

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources



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Community-based coastal monitoring project underway for Bristol Bay

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys is working with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska Sea Grant, and the Bristol Bay Native Association to train and equip residents of Bristol Bay communities to monitor shoreline change.

The two-year project launched in mid-August when DGGs coastal hazards scientist Jacquelyn Overbeck, UAF/Alaska Sea Grant, and BBNA staff traveled to Bristol Bay communities to conduct a workshop and set up coastal monitoring sites. The project, funded by Alaska Sea Grant and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, will enable project partners to train communities to observe and measure erosion, storm surge levels, and other important parameters to document and understand how their shorelines are changing. Erosion rate estimates are required to qualify for certain kinds of federal or state assistance, and to meet project-lifespan engineering requirements in the design and siting of construction projects.

The project team hosted a workshop in Dillingham on August 15 and 16. Attendees from 13 Bristol Bay communities identified key processes affecting shoreline change in their communities and were guided through site preparation and installation of time-lapse cameras and stake ranging systems. After installing a monitoring site in Dillingham, the project team traveled to Togiak, Port Heiden, and Levelock to establish monitoring sites there as well. Five more monitoring sites will be installed in 2017 at locations yet to be determined.

Data collected from these monitoring sites will be incorporated into the online Alaska Shoreline Change Tool at <http://maps.dggs.alaska.gov/shoreline/> and online Alaska Coastal Profile Tool at <http://maps.dggs.alaska.gov/acpt/>.

For more information about the DGGs Coastal Hazards Program, visit <http://dggs.alaska.gov/sections/engineering/profiles/coastalhazards.html/>.

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