

ALASKA DEEP DRAFT ARCTIC PORTS STUDY

ONGOING STUDIES / PROJECTS

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are co-sponsoring the Alaska Deep Draft Arctic Ports Study to evaluate potential port locations on the northern and western coasts of Alaska. The study is in response to the Arctic coast experiencing increased vessel traffic. Alaskan Arctic port(s) would serve as a major infrastructure asset and northernmost port for the US Coast Guard (USCG), the US Navy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in protecting and maintaining federal sovereignty and the environment. Arctic port(s) would support search and rescue, oil spill response, and economic development.

The 2012 Alaska Deep Draft Arctic Ports Study includes: defining the study area, identifying other agency efforts, evaluating public/private partnerships, examining problems and opportunities, establishing siting criteria, conducting scenario analyses, identifying potential sites, engaging stakeholders and communities, and scoping additional study efforts. Drafts of these report components are being prepared by the Project Development Team which includes ADOT&PF, USACE, and RISE Alaska/ARCADIS. Background documents for the Alaska Regional Ports Study and additional information about this study are available at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/en/cw/AKPortsStudy.htm>

We appreciate your review of these working draft materials. All public and stakeholder input/comments are welcome and will be considered by the Project Development Team. These working draft products will be refined throughout the year and included in the Alaska Deep Draft Arctic Ports Study scheduled for publication in November 2012.

Please email your comments to the Project Development Team at Akregports@usace.army.mil.

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DATE	TITLE	Organization/Agency	ABSTRACT
April 2012	Aleutian Transshipment Port	Institute of the North State of Alaska	The primary purpose of this research project will be to determine the feasibility of a transshipment hub in the Aleutian Islands capable of handling container ships of varying size for routes east and west across the Pacific, as well as north to the Atlantic.
Feb 2012	Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) for Arctic	Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Response and Restoration	The system collects information and coordinates it with Geographic Information System-based mapping tools. In the Arctic, it would include information such as the extent and concentration of sea ice, ports and pipelines, and sensitive environmental areas.
Jan 2012	US Port & Waterways Modernization Strategy: Options in the Post-Panamax Era	US Army Corps of Engineers	The study will survey existing conditions, review the drivers of and uncertainties surrounding the future demand for international trade. It will also in part review future options for financing and considerations of modernization within the context of the Nation's overall intermodal transportation system.
Feb 2012	Climate Downscaling Scenario Predictions	John Walsh, University Alaska Fairbanks	Predictions for the northern Bering Sea/Bering Strait/Chuckchi Region
Feb 2012	Historical Sea Ice Atlas	John Walsh, University Alaska Fairbanks	An atlas combining and compiling in an electronic database all the historical sea ice records back to 1850.
Feb 2012	Interactive Datasystem for northern Bering Sea/Bering Strait/Chuckchi Region	Molly McCammon, AOOS	Project is to develop an interactive datasystem for that same region with as much historical data as possible. Our focus is on information needed in the future for potential commercial fisheries development, but certainly that information will be useful for

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			shipping issues/port development and oil and gas.
May 16, 2011	Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative - ADOT&PF Digital Elevation Model (DEM) Arctic Ports and Harbors (Presentation)	Nick Mastrodicasa	The Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative’s primary goal is acquire new and better maps statewide for Alaska and to make existing map products more easily available. Alaska does not have an adequate digital base map. The SDMI seeks to remedy this situation. The SDMI program will ultimately provide an accurate, current, seamless, statewide base map, made available over the internet, through open standards, free of charge to all. The target basemap is a statewide ortho-image, controlled by an appropriately scaled elevation model and ground control as required. The SDMI’s activities include: planning, public access, data acquisition and stakeholder relations.
May 2011	ADOT&PF Roads to Resources	Al Clough, Project Manager	DOT is working with DNR and private sector to identify resource areas, develop a matrix-based system for access roads/infrastructure and priorities road projects for inclusion in state capital budget and for eventual design and construction. Current projects include Road to Umiat, Ambler Mining District and Road to Tanana and Klondike Industrial use Highway. http://www.dot.state.ak.us/roadstoresources/index.shtml
May 2011	NOAA Arctic Activities	Capt. David Zezula, NOAA	NOAA is moving forward to fill the gap in fundamental measurements. Hydrographic Survey Priorities will continue to be refined based on user input. Hydrographic Survey Operations in the Arctic will increase overall contract cost or ship budget. Logistical need for more ports/services in the Arctic to make effective use of limited operating season.
May 2011	AIS (Automatic Identification System) and Satellite Transponders	Ed Page, Marine Exchange of Alaska	Ed Page gave presentation at May 2011 Charrette discussing AIS Vessel Tracking and how it can aid in port planning, risk reduction, compliance monitoring and identification of high risk operations.

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Apr. 2011	Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative- Providing a Comparative Analysis of Port and Airport Infrastructure in Arctic Nations (Proposal)	Institute of the North	The Arctic Maritime and Aviation Transportation Infrastructure Initiative (AMATII) is an outcome of the Arctic Council’s Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) and ongoing work of DOT and FAA. Initiative seeks to address the infrastructure deficit (lack of ports and harbors) by inventorying maritime and aviation assets in the Arctic. The study will include gap analysis, summary of findings, guidance document, 2012 Arctic Aviation Experts Conference, 2012 Arctic Port Response Infrastructure Conference and a database.
	Current relevant studies?	National Marine Fisheries Service	
	Current relevant studies?	University of Alaska	
	Current relevant studies?	U.S. Arctic Research Commission	
	Current relevant studies?	Arctic Council	