

RESOURCES AT RISK SUMMARY
SUBSTITUTE ICS 232-OS FORM

1. Incident Name: F/V MAR-GUN
2. Operational Period: 06MAR09 1000 – 07MAR09 1000
3. Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Wildlife Issues

Summary of Resources at Risk for Mar-Gun Grounding Site:

Northern Fur Seals:

Staraya Artil is a Northern Fur Seal rookery; North (bluff) to the east of the grounding is another, much larger, fur seal rookery; East Reef and East Cliffs (4-5 miles east of the grounding site) are also fur seal rookeries.

The rookeries are not occupied at this time of year. Fur seals begin to recolonize rookeries in late spring (May).

Steller Sea Lion (Endangered species):

Steller Sea Lion may be present at this time of year along the shorelines on St. George Island. The grounding site is not a known haulout, but sea lions may be in the area. The largest winter sea lion haulout is at Dalnoi Point, approximately 7 miles west of the grounding site. Sea lions also haul out at East Reef and East Cliffs (4-5 miles east of the grounding site).

Harbor Seals:

Harbor seals are present in the nearshore at St. George and may be in the grounding site vicinity. Harbor seals are known to haulout at Suskaralough Point, approximately 6 miles west of the grounding site.

Migratory Birds:

Threatened Steller's Eider and Spectacled Eider may be present in the area, but in low numbers. Nearshore bird species that could potentially be in the grounding site vicinity include King Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tail Duck, Emperor Geese, scoters, and Bufflehead Duck. Sea bird species potentially present in the grounding site vicinity include Black-legged and Red-legged Kittiwakes, cormorants, Crested Auklets, Glaucous-winged Gull, Northern Fulmar, murre, and Pigeon Guillemots.

Intertidal Marine Resources:

Sensitive intertidal marine resources at the grounding site include V-kelp, sea urchins, and mussels.

Cultural Resources:

Cultural resources include an important archeological site at Staraya Artil at the grounding site.

This includes information from ADFG, NOAA-NMFS, USFWS, and St. George Traditional Council.

Site#	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location	Site Issues
1	To be determined by NMFS	Tolstoi Point / Sea Lion Point, at southeast end of St George Island	Sea lion haulout concentrations
2	High (due to proximity of grounding and likely vector of oil sheen)	North Anchorage, northeast side of St George Island	Fur seal haulout concentrations and fur seal rookeries
3	Low (due to location being on opposite side of St George Island)	Zapadni Bay, southwest side of St George Island	Fur seal rookeries, fur seal haulout concentrations, and sea lion rookeries
4	To be determined by NMFS	Rush Pt. and Dalnoi Pt., northwest side of St George Island	Sea lion rookeries
5	To be determined by USFWS	Throughout coastal areas and island-wide	Seabird colonies in concentrations greater than 100,000 birds
6	Medium (due to these species being benthic or pelagic and not generally found nearshore)	Marine environment surrounding St George Island	Fisheries resources including Pacific cod, halibut, Pollock, Tanner crab, snow crab, red king crab, blue king crab and hair crab, miscellaneous flat fish and rock fish

Narrative: Info for Site #1,2,3,4,5 from map, Most Environmentally Sensitive Areas, map MESA27, taken from Aleutians Subarea Contingency Plan, Sept 1999. Info for Site #6 from Forrest Bowers, ADFG Fisheries Biologist.

4. Archaeo-cultural and Socio-economic issues:

Subsistence use information is documented in a 1981 report, “A Preliminary Baseline Study of Subsistence Resource Utilization in the Pribilof Islands” by Douglas W. Veltre Ph.D., and Mary J. Veltre, B.A., ADFG Subsistence Division Technical Paper Number 57. That report indicated historical and current (through 1980) subsistence harvest of the following resources at St. George Island:

- Fur seals – commercially harvested until 1972; moratorium imposed until 1980; limited subsistence harvest under federal NMFS regulations allowed since 1981.
- Sea lions (northern or Steller) – The 1980-81 harvest of 10-20 animals at St George Island was considered poor. Current harvest levels, if any, are unknown at this time.

- Hair seals – Only occasionally used for food, very few hunted in 1981.
- Whales and walrus – Reported in 1981 that whales and walrus may have been used from time to time if washed ashore.
- Reindeer – Small herd on St George Island in 1980, with no hunting to take place for many years. Current status unknown.
- Halibut, cod and other fish – Fishing has always been of major importance to the subsistence of Pribilof Aleuts. Salmon and other anadromous fish are absent, but halibut and cod were abundant and were harvested. Halibut and cod fishing areas were offshore, including on the north side of St George.
- Murres and murre eggs – Murres were hunted, and murre eggs were collected, in many locations around the coast of St George.
- Kittiwakes (especially red-legged, but also black-legged) were hunted. Kittiwake eggs were collected in the past, but were apparently no longer being gathered in 1981.
- Cormorants were hunted on many stretches of coastline on St George.
- Least auklets were hunted, primarily just west of the village on the way to the airstrip.
- Least auklet eggs were gathered, in upland areas, different from the places where the birds were hunted.
- Ducks were hunted on lakes.
- Sea ducks were hunted along the coast of St George, especially along the northern coast.
- Birds and their eggs -- Past utilization included geese, glaucous-winged gulls, sandpipers, fulmar eggs, Pacific turnstones, horned and tufted puffins.
- Marine invertebrates -- Sea urchins, clams, mussels, limpets and chitons were reported to be rarely used for food. Hair crabs were collected on the north side of St George. Octopus was formerly considered a delicacy, but little effort to obtain them was made in 1981. Sea cucumbers could be cleaned and eaten raw when washed up on the beach.
- Berries were gathered on the uplands along the road system, August through October.
- Other plants were gathered. In the past, kelp was gathered along the beach and eaten raw or cooked; little use was made of kelp in 1981.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Before relying on the subsistence use information reported above, now 28 years old, more time is needed to consult with ADFG Subsistence Division staff for updates. The US National Marine Fisheries Service and local St George hunters may also provide more updated information on subsistence harvest of these resources.

5. Prepared by: Gayle Martin, Habitat Biologist III, ADFG on 3/5/09 at 1630 hrs.