



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Alaska District

## ***ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT***

### **Erosion Information Paper - Saint Paul, Alaska**

Current as of December, 2007

#### **Community Information**

Saint Paul, population 460, is in the Bering Sea on a narrow peninsula on the southern tip of Saint Paul Island, the largest of the 5 Pribilof Islands. Saint Paul is 47 miles north of Saint George Island, 240 miles north of the Aleutian Islands, 300 miles west of the Alaska mainland, and 750 miles west of Anchorage. The community is incorporated as a 2nd class city within the unorganized borough. The Pribilof Islands are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Fur Seal Rookeries National Historic landmark.

#### **Description of Erosion Problem**

The community survey reports that Saint Paul is periodically eroded by high tides, storm surges, wind, and waves. The city identified 2 areas impacted by coastal erosion. The area of greatest concern is 1 of their 2 cemeteries. The cemetery is in the southeast area of the community, along a 20-to-40-foot-high bluff. As the toe of the bluff erodes in this area, the upland portion slides and drops to the beach.

The other erosion area identified by the community is along the Northeast Point Road, about 12 miles northeast of the presently-developed area of the community. Access to the location is along Northeast Point Road.

In the community survey the city did not identify any major erosion events, but estimated the rate of erosion at 2.5 feet per year.

#### **Potential Damages**

As the coastal erosion advances, the community cemetery in the southeast portion of the community could be lost or damaged. The community estimates that the southeast corner of the cemetery is less than 100 feet from the eroding bluff area. A section of Northeast Point Road is threatened by the advancing coastal erosion at Northeast Point. The community reported that the cemetery and road will likely have to be relocated. The only erosion protective measure used so far in the community is the posting of signs warning that the eroding bluffs are dangerous and off limits.

#### **Photos and Diagrams**

No photos were provided by the community or other sources. Attached is a diagram showing the linear extent of erosion.

## References

**DCCED. 2006.** *City of Saint Paul Community Profile*. Prepared by State of Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

**USACE. 1968.** *Flood Data, Saint Paul*. Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**USACE. 1992.** *Community Information Form, Saint Paul*. Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

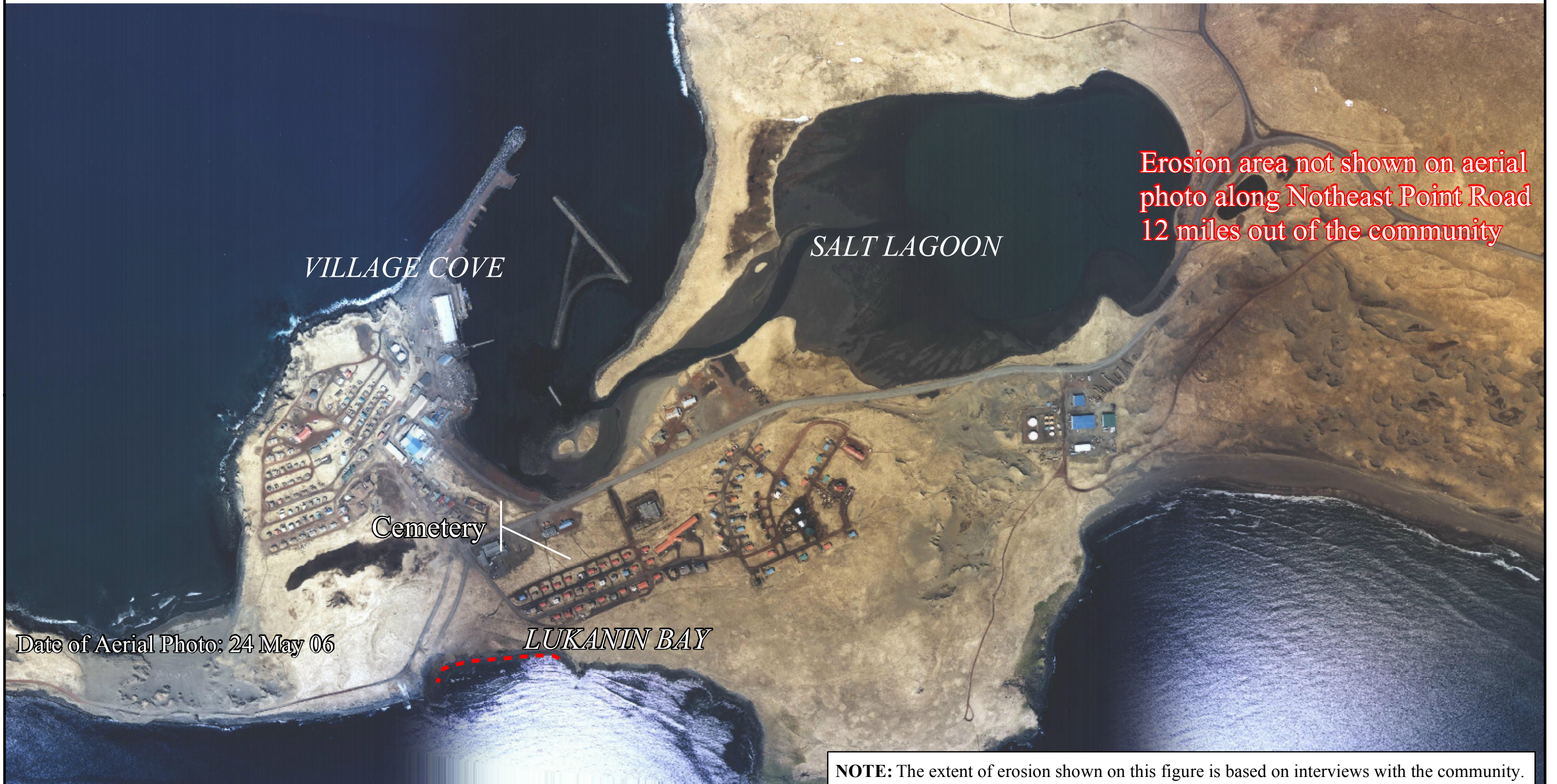
**USACE. 2007.** *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Phyllis Swetzof, Saint Paul city clerk, on December 3, 2007. The city worked with Aquilina Lestenkof and Phillip Zavadil of the tribal government of St Paul Island ecosystems conservation office prior to responding to the survey.

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## Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at [www.alaskaerosion.com](http://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](mailto:Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil)





Date of Aerial Photo: 24 May 06

Erosion area not shown on aerial photo along Northeast Point Road 12 miles out of the community

**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  
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