**Public Session (10:00AM-2:00PM w/1 hour lunch break)**

**U.S. Coast Guard Welcome message (R. Adm. Brooks)**

R. Adm. Brooks opened the public session of the Panel meeting by stating, “for as long as ship have plied the waters of the north Pacific and Aleutian Islands, in some of the world’s worse weather, we have had a problem. In December of 2004, the Selendang Ayu demonstrated this problem.” He continued to address the audience and said, “We have been tasked with finding a way to reduce the risks that these ships and other human activities have posed to the Aleutian Islands and western Alaska.” In closing he emphasized that, “Reducing the risks in the Aleutians has remained my highest priority over the past three years.” In addition, he complimented the Panel members for their commitment and volunteering their time towards this project.

**Management Team Opening Statements and Introductions**

An opening statement was made by each Management team member t to the Panel members and attending public. Krystyna Wolniakowski with the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) explained the role of her organization and how NFWF has the fiduciary responsibility for administering the IMC Shipping/Selendang Ayu criminal settlement funds via a Memorandum of Agreement with the Coast Guard. In addition, she expressed her appreciation to the Panel members and interest in learning about the Aleutian Islands and issues surrounding the regions.

Gary Folley with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) emphasized the community support, pragmatic approach and willingness of community

members to express their concerns during the M/V Selendang Ayu incident response. He touched on the importance of the Bering Sea fisheries, amount of traffic using the Great Circle route and looked forward to the Panel members perspective and learning what their tolerance parameters for identifying risk attainable and appropriate reduction measures.

Commander Jim Robertson (USCG) expressed that the success of this project will be a completed risk assessment with sound recommendations that can be implemented to mitigate risk from the maritime industry along the Aleutian Islands. He informed the Panel that they represent a segment of the population and the importance of their input as well as the publics into the project.

Each member of the Advisory Panel and Facilitation Team provided a brief self-introduction, which included their experience, background, interest in being involved and expectation of the Project. Public members also introduced themselves to the Panel.

### **Overview of the NAS Special Report 293 (Margaret Williams, WWF)**

An overview of the National Academies process and Transportation Research Board scoping committee purpose and guiding principles was provided to the Panel. The State and Coast Guard approached the National Academy of Science with the issues of trying to conduct a comprehensive maritime risk assessment for the Aleutians Island in 2007. The Transportation Research Board accepted the challenge and a committee were established with the goal of developing a framework for conducting the risk assessment. The Committee held three meetings over a 6-month period and in July 2008 presented their draft report. The report provides a phased and structured approach for conducting the risk assessment. The NAS Special Report 293 can also be accessed on the project public website on the document page.

### **Overview of the 2006 Aleutian Vessel Traffic Study (Tim Robertson, Nuka Research & Planning Group)**

The 2004 bulk grain ship *M/V Selendang Ayu* oil spill at Unalaska Island in Alaska's Aleutian Islands focused attention on the oil spill risks posed by vessels transiting the North Pacific great circle route from the west coast of North America to Asia. For vessels traveling to and from northern Pacific ports, the great circle route intersects the Aleutian Islands, creating an overlap of international vessel traffic with the local traffic near this remote island chain. The Aleutians are also home to the United State's largest and most valuable commercial fishing grounds and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. This report considers the available data regarding vessel traffic within and through the Aleutians. In some cases, data is limited because foreign vessels transiting the area are not required to report to the U.S. Coast Guard or the State of Alaska. Based on automated tracking data collected from October 2005 through June 2006, about 3,100 ships per year pass through the Aleutians (primarily westbound) on great circle, innocent passage, trans-Pacific voyages. The Vessel Traffic report can be accessed on the project public website on the document page.

### **Public Comment**

A public statement was made and Mr. Tom Lakosh provided research files. Mr. Lakosh expressed concern about the need to examine the regulatory framework and process for bringing the maritime industry into compliance with all federal and state law. The electronic file has been posted on the project public website under the document page.

Mr. Tom Rueter, General Manager of the Alaska Maritime Agencies also made a brief public statement expressing his interest to the Advisory Panel.

**Future Advisory Panel Meeting Schedule and Location**

The next Advisory Panel meeting is tentatively scheduled during the timeframe of **September 1-4 in Unalaska/Dutch Harbor**. Getting the Phase A Risk Analysis team contract established and onboard with the Project primarily drives the meeting date. The products generated by the Risk Analysis Team will determine future meetings.