**NOAA Office of Coast Survey Engagement with Alaska Arctic Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

NOAA Coast Survey engages with Alaskan Arctic indigenous peoples and local communities on NOAA hydrographic survey priorities and the region's nautical charting needs. This engagement primarily happens through the NOAA Alaska Regional Navigation Manager, who is in the state to liaise with any and all stakeholders interested in nautical charting and safe navigation.

In recent past, outreach to native communities in AK has been through several means. Often, attending regional commission meetings such as the AK Eskimo Whaling or Marine Mammal Coalition etc. is the most effective way to gain feedback and reach a wide range of stakeholders at once. Materials are often provided for later comment and feedback if guidance/concerns cannot be addressed directly. Often, the attending representative/leaders are council members within villages, so later when a village is contacted to discuss survey plans, OCS may be working with folks already familiar with tentative work.

Physically, getting to remote villages is difficult, and often outreach is done through partner agencies such as SeaGrant, DNR, AOOS, where simple coordination of field activities within 'Hub' cities allows for information to be disseminated back to the Bush communities. Phone calls are a less effective means of communication. NOAA also has online options for customer interaction and support on maritime issues and nautical charting concerns.

Link to NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/NHSP.htm>

Page 12 in direct link to full text PDF describes engagement process on sharing of survey priorities:

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsd/docs/NHSP-full%20document_2012.pdf>

Link to contact the Navigation Manager here, with other online means of communication also noted:

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/reps.htm>