



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper – Old Harbor, Alaska

Current as of April 1, 2008

Community Information

Old Harbor, population 192, is on the southeast coast of Kodiak Island, 70 miles southwest of the City of Kodiak and 322 miles southwest of Anchorage. The community is incorporated as a 2nd class city in the Kodiak Island Borough.

Description of Erosion Problem

The beach adjacent to the road on the spit is eroding. Storm surges, high tides, and wind-driven waves reportedly cause and contribute to erosion. The affected area is approximately 700 to 800 feet long, ranging from about 4 feet high at the west end to 10 feet high at the east end. The Kodiak Island Borough 2006 *Hazard Mitigation Plan, Old Harbor Annex* lists property damage from erosion as a moderate risk.

Potential Damages

Culverts that allow water flow under the road between the estuary and the strait have become filled at the east end of the roadway and reportedly are causing erosion. Utilities, including power poles that support electric power lines and a buried community water line have been placed adjacent to and under the road. There are no residences or other structures along the spit.

The beach area along the spit roadway was impacted by erosion during storms in the fall of 2002 and 2003. The community obtained a grant from the State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and a series of gabions were installed to reduce potential for damage from ongoing erosion. The grant was \$18,600 and a local crew completed the work. The gabions are still in place and have had a positive effect, although additional gravel has been added. The road and utility improvements are within 100 feet of the active erosion area.

Photos and Diagrams

Photos of flooding provided by Kodiak Island Borough Community Development Department are attached. Also, attached is a diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion.

References

DCRA. 1981. *City of Old Harbor, Community Profile*. State of Alaska, Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Kodiak Island Borough. 2006. *Kodiak Island Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan Old Harbor Annex*. Kodiak Island Borough Community Development Department.

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

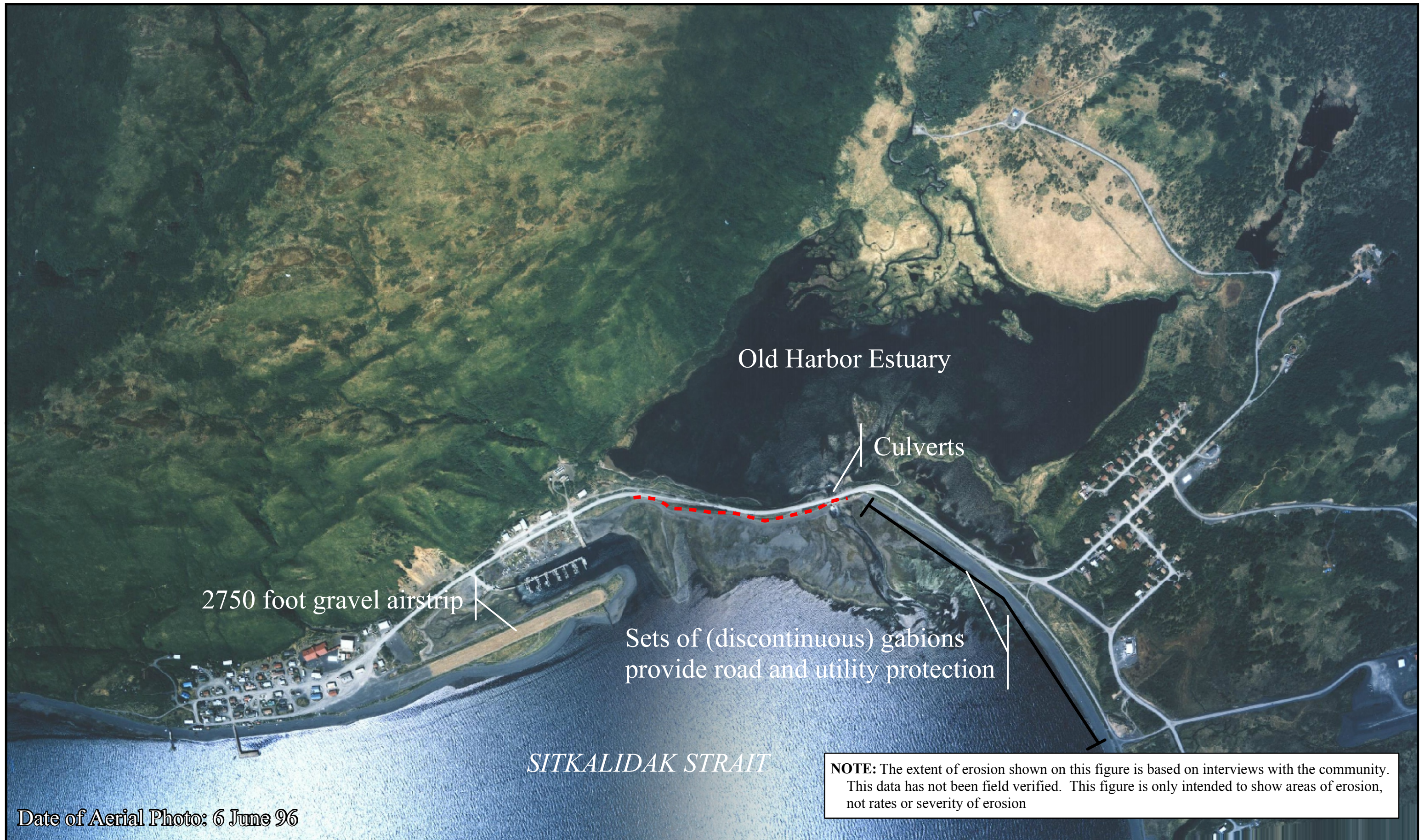
USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Russell Fox, City Treasurer, on April 1, 2008.

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



Photo 1: Old Harbor Estuary and Sitkalidak Strait nearly merge, impacting the spit road and utilities during a December 2002 storm.



Date of Aerial Photo: 6 June 96



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Civil Works Branch

--- Linear Extent of Erosion



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