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The Alaska Regional Contingency Plan should maintain the Regional Stakeholder Committee, and not adopt the Multiagency Coordination Group. The RSC provides affected stakeholders, who are not routinely working with an agency, to have input to a spill response. As was seen during Exxon Valdez it was individuals, not agencies, that knew most about areas to protect, currents, what will work and have the ability to get things done. Removing these individuals, and groups, will be a disservice to the many remote communities in Alaska, and ultimately will result in a less efficient and less coordinated response. One might argue that the creation of the Regional Citizens Advisory Councils by Congress was the lack of recognition by agencies and industry to local citizens who warned about the dangers but were ignored until the Exxon Spill. Please don't make the same mistake twice. Keep the RSC as the stand-alone approach for engaging affected groups during a spill response.

Large spills may extend over large portions of Alaska waters. It is not feasible for agencies responding to a spill to have personnel and indepth knowledge of such a large area. Agencies may have cursory knowledge but that cursory knowledge should be supplemented by indepth knowledge as can be provided by an RSC process. The RSC process has worked in Alaska. There is no good reason to abandon a process that works.