### *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Restoration Project Annual Report

# Archaeological Site Restoration, Index Site Monitoring, 1997

### Restoration Project 97007A Annual Field Report

This annual report has been prepared for peer review as part of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council restoration program for the purpose of assessing project progress. Peer review comments have not been addressed in this annual report.

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**Study History:** The Index Site Monitoring program began as a primary approach to monitoring vandalized sites and oiled sites during 1995. The strategy has continued annually with the McArthur Pass Site monitored on alternate years. Index sites were initially identified but have been subject to change according to developing need. The aim of the project has been to monitor the index sites as indicators of trends at all sites for a period of ten years.

**Abstract:** The Index Site monitoring project during 1997 focused on 10 sites in the Kodiak area, 3 sites on the outer Kenai Peninsula coast and 3 sites in Prince William Sound. Evidence of current vandal activity was documented at one site during 1997, down from the five vandalized sites seen during 1996. As seen in previous years, natural erosion continues to be the major agent of site degradation of area sites. Natural erosion draws attention to exposed sites by site looters.

Key Words: Archaeology, Exxon Valdez, index sites, monitoring, vandalism, erosion

**Project Data:** Project data is provided in narrative form in the annual reports and will be summarized in the final report. Artifact catalogs are recorded in dBase III+ and will be deposited with the collections at the University of Alaska Museum. Availability will be subject to Museum policy.

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### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RESTORATION, INDEX SITE MONITORING, 1997**

### INNTRODUCTION

Restoration of archaeological sites damaged as a result of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and subsequent cleanup included a program of monitoring sites oiled or damaged by vandals to measure continued impact. A series of sites were selected early in the restoration phase as "index" sites which were thought to represent the entire inventory of archaeological sites in the oil spill area. Sites which suffered severe damage have been monitored annually in some cases or at less frequent intervals when damage has not continued. During the 1997 season, a special effort was made to return to some of the severely damaged sites last visited two to three years earlier.

During 1997 the State of Alaska again returned to Shuyak Island to monitor sites there. Two sites on the outer coast of the Kenai Peninsula and one in Prince William Sound were also monitored. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service returned to sites on Afognak Island not visited since 1993. The National Park Service returned to the field during 1997 to visit the SEL-188 Site which they monitor on an alternate year basis. The U.S. Forest Service continued monitoring at two sites in Prince William Sound.

#### State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources Field Monitoring, 1997

Douglas R. Reger Office of History and Archaeology Alaska Department of Natural Resources

The index site monitoring on Shuyak Island proposed for 1997 identified two sites to visit, AFG-081 near the north end of Big Bay and AFG-098 at the head of Neketa Bay. Because the State archaeologists were on the island, several additional sites were also visited.

#### AFG-081 (Segment WO-003)

The AFG-081 Site was vandalized through un-authorized digging during 1990. A large hole in the side of the deep midden was placed on the Big Bay side of the site. During 1993, the damage was documented and the hole filled with loose debris and beach rocks (Reger, et al. 1995:6). The exposed deposits have naturally re-vegetated and 80% of the disturbed area was grass covered. During 1995 the re-vegetated surface was heavily disturbed once again. Vegetation was torn loose and rolled down slope. The injury extends beyond the restored area of the mound and includes much of the northeast edge of the site. The agent of destruction in that instance however, appeared to be the deer. The damage was photographed from the same perspective as taken before and after restoration.

During 1996, vandals again damaged a large area of the site. Adjacent to the restored vandal holes of earlier years, several large holes were opened into the mound of midden (Reger et al. 1997:2). The timing of the damage was probably in late June or early July, 1996. The vandal exposure was beginning to slowly re-vegetate during 1997. Beach grasses and beach pea vines were encroaching onto the exposed midden. No new evidence of vandalism could be seen.

### AFG-098 (Twin Creeks I; Segment NB-001)

The Twin Creeks Site suffered damage from vandals collecting exposed artifacts from inter-tidal midden. During the winter of 1994-1995, the site appeared to be disturbed when seal remains were observed on the beach at the site. Subsequent sighting of a brown bear and seal remains indicate the disturbance was from that source. The site was examined during 1995 and no significant change from prior year condition could be seen other than continued slow erosion of the exposed

deposits.

Photos of the site condition during 1997, from a 1991 reference point duplicates views recorded in prior years. Two frames in a panoramic view of the site area were photographed from the 1991 secondary reference point southwest of the site (Figure 1). Another photograph of the site was taken along the beach at midintertidal level to the north.

No serious degradation of the beach cultural remains appear to occurred since 1996. Erosion has continued but no more than expected. Two newly exposed artifacts were noted among the fire cracked



**Figure 1**. View of AFG-098 to the east at near high tide. Eroding fire cracked rocks and artifacts are outlined. (OHA Photo, 8/13/97)

rock fragments in the upper intertidal zone. Both are hammerstones. One hammerstone is oval in shape and cross-section and measures 15.0 cm in length. The other hammerstone is square in cross-section and sub-triangular in side view. It measures 20.0 cm in length. Both hammerstones were left in place on the beach near the center of the fire cracked rock exposure.

Locus B of AFG-098, at the southwest corner of Big Bay was also examined to see if additional artifacts have been exposed. No new finds were noted and no evidence of vandalism was seen.

### AFG-097 (Salmon Cove Site; Segment BG-003)

Reger and McMahan returned to AFG-097 to monitor the vandal holes noted during 1996 and to further document the contents of the site. The vandal holes found at the base of the upper site terrace appeared to have become covered by debris and revegetated (Reger et al., 1997:4). No new vandal activity was noted but campers continue to impact the house pits on the upper terrace.

The site visit was taken as an opportunity to further document the contents of the site.

A test pit was excavated near the center of house pit #9 which is located at the north end of the site on a 10 m high bluff. House pit #9 is located approximately 25 m from the nearest house depression in the main part of the site.

The test pit is a 1m x 1m unit excavated near the center of the house depression in order to find the central

hearth and obtain charcoal for radiocarbon dating. Stratigraphy in the test reflects a profile (Figure 2) similar to that seen in the 1996 test on house pit #2. A thin dark brown soil immediately underlies the forest litter and duff. At a depth of about 5cm below the ground surface, the 1912 Katmai Ash was encountered. The Katmai Ash varies between 4cm and 8cm thick but is continuous over the feature. A disturbed area was found near the center of the test, probably an earlier shovel test. It was filled with soil replaced with the lower



**Figure 2**. Stratigraphic profile, north wall, House pit 9 test.

soils on top of the displaced Katmai Ash. The inverted stratigraphy and mixed appearance of the sediments allowed limits of the pit to be easily distinguished.

Cultural material was uncovered just below the Katmai Ash. A thin, black gravelly soil separated the black gravelly midden from the Katmai Ash. Faunal remains were found in the midden. A blue mussel was found with the chitinous outer covering still attached. No identifiable bone was recovered. A charcoal sample collected on an apparent occupantion surface in the upper midden zone yielded a radiocarbon date of  $310 \pm 50$  years radiocarbon years before present (Beta-109701). Calibrated to a calendar age, the sample dates to between A.D. 1460 and A.D. 1670 at the 95% probability level.

Below the black gravelly midden is a brown soil unit. The top limits of the unit is a brown soil with some pebbles and angular rock. The matrix appears to be derived from volcanic ash. The lower part of the unit is a massive brown soil. Artifacts occur in the upper limit of the unit and probably were implaced there from the overlying cultural layer. Artifacts also protrude into the massive brown soil from the midden layer located under the brown unit.

The lowest black midden is associated with a basin-shaped feature filled with pea sized and rounded beach gravel. The gravel in the basin is clean, without cultural debris. An occupation floor is also associated with this level and the basin. Red ocher occurs in scattered patches on the floor deposit. In the southeast corner of the test pit, a band of red ocher seems to dip to the east perhaps foretelling a basin-like features in that direction.

Below the midden unit with the floor and basin is a mottled brown unit which contains bits of charcoal and artifacts. The unit extends down around large boulders which protrude from the sterile unit beneath the site. Artifacts occur scattered in this stratigraphic unit along with the small charcoal fragments. The cultural deposits lie atop a layer of large rocks (15cm to 20cm diameter) and boulders.

### ARTIFACTS

There are at least three cultural layers represented in house pit #9 deposits. Two predominatly black midden deposits overlay a mottled brown deposit which contains cultural debris. The mottled brown deposit probably is an older occupation which was disturbed by later site occupants responsible for the house depression and upper occupation layers.

The uppermost midden yielded one complete ground slate projectile point (UA97-103--3). It has a short tapering blade, small barbs, and a slightly tapered square stem. The point is biconvex in cross-section. A second point fragment (UA97-103-5) is a long, tapering blade of ground slate. It also has a biconvex cross-section. Another ground slate fragment (UA97-103-12) appears to be part of a biconvex blade. Several thin ground slate pieces are probably ulu fragments. One fragment (UA97-103-9) has a biconvex ground edge.

The lower gravelly black midden yielded no ground slate points or fragment of points. The ground slate fragments from the layer have deep scratches on the ground surfaces. Other slate fragments are chipped but not ground. Several large flakes of a coarse grain stone were recovered and three chert flakes. The chert flakes are produced from a reddish brown chert and are not retouched. An edge of one coarse grain flake is retouched. It probably functioned as a scraper.

The mottled brown soil layer yielded three note worthy artifacts. A mid-section of a very wide and thick ground slate blade (UA97-103-11) is scraped and ground on one surface. It appears to have been chipped to form prior to smoothing. The parallel shided piece measues 4.5cm wide and 0.8cm thick. The smoothed face is convex. The measurements suggest it was intended to be a large ground slate blade similar to Ocean Bay II ground slate blades. Also found in the mottled brown soil is a pumice abrader (UA97-103-7) with one convex smoothed surface. The fist sized piece is not modified other than the convex smoothed grinding surface. A limonite nodule (UA97-103-14) is hollow and probably collected by the site occupants as a source of pigment. A flake of chert and one slate chip were also recovered.

House depression #9 appears to contain remains of a Koniag occupation near the surface dating to slightly later than the middle of the second millenium A.D. The ground slate projectile points compare closely to Koniag age collections elsewhere. The nearest radiocarbon dated site of similar age and with similar point forms is the AFG-098 site on Neketa Bay (Reger et al. 1992: 93). One point from the upper component of AFG-098 (Reger et al. 1992: 48; Figure 33a) is almost identical but with a rounded stem rather than square. The upper component at AFG-098 dates to about A.D. 1400. The lower component from AFG-098 also contains barbed ground slate points of similar form (Reger et al. 1992:62; Figure 42a,b,c). The stems appear to taper more than the AFG-097, house pit #9 point and have rounded bases. The lower component at AFG-098 dates to about A.D. 1000. The point

recovered in 1996 from the test of house pit #2 of AFG-097 is also barbed and generally similar. It is less well made and the stem is irregular in outline. The house #2 occupation dated to near the end of the first millenium A.D. and is probably very early Koniag.

The lower black gravelly midden in house pit #9 is stratigraphically older than the uppermost cultural layer but has not been radiocarbon dated. Several diagnostic traits suggest an age significantly earlier than the upper layer. Scrape marks on finished artifacts, more numerous chert waste flakes, and layers of red ocher suggest a much earlier occupation such as Kachemak or Ocean Bay II. Similar arguments can be made for the cultural remains seen in the mottled brown soil layer at the base of the profile. Both layers remain undated by the radiocarbon method although small samples collected in 1997 could be submitted in the future.

### AFG-046 (Perevalnie Passage Site; Segment SI-005a)

The Perevalnie Passage Site is located on a remote beach but one which is visited frequently because it is perhaps the northern most protected anchorage or camping location on Shuyak Island. The same factors which dictate its current popularity also probably explain the presence of the prehistoric cultural remains. Modern visitors to the site frequently report artifacts and human remains laying on the beach below the eroding midden. Vandalism is a continuing problem at the site. One story related to OHA staff about an incident at the site during 1996 described a debated decision about whether or not to collect a human skull found on the beach. It ultimately was left on the beach after considerable discussion.

A visit to the site in 1997 revealed new exposures of midden in several location different from those seen in prior years. Freshly exposed dark cultural soil containing artifacts was seen near the west end of the site. The fresh appearance of the disturbance derived from a lack of vegetative and lack of erosionby rain. The area of a deep cleft in the bedrock just south of the west photo station establish in 1993 was filled by slumping midden. The area is where past finds of human bones were placed out of public view. The area is now covered by several meters of disturbed midden.

Heavy erosion also occurred just south of the east photo station from 1993. Human bones reported to the Office of History and Archaeology prior to the 1997 visit were stacked at the top of the eroded bluff. They were left in place. Additional fresh exposures south and slightly east of the east photo station had evidence of fresh digging.

The Perevalnie Passage Site continues to erode from the winter storms and present midden exposures for visitors to explore. No artifacts were collected during 1997.

### SEL-178 (Port Dick Cabin Site; Segment PD-003)

Douglas Reger and volunteer Alan Boraas visited the Port Dick Cabin Site during September 1997. The trails through the house pits on the spit during 1996 no longer were evident. No impacts were seen on the spit portion of the site. Erosion continues on the steep hill trail to the cabin from the beach. Fire cracked rocks are exposed in the same area seen in 1996.

The site was photographed from the 1993 photo station at the southeast corner of the site. The view from that station at the base of the spit did not reveal any changes to the site.

### SEL-215 (Berger Bay ITZ Lithics Site; NK-004)

The Berger Bay site was briefly visited in September 1997. Outline of the test trench excavated into the intertidal peat during 1991 was obvious because much of the gravel fill has eroded (Figure 3). Beach grass is growing on gravel fill at the north end of the trench. The peat continues to resist erosion however some peat from the deposit surface has been striped by tidal erosion. A new area of cultural debris, primarily wood chips, is



Figure 3. View of SEL-215 showing 1991 trench and area of eroding cultural material. (OHA Photo, 9/97)

exposed immediately adjacent to the trench. The area of chips and fire cracked rocks measures  $1.5m \ge 1.5m$ . Located near the middle of the trench, layer is mostly gone.

Several layers of peat containing wood and stone chips can be seen eroding into the trench (Figure 4). They lie stratigraphically below the eroding cultural deposit noted above. A chipped slate projectile point blank was found protruding from the trench wall. It protruded from the contact between two peat layers. The location is 3.85m south of the north end of the trench at a depth of 10cm below the 1997 surface. The distance from the artifact location to Datum A established by Exxon during 1990 is 9.78m at 38°



**Figure 4**. Eroding trench wall and artifact location, SEL-215. (OHA Photo, 9/97)

west of south (magnetic). A peat sample was collected near the southeast corner of the 1991 trench although no oil was visually noticable. Processing with the HNU-Hanby field test kit yielded negative results.

#### SEW-068 (Kake Cove Site)

Douglas Reger and State Historian Jo Antonson visited the Kake Cove Site in September 1997. The tide level was low but was not a minus tide. The appearance of the intertidal peat deposit has changed a great deal since the Office of History and Archaeology mapped the deposit in 1991. Considerable erosion of the artifact bearing peat layer has occurred although some cultural remains still exist on the beach. Wave deposited sand obscured part of the existing peat deposit (Figure 5).

A flat stone grinding slab remains near the west end of the site area. It is approximat ely on the west boundary mapped in 1991. A bone. probably a mammal vertebra. was eroding out of the peat. It was very close to the grinding slab. The datum



**Figure 5**. SEW-068 beach looking southwest from the 1990 Exxon datum. Arrow indicates location of eroding peat and grinding slab. (OHA Photo, 9/97)

identified on the 1991 OHA map (Reger et al. 1992:75; Figure 49) as Datum B is 19m generally northwest of the artifact location. Photographs of the two items and the site appearance were recorded. Neither the grinding slab nor the bone were collected.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Monitoring, 1997

### Debra Corbett Archaeologist U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during 1997 focused primarily on sites around the south shore of Afognak Island. Several of the sites were reported vandalised during the cleanup phase of the Oil Spill. Some were re-visited at least once since the Exxon activities but were not monitored for several years prior to 1997. They were due for return visits under the Restoration Plan devised in 1994.

### AFG-026 (Izhut Bay, McDonald Lagoon; Segment IB-008)

This site. thought to be one originally documented by Hrdliĉka (1944) in 1931, is located in McDonald Lagoon on the west side of Izhut Bay, south of the entrance to Kitoi Bay on the southeast coast of Afognak Island (Figure 6). The site was documented by Clark (1974). He reported trenches and pits excavated



Figure 6. AFG-026 during the 1997 site visit. (U.S.F.W.S. Photo, 6/97)

sometime before his visit. A small collection of artifacts was made from eroded contexts. Exxon Investigators visited the site in 1989 and again in August 1990, when they documented "recent" vandalism (Haggarty et al. 1991). Portions of the bluff face are eroding and had been disturbed by pothunters. In addition six shovel holes were previously reported in the features or on the surface of the site. Cultural materials found in the exposures included clam and mussel shell, mammal and bird bone, fire-cracked rock and notched and grooved pebbles. The upland portion of the site is owned by the Afognak Native Association and is described only generally in this report. Intertidal areas are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. AFG-026 is a prehistoric midden site, probably Koniag phase, which dates from about A.D. 1000 to about A.D. 1800. The site consists of two areas. Area A a midden measuring 18m x 3m x 1m sits atop a small knoll at the head of a 50m wide pocket beach. An erosion exposure 3 to 4m long reveals fire-cracked rock, clam and mussel shells and some mammal bone.

The main portion of the site, Area B, is to the northeast of Area A. The two areas are separated by a bedrock outcrop and forest. Part of Area B, which measures  $80m \times 20m \times 1m$ , is on a grassy bench 5-6m above the beach. The grassy area drops steeply to about 3-4m above the beach and extends to the north an additional 20m.

Two large depressions, probably house pits, were identified. The largest measures 20 x 15m including an entryway. It sits on the northern edge of the site, overlooking the lower terrace. The smaller,  $10 \times 8m$ , housepit dominates the lower terrace.

The site was visited on 18 August 1993 by Service archaeologists Chuck Diters and Debra Corbett and volunteer Brigit Fahey. Though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not manage the upland portion of the site the crew traversed the area on foot in order to orient themselves. All cultural features and reported potholes were relocated and another pothole discovered. Videotape footage was taken of the site, features, potholes and exposed midden. Hydrocarbon samples were taken from the intertidal zone below Area B, using protocols outlined by the National Park Service. All were revegetated and the exposed shell and bone were weathered.

The bluff below Feature 1 exhibited fresh disturbance. Midden material exposed within the few months preceding this visit include shell and fire-cracked rock. No artifacts were seen but a stone lined cache in the floor of Feature 1 had been exposed. Two potholes had been dug into the eroding face. These lacked the revegetation seen in the others on the site and probably represented the vandalism noted by Reanier in 1989. There were no freshly exposed artifacts on the beach.

Service archaeologist Debra Corbett and volunteer Sue Garland visited the site in late June 1997. Again Area B of the site was traversed on foot to orient the team. All previously reported potholes were relocated, and all were overgrown. Large sections of the bluff face were unvegetated but all exposures were weathered and dry, with no evidence of excavation since the last investigation. The stone lined cache noted in 1993 was still visible in the exposure. The beach was inspected and while bone, fire cracked rock and pieces of slate were observed no artifacts were found. The beach fronting Area A was examined next and again we saw bone and fire cracked rock but no artifacts. There does not appear to have been any illegal excavation at this site since 1989 when the Exxon archaeologists reported fresh potholes.

### AFG-027 (McDonald Lagoon; Segment IB-008)

This site is located in McDonald Lagoon, an unlabelled bay at the southern mouth of Kitoi Bay, an arm of Izhut Bay on the east coast of Afognak Island. The lagoon has three lobes separated by headlands. The site was reported by Clark (1974) as a 31 m long midden with a housepit on a lower terrace was flooded at high tide due to subsidence from the 1964 Earthquake. In 1989 Exxon archaeologist Reanier (Haggarty et al. 1991) described nine areas of disturbance, at least four occurring that year. The house in the intertidal zone was

not relocated and presumed destroyed by erosion. Another visit by Exxon archaeologists in 1990 found no evidence of any additional vandalism (Haggarty et al. 1991). The upland portion of the site is owned by the Afognak Native Association and is described only generally in this report. Intertidal areas are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

AFG-027 is a prehistoric midden site. The major portion of the site is a 30m long midden raised about 3m above current sea level. The midden is marked by a clearing in the spruce forest, and dominated by grass, fireweed, wild celery (Heracleum) and devil's club. Deposits are about 40cm thick, and contain shell, bird, fish and sea mammal bone, and large quantities of burnt and unburnt slate. A lower midden subsided about 1m as a result of the 1964 earthquake and is now in the intertidal zone. A housepit reported in this area was not relocated by either the Exxon archaeologists or during Fish and Wildlife Service investigations. Shell and fire-cracked rock are abundant in the intertidal zone.

A modern hunting camp inside the spruce forest was briefly visited. The camp features a fish net hammock, wooden furniture, metal, cut tree stumps and a  $2 \times 4$  lashed between two trees.

The site was visited on 18 August 1993 by Service archaeologists Chuck Diters and Debra Corbett and volunteer Brigit Fahey. Though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not manage the upland portion of the site the crew traversed the area on foot in order to orient themselves and several potholes were relocated. The intertidal zone was carefully examined. Many of the artifacts and the oval stone feature reported by Exxon archaeologists were relocated and a second, possibly natural, alignment found. Videotape footage was taken of the site, features, potholes and exposed midden. Hydrocarbon samples were taken from the intertidal zone using protocols outlined by the National Park Service.

During the 1993 investigation an error was made in plotting the site location. The site could not be located in 1997 during the time available for the search and was not reexamined.

### AFG-028 (Ruth Bay 1; Segment IB-008)

This site is located on the south shore of Ruth Bay, a small arm of the northern inlet of Izhut Bay, on the east coast of Afognak Island. The site was first reported by Clark (1974) who described an actively eroding midden. Exxon investigators visited the site in 1989 and 1990 (Haggarty et al. 1991). They reported both natural erosion and recent vandalism at the site. The upland portion of the site is owned by the Afognak Native Association and is described only generally in this report. Intertidal areas are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Clark (1974) described an intensely overgrown midden 63m long and 23m wide. Active erosion along 90% of the front of the site showed deposits up to 1m deep. Artifacts, including ground slate points, incised slate figurines, adzes, ulu blades, mauls. lamps, bone wedges and harpoon sockets suggested Koniag phase occupation with Kachemak affiliations.

The 1989 Exxon investigation described a 16 x 16m depression in the center of the midden area. This presumed housepit was eroding at the midden edge. Exxon investigators reported erosion along 35m of the midden face. The slopes are steep and unstable, vulnerable to both wind and water erosion. Several areas, including four holes inside the housepit and two on the eroding edge, showed evidence of having been excavated within three to four

months of the 1989 visit. The largest pothole, at the eastern edge of the midden was 3m long. A second hole on the outside of the house showed freshly turned soil and trampled vegetation.

On 19 August 1993, Fish and Wildlife Swrvice archaeologists Chuck Diters, and Debra Corbett and volunteer Brigit Fahey visited the site. Though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not manage the upland portion of the site the entire area was



**Figure 7**. AFG-028 viewed during the 1997 site visit. (U.S.F.W.S. Photo, 6/97)

traversed on foot in order to orient the crew. The house pit was examined briefly and all reported potholes relocated. Videotape footage was taken of the site, features, potholes and exposed midden. Hydrocarbon samples were taken from the intertidal zone using protocols outlined by the National Park Service.

The site appeared much as described in the Exxon reports and files. A previously unreported modern deer hunting camp was located just inland of the site. There was no new vandalism though erosion is occurring on the steep bluff face. All reported potholes are naturally revegetating. None of the artifacts noted by Exxon archaeologists in 1990 were relocated but they may have been missed in the slate gravel of the beach, buried, or collected by deer hunters.

Service archaeologist Debra Corbett and volunteer Sue Garland revisited the site in late June 1997 (Figure 7). The actual site location is slightly different than that reported in previous years. We relocated four of the six previously reported potholes in the housepit and on the bluff face. All were densely overgrown with rank vegetation. The bluff face is almost completely overgrown and there is no sign of active erosion or recent vandalism. The beach was inspected but no artifacts were found.

There is no sign of recent damage to the site and all previously reported damage has recovered naturally. There is also no active erosion affecting the bluff face edge of the site.

#### AFG-143 (Cajun Point; Segment IB-008)

This site is located in McDonald Lagoon, an unlabelled bay at the southern mouth of Kitoi Bay, a branch of Izhut Bay on the east coast of Afognak Island. The lagoon has three

lobes separated by headlands. The site is across a narrow, shallow channel from AFG-027. The site was first reported by Skipper Smith and Les Proctor of the M/V Rebel during oil spill cleanup in the area. Exxon archaeologists visited and recorded the site in 1989 and updated the information during a second visit in 1990 (Haggarty et al. 1991). The upland portion of the site is owned by the Afognak Native Association and is described only generally in this report. Intertidal areas are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The site consists of a shallow, 15cm-20cm thick prehistoric midden on a 1m-1.5m high slate shelf. The midden covers  $50\text{m} \times 30\text{m}$ , apparently much reduced from the original size by subsidence and erosion. Three, possibly four, shallow housepits occupy the center of the grassy clearing. The house pits range from  $5\text{m} \times 7\text{m}$  to  $8\text{m} \times 9\text{m}$ ; all are rectangular with no evidence of side rooms. Three pocket beaches bordering the site are littered with artifacts eroding from the midden. A stand of spruce trees shields the site from the channel to the north. Subsidence has seriously affected this site. Dead spruce trees surround the site. To the south a low, once forested swale is now a marsh.

On 18 August, Fish and Wildlife Service archaeologists Chuck Diters, and Debra Corbett and volunteer Brigit Fahey visited the site. Though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not manage the upland portion of the site the entire area was traversed on foot in order to orient the crew. The house pits were examined briefly. All of the definite housepits contained from one to three small potholes. The six potholes reported by Exxon archaeologists in 1989 were weathered and beginning to revegetate. Peat deposits in the intertidal areas indicate subsurface deposits, though now submerged, are otherwise intact. Several of the artifacts found in 1990 were relocated, others had been collected previously. Videotape footage was taken of the site, features, potholes and exposed midden. Hydrocarbon samples were taken from the intertidal zone using protocols outlined by the National Park Service.

During the 1993 investigation an error was made in plotting the site location. The site could not be located in 1997 during the time available for the search and was not reexamined.

#### KOD-171 (Chief Cove 1 Site; Segment CK-005a)

This site is located on the north shore of Chief Cove, a small indentation on the north shore of Spiridon Bay, the northern arm of Uyak Bay on the west coast of Kodiak Island. The Chief Cove site was scheduled for monitoring during 1997 but was not examined due to weather and scheduling problems. Because of deteriorating weather and high swells at the site the float plane could not safely land. Additional efforts were made to visit the site but weather and time limitations prevented an examination in 1997.

#### AFG-129 (Ban Island House Pits; Segment BI-010)

AFG-129 is located on the north coast of Ban Island in Foul Bay on the west coast of Afognak Island. The site was first reported in 1989 by Exxon archaeologists and revisited in 1990. During the initial survey in mid-July, recorders noted four vandal holes in the seaward edge of the southern midden and holes inside two housepits.

Ban Island was not slated for monitoring in 1997 but because other sites on the east coast of Afognak could not be re-located, Ban Island was monitored. Archaeologist Debra

Corbett and volunteer Sue Garland visited the site in late June. The site appears much as it did in 1996 with continuing erosion along the bluff face. An eroding housepit was noted at the northwest end of the vegetated site ridge. The clusters of fire cracked rock in the intertidal zone are dispersing and becoming less distinct. There has been no illegal excavation on the site since 1989. Erosion on a moderate scale continues to effect the site.

### Monitoring at SEL-188, the McArthur Pass Site, 1997

Mark Luttrell Archaeologist National Park Service

The National Park Service activity under the archaeological restoration plan is to monitor status of the McArthur Pass Site on an alternating year schedule. After a hiatus of a year in visits to the site, an archaeologist again returned to the site. The goal of monitoring was to collect sediment samples and assess evidence of human disturbance.

#### SEL-188 (McArthur Pass Site; Segment MR-001)

The McArthur Pass Site, SEL-188 was monitored as proposed for 1997 (Figure 8). Mark Luttrell was accompanied by Steve Baird, wildlife biologist from Homer. The site was oiled during the Oil Spill and exposed artifacts on the beach are subject to collection by vandals.

The three intertidal sediment sample locations at the site marked in prior year maps were relocated beginning with location C, low in the intertidal zone. The sediment sample was collected at 10:27



Figure 8. Intertidal area at McArthur Pass Site. (NPS Photo, 9/3/97)

AM on a rising tide. The sample is angular, coarse-grained sand derived from granite. No odor of hydrocarbon was detected.

The location A sample was collected at 11:15 AM and consisted of loamy organic sediment taken from the vegetative face slightly above highest high water. No odor of hydrocarbon was detected.

Location B was re-located and a sample of angular, coarse-grained sand derived from granite was collected. Some marine snail shells were also included in the sample. An odor of oil was detected at that locality and an oil sheen appeared in the unit after the sample was collected.

All samples were placed in 4oz. jars and labeled. No chain of custody documentation was recorded and no attempt was made to maintain sterile collecting of the samples. They were submitted to the headquarters, Kenai Fjords National Park. The samples have not been tested with the HNU-Hanby field test kit.

Rocks on the beach in the samples locations have shifted somewhat, probably due to wave action. No evidence was seen that indicates human disturbance. An attempt was made using the 1993 map by Klingler to relocate the adze he found. The attempt only succeeded in duplicating Schaaf in 1994 by relocating a green hammerstone that was near the original location of the adze. The absence of the adze inconclusively suggests tat theft has occurred between 1993 and 1994. Dekin's Test #1 near the mouth of the stream (Dekin et al. 1993) was relocated and it appeared much as described in 1994 and 1995; well backfilled and covered with moss and granite spalls. The location of the 1989 Zollars test and expanded excavations by Schaaf and Johnson (Schaaf and Johnson 1990:3) were unsuccessful. That is attributed to careful backfilling and replacement of the vegetation mat.

No artifacts were collected, but a photographic record of the sample units was obtained. For the most part, the photo sequences established by Schaaf in 1994 were duplicated. In addition to duplicating the photographs the presence of tar at several locations, general views of the site were recorded.

### **EVOS Archaeological Monitoring Project Chugach National Forest 1997**

Linda Finn Yarborough Archaeologist Chugach National Forest USDA Forest Service

Archaeologists from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Chugach National Forest monitored two sites on July 5, 1997. SEW-440, on Eleanor Island, was the subject of the EVOS Archaeological Site Restoration project in 1994 through 1997, and has been included in the EVOS Archaeological Site Monitoring project since completion of restoration fieldwork in 1994. SEW-469, on Knight Island, has been monitored yearly since the initiation of the monitoring project. Pedestrian surface surveys were conducted at each site, and photographs were taken to document their current condition.

### SEW-469 (Passage Point Rock Shelter; Segment KN-110)

Although the lower cave interior floor localities of SEW-469 had been sketched during previous visits, the lack of a scaled map posed difficulties in interpretation of features noted by different visitors to the site. During the 1997 site monitoring trip, a more formal map (Figure 9)was made of this lower locality, showing archaeological surface features, roof fall areas, and general elevation changes over the main portion of the cave. The cave entrance measures approximately 22m wide, while the distance to the deepest part of the cave is about 17m. Scattered human remains were still present on the surface and appeared undisturbed in the uppermost area of the cave, which was vandalized by an oil spill cleanup worker in 1990. Other portions of the cave with human and cultural remains also appeared undisturbed since the previous monitoring visit. Documentary photographs were taken from the eastern edge of the roof fall pile which is northwest of the Russian cross, and on each individual terrace.

The cave continues to be used by animals, probably land otters, which makes this National Register eligible site of interest to biologists as well as archaeologists. However, there did not appear to have been any changes to this site as a result of human activities since the 1996 archaeological monitoring visit.

### SEW-440 (Elenor Island Camp; Segment EL-054)

During the monitoring visit to SEW-440 (Figure 10), the site was photographed from the shore,



**Figure 9**. Surface feature distributions, SEW-469. Based on field measurements by L. Yarborough and S. Barthold, 1997.



Figure 10. SEW-440 site map.

and from the headland northeast of the site. The narrow deer trail leading from the intertidal zone up on to the site, which was noted as eroding in 1994, 1995 and 1996, appeared to have received less use during 1996-1997 and was revegetating. The backfilled Archaeological Site Restoration project tests made in 1994 have revegetated and blend in with the natural surroundings. Although substrate samples taken from the intertidal zone in front of this site in 1994 and 1995 tested positive for the presence of oil, the 1997 sample, analyzed using the HNU-Hanby field test kit tested negative. It appeared that no natural erosion or humanly associated damage occurred to the site during the time between monitoring visits in 1996 and 1997.

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