

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Gulf of Alaska Keeper****Federal Tax ID: 204422292****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

# Gulf of Alaska Keeper - Japan Tsunami Marine Debris Removal

**State Funding Requested: \$5,000,000****House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

**Brief Project Description:**

Funds will be used to conduct large-scale tsunami debris clean-ups in the Kodiak archipelago, Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska and to supplement and expand the 2012 aerial survey of tsunami debris.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$320,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	(\$5,000,000)
Project Deficit:	\$94,680,000

*Funding Details:**Jun-Aug 2012: Alaska DEC Aerial Survey (\$200,000)**May-Sep 2012: Pilot Study of Tsunami Debris accumulation on Montague & Knight islands (\$120,000)**April 2013: Initial funding from Japan expected to be released to Alaska (\$200,000)***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The 2011 Tohoku tsunami in Japan claimed 19,300 lives and washed 5 million tons of debris into the sea. Of that, approximately 30% remained afloat and was set adrift in the Pacific. A study conducted by Washington Sea Grant estimated that between 15,000 and 187,000 tons of that debris will make landfall in Alaska over the next few years. Oceanographers initially estimated that it would take several years for debris to reach our shores, but certain types of debris began washing ashore in Alaska in November 2011, only eight months after the tsunami struck.

In the summer of 2012 the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) commissioned an aerial survey of the Gulf of Alaska to assess the impacts of tsunami debris on the outer shores of the Alaska coast from Southeast Alaska to the Kodiak archipelago. The survey, paired with small-scale removal efforts at Montague and Knight Islands validated widespread reports that unprecedented quantities of marine debris are washing ashore Alaska. The database of over 8,000 photographs taken during the aerial survey and color-coded layers indicating debris density were published online in the Arctic Environmental Response Management Application (Arctic ERMA), a geographic information system database hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

On Jan 17, 2013 a tsunami debris prioritization workshop in Anchorage was attended by state and federal natural resource and land management agencies, Native groups and conservation non-profits. Drawing from Arctic ERMA and using a scoring rubric developed jointly by NOAA and DEC, workshop participants began ranking the 44 shoreline segments based on habitat value, biodiversity, socio-economic importance, cultural value and feasibility of clean-up. The result was a partial prioritization of some of the worst-affected areas of the GOA, and a commitment by workshop participants to complete the prioritization for the entire gulf. Issues of how to identify and respond to marine invasive species and hazardous materials were discussed, as were gaps in the data that need require additional aerial survey. A partially scored and prioritized table of all areas surveyed is included with this submission. A white paper outlining the results of the workshop and follow-up actions will be presented at the Alaska Forum on the Environment the week of Feb 4.

Immediately following the Jan. 17 workshop a group of non-profits and environmental contractors with expertise in marine debris removal began planning a coordinated tsunami debris clean-up effort across the GOA, resulting in the clean-up projects identified in this proposal. Our group, consisting of Gulf of Alaska Keeper, Island Trails Network, and Airborne Technologies Inc. are collectively requesting a \$5,000,000 appropriation from the Alaska Legislature for assessment and removal of tsunami debris from the Gulf of Alaska shoreline.

Of the funds requested \$200,000 will be directed toward aerial survey to provide data for shoreline segments which could not be surveyed due to weather or time constraints, and to re-survey specific areas to identify trends or changes in deposition rates. The \$4.65M allocated to clean-up will be evenly distributed across regions of Southeast Alaska, the North Gulf coast and the Kodiak archipelago/Alaska peninsula. Each region will receive approximately \$1.55M to clean up the highest ranking shoreline segments. As the named grant recipient, Gulf of Alaska Keeper will use 3% of funds (\$150,000) to provide administrative oversight of the grant and furnish reports as required to Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). A complete budget and a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding among these entities are attached to this proposal.

### Project Timeline:

Work is expected to start of the fiscal year, on or about July 1, 2013. If substantial project funding becomes available from other sources, funding with the shorter time period requirements will be utilized first. In this way, all funding will be used to provide the greatest level of effort for a sustained period.

### Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

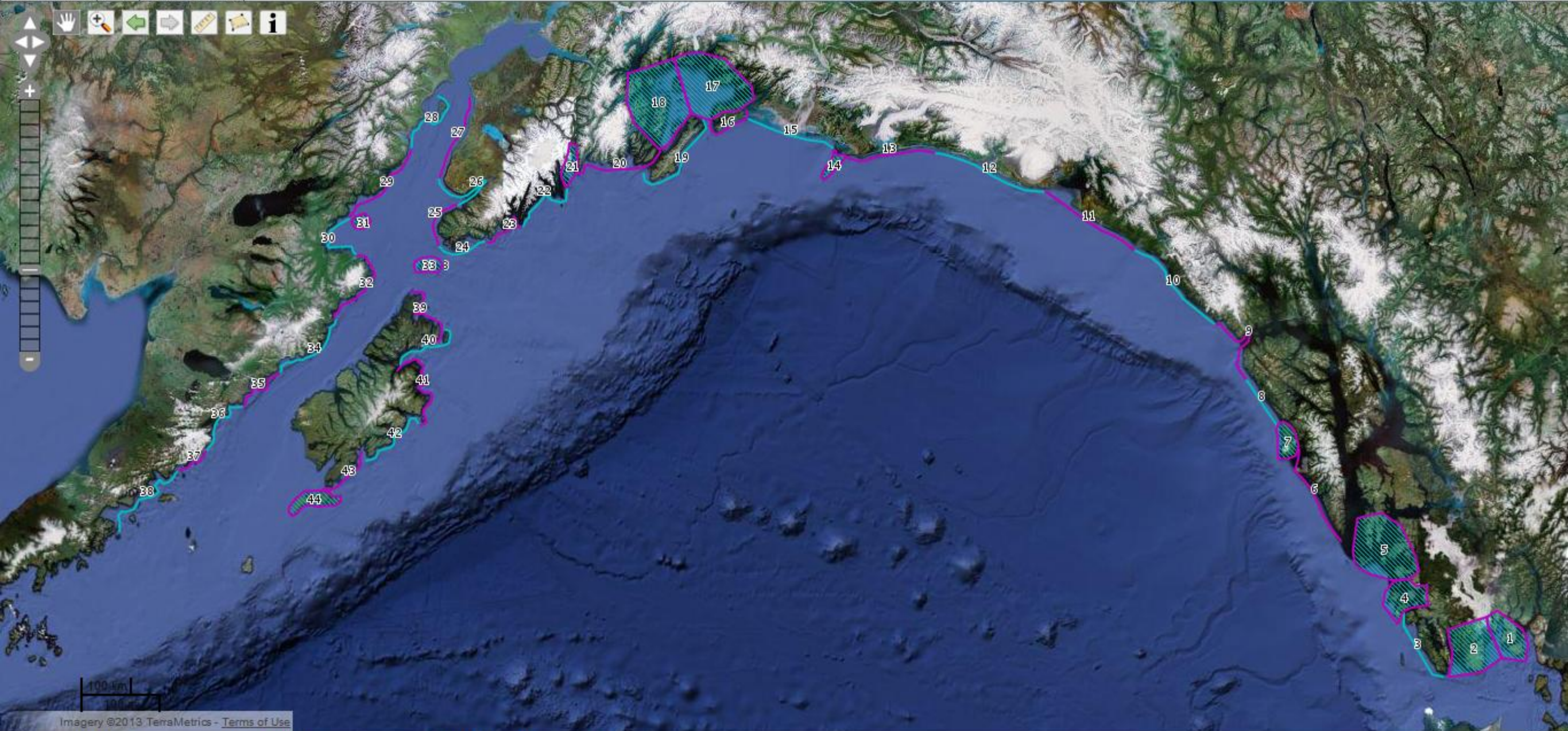
N/A

### Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Chris Pallister  
 Title: President  
 Address: 5933 E. 12th Avenue  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99504  
 Phone Number: (907)345-0166  
 Email: chris@goak.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No





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# **Southeast Alaska from Yakutat to Ketchikan Japanese Tsunami Debris Removal Project**

Organization: **Airborne Technologies, Inc.**  
Proposer Name (Contract Signer): Tim Veenstra (president)  
Address: 4338 N Gunflint Trail, Wasilla, AK 99623  
Phone: (907) 357-1500  
E-mail: tveenstra@atiak.com

## **General Project Description**

Airborne Technologies, Inc. (ATI) proposes to conduct a removal project for Japanese tsunami debris that has come ashore along the Southeast Alaskan coastline. The state funded (DEC) aerial survey from 2012 showed numerous pocket beaches with high concentrations of tsunami debris, spread along the outer coast from Cape Muzon on Dall Island north to Cross Sound. The shoreline from Cape Spencer to Yakutat also showed numerous collection beaches with high concentrations of tsunami debris. For an effective clean-up effort to be made in this large area, ATI believes an updated aerial survey of SE Alaska including areas not covered in 2012 is necessary in order to prioritize and plan effectively. The coastline and topography vary greatly along SE Alaska and the areas chosen to be cleaned will dictate the method and equipment used for debris removal. Concentrated removal efforts will be for tsunami foam debris and other identified items that most greatly affect the Alaskan ecosystem.

## **Proposal Details**

### **Proposed Time Frame for Clean-up Work**

ATI will be ready to start work upon funding availability. Due to the short field season for safe working conditions along the outer Alaskan coastal areas, we would expect to start efforts in late July and August with efforts for 2013 ending in the September timeframe. Clean-up efforts would commence again in early May of 2014.

### **Area of work**

The 2012 aerial survey showed Yakobi Island (Cross Point area) and Kruzof Island (Sitka Sound side) and select areas near Yakutat to have high concentrations of debris. An extended aerial survey needs to be completed first in order to effectively identify and prioritize clean-up areas. The ATI survey last year did not cover the Dixon Entrance area near Ketchikan and there have been anecdotal reports of debris showing up there. Due to the non-continuous type of beaches in the SE, an updated aerial survey will aid in not only identifying concentrated debris areas but also in identifying safe operational procedures for the vessels and ground-crews.

### **Sensitive areas**

There are numerous seabird and shorebird populations, marine mammal rookeries, historically significant areas, commercial fishing districts, maritime commerce, recreational areas; all of these are affected to some degree and in some manner by marine debris. The potentially affected habitat is used by numerous threatened or endangered species. ATI will coordinate with stakeholders on known sensitive areas.

### **Project Team & Equipment**

We expect to have 2-3 ground crews of 3-4 persons each working the small pocket beaches. Much like the commercial fishing efforts in this area, the individual crews will be associated with a single larger support vessel which will house the crew and act as the initial collection point for the debris removed. Debris will be removed from the beach by vessel when possible or airlifted by helicopter when prudent or necessary. All total, we will have 15-20 individuals employed on this project. Where possible, ATI will make use of local area knowledge and support (such as helicopter and vessel).

### **Miles cleaned and tonnage removed**

These metrics are not applicable to clean-up in this area and for this type of debris. Much of the SE coast line consists of small pocket beaches with miles of rocky shoreline in between. The debris is concentrated and collected in these small beaches, many less than 100 meters in length. A single pocket beach cleaned may account for many miles of now “clean” coastline. Likewise, the debris we will concentrate on is foam/plastic type products where the volume to weight is disproportionately high.

### **Disposal Plan**

A disposal plan for the tsunami debris is under consideration. Not all landfills are willing to accept large quantities of foam. We will be working with potential recycling and disposal options that will best suit needs and budget.

### **Recent Projects & Qualifications**

ATI is based in Wasilla, AK and has been working on marine debris issues since 2001. ATI was the project manager for the High Seas GhostNet Project [www.highseasghost.net](http://www.highseasghost.net). Part of that 10 year project included marine debris aerial surveys in Bristol Bay, the Gulf of Alaska and the North Pacific garbage patch. ATI owns and operates both fixed wing and helicopter. ATI has flown numerous aerial coastal surveys in Alaska for marine debris. In 2012, funded by the State of Alaska DEC, ATI surveyed the Alaska Gulf Coast for tsunami debris; ATI has an intimate knowledge of marine debris distribution and impact from the Japanese tsunami. ATI also has more than 15 years of experience closely supporting and working with commercial fishing vessels and crews in the Prince William Sound area and Bristol Bay. We are well acquainted with limitations and dangers of operating work-vessels in or near Alaskan coastal waters. ATI owns and operates a 51 ft vessel that is currently located in the Pacific NW.

### **Budget**

The total proposed budget for the SE Alaska effort is **\$1,550,000** (see attachment). Items within budget will be adjusted as necessary as project develops. Vessel and aircraft support may vary depending on areas cleaned.



Name            Tim Veenstra  
Title            president  
Company        Airborne Technologies, Inc.

## Southeast Alaska Tsunami Debris Map



*Illustration 1: Blue pins indicate high debris areas as identified by the 2012 aerial survey. The red circles are initial areas under consideration for cleanup efforts and the red rectangle is a suspected impact area that needs additional survey work.*

## Gulf of Alaska Tsunami Debris Cleanup Proposal Form

Organization: **Island Trails Network**  
Proposer Name (Contract Signer): Andy Schroeder  
Proposer Title: Executive Director  
Address: PO Box 301 Kodiak AK 99615  
Phone: 888-301-0568  
E-mail : andy@islandtrails.org  
Website: www.islandtrails.org

### Project Specifics

Shuyak and Afognak Islands in the northeast end of the Kodiak archipelago are areas of extremely high biodiversity and habitat value that have been shown by aerial survey to be among the most heavily impacted coastlines by tsunami debris in the state.

Vessel-based clean-up crews will work from northern tip of Shuyak down the east side of Shuyak and Afognak islands including Perenosa, Seal and Tonki bays. Beach access to transfer personnel and marine debris will be primarily by skiff, and by landing craft when possible. A 12-person crew will be housed and fed aboard vessels.

Debris will be removed by hand and placed in 50 gallon reinforced trash bags provided by ALPAR, or cubic-yard sized supersacks purchased with clean-up funds. Bags will be offloaded at the port of Kodiak, sorted to the level required by recyclers, containerized and shipped for recycling.

Our goal is to remove all tsunami debris from approximately 100 miles of shoreline, though actual results will depend on, debris density in the unsurveyed portions of coastline in this area, weather conditions, and debris accumulation rates since the time of the aerial survey. At the funding level requested we estimate our clean-up operations to span 90 days, during which time 100 tons of marine debris will be removed.

If favorable weather, high productivity rates or the pace of the clean-up allows us to exceed our goal of reaching Tonki Cape we will continue clean-up south along Marmot Strait and entering into Izhut Bay. The shoreline segment spanning from Pillar Cape to Afognak Strait was listed as the second densest accumulation of marine debris in the Kodiak region.

### **1) Identify the Project Location Provide the expected number of miles or yards of beach to be cleaned.**

- a) Location: Shuyak, Afognak Islands
- b) Insert Map (or attach to end)
- c) Expected length of beach cleaned  miles



**2) Budget (see attached)**

**3) Number of People Employed (include contractors): 20      Expected Labor Hours: 14,000**

**4) Disposal Plan:** The Kodiak Island Borough is unable to process this or any volume of marine debris in its landfill. Therefore, as in past clean-ups, debris will be transported the port of Kodiak for sorting and trans-load into 40-foot containers, where it will be shipped to recycling markets in the U.S. or Asia.

**5) Qualifications**

Established in 2006, Island Trails Network is the only organization in Kodiak actively promoting a sustainable trail system and coastal stewardship throughout the Kodiak Archipelago. We work toward our mission through on-the-ground trail projects, habitat restoration, environmental education and advocacy for responsible wilderness recreation. Since 2008 we have conducted 14 volunteer-based marine debris community clean-ups around the Kodiak Archipelago while educating hundreds of volunteers about the impacts of the marine debris phenomenon. In that time we have removed over 83,000 lbs of marine debris from the marine environment.

ITN is an Alaska 501(c)3 nonprofit community organization with a board of directors that represents the community we serve. We have a long history of working collaboratively to address a broad spectrum of community and natural resource concerns. Our organizational history shows we are dependable, both fiscally and technically, and committed to implementing strategies that deliver results

# Kodiak Island Tsunami Debris Clean-up Proposal

Shuyak Island S.P.

Priority 1 (blue)

Afognak Island

Priority 2 (pink)

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Image © 2013 TerraMetrics

58° 26.047' N 152° 14.422' W elev -38 ft

## Gulf of Alaska Tsunami Debris Cleanup Proposal Form

Organization: **Gulf of Alaska Keeper**

Proposer Name (Contract Signer): Chris Pallister

Proposer Title: President

Address: 5933 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99504

Phone: 907-345-0166

E-mail: chris@goak.org

Website: www.goak.org

### Project Specifics

The Outer Montague Island coast (on the Gulf of Alaska side) has received the heaviest deposits of tsunami debris in the state. The Outer Montague Island coast has been identified as the highest priority shoreline for tsunami debris removal because of debris density and the impacts on biological, habitat, cultural and socio/economic resources. Outer Montague Island has also been identified as having a high “refloat” potential meaning that there is a good possibility that tsunami debris currently lodged on its beaches will be refloated by storms and surf and carried into the protected waters of Prince William Sound. In order to protect thousands of miles of Prince William Sound’s sensitive shoreline from receiving additional tsunami debris, it is necessary to remove as much tsunami debris from Outer Montague as quickly as possible. This proposed cleanup area borders Hinchinbrook Entrance through which storms and currents sweep directly into Prince William Sound. By cleaning the Outer Montague Island beaches nearest Prince William Sound first, additional environmental damage from refloated debris being scattered throughout the Sound will be prevented.

Starting on Zaikof Point at the northeast end of Montague Island, a cleanup crew will work south down the Outer Montague coast. Logistically, and because of extremely high debris density, this is probably the most difficult shoreline in the state to clean. Consequently, the cleanup costs per mile will be high. Beach access will be primarily by helicopter, with limited skiff and landing craft access. A 12-man crew will be housed and fed in vessels in Zaikof Bay on the northern end of Montague Island. Workers will be transported to the Outer shoreline by skiffs and landing craft as weather and surf conditions allow, otherwise transport will be by helicopter. Crews and supplies will generally be transported to the beaches by helicopter. Debris will be loaded into large Super Sacks and slung from beaches by helicopter onto a vessel anchored in a secure bay across the island. At the level of projected funding, we expect this project to take 80 days. We estimate that 100 to 150 tons (1000 to 1,500-cubic yards) of plastic debris will be removed during this project.

Because of the difficult challenges this particular shoreline presents, it is anticipated that only 15 miles of shoreline will be cleaned. Weather and debris densities will determine the actual miles cleaned, but the goal of the project is to clean as much of the 77-mile Outer Montague shoreline as possible with the funds available.

**1) Project Location and the expected number of miles of beach to be cleaned.**

- a) Location: Outer Montague Island
- b) Insert Map (or attach to end)
- c) Expected length of beach cleaned 15 miles
- d) Tonnage and cubic yards of debris projected to be removed: 100-150 Tons, 1,000 cubic yards

**2) Budget (see attached)**

**3) Number of People Employed (include contractors): 20      Expected Labor Hours: 16,000**

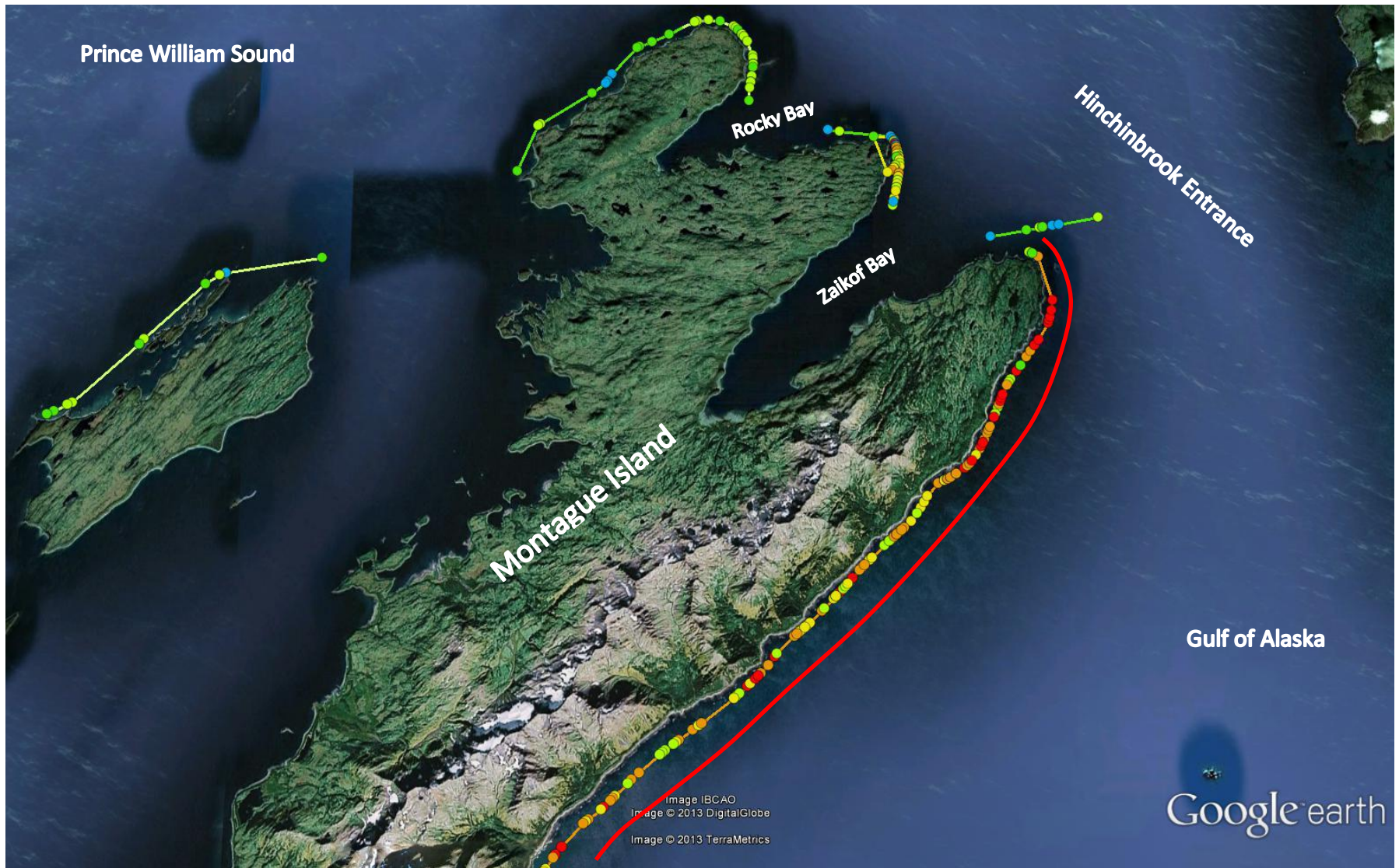
**4) Disposal Plan:** Debris will be transported by vessel to Whittier and then hauled by Alaska Waste to Alaska Central Recyclers in Anchorage for sorting. Non-recyclables will be sent on to the Anchorage municipal landfill.

**5) Qualifications**

Over the past 11 years, Gulf of Alaska Keeper has conducted large-scale marine debris cleanups in Prince William Sound and along the northern Gulf of Alaska coast, using both a professional cleanup crews and hundreds of volunteers. During that time, GoAK removed over a million pounds of plastic marine debris from 1,200 miles of sensitive shorelines in Prince William Sound and along the Kenai Peninsula Gulf of Alaska coast. Each season our professional crew begins work in May and works throughout the summer, spending up to 100 days cleaning beaches and estuaries. Up to 100 volunteers join a GoAK organized 3-day marine-debris cleanup in PWS each May. Volunteers also help with GoAK's annual 8-day marine-debris monitoring project. Over 4000 hours of volunteer labor are donated to GoAK cleanup projects each summer.

GoAK, an Alaska 501(c)3 nonprofit, has worked closely with and conducted over 25 large-scale marine-debris cleanup projects for NOAA, the Chugach Forest Service, the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation, and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies has partnered with GoAK on cleanup activities. Our projects have also been supported by the Chugach Alaska Corporation, Chenega Village Corporation, and the Port Graham Village Corporation. In addition, many corporations such as BP, Alyeska Pipeline, and REI have supported the cleanup projects. The communities of Whittier, Homer, Chenega, and Seward have all contributed resources to the cleanup efforts. This community-wide support over the years is reflective of GoAK's long-term dedication to the marine-debris problem, our vast cleanup experience, and our ability to produce excellent results in very difficult marine environments.





Proposed Gulf of Alaska Keeper tsunami debris cleanup site shoreward of red line on the northeast shore of Montague Island near the entrance to Prince William Sound.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Kodiak Archipelago</b>	<b>Prince William Sound</b>	<b>Southeast Alaska</b>
Priority Site Location	Shuyak and N. Afognak Island	Outer Montague Island	South Chichagof north to Dry Bay
Clean-up Entity	Island Trails Network	Gulf of Alaska Keeper	Airborne Technologies, Inc.
<i>Budget</i>			
Insurance	\$18,000	\$35,000	\$30,000
Personnel	\$316,000	\$400,000	\$375,000
Support Vessels	\$850,000	\$400,000	\$525,000
Support Aircraft	\$6,000	\$560,000	\$250,000
Debris Disposal	\$132,000	\$150,000	\$175,000
Equipment	\$38,000		\$20,000
Supplies	\$35,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Administration	\$155,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Hazardous Material Response	**	**	**
Subtotal	\$1,550,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,550,000
Aerial Survey	\$200,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>		

\*\* As no approved protocol exists for handling HAZMAT, those costs are unknown at this time . Hazardous Materials will be reported to USCG.

## Memorandum of Understanding

The parties, Gulf of Alaska Keeper, Island trail Network, and Airborne Technologies, Inc., hereinafter “the Parties”, have entered and endorsed the following *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*:

- The Parties have joined together to request a \$5,000,000 appropriation from the Alaska Legislature for assessment and removal of Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris (JTMD) from the Gulf of Alaska shoreline.
- Each of the Parties will actively work together and individually to gather support for this legislative initiative.
- The parties agree that this MOU only applies to the legislative effort described in the MOU and to any appropriation that may come as a result of that legislation effort.
- For purposes of this proposed legislative only, the Parties intend to evenly divide any legislative appropriation for this project more or less evenly between the following three Gulf of Alaska regions: Southeast Alaska (Yakutat to Dixon Entrance), the Northern Gulf of Alaska (Yakutat to southwestern Cook Inlet), and Kodiak Island (Kodiak Island Archipelago and eastern Alaska Peninsula).
- The Parties agree to make their best effort to conduct cleanup projects in their respective areas based upon the shoreline JTMD cleanup priorities developed by NOAA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Assuming that \$5,000,000 is successfully appropriated for JTMD cleanup response, the Parties intend that Airborne Technologies, Inc., receive \$1,550,000 for JTMD cleanup response in Southeast Alaska; that the Island Trail Network from Kodiak receive \$1,550,000 for JTMD cleanup response on Shuyak and Afognak Islands in the Kodiak Archipelago; that Gulf of Alaska Keeper from Anchorage receive \$1,700,000 for JTMD cleanup response on Montague Island in Prince William Sound and for administrative oversight of the legislative grant; and that Airborne Technologies, Inc., also receive \$200,000 for JTMD aerial survey work.
- The Parties agree that if the Legislature appropriates more or less money than requested, the Parties’ and the geographical regions’ shares of the funding will be adjusted proportionately.
- The Parties agree that any legislative appropriation shall be put into CAPSIS with Gulf of Alaska Keeper being the intended recipient of the appropriation.
- The Parties agree that Gulf of Alaska Keeper will be responsible for general oversight and management of this project. However, each of the parties will be responsible for the direct organization and management of their individual cleanup projects, but Gulf of Alaska Keeper will be responsible for collecting required reports from each of the Parties and submitting them to the proper oversight authority. Gulf of Alaska Keeper will also manage invoicing, payments and other administrative duties required by CAPSIS.
- Because the Parties recognize that it is impossible to predict how much more, or where, JTMD will arrive on the Gulf of Alaska coast, the Parties agree that nothing in this MOU prevents the parties from reallocating resources or joining forces to jointly work on cleanup projects if there is a consensus among the Parties, after conferring with NOAA and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, that it would be in the best interest of the State to do so.

- The Parties recognize that there will likely be very limited funding to address the JTMD problem in Alaska and agree that it is the Parties' intent that any collaborative efficiency that can be brought to the overall JTMD cleanup project should be adopted.

Signed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013 by:



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Chris Pallister, President, for Gulf of Alaska Keeper

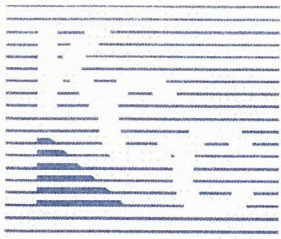
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Andy Schroeder, Executive Director, for Island Trail Network

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Tim Veenstra, President, for Airborne Technologies, Inc.





**KODIAK  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

100 E. Marine Way, Suite 300, Kodiak Alaska 99615 • (907) 486-5557 • FAX: (907) 486-7605  
www.kodiak.org • Email: chamber@kodiak.org

January 31, 2013

Rep. Alan Austerman  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Austerman,

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce supports beach cleanup efforts in the Gulf of Alaska.

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce's membership includes over 350 individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the Kodiak region. The Chamber promotes the development of a strong and diverse economy for the region. We acknowledge that two of our main industries, commercial fishing and tourism, rely heavily on a pristine environment to be prosperous.

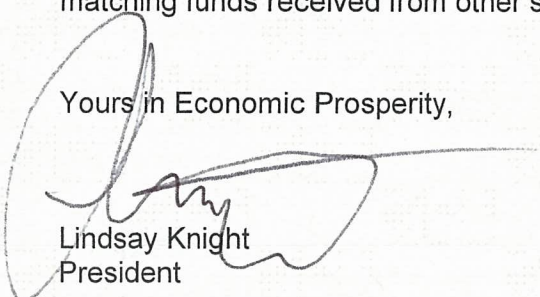
The April 2011 Tsunami generated 5 million tons of floating debris, some of which arrived in Alaska as early as November 2011. This marine debris threatens marine and coastal wildlife through entanglement and ingestion. It has been estimated that up to 187,500 tons of this debris will make landfall in Alaska, accounting for over half of total tsunami debris expected to hit American shores. Ocean current studies have predicted a large amount of this debris will hit the Kodiak Island Archipelago and more specifically the east sides of Shuyak and Afognak Islands.

The Japanese government has made a gift of \$5 million to the United States for cleanup in 5 states and 2 territories, but that funding will not go very far. Alaska is set to receive initially about \$200,000 from the Japanese funding. The balance of that \$5M will be allocated at a later date based on need.

The Island Trails Network has a strong track record of organizing and administering marine debris removal projects, and the partnership forged by the Gulf of Alaska Keeper, Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation and Island Trails Network provides an experienced and capable force for tsunami debris clean-up spanning the entire Gulf of Alaska.

We feel the state of Alaska should work with Island Trails Network and similar groups to help remove as much of this debris as possible. We also support, within reason, the State of Alaska matching funds received from other sources to help abate the amount of this debris on our shores.

Yours in Economic Prosperity,



Lindsay Knight  
President

**Dedicated to Kodiak's Economic Future**





# *Kodiak Island Borough*

*OFFICE of the MANAGER*

*710 Mill Bay Road*

*Kodiak, Alaska 99615*

Phone (907) 486-9302

E-mail: [bcassidy@kodiakak.us](mailto:bcassidy@kodiakak.us)

February 25, 2013

Rep. Alan Austerman  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Austerman,

The Kodiak Island Borough supports Gulf of Alaska Keeper's proposal to the Alaska Legislature to provide a legislative grant to clean up marine debris caused by the March 5, 2011 Japan "Tohoku" tsunami.

The Kodiak Island Borough represents the communities located around Kodiak Island as well as the commercial fishing industry. A clean environment is a benefit to the islands residents as well as our number 1 economic engine. Many of our near shore and offshore commercial, sport and subsistence species spend time some time during their life cycle along the near shore.

This environment is threatened by the 5 million tons of floating debris, some of which arrived in Alaska as early as November 2011. It is estimated that up to 187,500 tons of this debris will make landfall on Kodiak and in Alaska, accounting for over half of total tsunami debris expected to hit American shores.

Our communities also depend on a clean environment to harvest non-aquatic subsistence resources that include birds and mammals. Because this debris includes polystyrene foam or plastic, including some sealed containers of potentially hazardous liquid products that often rupture once on shore, these items are known to be digested by waterfowl and mammals.

The Japanese government has made a gift of \$5 million to the U.S. for clean-up in 5 states and 2 territories, but that funding will not go very far. Alaska is set to receive initially about \$200,000 from the Japanese funding. The balance of that \$5M will be allocated at a later date based on need.

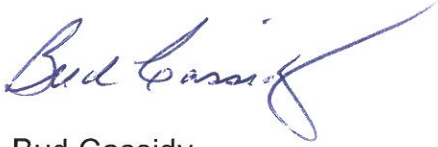
Although efforts are underway by Senators Begich and Murkowski to obtain federal funding, immediate aid is needed to address the widespread impact the tsunami has had on the Alaska coast.

Island Trails Network has a strong track record of organizing and administering marine debris removal projects, and the partnership forged by the Gulf of Alaska Keeper, Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation and Island Trails Network provides an

experienced and capable force for tsunami debris clean-up spanning the entire Gulf of Alaska.

We feel it is appropriate for the state of Alaska to provide clean-up funds to address our coasts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bud Cassidy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Bud Cassidy  
Borough Manager

cc: Borough Assembly

**Alaska State Parks Kodiak District Citizen' Advisory Board**

1400 Abercrombie Drive, Kodiak, AK 99615

February 14, 2013

Rep. Alan Austerman  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Austerman,

The Kodiak State Parks Citizens Advisory Board strongly supports Gulf of Alaska Keeper's proposal to the Alaska Legislature to provide a legislative grant to clean up marine debris caused by the 2011 Japan tsunami.

Kodiak State Parks has received reports of extensive tsunami debris littering the north end of Shuyak State Park, an area that was heavily impacted by the Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill. Shuyak Island State Park comprises most of the island's 47,000 acres and includes miles of rugged coastline, beaches and protected waterways. Due to its location in respect to ocean currents and prevailing winds, Shuyak Island seems to be a concentrated catchment area for tsunami debris. The reports indicate a high degree of Styrofoam which has the potential to severely impact marine mammals and seabirds in the area. The land and water of the area host an infinite variety of seabirds. Otters share the sea with whales, harbor seals, sea lions, and Dall porpoises. It is also likely that shorelines in Afognak State Park have accumulated tsunami debris that could endanger wildlife.

The remote location of these parks (Shuyak is located 54 air miles north of Kodiak) means clean-up will be logistically difficult and financially prohibitive. Alaska State Parks does not have the funds to pay for tsunami debris clean up.

Island Trails Network has a strong track record of organizing and administering marine debris removal projects, and the partnership forged by the Gulf of Alaska Keeper, Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation and Island Trails Network provides an experienced and capable force for tsunami debris clean-up spanning the entire Gulf of Alaska. In fact, ITN has organized marine debris cleanups on Shuyak Island in past years.

We feel it is appropriate for the state of Alaska to match the clean-up funds provided by the Japanese government and any future federal funding and encourage you to do your part to support the clean-up effort.

Sincerely,  
*Mike Sirofchuck*

Mike Sirofchuck  
KSP CAB Chairman