



## Cape & Islands GRP Kick-off Meeting

June 26, 2007

Barnstable County Court Complex  
Assembly of Delegates Room  
3195 Main Street  
Barnstable, Ma 02630

### Attendees:

R. Scott Barr – ACOE	Robert Kelleher - Yarmouth Fire deputy
Ben Bryant - Coalition for Buzzards Bay	Brian Malone – Dennis Natural Resources Dept.
Neil Churchill - MA Division of Marine Fisheries	Steve McKenna - MA CZM
LT Cmdr. Wayne Clayborne - USCG Representative	Dean Melanson – Hyannis Fire Dept.
Elise DeCola - Nuka Research	Jo Ann Muramoto - APCC
Robert Duncanson – Chatham Health & Environment	Rich Packard – MassDEP
Steven Edwards – Orleans Fire Chief	Tim Robertson - Nuka Research
Greg Gifford - Steamship Authority	Susan Rowback – Senator Robert O'Leary
David Grunden - Oak Bluffs Shellfish Dept	Dona Tracy - Nantucket Soundkeeper
LT Keith Hanley - USCG MSD Cape Cod	Andrew Tweel – WBNERR
Rebecca Harris - Mass Audubon	Karl VonHone – Yarmouth Harbormaster (DNR)
Dan Horn – Barnstable Harbormaster	Mike Whiteside – MassDEP
Job Gibbs – Barnstable Asst. Harbormaster	John Davidson – Provincetown Harbormaster

Rich Packard of MassDEP opened the meeting and provided introductions to oil spill prevention and response planning. He explained that the Geographic Response Plan (GRP) project was being funded through the Massachusetts Oil Spill Act Trust Fund, which was created following the Buzzards Bay spill in 2003. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation is included with the meeting materials on the CIGRP website.

Elise Decola of Nuka Research and Planning Group gave a PowerPoint presentation of the *Cape & Islands GRP Project Overview* that it is also posted on the project website. Her presentation provided an overview of the project purpose and participation, as well as the timeline.

Rich Wingrove, a NOAA Corps officer in command of the Woods Hole research vessels, substituted for Stephan Lehmann, the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), giving a presentation on *Shoreline Sensitivity to Oil Spills*. He explained how the NOAA environmental sensitivity index (ESI) maps categorize oil spill sensitivity information, which is to be considered in site selection. He emphasized the importance of considering the potential for a shoreline to be effectively cleaned up following an oil spill in determining which sites to develop GRPs for. A copy of this presentation is available on the project website as well.

LT Keith Hanley of the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Cape Cod addressed the potential of spills, mentioning that tanker spills seldom occur and the last tanker transit through the canal was eighteen months ago. He noted that two local companies operate fuel barges in the area, and that tug and barge traffic is a more likely spill risk. Additional spill



risks are posed by tank truck traffic on local high ways, as well as steamship authority vessels. Hanley offered the group the opportunity to query the U.S. Coast Guard marine casualty database for more information about local spill histories and vessel accidents.

Elise DeCola then reviewed the Cape & Islands GRP sub-zones, explained how initial candidate sites had been delineated, and discussed the site selection process. She noted that initial priority ratings had been identified based on a project from approximately 10 years ago. She emphasized that it was important for the group to review and potentially revise this information based on their local knowledge and priorities.

The candidate sites identified in the preliminary zone maps represent the complete shoreline, divided into numbered segments. The sites selected for GRP development are identified based on a set of three major site selection criteria:

1. Environmental sensitivity,
2. Risk of being impacted from a water borne spill; and
3. Feasibility of successfully protecting the site with existing technology.

The meeting materials addressing the sub-regions, site selection matrix, and the protection priorities from 1997 are also available on the project group's website. Subsequent to the meeting, Nuka Research will develop new maps that identify the priority sites from 1997, to make it easier for local representatives to review and comment on the candidate sites. Input from the planning group on site selection can be submitted at any time via e-mail or telephone: [elisedecola@nukaresearch.com](mailto:elisedecola@nukaresearch.com) or 508-454-4009.

If needed, additional meetings will be held in each sub-region to discuss and finalize site selection. A Planning Group meeting will be held in mid-September to review and approve the selected GRP sites (approximately 30 total for the Cape/Islands region) so that site surveys may be conducted in September/October before winter weather sets in.

Steve McKenna from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management emphasized to the group the importance of making sure others in the community are informed and represented. He noted that his program would be happy to facilitate local outreach as needed.

Tim Robertson of Nuka Research presented *GRP Tactics Group Information*, which is to follow site selection. His overview of tactics development highlighted the role of the tactics sub-group including: the development of general tactic descriptions, acquiring site specifics, performing site surveys, developing response strategies, and the drafting of GRPs. He also gave examples pertaining to the layout. He noted that a tactics sub-group would be formed shortly and the first meeting held this summer to develop a draft set of core tactics.

Note: The first Tactics Group meeting has been set for August 15, 2007. A draft tactics list and additional information will be posted to the project website by July 20.

Several meeting participants commented about the project. One commenter noted a concern that should FEMA mandate a standardized response nomenclature, as was recently required for local



Fire and EMS services, would the final GRP product comply with such a requirement. This concern was noted, although Tim Robertson explained that he was aware of no such efforts. He also explained that for this project, the standardized categories for boom and operating environments would come directly from the World Catalog of Oil Spill Response Products.

Another participant commented that some of the initial site designations did not make sense from a response perspective, since some areas incorporated two different water bodies that would have totally different access routes. Elise DeCola explained that the initial site designation had been very generalized and focused primarily on shoreline segments. The next round of candidate sites would be more specific to individual inlets and waterways, and more operationally-oriented.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of timeline, which is summarized below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
July – Sept 2007	Site selection	Nuka revise site selection maps; Planning Group members review sites and discuss locally; additional meetings held as needed
August 15, 2007	Tactics Group Meeting	First meeting of tactics group to be held at MassDEP in Hyannis. Draft Tactics Guide & meeting materials to be posted to project website by July 20.
Mid-September	Next planning group meeting	Nuka publish a meeting date/location. Group will finalize site selection and consider initial GRP layout and Tactics Guide.
Late Sept/early October	Site surveys, aerial photography, and draft GRPs	Nuka will conduct aerial photography and will then lead a small survey team to each of the selected GRP sites (30-40) to collect site data, photographs, etc. and to identify potential strategies. Nuka will develop draft GRPs for review by the Planning Group at their November 2007 meeting
November 2007	3 <sup>rd</sup> planning group meeting	Planning Group will meet to review & approve GRPs.
December 2007	Final GRPs published	After a final review period, GRPs will be published in Area Plan.