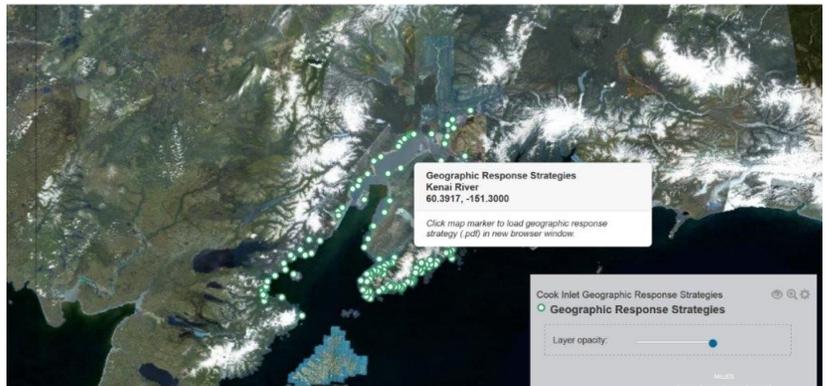


CIRCAC building tools to improve, speed oil spill response

April 2016—Oil spill responders need ready access to a lot of information, such as is there sufficient space at dock facilities, enough draft to accommodate response vessels, places to hold community meetings, hospitals, and where are they located. It's true that this information can be found in a number of references such as the local yellow pages or often in the State/Federal Unified or Subarea Plans. Unfortunately, the manner in which information is compiled and made available often hinders, rather than helps, an oil spill response and can frustrate incident management personnel. In 2008 CIRCAC sought to address this issue with a Geographic Response Information Network, or GRIN demonstration project. The project developed a database with stakeholder input but was paused when NOAA rolled out the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) in 2010. We recognized that ERMA would be the preferred option and decided to renew our efforts when we could build a more useful tool.

This March, CIRCAC met with Nuka Research and Axiom Data Science to collaborate on a project called GRID (Geo-Spatial Resource Information Database) that will build on GRIN and update existing information from a number of sources, supplement that information as needed, devise a way



The GRID data layer will look something like this example of a Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) data layer and accessible through the Cook Inlet Response Tool.

to keep it current, and compile an electronic document that will allow the user to easily locate and view logistical information relevant to responding to oil spills in coastal Alaska.

CIRCAC

8195 Kenai Spur Highway
Kenai, Alaska 99611
www.circac.org

Phone: 907-283-7222
Fax: 907-283-6102
Email: circac@circac.org



Information will be organized by community, so that incident personnel assigned to a specific area (or a number of areas within a larger geographic region) can access a broad range of community-specific information in one central location. GRID will address four major areas: logistics, safety, public information and liaison. Logistics covers subjects such as transportation facilities, support facilities, i.e. lodging, command posts, repair; and food. Safety will include public safety resources and capabilities, such as firefighting, medical, etc. Public will provide references and resources to assist the Public Information Officer in reaching appropriate media outlets, scheduling news conferences, press briefings, and public meetings. Finally, Liaison will include demographic and socioeconomic data specific to each community, as well as contact information for elected officials and tribal leaders.

Once implemented, GRID will be a Geographic Information System or GIS-based interactive database applied to maps or pictures with accompanying textual information. For example, logistical information about a particular dock would not only include a description of physical parameters but would also provide a locator map and photographs of the facility. This type of information can be critical to logistics personnel trying to make decisions from a command post.

Our goal is to make GRID available via the Internet and through the Cook Inlet Response Tool, or stored on a portable device when the Internet isn't available—making it invaluable to both incident management personnel in a command center and incident command and response personnel in the field. Initially the GRID will focus on the Cook Inlet and Kodiak Subareas but it may be expanded to include other areas of Alaska as funding becomes available.