



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Karluk, Alaska

Current as of December 11, 2007

Community Information

Karluk (KAR-luck), population 27, is on the west coast of Kodiak Island on the Karluk River, 88 miles southwest of Kodiak and 301 miles southwest of Anchorage. Karluk is unincorporated and within the Kodiak Island Borough. The banks of the lagoon and river are used for a variety of community activities and include access ramps for pedestrian and vehicle movement.

Description of Erosion Problem

The old portion of the community was built on a high bluff protected by a spit until 1978 when a storm breaches the spit and a new outflow was created from Karluk Lagoon. The new outflow and channel changes exposed the bluff to erosion during high tides and the community was relocated farther inland. Erosion of the bluff is estimated at an annual rate of 3 to 5 feet. The area impacted by erosion is approximately 400 linear feet along the 150-foot high bluff. The banks of the Karluk Lagoon and Karluk River are periodically undercut, with chunks of the bank breaking off and falling into the water, water level changes, flooding, boat traffic, and storm events. The rate of erosion along the lagoon and river is 1 foot per year.

Potential Damages

The 100+ year old Russian Orthodox Church, the cemetery, and the Karluk Spit Lodge are less than 100 feet from the eroding bluff. No protective measures have been attempted since the relocation after the 1978 storm.

Photos and Diagrams

No photos of erosion were provided by the community or other sources. A diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion is attached.

References

DCCED-DCA. 1981. *Community of Karluk Community Profile*.

USACE. 2007. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Alicia Reft, president, Karluk IRA Council, on December 11, 2007.

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



Date of Aerial Photo: 15 June 02

NOTE: The extent of erosion shown on this figure is based on interviews with the community. This data has not been field verified. This figure is only intended to show areas of erosion, not rates or severity of erosion



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- - - Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Karluk, Alaska