

"Promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and facility operations in Cook Inlet."

## Marine Firefighting Advances

*Kodiak in Final Draft; Tesoro Implements Cook Inlet Scenario*

The Marine Firefighting and Salvage Plan project moved forward another notch as the Kodiak Island Plan entered its final draft recently. At the same time, Tesoro Alaska and

conducted a marine firefighting drill with other local responders at the KPL dock, the first to work through an exercise using the new manual.

Members of the Kodiak workgroup inventoried regional capabilities, identified gaps, and devised means for addressing those gaps during several meetings over the past few months. The final draft of that manual is expected to be published in the fourth quarter of this year. The Cook Inlet Plan, completed in late Summer 2004 and delivered to the Captain of the Port, was approved and forwarded for inclusion in the Cook Inlet Subarea Plan

Major marine fires need special consideration, particularly vessel fires which may require resources beyond those locally available. While many of the land-based firefighting skills translate to the marine environment, some of the equipment, procedures, and safety considerations do not. The workgroup, including

*continued on page 4*



*Incident Command observes the progress of firefighters during a recent Tesoro drill at the KPL dock.*

## New CIRCAC Report on Platform DR&R Available On Web Site

Declining production and lack of information in Cook Inlet led CIRCAC to develop a white paper concerning the Dismantlement, Removal and Restoration (DR&R) of platforms and facilities located within Cook Inlet.

The report is available at: [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org) in two files. One file, the smaller of the two contains the report itself. The second file contains images of the supporting documents such as agreements between the state and the operators and leaseholders.

The final report includes a map of all facilities and associated pipeline infrastructure, a dossier on each offshore facility in Cook Inlet describing its site topography and geography, age, production

status, lease stipulations, ownership history, and DR&R status. CIRCAC also summarized relevant Alaska attorney general opinions regarding liability as part of the report

The project manifest from concerns that no single source of information existed to assist CIRCAC and its constituent groups in understanding the complexities of DR&R. The white paper reviewed current state and federal regulations and suggested a course of action; reviewed current lease stipulations and regulations to establish jurisdictional authority for DR&R; and identified the permitting process for removal and summary of potential significant impacts of infrastructure DR&R.



910 Highland Ave  
Kenai, AK 99611  
Tel: 907.283.7222  
or 800.652.7222

[circac.org](http://circac.org)

# GRS Sites Added in Western Kodiak

The workgroup responsible for designing some of the oil spill response strategies around Kodiak and Afognak islands has nominated 21 new sites for survey, the next steps in establishing special plans for protecting the areas and their resources in the event of an oil spill.

The plans, known as Geographic Response Strategies (GRS), are well-known around Cook Inlet where 127 of them have been completed for sensitive sites between Anchorage and Kodiak. GRS are tailored to protect a specific sensitive area from impacts following a spill. These response plans are map-based strategies that can save time during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response by showing responders where sensitive areas are located and where to place oil spill protection resources.

Kodiak and Afognak have many sensitive sites and so the workgroup has divided the region into zones (North, South, East, and West) to focus their efforts in smaller areas. With 166 sites already included in the site selection matrix, the workgroup determined that by breaking the region into the various zones they could better manage the task and of identifying high priority locations within each zone. Maps of the zones and the proposed GRS sites can be seen at [www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/ki/home.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/grs/ki/home.htm)

The first area addressed under the plan has been the Western Zone which includes parts of both islands and an important part of the process has been to consult with local villages for insights on the areas under consideration.

To accomplish this, CIRCAC coordinated a public outreach visit to Larsen Bay, Port Lions, and Ouzinkie to give presentations on GRS and to solicit comments, answer questions, and gather information on sites important to the local communities.

Director of Public Outreach Steve Howell, CIRCAC Board Member James Showalter, Kodiak Area Natives Association representative Iver Malutin, Prince William Sound RCAC Community Liaison Linda Robinson, and Nuka Research (contractor) representative Mark Janes flew to each of the villages and met with local residents and tribal leaders. They made presentations about the sponsoring organizations, GRS history, and the process of collecting input.

GRS development follows the same general process throughout the Cook Inlet and Kodiak Subarea. First, workgroup participants identify all sensitive areas that have the potential to be classified as “Areas of Major Concern” under



the criteria established in the governing Subarea Plan. These potential sites are then evaluated based on the additional criteria of 1) risk of being impacted from water borne spill; and 2) feasibility of successfully protecting the site with existing technology.

Using this process, the workgroup selects a preliminary list of sites. These candidate sites are then released for public input. Feedback on site selection is solicited from tribal representatives, user groups, environmental organizations and the general public. Based on the feedback received, the workgroup then makes the final site selections.

Once site selection is complete, an Operations/Tactics committee, composed of spill response professionals, is formed to develop draft strategies for each site selected. Once completed, the draft strategies are reviewed and approved by the entire workgroup. The final GRS are forwarded to the appropriate Subarea Committee with the recommendation that they be adopted as part of the Subarea Contingency Plan. GRS are not considered final until they have been approved by the Subarea Committee.

*Steve Howell (left), Iver Malutin, James Showalter, and Mark Janes shown at the airport in Larsen Bay, Kodiak. Photo by Linda Robinson, PWSRCAC.*

# Board Member Profile: Molly McCammon

The *Council Briefs* highlights Molly McCammon in the third of a series of Board Member Profiles.

One of the newest members of the Board of Directors, Molly McCammon, comes to CIRCAC with a career of identifying important issues and solving problems. Mayor Mark Begich appointed her to the seat representing the Municipality of Anchorage shortly after gaining office.



*CIRCAC Board Member Molly McCammon represents the Municipality of Anchorage.*

Ms. McCammon may be best known in contemporary discussions for her former role as Executive Director of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council from 1993-2003. It was during that time that

the Trustee Council came to life with a \$900 million trust fund, the result of a settlement of government claims against the Exxon Corporation. The annual workplans for the council have ranged from \$6-25 million annually.

These days, Ms. McCammon is the architect for an Alaska regional component of the national Integrated Ocean Observation System. The Alaska Ocean Observing System or AOOS encourages participants to work together and establish an integrated system of ocean observations like sea and atmospheric conditions, real-time and processed satellite data, and information about fish, birds, and marine mammals that can be used to predict future changes in the ocean ecosystem.

Such a system would help meet the needs of a wide variety of users, including mariners and fishermen, scientists, resource managers, search and rescue and coastal security operations, and educators.

Though government agencies historically have had the responsibility of gathering these observations, they have had neither sufficient funding nor discretion to mount comprehensive long-term collection efforts or tailor data collection to meet practical local needs. As uses of the marine environment increase, the broader, ecosystem-based decisions expected in the future will require more systematic, coordinated databases.

While working with the Trustee Council, Ms. McCammon developed an oil spill restoration program that is now viewed as an international model and also helped guide an innovative long-term environmental monitoring program known as Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring (GEM) to widespread acceptance.

Her work in Alaska public policy should help CIRCAC interpret various state issues and track important movements within the governing agencies. From 1984 – 1993, Ms. McCammon worked among legislators as a committee staff member, a legislative assistant, chief of staff, and deputy press secretary dealing primarily in natural resource, fisheries, and Alaska Native issues.

A graduate of the University of California-Berkeley, Ms. McCammon entered the Alaska scene by way of television and radio news. After a stint at KFAR radio and television in Fairbanks and several years homesteading in the Brooks Range, she returned to television writing script for “Alaska Native Magazine,” a weekly program that played an integral role in initiating satellite broadcasting to rural Alaska.

In the early 1980s she contributed to “Alaska News Nightly” for the Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN) and produced and hosted other political interest shows for APRN and KTOO television.

## Calendar of Events

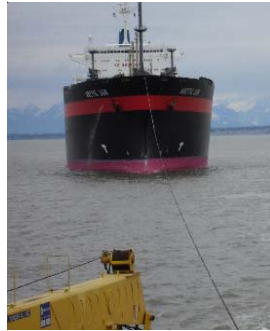
- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 14    | <b>Kenai Peninsula Borough LEPC Meeting, Soldotna</b>      |
| September 15-16 | <b>Prince William Sound RCAC Directors Meeting, Seward</b> |
| September 19    | <b>ARRT Meeting, Anchorage</b>                             |
| September 26    | <b>OSRI Meeting, Cordova</b>                               |
| October 7       | <b>CIRCAC Board of Directors Meeting, Kenai</b>            |



# Marathon Exercises Tanker Towing

Marathon Oil Company recently drilled their response teams to a scenario that centered on a disabled LNG tanker in Cook Inlet. The exercise included a fictional fire aboard the *SS Arctic Sun* in the engine room, lost propulsion, and five injured personnel.

A combined Marathon, O'Brien's Group, and Conoco/Phillips emergency response team addressed the scenario, hooking up to and towing an LNG tanker among other measures.



Drills such as these maintain familiarity with equipment, procedures, and roles within the Incident Command System. Towing exercises present special challenges due to weather and inherent dangers of large vessel maneuvers at sea. CIRCAC encourages these extensive field deployments to test strategies. Following a drill, CIRCAC submits observations to improve planholder response.

**Photo:** LNG Tanker *SS Arctic Sun* during a towing exercise in Cook Inlet.

## Marine Firefighting *(continued)*

representatives from several firefighting organizations throughout Cook Inlet, gauged area response capabilities against what could be expected during a large marine fire.

Upon arrival, a team may find volatile fuels on the water requiring special retardants and high-powered equipment. An effective response may also require resource deployment coordination among a broad range of organizations.

Tesoro's recent drill was conducted as part of their internal Tesoro exercise program. Each year Tesoro schedules one exercise that extends beyond its fence line and involves outside responders in addition to the Tesoro Fire Brigade. This year, the scenario centered around a tanker pumproom explosion and fire that eventually exceeded the vessels firefighting capabilities prompting a call for outside assistance.

The *T/V Seabulk Pride* volunteered to participate in the exercise conducting a full-scale onboard fire drill activating fire monitors and using hose teams to respond to the simulated pumproom fire. Two crewmembers were painted to simulate burns and other injuries further tasking responders.

The Tesoro Fire Brigade responded with a 5,000 gpm foam cannon, E-One pumper, and foam tanker. Nikiski Fire Departments responded with an engine, an engine tanker, a rescue vehicle, and an ambulance. Kenai Fire Department also provided a rescue vehicle. CISPRI responded with the vessels *Seabulk Montana* and *Champion* which provided

waterside firefighting capabilities. Responders also erected a portable tank for foam delivery and simulated the operation with water delivered down the long dock to the foam cannon. A line was connected to the vessel to provide foam directly to the tank vessel.

The Cook Inlet Marine Firefighting Manual is now publicly available on the web at [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org).



**Web Site Improvements:** We're adding new features and changing the layout of our pages to make your experience easier and more informative. Check back regularly for updates to [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org)

*A child enjoys a balloon from the CIRCAC Outreach Booth at the Alaska Oceans Festival in Anchorage.*