



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Chignik Lake, Alaska

Current as of March 10, 2009

Community Information

Chignik Lake (CHIG-nick), population 120, is 265 miles southwest of Kodiak and 474 miles southwest of Anchorage. It is on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula, 13 miles from Chignik and 16 miles west of Chignik Lagoon. The community is unincorporated in the Lake and Peninsula Borough. Chignik River is used for barge access, boat storage, fishing, hunting, beachcombing, and cultural and social events.

Description of Erosion Problem

Seasonal variations in river flow and water levels, heavy rains, and flooding all contribute to erosion associated with Chignik River and Clark's River. Heavy rains in November and December, 2007 caused flooding.

Potential Damages

Three houses were flooded in 2007. One house floated off its foundation and resettled. Two other houses and skiffs, outboards, and welding tanks were damaged. A culvert under an access road bridge buckled almost 90 degrees. Interim repairs pushed the culvert back down and further repairs were made in the spring of 2008. A second culvert overflowed along Chignik Lake Road where fishing boats and fuel are loaded. Information on the extent of linear erosion damage was unavailable.

Photos and Diagrams

Attached photos of flooding and erosion were provided by the Lake and Peninsula Borough. A diagram of the community of Chignik Lake is also attached.

References

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 administered to John Lind, president of the Chignik Lake village council and his brother, Ronald Lind on February 8, 2008.

Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at www.alaskaerosion.com. For more information please contact the Corps of Engineers, project manager at (907) 753-5694 or email Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil



**Photo 1: Chignik Lake flooding in November & December 2007.
Photo taken on December 1, 2007.**



Photo 2: High water levels then freeze-up prevented an assessment of erosion and other damage until spring. Photo taken on December 1, 2007.



**Photo 3: Erosion damage to the road out of Chignik Lake.
Photo taken on November 5, 2002.**



Date of Aerial Photo: 31 July 02

NOTE: The extent of erosion could not be shown based on interviews with the community due to extreme flooding that occurred in December 2007 followed by freezeup making identification of erosion impossible until spring 2008.



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--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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