



# ALEUTIAN ISLANDS WATERWAYS SAFETY PLAN

October 28, 2019; Rev 5

## **MISSION**

*The mission of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee is to enhance safe, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Aleutian Islands region by fostering a productive exchange of information among mariners and other stakeholders and establishing and promoting best practices and standards of care.*

# ALEUTIAN ISLANDS WATERWAYS SAFETY PLAN

## LETTER OF PROMULGATION

The Aleutian Islands and neighboring waterways make up a remote, environmentally rich maritime region located along the Great Circle route that thousands of vessels transit on voyages between North America to Asia. This region is home to one of the most productive fisheries in the world. The extreme weather conditions and limited response resources in this maritime region have contributed to numerous major marine casualties resulting in loss of life, property and environmental harm. The most notable of a major marine casualty in recent history was the loss of the Motor Vessel (M/V) SELENDANG AYU, in which six lives were lost during rescue operations and which resulted in significant environmental impact. This disaster led to the establishment of the Aleutian Island Risk Assessment (AIRA) and the implementation of increased risk mitigation and emergency response capabilities.

This Waterways Safety Plan was promulgated to further enhance marine safety and environmental stewardship in the region through risk-based decision making and the implementation of standards of care, dissemination of information and development of capabilities. This Plan is a living document and the product of the collaboration of maritime stakeholders and communities as represented by members of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (AIWSC) who shared their time and expertise to identify and disseminate initiatives that enhance maritime safety.

The AIWSC has applied the guidelines in the U.S. Coast Guard's NVIC 01-00 in establishing the Committee. The Coast Guard, while prohibited from being a voting member, serves as a primary advisor, active participant and contributor to the Committee and this Plan.

As maritime activities in the Aleutians are dynamic, this Plan will undergo periodic changes and updates to address developments. The Waterways Safety Committee is committed to maintaining and updating this plan as operations change, new information is obtained and evolving technologies warrant.

The Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Plan and other details regarding the activities of the Committee can be found at:

[www.aleutianislandswsc.org](http://www.aleutianislandswsc.org)

Comments and suggestions regarding the plan may be forwarded to the Committee through this web site.

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# SECTION A

## INTRODUCTION

## A.1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (AIWSC) was created in 2017 to enhance safe, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Aleutian Islands and adjacent waters, including the Pribilof Islands by fostering a productive exchange of information among mariners and other stakeholders and establishing and promoting best practices and standards of care. It is modeled after Harbor Safety Committees established in other regions of the U.S. and the guidance provided in U.S. Coast Guard NVIC 1-00 (Navigation Vessel Inspection Circular).

The AIWSC provides a proactive forum for identifying, assessing, planning, communicating and implementing operational and environmental measures beyond statutory and regulatory requirements that promote safe maritime operations in the challenging waters encompassing the Aleutian Islands and adjacent waters. The Waterways Safety Committee (WSC) is made up of delegates appointed by broadly based organizations representing a span of interests focused on maritime operations, maritime safety and environmental protection in the region. Various governmental agencies formally support the work of AIWSC in advisory roles.

With broad stakeholder participation, the AIWSC offers a forum to lead the stakeholder community in identifying and resolving conflicts or concerns in the course of conducting maritime operations in the Aleutian Islands and neighboring waters. The intent of establishing the AIWSC is to serve as an inclusive organization that can explore issues and develop non-regulatory solutions for managing and reducing the risk of maritime casualties that result in loss of life, property and environmental harm. The standards of care and protocols developed and incorporated in the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Plan are intended to complement and supplement existing federal, state and local law, regulations and guidelines.

The WSP target audience is the maritime community and associated stakeholders that operate in and through the Aleutian and Pribilof Island area.

- **Section B** of the WSP presents general information on relevant topics identified by the WSC members and related to safe navigation.
- **Section C** focuses on Standards of Care, or procedures and practices to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible operations.
- **Section D** (Appendix) provides supplementary details related to the geographic region's history, ecological and economic issues of concern illustrating the importance of protecting the resources and mitigating future maritime incidents.

## A.2. PROCEDURES

The elements of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Plan are developed by subcommittees of the WSC. To assure the broadest perspectives on measures are considered, these teams are

expected to include interested parties from within the AIWSC and to reach beyond the AIWSC for membership, participation and advice. Decisions and policies will be made by consensus.

As possible additions and/or corrections to the Waterways Safety Plan are identified, the Chair of the WSC will appoint one or more AIWSC members to lead a subcommittee to consider specific issues and forward recommendations to the full AIWSC.

### A.3. WATERWAYS SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee (AIWSC) is a stakeholder organization that represents the interests of each stakeholder group through nomination of a primary representative and alternate for each stakeholder seat. The Chair of the Waterways Safety Committee (WSC) appoints the chairs of the various WSC subcommittees.

Committee membership shall not, by itself, be construed to in any way limit the legal rights, obligations, or authorities of an individual representative or the groups or agencies which they represent. For additional information refer to the [AIWSC Charter](#).

#### A.3.1. Voting Members

The Waterways Safety Committee includes representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

##### Marine Vessel Operations

- At-Sea Fish Processors
- Commercial Fishing
- Commercial Fishing Vessels < 60 feet
- Passenger Vessels
- Cargo Ships
- Tank Vessels
- Barges (including cargo and petroleum) and Associated Tugs
- Assist Tugs (docking, rescue)

##### Ports and Harbors

- Port Director, Harbormaster, Local Government
- Terminal Operators

##### Response Operations

- Oil Spill Response
- P&I Clubs
- Salvage

##### Others

- Alaska Native Interest
- Conservation Organizations
- Marine Pilots
- Ships' Agents
- Subsistence User
- AIWSC Managing Board Director
- At-large
- Vessel Monitoring and Tracking

#### A.3.2. Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members

In addition to the stakeholder groups listed above, there are a number of governmental agencies that are invited to serve on the Waterways Safety Committee in a non-voting, advisory capacity and to the extent the agency consents to participate on the Committee.

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- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Coast Guard