



National Archives and Records Administration

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Record Group 370

Series: Index to Photographs of Social and Economic Life, Environmental Conditions and Cleanup Operations on the Pribilof Islands, Alaska

What information is in these records?

This series consists of an electronic index encompassing item level identification and descriptive data for the 2,609 digital images in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pribilof Project Office central file. Indexed images include scanned versions of film and paper-based photographs, as well as born-digital photographs. Information is organized in a variety of fields relating to photographic origin, form, and content, although there is not always data in every field for every image. Among the fields pivotal for citation and searching purposes are: the agency-assigned image identification string (“PPO Assigned File Name”); the shortened identifier for the image in AAD (“File Name for AAD”); the brief summary of image content (“Title”); the full narrative caption developed by the photographer, sometimes in conjunction with other agency staff (“Description”); the original date, or best estimate thereof, on which the photograph was taken (“Date”); the island within the Pribilof archipelago, or, in scattered instances, the non-Pribilof locale, where the image was taken (“Location”); the specific environmental cleanup site on St. Paul Island or St. George Island shown in the image, where relevant (“Site”); and, where relevant, the narrative history of the cleanup site, including information on original use, pollution causes, and the nature, timing, and progress of the remediation efforts (“Site Overview”).

Why were these records created?

The NOAA Pribilof Project Office developed this index to provide its staff, personnel at NOAA headquarters, other government agencies, and media organizations, as well as the general public, with efficient electronic access to representative images documenting the history of the Pribilof Islands, the nature of NOAA’s environmental cleanup mission, and the progress of that endeavor. The index was designed to furnish intellectual access to the images through its informational content.

How can I gain access to the photographs identified by the index?

The photos are tied to the index record in AAD. By clicking on the thumbnail version of the records, a browser size image will be displayed on your computer. As an additional option, full-size JPEG digital photograph files are available for download. In cases where images were originally accessioned by NARA in TIFF format, TIFF copies are not available directly through AAD, but can be ordered from NARA (see the guidance, on ordering copies, provided on the “Fielded Search,” “Display Partial Records” and “Display Full Records” screens).

Are there any restrictions on use of the photographs downloaded through AAD?

There are no known use restrictions on any of the images indexed by this series. The majority of the images were taken by staff from NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessors, and other federal government agencies, and are thus, as products of federal government employee work, in the public domain. As for images credited to assorted private contractors (such as Columbia Environmental Services, Inc., Nortech Environmental and Engineering Consultants, Inc., and Westaff, Inc.) working under NOAA Pribilof Project Office auspices, NOAA reports no ongoing rights claims by the companies or by individual photographers associated with those companies. It is understood that such contractor-generated material was created under arrangements that left the visual products under federal government control, and, accordingly, in the public domain.

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