

NRDA IN ARCTIC WATERS

THE DIALOGUE BEGINS

APRIL 20-22, 2010 • THE MILLENIUM HOTEL • ANCHORAGE, AK

Breakout Session I: Day 1, April 20

Questions:

Species Groups

- 1) What are the key species and their related human uses and ecological values that may be most affected by an oil spill?
- 2) How and when might these key species and their ecological services and human uses be affected by an oil spill, including response actions? How long might potential impacts last (i.e., magnitude, duration)?
- 3) What is the key role and characteristics of these key species in the food web? How might food webs that include these species be affected by an oil spill?

Habitat Groups

- 1) What are the key species, ecological services and human uses associated with or dependent upon this habitat group that may be most affected by an oil spill?
- 2) How might the key species, ecological services and human uses of this habitat be affected by an oil spill, including response actions? How long might potential impacts last (i.e., magnitude, duration)?
- 3) What are the environmental factors that influence the key food webs in this habitat? What are the key components of the food webs? How might food webs in this habitat be affected by an oil spill?

Breakout Session II: Day 2, April 21 AM

Questions:

- 4) What baseline data and information are required (or desired) to assess oil spill impacts in these Arctic habitats/species?
- 5) What is the current status of baseline data and information?
 - What data and information exist?
 - Are the data updated over time?
 - What is the quality and usefulness of the baseline vis-à-vis the required (or desired) data?
 - What is the real availability and accessibility of the baseline information to all parties (e.g., RPs, Trustees, others) engaged in an NRDA?
 - Are there gaps in the data that have been collected? What are they?
 - Is it necessary to fill gaps and if so, how will we fill these gaps?
- 6) Are there direct indications that the baseline is already changing in measurable ways as a result of changes in sea ice and snow cover, and other physical habitat changes that may be caused by Global Climate Change? What are these changes?

Breakout Session III: Day 2, April 21 PM

Questions:

- 7) Assuming no baseline, is it practical and economically feasible to acquire a meaningful baseline in a time frame that makes the NRDA efficient at restoring services? If so, how?
 - How could injury be evaluated for this group?
 - What effects might you expect to see and what baseline information does that drive you to collect?

- 8) Can we work around an insufficient or missing baseline by using reference areas to compare to an impacted area? How practical is this after an environmental event?