



Council Briefs

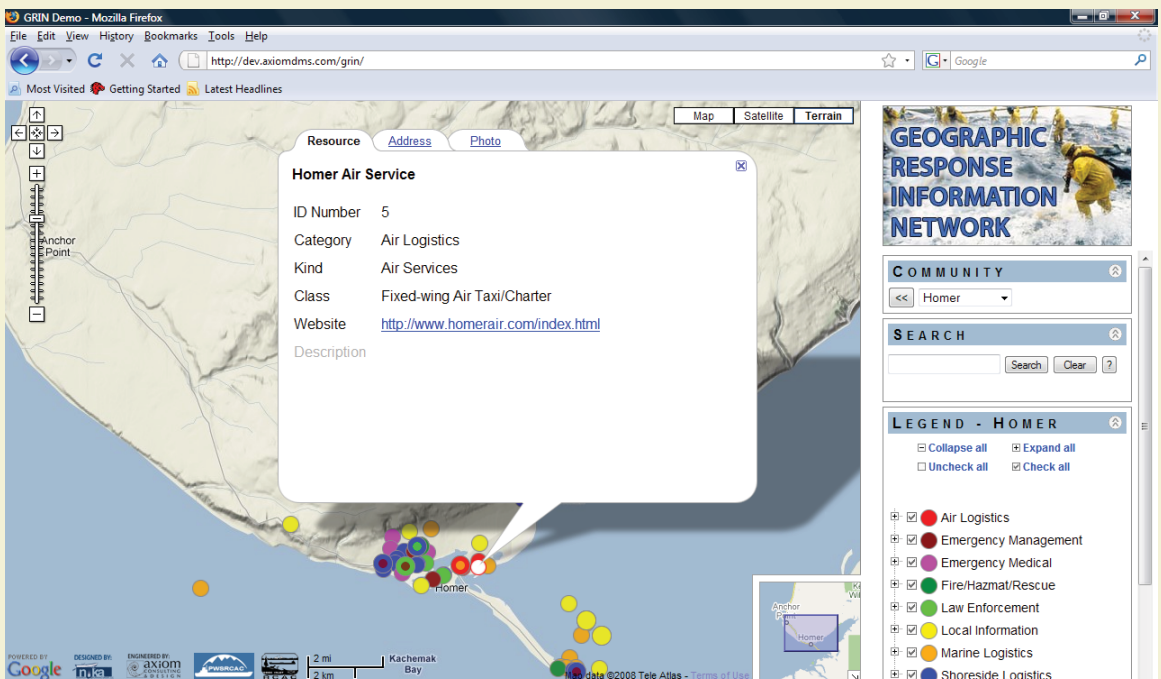
“The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet”

Geographic Resource Information Network

The Geographic Resource Information Network (GRIN) has recently taken the next step in its development. This version of GRIN, like the original prototype, takes existing information from a number of sources, supplements that information as needed, and compiles both electronic and paper documents that allow the user to easily locate and view logistical information relevant to oil spill response in coastal Alaska. However, the new version uses an interactive GOOGLE™ map based system.

Information in the GRIN is organized by community, so that incident personnel assigned to a specific community (or a number of communities within a larger geographic region) are able to access a broad range of community specific information in one central location. Three major categories of information are presented – Community Profile, Liaison and Public Information, and Resources and Capabilities. GRIN uses the GOOGLE™ map format and pictures to provide responders with a visual reference to accompany textual information regarding the Resources and Capabilities category.

Cook Inlet RCAC plans to promote the further development of this project and looks forward to expanding it throughout Cook Inlet and the State of Alaska.



Screen shot of the new GRIN format

Tesoro Drill/Deployment

Tesoro held its annual drill and deployment September 24th and 25th. The drill scenario centered on an incident involving the TV Seabulk Arctic as it made its way from Valdez to Nikiski. Cook Inlet RCAC served as drill evaluator in the Nikiski Command center and as a participant in the Community Stakeholder Committee in Homer. The two-day drill started with a table top exercise designed to test the Unified Command and the abilities of the Tesoro Incident Management Team.



The barge CISPRI Responder, deploys a Transrec weir skimmer to oil recovery.

Following Wednesday's table top exercise, the second day involved a large-scale deployment of response equipment in Katchmak Bay. Cook Inlet RCAC was invited to observe the deployment and implementation of the Petersen Bay GRS, several near shore response tactics, and a lightering operation of the T/V Captain Downing. Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) and Ship Escort/Response Vessel Systmes (SERVS) took part in the deployment.



The Wave Buster funnels rough water and oil to the skimmer. As the rough water travels through the wave buster, it calms, and the skimmer can effectively recover the oil.

Alaska Oil and Gas Risk Assessment

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) presented an introduction to the Alaska Oil and Gas Infrastructure Risk Assessment (ARA) to the Council at the September meeting. This event kicked off phase one of the project and the beginning of a series of community visits planned to introduce the ARA to the public and to solicit input from stakeholders in effort to gather information for the project design. The second phase, the implementation of the assessment, is slated to begin in August of 2009. The final report and analysis, phase three, should be completed by February, 2010.

Cook Inlet RCAC was given an opportunity to meet with the consultants on the project, Emerald Consulting Group LLC, before the public meeting in Kenai, to give the Council's perspective on the project. Given the age of the Cook Inlet infrastructure and the importance of Cook Inlet to the state, the Council is very supportive of the Risk Assessment and plans to provide Emerald and ADEC with information and data during the assessment process.

CISPRI Broken Ice Deployment

At the September Board of Directors meeting in Seldovia, attendees saw a presentation about a study that was co-sponsored by Cook Inlet RCAC called the Integrated Cook Inlet Contaminants Program. The presentation covered the planning and implementation of a combined study plan for two separate projects that had individual goals and objectives, yet overlapped in their data needs, sampling locations, and sample schedules.

The two projects combined for the Integrated Cook Inlet Contaminants Program (Integrated Plan) were (1) a Cook Inlet area-wide contaminants study by Cook Inlet RCAC based on the national Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) and (2) a Produced Water Discharge Study required by the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas NPDES Permit (AKG-31-5000) for large volume produced water dischargers designed to assess the fate and transport of produced water in the water column and sediments.



Tim Roberson and Sue Saupe

incorporated collecting samples for a third related study for NOAA's National Status and Trends program that is focusing on assessing the benthic (seabed) health of Kachemak Bay. The sampling team lived and worked onboard the Kodiak vessel the R/V Island C. Sampling at very shallow stations was conducted using a skiff leased from the Seldovia Oil Response Team.

Cook Inlet RCAC's Director of Science and Research, Susan Saupe, described the Integrated Plan as using a framework that will allow comparisons of ecosystem health measures among Cook Inlet marine waters, Cook Inlet oil industry areas, and the largest mixing zones associated with

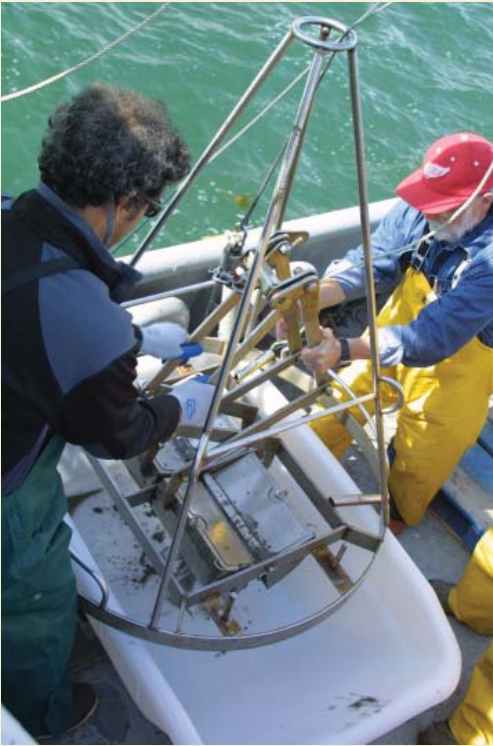


Rinsing sediment

the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas NPDES Permitted large-volume dischargers. Water and sediment samples are currently being analyzed at some of the best laboratories in the country for analyzing contaminants and the final results will include a full suite of metals, hydrocarbons, and persistent organic pollutants for sediments in the Gulf of Alaska's coastal bays and estuaries, including Cook Inlet.

The two separate studies had individual goals and objectives, yet had overlapping sampling and analytical needs and Cook Inlet RCAC worked closely with EPA, Chevron, and XTO to conduct a sampling program that maintains the integrity of each individual, yet related study, and shares costs for the very expensive logistics and laboratory analyses.

Sampling took place for 30 days in August, starting with a four-day field training cruise that also



Hoisting the sampler

“We also thank EPA, XTO, and Chevron, for working with us to develop a sampling plan that increases the value of both programs” said Ms. Saupe. “It was a big commitment on their part, since the easy route would have been for them to just go out and do their own thing. It definitely complicated all aspects of the planning and logistics to try to combine both studies and ensure that each of our programs still maintained autonomy. In the end, we hope that this successful partnership demonstrates that seemingly separate, stand-alone projects can find common goals and lead to an improved understanding of Cook Inlet’s environment.”



R/V Island C.

Ms. Saupe would like to especially thank Maritta Newgren and the staff at Cook Inlet RCAC for their assistance during this project

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