



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

## **ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT**

### **Erosion Information Paper – Kokhanok, Alaska**

Current as of October 18, 2007

#### **Community Information**

Kokhanok (KOCK-hone-ack), population 168, is on the south shore of Iliamna Lake, 22 miles south of Iliamna and 88 miles northeast of King Salmon. The community is unincorporated in the Lake and Peninsula Borough.

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

The community is on the south shore of Lake Iliamna. Lake Iliamna is the largest lake in Alaska and one of the largest in North America, covering about 1,000 square miles. The lakeshore in the vicinity of Kokhanok is generally rocky with erosion reported to not be a problem for the community. Erosion that does occur is primarily associated with heavy rains during severe storm events causing flooding and wind-driven waves on the lake. In the late 1970s, a severe rainstorm and flood caused many residents to move to higher ground, but some homes remained close to the lakeshore.

Primary erosion in the community occurs during heavy spring and fall rains when sections of the main local access road can be washed out. The community erosion survey indicates this erosion is occasional, and there have not been any major erosion events in the last 20 years. The Corps' *Flood Hazard Data for Alaska Communities* indicates flooding is predicted to occur every 40-60 years in Kokhanok. The data indicates this type of storm-based flooding occurred in 1969, 1970, and 1982.

#### **Potential Damages**

The community erosion survey respondent stated there are no residences, buildings, structures, or facilities threatened by erosion. Installation of culverts under the road and trenches adjacent to the main local access road has reduced the problem with the road occasionally being washed out. The cost of this work was not reported. The storm-based flooding has caused erosion damage in the community that could occur again. No significant erosion has been reported in the community.

#### **Photos and Diagrams**

Photo of Kokhanok is courtesy of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Community Photo Library. Photo was taken by Bill Stokes, Department of Environmental Conservation. Attached is a diagram depicting the south shore line of Iliamna Lake in Kokhanok, and no erosion is delineated.

## References

**DCCED, DCRA. 2007.** *Community Photo Library website*

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/photos/comm\\_list.cfm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/photos/comm_list.cfm)

**Environmental Services Ltd. 1982.** *Kokhanok.*

**Lake and Peninsula Borough. 2007.** *Community Profile Maps.* Located on Lake and Peninsula Borough website at: [www.lakeandpen.com](http://www.lakeandpen.com)

**USACE. 1973.** *Flood Hazard Data: Kokhanok.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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

**USACE. 2007.** *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001,* expires September 30, 2009 administered to Trefon Wassillie, utility manager, and Marsha Wasillie, Kokhanok village administrator, on September 15, 2007.

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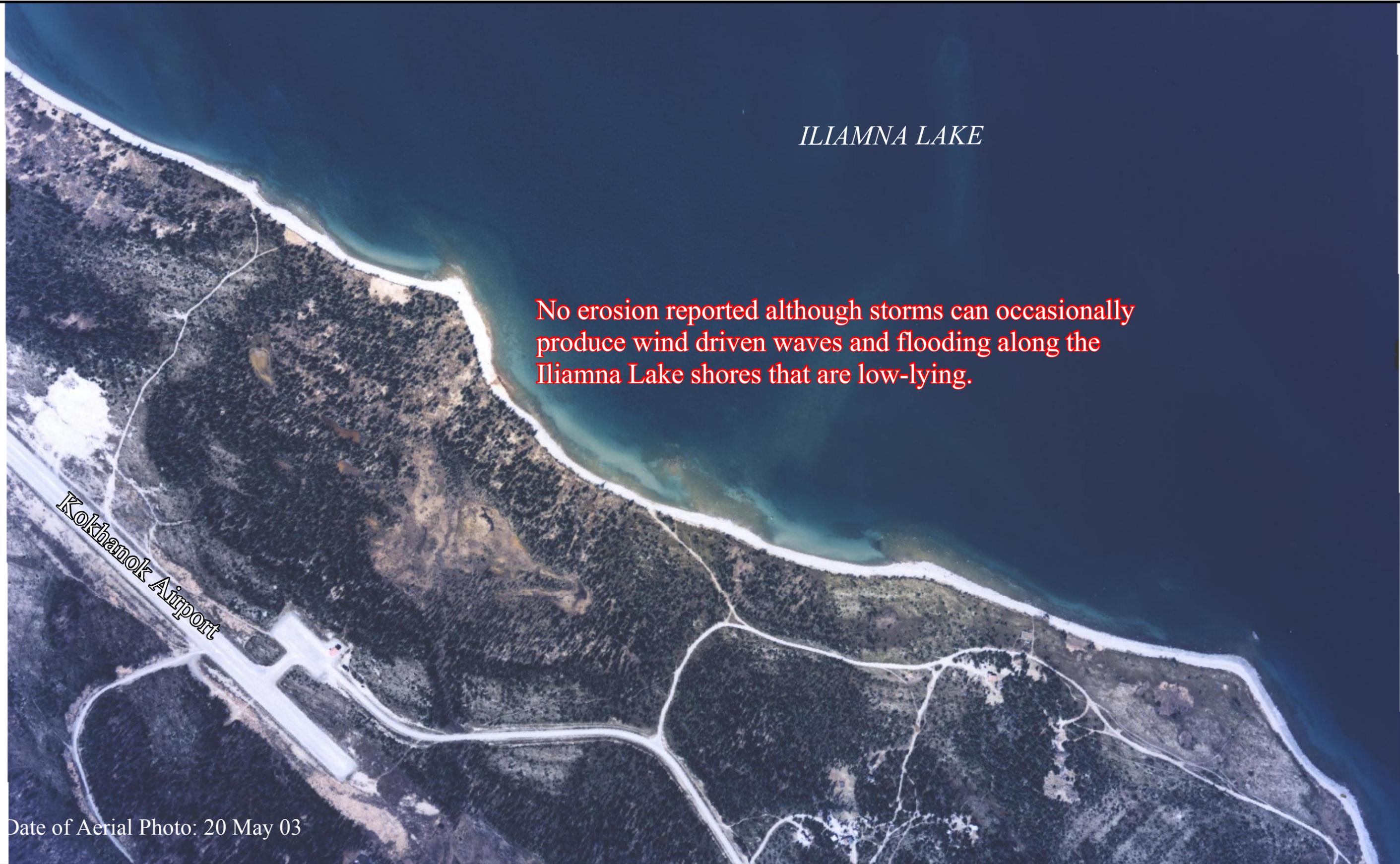
## Additional Information

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)



Bill Stokes - DEC

**Photo 1: Kokhanok aerial view. Photo by Bill Stokes, Department of Environmental Conservation (©), 1999.**



*ILIAMNA LAKE*

No erosion reported although storms can occasionally produce wind driven waves and flooding along the Iliamna Lake shores that are low-lying.

*Kokhanok Airport*

Date of Aerial Photo: 20 May 03



Alaska District  
Corps of Engineers  
Civil Works Branch

Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion  
Kokhanok, Alaska