



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Mary's Igloo, Alaska

Current as of April 14, 2008

Community Information

Mary's Igloo, population 0, is on the northwest bank of the Kuzitrin River northeast of Nome near the Seward Peninsula highlands, 40 miles southeast of Teller. Mary's Igloo was established in the early 1900s when the nearby Inupiat Village of Kauwerak was abandoned. Qawiaramiut Native families seasonally inhabited Mary's Igloo for subsistence and recreation. The community is unincorporated in the unorganized borough. The Kuzitrin riverbank is used for boat access, snowmachine access, ATV access, fishing, hunting, and the processing of fish and game.

Description of Erosion Problem

Bank erosion at Mary's Igloo along the Kuzitrin River is caused by periodic fluctuations in river flow and levels, flooding, ice jams, spring break up, melting permafrost, and beaver dams. There have been 5 major erosion events during the past 20 years with the most recent event in 2005. The amount of riverbank lost was not provided. Ongoing annual bank erosion is estimated at 1 to 2 feet per year.

Potential Damages

Future damage from erosion would involve seasonally used residences, outbuildings, food storage structures, and processing structures. Some seasonal residences are less than 100 feet from the eroding riverbank, while others are up to 500 feet away. No protection measures have been installed.

Photos and Diagrams

No photos were provided by community or other sources. The attached diagram shows the linear extent of erosion.

References

DCRA. 1980. *Mary's Igloo*. Prepared by the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Kawerak Inc. *Mary's Igloo website*. Kawerak Inc. sponsored Mary's Igloo website:

<http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/marysIgloo/index.html>

Machulsky, Mara. 2006. *History of Village Relocations (document for review)*. Mara Machulsky, Denali Commission intern.

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001*, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Etta Kugzruk, member of the Mary's Igloo Native Corporation, board of directors, in April 14, 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

Winter trail towards Mary's Mountain and Pilgrim Springs



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: 30 June 86



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--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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