

Mount Hope Bay Geographic Response Plan (GRP) Project Tactics Sub-Group Meeting

**September 27, 2012 10:00 am
Fall River EOC, Fall River, Massachusetts**

Attendees

Kira Adams – USCG
Neil Churchill – Mass. Division of
Marine Fisheries
Arnie Geller – USCG Auxiliary
Mike LePage – Fall River Fire

George Nelson – USCG
Rich Packard – MassDEP
Mike Popovich – Nuka Research
Sanne Schneider – Nuka Research

Welcome & Introduction

Mike Popovich welcomed the group and outlined the goals of the meeting which were to review the preliminary Mt. Hope Bay site maps, apply appropriate tactics, and make any changes necessary before the first draft of the Geographic Response Plans. Each member of the group had a map of each site to refer to during the meeting. Popovich also displayed a chart of the Mt. Hope Bay area for the group to reference. The 22 sites were grouped into three regions: Lee/Coles River, Lower Taunton River and Upper Taunton River.

Review

The following changes and revisions were discussed and agreed upon during the meeting.

MHB-01A Cedar Cove (Cole River)

- Rich Packard suggested renaming this site the “Cole River Narrows”. It has already been tested in 2011 by Somerset/Swansea and he also suggested checking with Somerset to see if this is the correct name.
- Note length on boom (1000 ft.)

MHB-01B Cedar Cove

- No changes

MHB-02 Shady Isle

- Neil Churchill suggested shifting the boom back to use the existing wooden bridge as an existing anchor point/location for exclusion boom. Decision to place boom farther to the west at narrow pass

between Shady Isle and Ocean Grove was to minimize further impact to the East.

MHB-03A (Cole River)

- No changes

MHB-03B (Cole River, Rte. 195)

- Suggest using sorbent boom at the little creek which leads up to the pond where there are nesting birds. Note this. Culverts will be marked on final GRPs.

MHB-04A (Lee River, Rte. 6)

- Popovich will revisit this site during a tide change to check the water flow or ask someone from the town whether sorbent boom would be advised as a barrier.

MHB-04B (Lee River, Rte. 195 & 138)

- Popovich will research how to delineate the number of SR on these bridges.

MHB-05 (Fox Hill Cove)

- Add sorbent boom to this low energy area.

MHB-06 (Fall River Waterfront)

- Mike LePage suggested putting sorbent boom at the southern side of the State pier, which is open and exposed.
- The group agreed to take the hard boom off Borden Light Marina as it is private.
- Popovich will note the mouth of the Quequechan River.

MHB-07 (Breeds/Weavers Cove)

- The group considered moving the location of the boom from the tank farm out to point. There was a question whether the shoreside elevation will allow this.
- DV-02 should be labeled DF and DV, depending on which direction the threat is coming from.
- The SR on map is a natural collection point but the group suggested looking into moving the SR away from the pump house and potentially shifting DV-02 to the west between the SR and the current location.

MHB-08 (Somerset Marina)

- The group agreed to change the site name to Pierce Beach. The group questioned the direction of the tidal flow and suggested

sorbent boom in the salt marsh area, using a DV tactic to a SR with sorbent boom. Packard asked whether DF tactic could be used on a flood tide to SR? Popovich noted that there is little or no shore access due to the location of the Fall River Country Club and asked the group to consider EX booming instead. Geller suggested the possibility of getting an updated chart from the Department of Natural Resources, which would list the resources at risk: nesting birds, deer, etc. LePage noted that the train tracks run along the water and there are train cars carrying chemicals, which could cause a land-based spill.

MHB-09 (Mallard Point)

- Decision by group to eliminate this recommended tactic and map due to large amount of deflection boom required to protect this small cove when compared to absence of significant sensitive resources.

MHB-10 (Barnaby's Point)

- No changes

MHB-11 (Assonet River entrance)

- The group agreed to change DF-01 to DV and move it in closer to the land.
- Change EX to DF for a spill coming from north on the land-side. The sandy point could be used as a collection point.
- DF tactic in back of Conspiracy Island will be kept as written, but Popovich will make it a separate tactic.

MHB-12 (Broad Cove)

- No changes

MHB-13 (Muddy Cove)

- No changes

MHB-14 (Dighton/Berkely Bridge)

- Popovich will move the SR point to the left into the natural notch and will confirm that the boom length for EX-01 and 02 are long enough to cover the outflow at high tide.

MHB-15A (Dighton Rock/Grassy Island)

- No changes

MHB-15B (Train Bridge)

- No changes

MHB-16 (Shoves Neck)

- Note that there is no access for SR.

MHB-17 (Assonet Bay)

- Popovich agreed that if time allows it would be useful to find and mark the outfalls along Rte. 24
- Add a DV tactic on the west side of the bridge along with SR.

MHB-18 (Shepherds Cove)

- The group noted that this area is very shallow and suggested revisiting to confirm whether the little inlet near EX-01 flows through.

Timeline

Initial meeting – 6/6/2012

Site Selection/Sensitivity Planning Meeting – 06/26/12

Site surveys – July

Tactics Review - September

Draft GRP tactics – October/November

Review/finalization of GRPS by Work Group –November/December

Publish GRPs in Area Plan – January/February 2013

Review Action Items

Mike Popovich will make the recommended changes to the sites and draft the Geographic Response Plans. Boom lengths will be noted on all the GRPs. He will be in touch with the group via email regarding setting a date/location for the next meeting.

Adjourn

Popovich and Packard thanked the group for coming and sharing their knowledge and expertise to help make this project a success.