

SENSITIVE AREAS: PART FIVE - SIGNIFICANT DATA GAPS AND INFORMATION NEEDS

- (a) Detailed mapping and field verification of developed and non-developed recreation sites within the region: their location, type/degree of use, and susceptibility to oil spill injury.
- (b) Information about upland habitat types and their sensitivity to spills and their capability to be protected and/or cleaned.
- (c) Shoreline type data/maps for the western portion of the Aleutian chain.
- (d) Detailed information about sport hunting and fishing.
- (e) Maps showing ferry/tour boat routes and key recreational areas.
- (f) Identification of specific areas at risk.
- (g) Detailed habitat maps for sea otters.
- (h) Detailed habitat maps for threatened and endangered species.
- (I) More local input about priority areas of local concern.
- (j) Offshore/open water use information by large concentrations of wintering sea ducks and sea birds, including the threatened Spectacled eiders.

SENSITIVE AREAS: PART SIX - KEY REFERENCES

The following documents will provide information on critical fish and wildlife concentrations and human uses. The information contained in these documents is not, for the most part, duplicated in this contingency plan. Also identified are Geographic Information System (GIS) databases which may have automated resources information for the area.

Documents

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. 1993. Water Permit Database.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide, Southwest Region, Vols. 1 and 2. (Description of life histories, habitat requirement, distribution, abundance and human uses of fish and wildlife).

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide, Southwest Region Map Atlas. (1:1,000,000 scale color maps of fish and wildlife distribution).

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide Reference Maps, Southwest Region, Vols. 1-4. (1:250,000 scale maps of fish and wildlife distribution and human use).

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1992. An Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes, Southwest Region. (Maps of locations of anadromous streams and species known to utilize them).

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1993. Environmental Section of the State of Alaska Regional Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Contingency Plan for the Aleutian Region.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1991. State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries. (Maps of these specially designated state lands).

Aleutians East Borough. 1991. Coastal Management Program Amendments: Coastal Boundary, Resource Inventory and Analysis, Policies, Implementation.

Aleutians East Coastal Resource Service Area. 1984. Resource Inventory for the Aleutians East Coastal Resource Service Area.

Aleutians East Coastal Resource Service Area. 1985. Aleutians East Coastal Resource Service Area Volume I Coastal Management Plan.

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Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area. 1990. Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area Volume I Resource Inventory Atlas.

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CH2MHill. 1994. Circulation Study of Unalaska Bay and Contiguous Inshore Marine Waters.

Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 1994. Environmental Sensitivity Mapping for Developing and Evaluating Spill Response Plans. Working Paper Review Draft.

Jon Isaacs and Associates. 1993. Unalaska Harbor Management Plan: Planning, Management, and Permitting Guidelines.

LaBelle, J.C. and J.L. Wise. 1983. Alaska Marine Ice Atlas.

Michel, J., J. Halls, S. Zengel, J. Dahlin, and J. Petersen. 1997. Environmental Sensitivity Index Guidelines Version 2.0. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Technical Memorandum NOS ORCA 115.

Michel, J. and S. Christopherson and F. Whipple. 1994. Mechanical Protection Guidelines. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Coast Guard.

Minerals Management Service. 1992. Shipwrecks of the Alaskan Shelf and Shore. U.S. Department of the Interior.

Minerals Management Service. 1989. Offshore Scientific and Technical Publications. U.S. Department of the Interior.

Minerals Management Service. 1990. Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program Comprehensive Bibliography. U.S. Department of the Interior.

National Climatic Data Center (NDC) and Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC). 1988. Climatic Atlas, Volume II: Bering Sea.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1994. Environmental Sensitivity Mapping for Developing and Evaluating Spill Response Plans. A Working Paper for the Regional Workshop on Designing a Geographic Information System for Oil Spills.

Research Planning Institute, Inc. 1982. Sensitivity of Coastal Environments and Wildlife to Spilled Oil, Bristol Bay region.

U.S. Department of Commerce. (Current Year's Edition) Tidal Current Tables: Pacific Coast of North America and Asia.

U.S. Department of Commerce. (Current Year's Edition) U.S. Coast Pilot 9: Pacific and Arctic Coasts Alaska: Cape Spencer to Beaufort Sea.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Alaska Seabird Colony Catalog

Geographic Information System (GIS) Databases

Alaska Department of Natural Resources: Rich McMahon, Anchorage, 269-8836

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: John Whitney, Anchorage, 271-3593

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Catherine Berg, Anchorage, 786-3598

SENSITIVE AREAS: PART SEVEN - AREAS OF LOCAL CONCERN

The Aleutians East Borough, in their Coastal Management Plan, has identified several Special Use Areas based on unique, environmentally vulnerable, or commercially important fish and wildlife resources and habitats (see the following maps). Commercial fishing is a key use in many of these areas. These include:

1. Port Moller/Herendeen Bay/Bear River Special Use Area

Five species of salmon are found in this area; sockeye and chum are the most important. Large numbers of herring, and other forage fish pass through the area, and this is a major herring spawning area. Red king and Dungeness crab are in the area, and this is an important nursery for halibut and sole. The area contains several seabird colonies. Shorebirds and waterfowl migrate through the area in spring and fall. Harbor seals haulout in the area, as do walrus on Walrus Island. Sea otters are present. Gray whales migrate through the area.

2. Nelson Lagoon Special Use Area

Significant numbers of king, coho, chum, and sockeye salmon are found here. Dungeness and red king crab are here, and clams are harvested for subsistence use. A large seabird colony is on the Kudobin Islands. This is a major staging area for fall shorebird migration, and for waterfowl migration staging and feeding. Harbor seals, sea otters and gray whales are found here.

3. Izembek Lagoon Special Use Area

This large estuarine system supports one of the largest eelgrass beds in the world. This is a major chum and sockeye salmon area and a rearing area for red king crab. This is a major staging, feeding, molting, nesting and wintering area for shorebirds and waterfowl. The world's population of black brant stage here, as do most of the emperor geese, cackling geese, and female Steller's eider. This is a key haulout and breeding area for harbor seals. Sea otters frequent the area.

4. Bechevin Bay Special Use Area

The area contains king crab spawning grounds and sees substantial use by waterfowl and shorebirds for migration staging, feeding molting nesting and wintering. This is a key haulout and breeding area for harbor seals. Sea otters frequent the area. The area is also important for spring feeding by brown bears.

5. Unimak Pass Special Use Area

This area sees large numbers of adult salmon pass through as they migrate to streams in Bristol Bay and western Alaska. Juvenile salmon migrate through the area to the north Pacific. The area is also a major migration route for ducks, geese, seabirds and marine birds. Humpback, fin, and gray whales, as well as northern fur seals use the area in spring and fall.

6. Pavlof/Canoe Bay Special Use Area

This is a key salmon and herring spawning area. King, tanner, and Dungeness crabs are present, as are shrimp and groundfish. Seabirds nest here and waterfowl also use the area. Brown bears concentrate here.

7. Anadromous Fish Stream Special Use Area

Anadromous fish streams support spawning populations of fish, which are essential for the region's commercial fisheries. Associated lakes and tributaries are also important fish habitat. This area includes all streams identified in the Catalog produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (see Attachment Two)

The Aleutians West Coastal Resource Service Area identified two areas for study as potential Areas Meriting Special Attention:

8. Unalaska Bay

This is a traditional use area of the Aleuts and contains numerous archaeological and historic sites, including Amaknak Island, which is a National Historic Landmark for World War II military activities. The recent commercial growth in the area during recent years has put pressures on local recreational, subsistence and personal uses of resources in the area.

9. Chernofski Harbor

This is an important fish and wildlife habitat area which contains archaeological and historic sites. The area has been studied for possible commercial development.

A map showing Environmentally Sensitive Areas was produced in 1998 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with funding from the U.S. Coast Guard. Saint Paul, Saint George, Walrus, and Otter Islands are mapped at 1:63,360 scale, and were reviewed by Federal, State, and local organizations. This map is not included here.

A 1998 wildlife response action plan the Wildlife Protection Guidelines: Pribilof Islands was also produced with local involvement as an adjunct to the Aleutian Island Subarea Contingency Plan.

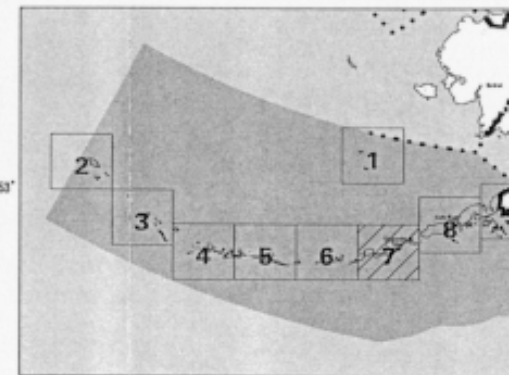
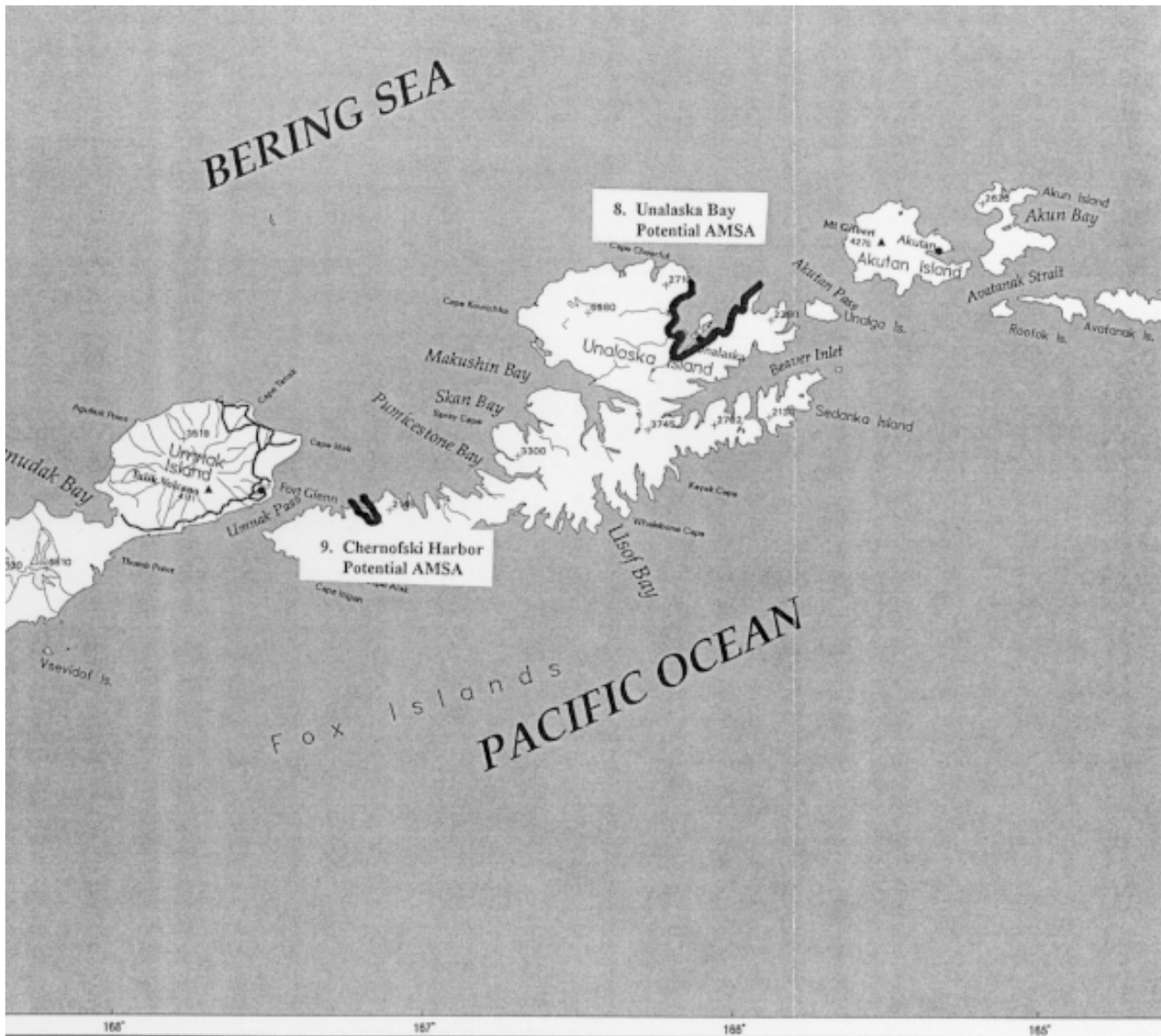
BASE MAP
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS REGION

Map 1 of 3

Albers Equal Area Projection
Scale 1:1,000,000



Areas of Local Concern



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