

COOK INLET

REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN WILLIAMS AND MICHAEL MUNGER



This year CIRCAC celebrated our 25th Anniversary as your citizen representative in Cook Inlet, since the Oil Pollution Act created Alaska's RCACs in 1990. It was gratifying looking back on those 25 years. We celebrated some big initiatives, including Cook Inlet's first navigational risk assessment, a permanent docking assist and rescue tug, and the development of sophisticated oil spill prevention and response tools and equipment. We noted with great pride that many of our projects have grown to become of statewide significance, such as Geographic Response Strategies, Alaska Clean Harbors and Alaska ShoreZone. Our contributions were recognized by the Alaska Legislature, U.S. Senator Murkowski, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

In 2015 alone, we made further improvements to the Cook Inlet Response Tool, which integrates data, real-time observations and models, and Alaska ShoreZone imagery to aid in oil spill planning and response; we helped in the formation of the Cook Inlet area harbor safety committee, installed an additional ice camera to our Cook Inlet Ice forecasting network and diligently reviewed and, we believe, strengthened oil discharge prevention and contingency plans for new exploration and development both on and offshore. After years of dedicated work, our Director of Science and Research was honored with an Ocean Leadership Award for her commitment to ocean literacy. Most importantly, for the ninth straight year, there was not a significant oil tanker incident in Cook Inlet, reinforcing to us that our oil spill prevention component is working.

As gratifying as it is to celebrate past successes, CIRCAC is focused on what lies ahead. The Cook Inlet field of producers is undergoing enormous changes. Some have expanded

their operations and exploration to include onshore as well as offshore activities. Others, not as successful, have moved on, been reorganized or acquired. At the same time, oil prices are down, a stark reminder that it's more important than ever to stay vigilant, to make sure no corners are cut, contingency plans are well written, realistic and executable, and communication with our stakeholders, producers and agency partners is transparent.

The following pages highlight this year's work by CIRCAC. We are fortunate that in Alaska citizen oversight directly contributes to more accountability and cooperation with industry. Oil spill contingency plans receive another layer of review and comment. Citizens are consulted for regional expertise and knowledge, kept informed of facility operations, and involved in incident response. The fact is that by working together we are doing better science, better planning, coming up with better ideas, and are better prepared to prevent and respond to oil spills in Cook Inlet's waters.

Our Mission

Representing citizens in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations.

Cover photo: Sampling intertidal rock ramp near Chenik Head in Kamishak Bay, June 2015. Photo by Sue Saupe.
Above right, John Williams and Michael Munger. Photo by Lynda Giguere.

Anniversaries are cause for celebration. We are proud of our history and reached out to friends, past and present, to celebrate. We launched a new scholarship program, hosted two public receptions and conducted in-depth reviews of where we've been, and where we're going.

WE'RE 25!

25 Years in Cook Inlet: Project Highlights

We are not just celebrating our anniversary, we are celebrating a long list of accomplishments from our 25-year history. Through a series of presentations in December, we did just that. CIRCAC staff and colleagues described our work to assess and minimize risks through the roles we've played in initiating the Geographic Response Strategies and Potential Places of Refuge programs in Alaska, completing a Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment, developing an ice camera network, and providing a public voice in Contingency Plan reviews. Other presentations focused on our efforts to understand what is at risk in Cook Inlet by highlighting our physical oceanography research, nearshore habitat mapping, and biological and contaminant assessments. Finally, we demonstrated our accomplishments in developing tools that speed access to information, data, and imagery to improve oil spill prevention and response decisions.

Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center

To show our immense appreciation to our many partners, stakeholders, and past and present volunteer Directors and public members, we also hosted a 25th Anniversary Reception at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center to coincide with our December Board of Directors Meeting. In addition to the beautiful surroundings afforded by the museum, we were fortunate to get a preview of original artwork inspired by Alaska ShoreZone slated for our planned exhibit at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Our Executive Director and President of the Board provided welcoming remarks and U.S. Coast Guard Captain Paul Albertson commended the organization. Hors d'oeuvres and music followed to thank those in attendance for playing a role in shaping our organization, sharing our mission, and contributing in so many ways to our continued success.

Kenai Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center

In April, CIRCAC hosted our first 25th Anniversary community reception in conjunction with the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center's grand opening of our Coastal Impressions Exhibit. We greeted the public surrounded by the striking images of Alaska's Gulf Coast and Cook Inlet, which served as a fitting reminder of what is at stake and why CIRCAC's 25 years of oversight matter.

25 Years in the Inlet: CIRCAC Milestones

We compiled an online 25th Anniversary Report which will serve as our historical archive. This report includes an introduction narrated by Board President John Williams, CIRCAC's history, detailed summaries of work to date, significant milestones and the people who have contributed to our success for the past 25 years.

We've designed the web site to serve as a reference point for our projects, which are described in the context of how we identify, assess and mitigate risks posed by Cook Inlet's unique and demanding environment, marine transportation and oil facility operations. We invite you to visit and follow our progress at: www.circac.org/outreach/.



Dr. Steve Okkonen describes CIRCAC's role in physical oceanography research. Photo by Lynda Giguere.

Board of Directors 2015

President



John Williams
City of Kenai

Vice President



Robert Peterkin, II
State Chamber of Commerce

Secretary/Treasurer



Gary Fandrei
Aquaculture Associations



Walt Sonen
City of Seldovia



Scott Smiley
Kodiak Island Borough



Molly McCammon
Municipality of Anchorage



Grace Merkes
Kenai Peninsula Borough



Rob Lindsey
City of Kodiak



Carla Stanley
City of Homer



Bob Flint
Recreational Interests



Deric Marcorelle
Environmental Interests



Michael Opheim
Alaska Native Interests



Paul Shadura
Commercial Fishing Organizations

Staff

Michael Munger, Executive Director
Susan Saupe, Director of Science and Research

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano, Director of Operations

Lynda Giguere, Director of Public Outreach
Jerry Rombach, Director of Administration

Vaito'a Heaven, Administrative Assistant
Maritta Eledge, Accounting and Grants Manager

Cindy Sanguinetti, Transcriber

Participating Organizations

Recreational Interests

Alaska Charter Association
Alaska Sport Fishing Association
Kenai River Sports Fishing Association
Kenai River Professional Guide Association

Commercial Fishing Organizations

Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
Whitefish Trawlers Association
Alaska Salmon Alliance
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern District Setnetters Association
United Cook Inlet Drift Association

Native Corporations/Villages/Tribes

Kenai Native Association
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Ninilchik Native Association, Inc.
Port Graham Village Council
Port Graham Corporation
Seldovia Village Tribe
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Natives of Kodiak, Inc.
Nanwalek IRA Council
Seldovia Native Association
Native Village of Eklutna

Cities, Boroughs, Municipality

City of Homer
City of Kenai
City of Kodiak
City of Seldovia
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Kodiak Island Borough
Municipality of Anchorage

Aquaculture Associations

Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association

Environmental Interests

Alaska Center for the Environment
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Anchorage Waterways Council
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Cook Inletkeeper
Great Land Trust
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Kenai Watershed Forum
Kodiak Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
National Parks Conservation Association
ReGroup

Tourism

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Ex Officio Members

U.S. Coast Guard - *Captain Paul Albertson*
Environmental Protection Agency - *Matt Carr*
U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - *Dr. Heather Crowley*
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation - *Steve Russell*
Alaska Department of Natural Resources - *Jonathon Schick*
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - *Catherine Berg*
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management - *Colin Blair*
Alaska Department of Fish and Game - *Ginny Litchfield*
State Pipeline Coordinator's Office - *Jason Walsh*
United States Forest Service - *Vacant*

Charter Funding Companies

Tesoro Alaska Petroleum • Cook Inlet Energy • ConocoPhillips
Hilcorp Alaska LLC • Furie Operating Alaska • BlueCrest Energy

Detailed texture from encaustic painting of intertidal habitat by Janet C. Hickok.



Oil Spill Prevention & Response

Contingency Plan Review

By legislative authority, CIRCAC is a named Contingency Plan reviewer. Along with required state and federal agencies, we receive a copy of each crude oil, Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (ODPCP or C-Plan) scheduled for review. Staff and the Protocol Committee evaluate each C-plan, and develop comments and recommendations which are sent to the State of Alaska for consideration prior to that C-Plan's approval. In addition to C-plans, the Protocol Control Committee develops comments and recommendations to State and Federal agencies regarding regulatory issues, proposed new or amended regulations, and legislation related to our OPA 90 mandates.

As a named contingency plan reviewer, CIRCAC represents public stakeholder concerns and interests, giving citizens an avenue to directly effect change and influence the direction of Alaska's crude oil exploration, production and transportation.

2015 Reviews

Blue Crest Energy Alaska ODPCP for Cosmopolitan Development
Project Plan No. 15-CP-5245

Response to Requests for Additional Information on Aurora Gas, LLC, ODPCP,
ADEC Plan #044-CP-5111

USCG Equipment Cache Decommission
Cook Inlet Energy, LLC ODPCP 15-CP-5115
40 CFR Parts 110 and 300

National Oil and Hazardous Substances C-Plan Proposed Rule
Request for Additional Information on Kenai Pipeline ODPCP

Dispersants - National Contingency Plan

For the first time since 1994, CIRCAC had the opportunity in April 2015 to provide input to Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan, a section of the plan that directs the use of dispersants, other chemicals, and oil spill mitigating devices and substances that may be used to remove or control oil discharges. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed changes were driven largely by concerns about dispersant use authorizations and the lack of information on efficacy and toxicity following the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill. Significant research has been conducted since DWH and the proposed changes addressed authorizations and requirements for schedule listing, testing, and monitoring of products.

Our comments noted our concerns with some of the proposed pre-authorization language and provided advice for improving efficacy and toxicity test requirements and in-situ monitoring. However, we strongly supported the requirements for increased product information on environmental fate, and for minimum efficacy requirements, toxicity threshold levels, and the more comprehensive efficacy and toxicity test protocols. Overall, we noted that the proposed changes will allow future decisions to be based on better science-based information.

Drills and Exercises

Oil spill response exercises or drills allow the State to evaluate the adequacy of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP or C-plan) and industry and agency readiness to respond to oil spills. These exercises provide the opportunity to learn and to improve response skills and allow the larger response community the opportunity to work together to achieve common response goals. Finally, exercises are an excellent opportunity for responders to demonstrate innovative approaches to response strategies and tactics, including protection, tracking, recovery, and cleanup.

Drill scenarios sometimes allow Incident Management Teams (IMT) to exercise different avenues of the Incident Command System (ICS) than are normally associated with oil spill response. These can add a layer of complexity, with the same net benefit: we are better prepared for any eventuality. During one such drill with ConocoPhillips at the Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) Nikiski facility, operators exercised their ability to respond when a helicopter medevaced to the Beluga Field because of an ATV accident crashed. Although it was a tabletop drill, it was a good exercise of other emergency response actions that may occur during day-to-day operations and/or during an oil spill response.

In addition to participating in the ConocoPhillips drill, CIRCAC also participated in Tesoro Vessel Plan and Cook Inlet Pipeline (CIPL) drills; filling specific duties in the Environmental, Joint Information Center, and Operations sections of the Incident Command System.



CIRCAC participates at CISPRI Command Center for a Cook Inlet oil spill drill. Photo by Lynda Giguere.

Alaska Regional Response Team

At the urging of CIRCAC's executive director, the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) Meeting was held in Kenai for the first time. The ARRT is an advisory board to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and provides federal, state and local government agencies an avenue to participate in oil spill response and pollution incidents. In addition to attending ARRT meetings, CIRCAC actively participates in workgroup meetings of the sub-area committee which reviews, updates and improves each section of Cook Inlet's sub-area plan such as resources and sensitive areas. CIRCAC's participation ensures that each workgroup is provided with up-to-date information and recommendations throughout the review process. Other sub-area plan sections to be updated include scenarios, geographic response strategies and potential places of refuge.



Cook Inlet

HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Prevention is our best weapon against oil spills. A primary goal of the Cook Inlet Navigation Risk Assessment was to identify risk reduction measures to increase navigation safety so fewer spills would occur. As a number one priority, the Risk Assessment recommended the immediate formation of an area-wide Harbor Safety Committee whose main focus is preventing maritime accidents.



Photo by Steve Howell.

In 2015 CIRCAC was instrumental in bringing together other stakeholders to form the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (HSC). Harbor Safety Committees, which have proven to be effective forums throughout the Lower 48 states for improving navigation safety, focus on maritime safety, accident prevention, and waterways management. They provide a forum for identifying, assessing, planning, communicating, and implementing operational and environmental practices beyond statutory and regulatory requirements. The HSC's ultimate goal is to develop Standards of Care and best practices for maritime operations which promote safe, efficient, and environmentally sound maritime operations in Cook Inlet. Being an active HSC member gives

CIRCAC a voice in all navigation safety in Cook Inlet, but specifically tanker traffic, making the Cook Inlet HSC one of our most important prevention components going forward.

The HSC consists of a managing board, committee and two standing workgroups--Navigation Safety and Harbor Safety Plan--as well as temporary ad hoc workgroups such as marine salvage and marine firefighting. CIRCAC and the Southwest Alaska Pilots Association are permanent members of the Managing Board and work with three additional board members. CIRCAC also serves on the 20-member committee, which reflects the broad interests and expertise from Cook Inlet's maritime community and works collaboratively to improve maritime safety in Cook Inlet.

An extensive website with organization, meeting notices, documents and other information can be found at www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org.

Environmental Assessments



Evaluating Nearshore Communities and Habitats in Lower Cook Inlet

With a potential offshore federal lease sale taking place next year in the Cook Inlet Planning Area, CIRCAC's monitoring of biological and chemical environments will have an important role in assessing future impacts of any resulting oil industry activities in the lease sale area. We recently teamed up with the National Park Service (NPS), NOAA, and UAF's School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, to assess nearshore habitats in areas adjacent to the lease sale areas in lower Cook Inlet. Through a project funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), we surveyed intertidal and shallow subtidal benthic habitat in central and lower Cook Inlet in June 2015, focusing on very wide, low-angle bedrock and boulder platforms and ramps. This habitat is relatively unique along most of Alaska's coast, but is common in lower Cook Inlet, especially in Kamishak Bay.

We used a method called Real Time Kinematics (RTK) to make very high-resolution tidal height measurements to allow us to compare intertidal community assemblages to complex tidal elevation patterns and create detailed topographic maps for each intertidal site. In addition, subtidal communities were sampled by divers who recorded abundance and biomass data for shallow subtidal invertebrate and algal species. The results show differences in the biota along the north to south sampling gradient between Tuxedni Bay and the Chenik Head area in Kamishak Bay. Understanding these zonation and geographic patterns in nearshore community structure aids in ecological risk assessments and future monitoring and assessments in the area. BOEM is funding this project for three additional field surveys. NPS will continue to be the lead agency on the project, with CIRCAC partnering in sampling design, fieldwork, data analyses and reporting, and leading efforts to compile historical contaminants data.



Accessing Cook Inlet Coastal Habitat Data

One of the goals of CIRCAC's Coastal Habitat Mapping program is to make our habitat data readily accessible for improved oil spill planning and response. We accomplish this through our continued role as an Alaska ShoreZone partner, working closely with NOAA to serve our ShoreZone information online. In addition, with the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS), we developed the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT), an on-line data portal that integrates our habitat data and imagery with dozens of other data sources.

This year, we teamed up with AOOS and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve to provide CIRT training for natural resource managers in Homer and at the Kenai River Center. Though originally designed for oil spill planning and response, CIRT also supports management activities by allowing users to visualize dozens of data sets such as shoreline characteristics, real-time sensors, geographic response strategies, and ShoreZone coastal imagery.

We also participated in the development of another AOOS on-line data portal, the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Ecosystem Portal. This tool will improve access to critical scientific information to aid ecosystem-based management and recovery of the endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale. Many of the data layers we developed for CIRT are also served on the beluga portal. CIRCAC is also providing data from our 2011 and 2012 trawl surveys where we assessed potential beluga whale winter prey in Cook Inlet.



Ginny Litchfield of ADF&G using CIRT during training sessions with Will Koeppen from AOOS. Photo by Stacey Buckalew.

Understanding Risks of Oil in the Environment

To weigh the risks and trade-offs of various oil spill response decisions, we need to understand the potential fate, transport, and effects of treated and untreated oil spilled in Cook Inlet, as well as the efficacy of various treatments. CIRCAC is working to influence how those oil spill response decisions are made and improve the information on which they are based.

- CIRCAC participates on the Sensitive Areas Workgroup to ensure that our research and mapping data are considered in sections of the proposed Cook Inlet Subarea Plan that describe nearshore and benthic habitats at risk from an Inlet oil spill.
- Kodiak and Cook Inlet Subarea stakeholders have two years to submit recommendations for Dispersant Use Avoidance Areas under the newly developed Alaska Regional Response Team's Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska. CIRCAC will continue to provide our expertise on regional oceanography and ecosystems during this process.
- CIRCAC was an invited observer at the January 2015 State of Science of Dispersants in Arctic Waters workshop, where subject experts met to develop consensus statements on what are the "knowns" and "unknowns" of dispersant and dispersed oil science in Arctic conditions. White paper summaries of these meetings are being provided for public review.

Communicating Science through Art

During the fall of 2015, CIRCAC worked with the Alaska ShoreZone Coordinator at The Nature Conservancy to develop an exhibit to display the works of three artists who were interpreting imagery from the Alaska ShoreZone Program. We recognized this as a unique opportunity to further our efforts to introduce the public to our area's incredible coastal habitats in a new way. The exhibit included a small selection of photographs from two prior ShoreZone exhibits, Coastal Impressions: A Photographic Journey along Alaska's Gulf Coast (developed by CIRCAC in 2012) and Arctic Impressions: A Photographic Journey along Alaska's Arctic Coast (developed by NPS, BOEM, and NOAA in 2014). The Board of Directors got a sneak peak at CIRCAC's 25th Anniversary party in December. Cold-wax and encaustic artists Terisia Chleborad, Nessa Nouveau, and Janet C. Hickok were challenged to interpret and paint the photographs in an abstract, impressionistic, or realistic manner – depending on how they were inspired by the colors, patterns, textures, and atmosphere of the images. The exhibit was on display for one week during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) in January 2016 at Hotel Captain Cook and for a month at Doriola's Restaurant in February. The artists contributed 10% of the sale price from their paintings towards the Alaska ShoreZone program and their Alaska ShoreZone-inspired paintings now hang in homes in Anchorage and Juneau.

Abstract painting details of rocky shorelines by T. Chleborad (above) and J. C. Hickok (left). Original wax paintings of ShoreZone imagery on display (below).



In addition to our customary public outreach activities (news releases, newsletters, annual reports, public events, community visits), this year we rolled out a new scholarship program designed to not only heighten public awareness about CIRCAC activities, but to give back to the community as well.

Captain Barry Eldridge and James Carter Memorial Scholarships

To commemorate our 25th Anniversary, we launched CIRCAC's first ever scholarship program in honor of Captain Barry Eldridge and former Executive Director James Carter. The intent of the Scholarship Program is to both heighten public awareness of CIRCAC's work and to encourage future stewardship of Cook Inlet through supporting students majoring in environmental or maritime and vocational studies. We awarded our first recipients, Kristina Butler, a second year geology Honors College major at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and Annie Looman, a graduating senior at Kodiak High School, \$2500 to pursue environmental studies. The scholarships were significant enough to allow each student more time to focus on studies by not having to work two jobs.

CIRCAC's Scholarship Program is one way we are building more awareness about the Cook Inlet region and its environment. It also serves to inform the next generation of Alaskans of the important role of citizens' organizations in protecting Alaska's sensitive waters and shorelines. Students can better appreciate the possibilities in their chosen professions and may decide to apply their knowledge and skill in environmental or maritime studies to furthering our mission in Cook Inlet.

CIRCAC's Scholarship Selection Committee, consisting of Board members Scott Smiley, Carla Stanley and Bob Flint, devoted many hours to selecting and personally interviewing the most promising candidates before making their final selections. Scholarship applications become available in January and are awarded in April.



Photo courtesy of
Annie Looman.



CIRCAC 2015 Scholarship recipients Kristina Butler, (pictured above with Director of Administration Jerry Rombach), and Annie Looman (above right).

Cook Inlet Navigator e-Newsletter

Subscribing to our newsletter will guarantee you receive monthly updates on new and continuing initiatives, such as the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, Cook Inlet Response Tool, and Board and Committee meetings, as well as progress reports on ongoing projects. Visit www.circac.org to sign up.

Coastal Impressions Exhibit

We care more about our surroundings when better informed about what's at stake. Since first developing the photo exhibit, Coastal Impressions: A Photographic Journey along Alaska's Gulf Coast in 2012, we have sought opportunities to share the images depicting the immense beauty of the dramatic coastal environment that surrounds us. This year, Kenai residents and visitors viewed Coastal Impressions at the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center from May to November. During that time, the Chamber welcomed more than 25,900 visitors through its doors, including Governor Walker. This exhibit, along with a newer Arctic Impressions photo exhibit, are part of the Alaska ShoreZone Partnership's efforts to help Alaskans learn more about and gain a greater appreciation for the diversity and value of our nearshore habitats.



Guests (including Mayor Navarre) appreciating the beautiful images of Alaska's Gulf Coast at exhibit reception.
Photos by Lynda Giguere.

Meeting with you in your communities, at special events and conferences

Individual directors and staff participate in numerous events throughout the year, not only to become better informed, but especially to meet with individuals in their communities and share information. In 2015 we attended, participated, or presented in the following events:

- Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals (Speaker)
- Alaska Forum on the Environment (Speaker)
- Alaska Marine Science Symposium (Presenter, Exhibitor)
- Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium (Attendee)
- Alaska Regional Response Team (Attendee)
- Alaska ShoreZone Partners Annual Meeting (Speaker)
- Alaska Support Industry Alliance (Attendee)
- American Fisheries Society (Speaker)
- Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (Participant)
- Arctic Marine Oil Pollution (Attendee)
- Clean Gulf Conference (Attendee)
- ComFish Expo (Exhibitor)
- Cook Inlet Subarea Plan Sensitive Areas Work Group (Participant)
- Geographic Response Strategies Workshop (Participant)
- Gulf of Mexico Ecosystems Science Conference (Attendee, Participant)
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (Participant)
- Kachemak Bay Science Symposium (Speaker)
- Kenai Chamber of Commerce Luncheon (Speaker)
- Kenai Rotary Club (Speaker)
- Pacific Marine Expo (Speaker)
- Science of Dispersants Steering Committee (Participant)
- Soldotna Rotary Club (Speaker)

Committees

Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety (PROPS)

The Prevention, Response, Operations, & Safety (PROPS) Committee develops work plans, as well as projects and studies designed to minimize oil spill risks in Cook Inlet. The Committee also reviews and monitors spill response efforts and promotes the use of the best available technology.

Council Members: Bob Flint, Chair; Rob Lindsey, Michael Opheim, Deric Marcorelle, Paul Shadura, Walt Sonen

Public Members: James McHale, Vice Chair; Ted Moore, Scott Hamann, Jan Hansen, John Bauer, Steven Lufkin, Robert Reges



Board President John Williams and public members Dan Urban and Dr. Ted Rockwell. Photo by Lynda Giguere.

Environmental Monitoring

The Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) is tasked with conducting a monitoring program that provides early detection of any environmental effects due to oil industry operations in Cook Inlet to determine whether they are causing adverse impacts to Cook Inlet's ecosystem.

Council Members: Molly McCammon, Chair; Michael Opheim, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle, Bob Flint, Scott Smiley

Public Members: Ted Rockwell, Vice Chair; Kashif Ahmed Naser, Richard Prentki, Trenten Dodson, Dan Urban, Steve Hunt, Eric Klein, Robert Reges

Protocol Control

The Protocol Control Committee is a technical committee whose primary endeavor is to review newly proposed legislation and regulations or amendments, and contingency plans for the regulated crude oil industry in Cook Inlet. Contingency plan content must follow specific criteria set out in state and federal statutes and regulations. By legislative authority, CIRCAC is a named C-Plan reviewer.

Members: Robert Peterkin, II, Chair; Bob Flint, Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Grace Merkes, Paul Shadura, Carla Stanley

Administrative (Board Members Only)

Executive

President - John Williams

Vice President - Robert Peterkin, II

Secretary/Treasurer - Gary Fandrei

Bob Flint

Deric Marcorelle

Audit

Chair - Gary Fandrei

Molly McCammon

Paul Shadura

Grace Merkes (Alternate)

Credentials

Chair - Robert Peterkin, II

Gary Fandrei

Grace Merkes

Michael Opheim (Alternate)

Awards & Recognitions

2015 Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year

Molly McCammon



Volunteer of the Year, Molly McCammon, with John Williams. Photo by Lynda Giguere.

Alaska SeaLife Award for Marine Science Outreach

Susan Saupe

25 Years of Service

John Whitney

15 Years of Service

Rob Lindsey

10 Years of Service

Carla Stanley

5 Years of Service

Michael Opheim

Bob Favretto

Scott Hamann

Kashif Ahmed Naser



Sue Saupe, Marine Science Outreach Award. Photo by Mary Morris.

25th Anniversary Recognition

17th Alaska State Legislature

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski

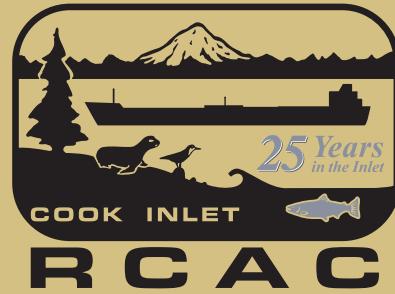
U.S. Coast Guard Recertification

For the 24th consecutive year, CIRCAC was recertified by the U.S. Coast Guard without exception, reinforcing our success in consistently fulfilling our mandates as set forth under OPA 90.



Carla Stanley, Meritorious Service Award, with John Williams. Photo by Lynda Giguere.

Back cover: Sea anemone (*Urticina* sp.) in Kamishak Bay. Photo by Sue Saupe.



COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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