



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Metlakatla, Alaska

Current as of May 5, 2008

Community Information

Metlakatla (MET-luh-KAT-luh), a.k.a. Annette Island Reserve, population 1,335, is at Port Chester on the west coast of Annette Island, 15 miles south of Ketchikan. The unincorporated community is a Federal Indian Reservation in the unorganized borough.

Description of Erosion Problem

Storm surges and wind-driven waves combined with high tides are reported to erode beach and bluff areas. The toe of the bluff is subject to wave undercutting and washouts from storm surf on the beach at high tide. A high tide coinciding with storm surf caused extensive erosion to the bluff at the cemetery in October 1994.

Potential Damages

Many structures in Metlakatla are close to the Nichols Passage and Port Chester shoreline, but no immediate erosion threats reported. A 935-foot rock revetment at the cemetery and a 295-foot rock revetment near the tank farm were constructed under Section 14, 1946 Flood Control Act, following an extensive washout of the bluff toe in 1995. A 1999 Corps *Site Visit Trip Report* stated that both projects are in excellent condition, but indicated a damaged culvert at station 9+00 of the cemetery revetment would require monitoring for debris buildup. A 2003 Corps *Site Visit Report* reported both revetments in good condition with the damaged culvert at the cemetery site cited as a problem and some non-Corps stone work to the west of the tank farm revetment noted as inadequate. A 2005 Corps *Site Visit Trip Report* stated fifteen armor stones were missing or displaced from the top of the slope at the cemetery site. Total project cost to date is about \$212,000

Photos and Diagrams

Attached are photos provided by Gillian Smythe, taken in 2007. No diagram was produced for the community at this time.

References

DCRA. 1984. *Community Map Metlakatla*. Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Municipal and Regional Assistance Division.

USACE. 1999. *Trip Report: Metlakatla Emergency Erosion Protection Project*. Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USACE. 2003. *Trip Report: Metlakatla Site Inspection*. Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USACE. 2005. *Trip Report: Metlakatla Site Inspection*. Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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: Beach scene along shoreline near the Metlakatla Senior Center. Photo courtesy of Gillian Smythe, 2007.



Photo 2: Beach scene along shoreline near the Metlakatla Senior Center. Photo courtesy of Gillian Smythe, 2007.