



Cape & Islands GRP Group Meeting

**February 27, 2008, 10:00 a.m.
MassDEP – Hyannis Office
973 Iyannough Road
Hyannis, MA 02601**

Attendees

Neil Churchill- MA Division of Marine Fisheries
Peter Closson- ESCO Terminal, Inc.
Rich Packard- MassDEP
Andrew Jones - MassDEP
Elise Decola- Nuka Research
Keith Hanley - USCG MSD Cape Cod
Greg Gifford- Steamship Authority
Robert Gottsche- Marant Canal Terminal
Steve Lehmann-NOAA SCC Boston
Ben Bryant – Coalition for Buzzards Bay
Karl VonHone – Yarmouth Division of Natural Resource/Harbormaster
Dean Bragonier - Nantucket Soundkeeper
Gregg Fraser – Falmouth Harbormaster
Tom Gallant – MSRC
George Russell – Sandwich Fire Chief
Joe Gibbs – Barnstable Asst. Harbormaster

Welcome & Introduction

Rich Packard gave opening comments, noting that this was most likely the last full meeting of this group, and that the purpose was to review the draft GRPs and identify changes needed prior to finalization. He expressed thanks to all attendees for their ongoing participation and input into the project.

Recent Activities

Elise DeCola summarized the activities since the last meeting. After the September 2007 meeting, which resulted in the selection of 29 sites for GRP development, site surveys were conducted in October and November, with aerial photography of all sites conducted in October. She explained that each survey trip generally included a federal representative (Coast Guard or NOAA), a MassDEP spill responder, and one or more local representatives, generally from the harbormaster, natural resources, shellfish, or fire departments. She expressed thanks to the many agencies and organizations that donated the time of their employees and who provided vessel support for these field surveys. She also noted that the strong local participation in the field work had helped a great deal in developing the strategies.



Tactics Guide

DeCola referred to a copy of the draft Massachusetts GRP tactics guide, revision date November 2007. She reminded the group that the tactics guide has standards and methods for conducting the spill response tactics that form the basis of the GRP strategies. She asked the group to review this document, as it would be incorporated into the final GRP.

During later discussions of the specific GRPs, Steve Lehmann (NOAA SSC) suggested that a standard tactic be developed for closing off mosquito ditches in coastal marshes. It was agreed that he and DeCola would meet offline to develop this content.

[NOTE: After the meeting, DeCola met with Rich Packard of MassDEP and they agreed that the Tactics Guide would be considered a draft work in progress as the Commonwealth continues to develop oil spill planning strategies statewide. However, input into the guide from the Cape & Islands GRP group members is still encouraged during the current project.)

Review Draft GRPs

The bulk of the meeting was spent reviewing each individual GRP in numerical order (by site number). The first site reviewed was CIGRP-01, Old Harbor, and additional time and attention was spent on this GRP to consider both the format and the content.

The following comments were made concerning general edits to all of the sites:

- Add to each site an arrow that shows the general trajectory (direction from which oil is presumed to be coming) for each strategy. For strategies with ebb and flow components, both will be depicted.
- Change the legend so that "snare boom" reads "snare or sorbent boom," since snare boom is not appropriate for all oil types.
- Remove the text below each tactics map that reads "Soundings in fathoms" since no soundings are included.
- The contacts list for each site should also include a 24-hour number, or indicate which numbers are 24-hour. MSD Cape Cod has a list they will provide based on a recent notification process. LT Hanley noted that for many communities, police dispatch would be the 24-hour contact.
- Resource protection information needs a thorough review, noted a lot of missing threatened & endangered species information and anadromous fish runs. Nuka will review this and compare against site selection matrix. Anyone with specific information about resources to protect at GRP sites should submit it to Elise DeCola ASAP.
- Add a universal comment about tidal currents and variations in water circulation with the tides (special considerations).
- For all sites with mosquito ditches in marsh areas, note that these exist under special considerations.



- Add to the legend area or somewhere on tactics map of each GRP an icon that shows generally how many state response trailers would be needed to implement each strategy.
- There are boat ramps missing from the tactics maps for nearly every site. Neil Churchill provided a list of boat ramps for the area and they will be added to the appropriate strategies. Keith Hanley provided information about USCG station boat ramps. It was noted that MassGIS should have boat ramps in there as a data layer.
- Note on all GRPs somewhere that boat ramps may not be usable at low tide.
- Spell check all tables.
- Add to site access columns for all sites information regarding whether or not shoreline recovery areas are accessible by vehicle. This information was captured in the site survey notes but didn't make it into the tables.
- For all sites, the tactics maps should include an overview map if they are large sites, for better context.

The following comments were made concerning other sections of the GRP (introduction, etc.):

- Include in the introduction to the GRP instructions regarding avoiding sensitive dune areas when accessing sites. Also include this in Tactics Guide.
- Include in the introduction a complete list of all individuals and organizations who have participated in the development and review of the GRPs for the Cape & Islands.
- Develop an Appendix to the GRP document that includes a more comprehensive phone notification list. This may be an ongoing process that is continued by the local municipalities as they use the GRPs. The Buzzards Bay GRP has a similar appendix.
- Include in the introduction a description of the contents of the state response trailers, and also note that additional resources may be available through local agencies, private vendors, and spill response organizations. Include a map showing the spill trailer locations for the Cape & Islands and Buzzards Bay, and note that additional trailers will be procured for other areas of the state.
- Add blank pages to allow users of the GRPs to add their own notes.
- Slightly revise all culvert blocking tactics to note that it is preferable to block the culvert on the ebb tide, although it is most important to implement as early as possible. Also find out the sizes of culvert openings for all CB tactics.

The following comments were made concerning specific GRPs:

- CI-01 (Old Harbor) – Remove the place name “Springhill Brook” this is incorrect (Springhill Beach is nearby, there is no brook. Instead, label that inlet as Old Harbor.
- CI-01 & CI-02 – missing information on threatened & endangered species (plovers). Remove aquaculture, there is no aquaculture there.



- CI-03 – Move the inset map so that it is over the land rather than the mouth of the harbor. Add boat ramp.
- CI-03 – Label the first photo “inner boat harbor.”
- CI-04 – Missing the text in the table for PR-02e and PR-02d. Missing boat ramp.
- CI-05 – Zoom out to show all of Welfleet Harbor. Use inset to show the pier area where most of the tactics are.
- CI-05 – The word “road” is mis-spelled.
- CI-13 – Add Hyannis Fire Dept to contacts. Use multiple pages if needed for maps.
- CI-13 – Add exclusion site at the small marsh system which is currently obscured by the scale. Add culvert blocking tactic for the culvert at the end of Shore Rd.
- CI-13 – Add to special considerations column a note about heavy commercial and recreational vessel traffic in the vicinity of DV-01 and the need to coordinate any boom deployment with the Coast Guard and the harbormaster. There is some language to this effect in the site survey notes that can be carried over.
- CI-14 – There is an outfall pipe near DV01b that should be added as a culvert blocking location.
- CI-16 - add Falmouth to the list of notifications (Falmouth Fire 495-2501, harbormaster 457-2550).
- CI-19 – Tactics map is difficult to read. Need an overview map that shows VH Harbor and Lagoon Pond all together, then the two detailed maps as insets or subsequent pages (if subsequent pages, use indicator map to show where it is).
- CI-20 – Remove Cow Bay label, this is incorrect.
- CI-21 – Tactics map is difficult to read. Need an overview map that shows Etown Harbor & Katama Bay all together, then the two detailed maps as insets or subsequent pages (if subsequent pages, use indicator map to show where it is).
- CI-23 – Add language noting that coastal ponds may be breached naturally or breaches may be engineered to flush ponds. Note also that coastal ponds should be surveyed or overflowed at the time of the spill to determine whether any breach or overwash areas exist.
- CI-23 – The ESI maps identify overwash areas, this should be included in the GRP.
- CI-23 – Add the names to the coastal pond labels on the last page with the oblique aerials.
- CI-24 – There is a typo (CV 04 should be CB 04).
- CI-25 – Make sure NMFS reviews this and is OK with marine mammal passive recovery. (Steve Lehmann will follow up with contact).
- CI-28 – Add passive recovery in the marsh area in Nantucket Harbor (inside the exclusion as a backup).
- CI-29 – Again, need an overview that shows Polpis Harbor, then use insets or subsequent maps.



All of the comments noted above will be addressed by Nuka Research during the next round of edits. In the meantime, additional comments and input are actively sought from Cape & Islands GRP group members, with a **deadline of March 31st for all comments on Cape & Islands GRPs**. Areas in particular need of review are:

- Make sure local place/site names are correct. Suggest any changes or additions.
- Review information in “resources being protected” columns for all sites to make sure that all resources are identified.
- Review site access information and make sure driving directions are accurate.

Timeline & Process for Adoption

DeCola explained that there would be a **final review period for the draft GRPs through March 31, 2008**. Nuka will be working on the revisions identified in this meeting summary during that period, and would appreciate any comments or edits as soon as possible.

Once the GRPs have been through the final revision, they will be posted to the website for a quick review by the group, and then will be forwarded to the Area Committee for review. The Executive Steering Committee of the Area Committee will be asked to review and make a recommendation for acceptance to the full Area Committee. The next Executive Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for sometime in May.

The Area Committee will also be asked to assume responsibility for updating and controlling the GRPs as part of the Area Plan. The group noted that the Area Plan could probably use an update at some point, too.

Action Items

There will be no additional meetings of this group in the near future. Tasking includes:

- Nuka will revise GRPs per the items described above.
- Planning Group participants are encouraged to review GRPs and submit comments as soon as possible, **no later than March 31, 2008**.
- USCG MSD Cape Cod will provide list of local community notification phone numbers (24-hour).
- Steve Lehmann and Elise DeCola will develop a Tactic for mosquito ditches to include in the tactics guide.
- Lehmann will contact NMFS to review the Muskeget marine mammal strategy.