



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT

Erosion Information Paper - Sleetmute, Alaska

Current as of March 18, 2008

Community Information

Sleetmute (SLEET-myoot), population 75, is on the east bank of the Kuskokwim River, 1.5 miles north of its junction with the Holitna River. It is 79 miles east of Aniak, 166 miles northeast of Bethel, and 243 miles west of Anchorage. The community is unincorporated in the unorganized borough. The riverbank is used for snowmachine access, ATV access, and boat storage.

Description of Erosion Problem

Fluctuations in river water flows and levels, flooding, ice jams, and melting permafrost reportedly are eroding the banks of the Kuskokwim River. The area of most concern is a 65-foot long 13-foot-high section of sandy riverbank at the south end.

Potential Damages

Food storage, drying racks, smoke houses, boat launching, and boat storage areas are 500 feet from the eroding riverbank. No erosion protection measures were reported in Sleetmute. The flood hazard is very high. The community has been flooded many times with notable events recorded in 1964, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971 and 2002. The entire community would be inundated to a depth of 5 to 6 feet in a 100-year flood event. The worst recorded flood was in 1964 with 7 feet of water at the school.

Photos and Diagrams

The attached photos of flooding were provided by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. A diagram depicting the approximate location of the most severe erosion areas is also attached.

References

- Alaska DCRA. 1979.** *Sleetmute community profile and map.* State of Alaska, Department of Community and Regional Affairs.
- USACE. 1968 and 1973.** *Flood Hazard Data Community Response Forms.* Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- USACE. 2008.** *Alaska Community Erosion Survey, OMB approved number 07100001,* expires September 30, 2009 provided by facsimile from Pete Mellick, Sleetmute tribal administrator on March 18, 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: The Sleetmute airport is visible above, Spring Flood 2002.



Photo 2: Kuskokwim River floods Sleetmute, Spring 2002.



Photo 3: Sleetmute during Spring flood 2002.

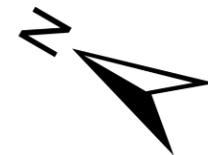


Photo 4: Ice during spring breakup, 2002.



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Civil Works Branch

Extent of Erosion



Alaska Baseline Erosion
Sleetmute, Alaska