



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

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper – False Pass, Alaska

Current as of September 12, 2007

Community Information

False Pass, population 54, is on the eastern shore of Unimak Island on Isanotski Strait, which connects the Pacific Ocean to Bechevin Bay and the Bering Sea. It is 646 miles southwest of Anchorage. False Pass is a 2nd class city located in the Aleutians East Borough. The community uses the Bechevin Bay coastline for a variety of activities, including: boat launching and storage, access to the small boat harbor, and processing catch during fishing seasons.

Description of Erosion Problem

According to the Community Erosion Survey, coastline erosion along Bechevin Bay is the primary cause of erosion problems in False Pass. Conditions causing erosion include: high tides, storm surges, wind and wave action, and beach and bank traffic. The area of greatest erosion concern is approximately 1,500 feet north of the community, and is approximately 1,000 feet long and 5 feet high.

In October 2005, approximately 100 linear feet of shoreline along Unimak Drive (also called Beach Drive) eroded; in December 2006, an additional 300 lineal feet of shoreline was lost to erosion. The community has reported that during winter months when the tide is at its highest, tide elevations can reach up to the roadway. Additionally, the community reports that Roundtop Creek, which periodically overflows, is another area of erosion concern. During a 1963 flood a section of the airfield runway reportedly eroded. After a site visit in 1986, the Corps of Engineers reported that the bridge connecting the airfield to the community was eroding out at least twice a year.

Potential Damages

Coastline erosion threatens Unimak Drive, the boat launch, boat storage and repair structures, and electrical lines. Most of these community sites and structures are 100 to 500 feet from the eroding coastline, with the exception of approximately 100 linear feet of Unimak Drive that is less than 10 feet from the coastline. Unimak Drive is the only connection between the industrial part of town, the new False Pass harbor (presently under construction), and the residential portion of the community. There is also concern for a home located between Unimak Drive and the beach. A steep hill along the upland side of Unimak Drive could hinder relocation.

The City of False Pass installed concrete blocks and gravel in areas of concern along Unimak Drive. The city reports that to date the measure has been effective in preventing erosion.

Photos and Diagrams

Photos of erosion area provided by the community are attached. A diagram showing the linear extent of erosion in the community is also attached.

References

- Unknown. 1985.** *Inventory of Rural Sanitation Services, False Pass.*
- USACE. 1986.** *False Pass Flood Hazard Report.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- USACE. 1986a.** *False Pass Trip Report.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- USACE. 1991.** *Community Information Form.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- USACE. 2007.** *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001,* expires September 30, 2009 submitted by facsimile by Tom Hoblet, False Pass mayor in August, 2007 and in interview with Sharon Boyett, Aleutians East Borough community development coordinator on September 19, 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



Photo 1: City Dock, September 2007.



Photo 2: Edge of Beach Road to tide line, October 2007.



Photo 3: Tide line to Edge of Beach Road, October 2007.

Approximate Area: New Boat Harbor under construction

BECHEVIN BAY

City Dock

Peter Pan Seafood Docks

Unimak Drive

Residence

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

Date of Aerial Photo: 25 May 06



Alaska District
Corps of Engineers
Civil Works Branch

■ ■ ■ ■ Linear Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
False Pass, Alaska