

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Hydrographic Survey in Bristol Bay, Egegik Bay to Pilot Point, area

This is to inform you that TerraSond, a Geospatial Services company based out of Palmer, Alaska, will be conducting a hydrographic (water depth) survey of the seafloor in Egegik Bay and its approaches during the summer and fall of 2021. This is being accomplished under contract with NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) Office of Coast Survey (OCS). TerraSond has been assisting NOAA with their mission to update nautical charts in Alaska continuously since 1998.

The purpose of the survey is to provide modern hydrographic data to update the nautical charts in the area for safety of navigation purposes, which are currently based on outdated sounding data from 1914 to the 1940s, with some areas completely uncharted. The work will benefit local communities, barges that serve the area, the Bristol Bay fishing industry, as well as all mariners who transit or operate in the area.

Figure 1 shows the survey extents. The area covers about 750 NM<sup>2</sup> of seafloor. It extends approximately from the coast to 15 nautical miles offshore, ranging from the vicinity of Cape Chichagof in the north to Cape Menshikof in the south. Egegik Bay is included in the survey area, extending to the community of Egegik.

The survey will be conducted between late July and late September, 2021, by the 105' Research Vessel "Qualifier 105" (Q105). It is white in color and marked "Research". The Q105 will also periodically launch a 20' skiff, the "SeaLegs", to survey shallow portions of the survey area, especially inside Egegik Bay itself. Photos of the vessels are shown below in Figures 2 and 3.

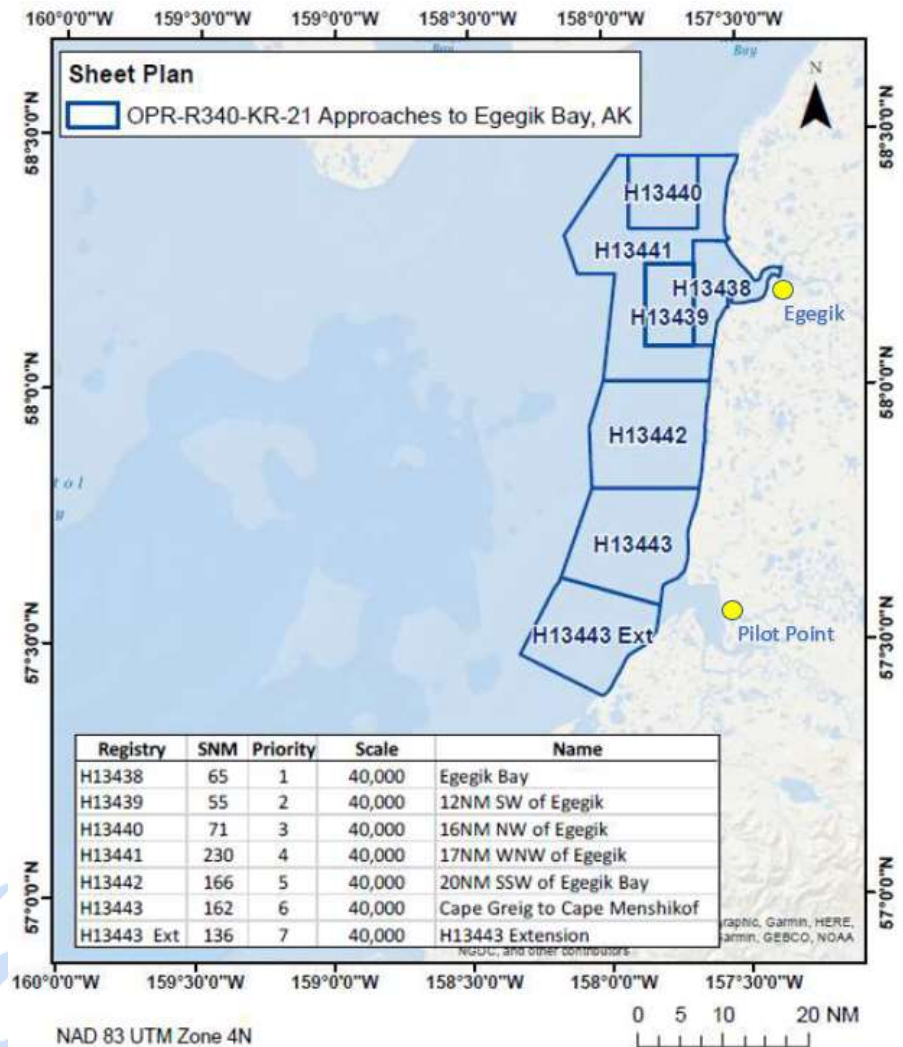


Figure 1 Map of Survey Area.

The Q105 will be working 24/7, following survey lines that are generally oriented perpendicular to the shore while running sonar to measure and record water depth. Operations will be avoided in the vicinity of subsistence and fishing activities, as well as where marine mammals are observed. After the Q105 is on-site, any immediate questions or concerns can be communicated directly with the vessel Captain on VHF Channel 16.

Other operations will include deployment of a tide buoy (offshore of Egegik Bay) and collection of bottom samples. The vessel will periodically transit to Dillingham to resupply. Additionally, a shore-based crew will install and operate tide gauges at Egegik and Pilot Point.

After the field work is completed and the data processed and submitted to NOAA, NOAA will review and apply the results to the nautical charts. This process usually takes two to three years from completion of data collection to issuance of updated charts, which will become publicly available.

Please direct questions to the TerraSond Charting Program Manager, Andrew Orthmann, at [andrew.orthmann@terrasond.com](mailto:andrew.orthmann@terrasond.com).



Figure 2 RV Qualifier 105 (Q105), a 105' vessel used as the primary survey vessel on this project



Figure 3 The 20' "SeaLegs" skiff, launched and recovered from the Q105, to be used for shallow water survey.