

NSB/Shell Baseline Studies Program

Steering Committee Teleconference

Wildlife Conference Room

6 November 2012 10:00 a.m.

MAIN PURPOSES OF MEETING:

- (1) Village concerns and observations, (2) Science concerns and observations, (3) Shell or Industrial Plans, (4) Opportunities for collaboration and (5) Next teleconference and/or in person meeting.

Members Present:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Robert Suydam	NSB	Sue Moore	Independent Scientist
Enoch Oktollik	AIN Alternate	Victoria Broje	Shell
Qaiyaan Harcharek	City of Barrow	Ron Oviok, Sr.	Pt. Hope Primary
Jack Schaefer	Pt. Hope Alternate		

Members Not Present

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Ransom Agnasagga	AIN Primary	Brandon Southall	Independent Scientist
Tom Weingartner	Independent Scientist	Hajo Eicken	Independent Scientist
Willard Neakok	Pt. Lay Primary		

Non Members Present:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Malissa Langley	NSB Wildlife	Janell Kaleak	NSB Wildlife

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS:

INVOCATION: Ron Oviok, Sr.

Village concerns/observations

Wainwright (Enoch Oktollik): I attended the AFN and walked around asking Delegates how they feel about the oil and gas activities and development. One thing that startled me was with oil response, the oil companies have their boats built for oil response, if there should be an oil spill most everybody can't

respond because the boats in the Arctic are only up to 26 -27 footers and they are not off shore boats and I don't know what it would mean if there should be an oil spill. The ice is starting to come in and we are one month behind in developing ice in the ocean.

Victoria: Right now there is limited drilling in open water, but we are going to have all our vessels available and in place nearby the site, these are ice off shore vessels and we have planned offshore recovery because they were specifically designed for that, it is important not to compare pictures from the Port of Horizon Spill to Arctic Spill because of the depth. It was a large depth that oil had to go through so when it surfaced it already occupied two square miles of an area, the Beaufort and Chukchi oil will come almost straight up and it will start a very small area and spread out. So if we are close to it with our offshore vessels we can capture it and then if anything escapes from those vessels then we will rely on the village response teams and the Alaska Clean Seas near shore vessels that we will then try to capture any near shore oil that gets away from vessels. We have a plan how to use all the resources that we have and something that is good about ice is that when ice comes around soft ice, ice closer to the shore and this is an excellent protection of shoreline from oil that maybe coming from offshore.

Robert: Thank you Victoria, I know that the concerns that Enoch expressed and that the information he gathered from Delegates from AFN are concerns that people here in Barrow, Nuiqsut, Kaktovik and other communities have expressed, even though there are spill response plans in place sometimes those plans don't quite work the way people have intended especially given weather conditions and ice conditions so the concerns are certainly valid despite Shell's best efforts to be prepared for an accident.

Victoria: I think it may be interesting the next time Michael is available because we have this new tool, large vessel with a containment Dome and it is something we prepared in response to Stakeholders concerns, it was not required by regulators and is something no one else has in the Arctic but not many people are aware of this idea of capturing oil and maybe we can show a movie or presentation next time so all of our colleagues can see it and better understand how it works. (Presentation for January Meeting)

Barrow (Qaiyaan Harcharek): One of the biggest concerns is the late freeze-up; it is making fall caribou hunting, and fishing extremely difficult. Another concern in the community is that folks are worried about the boat near the Sivulliq Prospect and seeing that the ice is building up and starting to freeze and that is a slow boat they are hoping it makes it safely out of here. After listening to Shell's presentation yesterday I have a couple thoughts not concerns about the Terrestrial Studies being done there, it would be interesting if we had more discussions on that some of that work because if Oil is found then that movement next plan for the pipeline is going to be just as important as what is going on offshore and that baseline data is very much needed. The community would like to be informed how the summer activities went for Shell and possibly what is next, other than we had a successful whaling season, and I was fortunate to harpoon another whale on Oct. 3, 2012.

Victoria: I am sure Shell could communicate to you the outcome of our drilling program on the success that we had this summer.

Robert: Thank you Victoria I know that Michelle did provide a preliminary update to the Assembly yesterday at its workshop and we are hoping that the information gets out to the communities also.

Point Hope (Ron Oviok, Sr. Primary): We don't have a lot of concerns except we were happy to see the Blue Tomcods that were gathered a month ago October 14, 2012. We haven't seen them for a long time for about 5 years. We don't have ice here in Pt. Hope yet except on the tundra and it is slippery all over. We have had terrible weather for the last couple of months but hunters did get a couple of caribou. The salmon berries weren't very good because of the rain.

Point Hope (Jack Schaefer, Alternate): Native Village of Pt. Hope would like an update to be provided to them. One question we had was why Pat Crowell? and his staff had indicated in regards to our questions about the sick seals (109 between pt. hope and pt. lay) as to what the sample results were and his response was that none of the samples were analyzed and are still in the forensic laboratories and no one is still working with the people in gathering samples, so there was no answer after several months. So now we would like to see the results of those samples along with the raw data. There is nothing on the internet and why Pat made that statement and we want the information. Also dealing with the climate change, the Naval Arctic Research Laboratories goal was to melt the ice in the 1960's and they changed their minds in 1968 but they did not indicate why and how they were going to do this other than for economic purposes. We would like that information for purposes of determining what we are looking at and dealing with the Tomcod and the reduction of Tomcod because of the seismic work that was being done at that time which was a 10 year program and we are kind of worrying weather that is going to reoccur again and so I hope that the program can establish an inventory on the Tomcod and determine if there is a need for a time out because they are a vital link in the food chain for us and seal.

Robert: Thank you I am disappointed that Pat didn't provide you more information, there are results from the sick seals but unfortunately the results don't tell us yet what the sickness is or what caused the seals to be sick last year. The NSB's Veterinarian Raphaela Stimmelmayer is the onsite coordinator for the sick seals and walruses and so she is very up to date on what information is out there. There have been lots of results but the results have not told us what the problem. Our department sent around an update a month ago and we will make sure the update gets sent to you later today and we can provide more if you would like more. We were happy that sick seals were not seen this year in fact most of the seals we have heard about from the hunters here in Barrow and other places were that the seals look healthy this summer. I haven't heard that one of the goals of NARL was to melt the sea ice, I don't know anything about this but if we find information we will send it to you.

Robert: Jack again I am pleased that you were able to join us today welcome to the steering committee and we look forward to talking to you more. I am hoping to make it down to Pt. Hope sometime this winter to talk to the community, tribe and hunters about collecting samples from Bowhead and Beluga

this Spring and learn more about what the community concerns are, so hopefully we will see you down sometime soon.

Jack: We did ask Shell to look into the sick seal and we haven't heard from them yet.

Robert: I don't think Shell has collected samples but has relied on the NSB and the Villages to find sick seals and then collect sample but there may be a need for the funding here to be used to analyze them.

Victoria: Yes Robert you are correct but will have to wait for Michael to give more information.

Committee Members update: We don't have anybody on the line from Nuiqsut or Kaktovik on the line but we are hoping that we will soon have representative from Kaktovik that can join us regularly and then Taulik and I will travel to Nuiqsut sometime soon and try to recruit somebody from Nuiqsut to join us on the steering committee on well.

Science concerns/observations

Sue: There will be a United States - Canada Oil and Gas Research Forum Meeting in Anchorage next week and I will be coming up for that, I will be talking about the synthesis program that I have been leading with Phyllis Stabenow at NOAA. I believe Taulik is on the Agenda to speak, I wanted to make people aware of that and then here at NOAA a couple of weeks ago there was a group convened by Jim Overland, Sea Ice Researchers and his main goal is to try to the modeling of sea ice improved. Basically everyone that models sea ice realizes they are pretty far off sometimes and also they don't model sea ice at the space and time frames that are important for residents and for important industry are planning their activities. Just to let people know that type of work is underway, there about 30 international scientists trying work on this problem to get better prediction capability. This meeting will be held the Nov. 13-15, 2012 at the Hilton in Anchorage.

Jack: I understand that Hilary Clinton had gone to Canada to talk and try to finalize an agreement dealing with Oil Spill Response and Search and Rescue. Is there a way to get an update on that, get a copy of the signed agreement.

Sue: I don't know about that agreement, I believe that is something put underway because Canada will soon be the Chair of the Arctic Council and the US will be the next chair, perhaps an update on that will be provided at the meeting next week but I don't know more on it now.

NSB/Shell Science Update

Victoria: Arctic oil spill response research project (OJPJIP) we are working on communication fact sheets describing each project and as soon as those are finalized I am going to share it with the Steering Committee so you can see what we are doing for each specific project.

Robert: Yesterday at the NSB Assembly workshop representatives from Shell were there and told us that the drill ship Discover had moved out of the Chukchi Sea that they completed their top hole and got

down to about 1500 feet with the 20inch casings and so that Well is ready to be completed next summer. The drilling work of the Kulluk at Sivulliq Prospect, Camden Bay, didn't make as much progress but they got the mud line cellar completed and the Kulluk has been pulled off and is now being towed back South. It sounds like drilling operations for Shell have been completed this year and now it is just finalizing the demobilization.

Shell also told us that they are planning to start drilling again in 2013 hopefully by mid-July and that their first endeavors would be to go back and complete the two Wells they started this year and they said that they wanted to drill additional Well if possible 2013 one in the Chukchi Sea and an additional one in Camden Bay at the Torpedo Prospect. At the workshop ConocoPhillips gave a brief presentation and said they intend to drill in 2014 at their Devil's Paw Prospect which use to be Klondike in the Chukchi Sea.

Qaiyaan: I found it a little interesting that there was a community event held by Shell last week here in Barrow and none of us in the Steering Committee or Wildlife Office knew about it. It would have been nice to know and participate.

Victoria: I am sorry, we are trying to communicate better and I will let Michael know.

Robert: Yesterday we found out ConocoPhillips has a meeting last night and no one at our department knew about it maybe we can enhance the communication in Barrow and all the villages.

Science Updates

We are close to getting a revised proposal from Hajo on the Sea Ice and Current Workshop and now he can begin plans in earnest for one or two Workshops to talk about traditional knowledge and science information related information on currents and sea ice.

The other projects are still progressing and some progress is being made there as well.

Malissa: Share point is basic and we are adding on libraries but I will send you a direct link to open the information you need to view.

Ron: I just find out that there is going to be a workshop at Barrow tomorrow an Oil Spill Workshop and will there be teleconference capabilities.

Robert: Yes I believe the government is giving a workshop in Barrow on Thursday and Friday related to some of their Oil Spill Response requirements. To discuss issues related to damage assessment and if or when there is a spill, how does the Federal Government the damages and then I think there will be discussions about Oil Spill Response from the Governments prospective. I will find out if there is teleconference and get the information to you all. I will be attending the workshop, Qaiyaan and people from the villages have been invited to attend.

Robert: At the last in person meeting we talked about how we might want to look forward on how to identifying projects to help us fill information needs and help fill the data gaps. We came to some conclusions that we didn't want to use the approach that the North Pacific Research Board used and set aside a certain amount of money in certain categories, we wanted to summarize the projects that have been funded in a similar way, so we need to do here in the next couple of months is identify projects that we think need to happen in 2013 we are working with Shell right now to try to get the next years funding in place and as part of that we need to get moving on projects we might want to fund. It is likely in the next month we will send out an e-mail that asks you to identify specific areas where information needs are a priority and then we will end up putting together a list of what people think those needs are and then send it out again and try to prioritize the projects or possibilities. We are still working on the details of how we will go about that but we need to get working on that soon. My request to you is to start thinking about and making notes and ideas of information needs that we need to address in 2013.

Enoch: We are concerned about the fact that there weren't very many seals and could we do more research regarding the small amount of Natchiq and why.

Robert: We heard similar concerns from other villages and so thank you for that and we will definitely put it on the list.

Enoch: One other concern came out from the NSB Fish and Wildlife Meeting about the Barrier Reefs, that the studies done in the coral areas. We would like to know how our corals are doing in the Barrier Reefs.

Robert: We will add that to the list Enoch we heard that loud and clear from the Fish and Game Meeting. Greenpeace identified some areas with coral in them in the Chukchi Sea and I think some other data exists on that too and possibly getting a better understanding of how sensitive those areas are and make sure we map them and determine how sensitive they are, this definitely should be on the list for a study to be completed.

Qaiyaan: Victoria do you have any knowledge or information on the Social Impact Assessment that Shell will be conducting for 2013 for mitigation measures.

Victoria: I don't but I will talk to Michael and hopefully he will be able to share that information with us.

Robert: If you are able to find out that there is a study plan in place or that there is a study profile perhaps you could send that to Malissa so that it can be distributed to the rest of the committee. The impact study is about related to things such housing, hotel rooms, food, seats on the regular flights, etc...

Meeting Plans

We will try to do another teleconference late Nov. early Dec. realizing that we won't be able to get everybody but just to try and provide an opportunity for people to share concerns and provide updates on what is happening.

Thank you for participating and good bye.