

COUNCIL

“The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet”

BRIEFS

RCAC TURNS 20!

In October of 1990, Cook Inlet RCAC held its first official Board Meeting. Later that year, on December 6, Cook Inlet RCAC became incorporated. Twenty years later, Cook Inlet RCAC is still representing the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet.

To commemorate the 20 year milestone, the RCAC held a 20th Anniversary Reception in Kenai on December 3, 2010. Council members past and present, committee members and RCAC supporters gathered to remember the early days of putting the RCAC together.

Kenai attorney and founding member of the Cook Inlet RCAC, Jim Butler, acted as emcee of the reception and provided background as to how Cook Inlet RCAC was formed under section 5002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990

Mr. Butler explained, “We had to figure out how to seize our opportunity to get something into federal law.”

“It is important for Cook Inlet to keep in mind that there was an organized effort to prevent an RCAC in Cook Inlet.”

Continued on Page 2



Fourth Quarter 2010

We're Twenty!

pg2 Cook Inlet holds 20th Anniversary Reception

Thanks Karen

pg3 Karen Delaney makes 20 year contribution to Cook Inlet RCAC

Ice Forecasting Network

pg4 RCAC completes camera installation; NOAA has access to ice video

CISPRI Deployment

pg6 New disc skimmer deployment put to the test

Logo Contest

pg7 Anniversary logo winner takes home \$250.00 prize

Thank You Volunteers

pg8 A look back at all of our past board members

2010 COUNCIL

MOLLY MCCAMMON
Municipality of Anchorage

GARY FANDREI
Aquaculture Associations

BOB FLINT
Recreational Interests

JAY STINSON
Commercial Fishing

ROB LINDSEY
City of Kodiak

ROBERT PETERKIN II
State Chamber of Commerce

ALLISON MILLER
City of Seldovia

GRACE MERKES
Kenai Peninsula Borough

TOMMY JOHNSON, Jr.
Alaska Native Organizations

CARLA STANLEY
City of Homer

JOHN WILLIAMS
City of Kenai

VACANT
Environmental Interests

LIZ CHILTON
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Cook Inlet RCAC 20th Anniversary Reception

Fortunately, there were many organizers who remembered the 1987 Glacier Bay spill in Cook Inlet, that the fisheries in Upper Cook Inlet had been shut down in 1989 following the Exxon Valdez spill, and that Cook Inlet had a complex oil industry.



eral mandate to be accepted by the Coast Guard.”

It is this alternate organization concept that Cook Inlet RCAC has followed since the beginning.

“It got approved late at night.. and everyone went off to Christmas!”

Later, after review, the RCAC section of the Coast Guard Appropriation was stripped and placed into OPA 90, since it was an oil spill related measure.

“After it was put in OPA 90 and went before congress for a vote, Don Young said, ‘Everyone in this Congress has voted for this already, why would you vote against it now?’ So we had a record vote of everyone in Congress supporting an RCAC in both Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.”

“So folks from Cook Inlet and Kodiak decided that there would be two RCACs or no RCACs,” exclaimed Mr. Butler.

To accomplish the formation of Cook Inlet RCAC Mr. Butler and others took their plan to Alaska Congressman Don Young. Unfortunately the Congressman couldn’t get the votes, so the group seized an opportunity within a legislative loop hole.

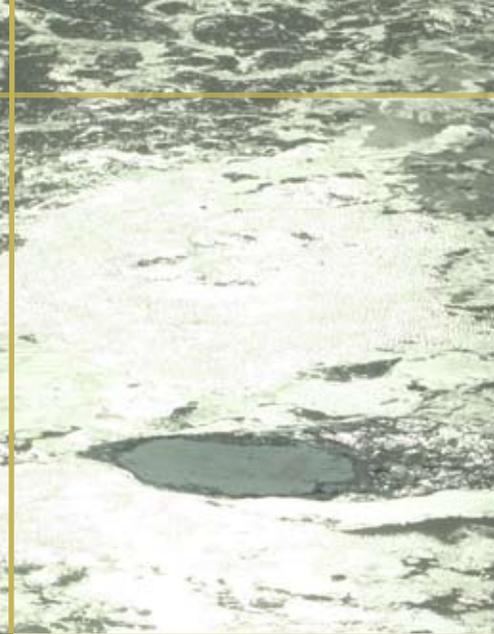
“The original language for Section 5002 passed on the Coast Guard Appropriation Bill that included the Cook Inlet RCAC. It also included a provision that allowed an alternate organization in lieu of the fed-

Mr. Butler summed up his discussion by reading several terms and phrases from OPA 90:

“I know there have been challenges over the last 20 years. What does it mean? Watchdog, lap dog, guard dog, bad dog, good dog! Roll over!”

- Jim Butler

“Partnerships...local input...no waiver of rights...regional scope...intrest groups and municipalities. It was a distinct pleasure to work with folks...that could figure what are the newspapers going to say in 1999...2009. What we are going to leave behind that we can fix now? I think those terms...have



served this community well. And I think it is because of the commitment from agencies and municipalities, of stakeholders, individuals who have made it happen.”

Bob Brodie was the mayor of Kodiak when the formation of the RCACs was taking place; he played an instrumental role in organizing Cook Inlet RCAC.

Mr. Brodie reflected on his experiences during the early days of OPA 90 and Cook Inlet RCAC and commended Mr. Butler for the role he played in establishing the current process for which the communities and stakeholders select their representation on the Council.



“I remembered that early on there was displeasure with the original language of how the RCAC representation would be handled. As originally written the governor of Alaska would appoint the citizens to serve as council members. “

“So the committee that Jim (Butler) headed was Tim Robertson and myself...going over OPA 90. Jim and Tim wrote in that the communities would have the choice to appoint their representatives.”

This concept was adopted as subsection (o) of Section 5002 of OPA 90.

Mr. Brodie also reiterated the fact that many factions were against a Cook Inlet RCAC, sharing with the group that the original committee wanted to copyright the name “Regional Citizen’s Advisory Council.”

“We said ‘No way! There is going to be another RCAC is Cook Inlet.’ We (the 7 Cook Inlet Communities) downed the motion and allowed the concept of RCAC to be universal.”

Mr. Joe Ray Skrha, an attorney from Kenai and the first Recreational Interest representative to serve on the Council, followed Mr. Brodie.

Mr. Skrha expressed to the crowd how he considered serving on the Council to be a privilege. He recounted how he was selected to be on the board and why he was chosen to fill the Recreational Seat.

“At the time I was a licensed drift boat guide and loved the resource (salmon) and loved to educate people on what the resource really meant. It just wasn’t catching fish. It was experiencing a clean water, cold river fishery that had indigenous fish in it which were unlike any fish anywhere else in the world...7-year king salmon.

Congratulations Karen

Cook Inlet Assistant Executive Director, Karen Delaney, was the first person employed by Cook Inlet RCAC in 1990. In fact the Council was incorporated on her birthday, December 6th.

The Council, all of our volunteers and staff would like to recognize Karen for her invaluable dedication and contribution to Cook Inlet RCAC for the last 20 years.

Thanks Karen!



ICE FORECASTING NETWORK

Cook Inlet is one of the most dynamic bodies of water in the world. Challenges for safe navigation include extreme tides, swift currents, and severe winds. Combine these conditions with heavy ice and winter navigation and marine operations can become quite treacherous. Some recent ice-caused incidents are listed below:

1999



Photo by Tesoro

A collision with a heavy ice floe cracked a starboard wing tank of the T/V *Chesapeake Trader*.

2006



Photo by Cook Inlet RCAC

Heavy ice ripped the T/V *Seabulk Pride* from its mooring, while it loaded cargo at the Kenai Pipeline dock. In only eight minutes the vessel was pushed north a half mile. At low tide, the propeller and bow were out of the water.

2009



Photo by USCG

The OSV *Monarch* was pushed by ice into the offshore platform Granite Point, resulting in the sinking of the vessel.



Camera installation is complete at the ASRC facility, the Port of Anchorage (POA), and the OSK facility. The camera at Port Mckenzie is ready to be installed. Each camera transmits its images, over the air, to a transceiver that is hard wired through a Business Exchange Circuit (BXB) that carries the images to the system server, located at the NOAA facility in Anchorage.

Each camera is pressurized and heated in a sealed "bubble" to prevent fogging and freezing. The cameras are controlled remotely by NOAA and can pan, tilt and zoom.

The video ice forecasting network will create a safer, more efficient marine transportation route to Alaska's largest port and vastly improve winter navigation and marine operations in Cook Inlet.

Cook Inlet RCAC is currently working with XTO Energy to place offshore cameras on Platforms A and C.

“ I think Cook Inlet is going to have one of the best ice programs in the world when this is all said and done. ”
 - Cathleen Cole NOAA Ice Forecaster





Crucial Disc Deployment



visit www.cispri.org



Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI) deployed its new 13 disc and 56 disc Crucial skimmers to test the established daily recovery rate. Staff attended the first of the two day exercise. The first day CISPRI deployed the 56 disc Crucial skimmer in conjunction with the Current Buster collection system. CISPRI is developing a new configuration for use with the Current Buster, in order to improve recovery and skimming efficiency.

The deployment revealed that the tactic needs further development to minimize deployment time and effort and thereby maximize recovery. Another part of the deployment was to demonstrate the skimmer's ability to pump oil from the Current Buster pocket to the piping system of the recovery barge; which it did without issue.

The second day deployment consisted of deploying the 13 disc Cru-

cial skimmer with the current buster in the conventional manner, establishing maximum over-the-bottom speed to determine the optimum speed for collection and skimming without entrainment. The system was maneuvered in various directions to capture a tracking buoy while maintaining the proper configuration. During the second half of the day the 13 disc Crucial skimmer was deployed into the pocket of an ODI collection skirt. The ODI collection skirt is a collection system that is part of the skimming package permanently stationed on board the response vessel *Perseverance*,



CISPRI's primary response vessel.

Typical ODI configuration incorporates the use of an 8-rope foxtail skimmer. This configuration utilized the more efficient Crucial skimmer. During both days CISPRI contract vessels were used to further train vessel operators to tow the current Buster and other booms used for these tactics

KPL DRILL

Staff attended a Tesoro/Kenai Pipeline drill hosted at the CISPRI facility in Nikiski. This drill scenario involved a ruptured pipeline on the causeway leading to the dock face, while a vessel was at the dock. This drill, as with all Tesoro drills, was well scripted and was not short on personnel. Tesoro incorporates personnel from all of its operations into the Incident Command(IC) to insure there is enough staff to meet any challenge encountered. This approach also helps to insure enough personnel are trained in the IC to be available to respond to an actual incident.



20th Anniversary (cont.)



He continued, “Our organization was a way for citizens to take an active involvement in the resource....To oversee industry and Government meant they had to open the doors.”

And open the doors they did. Mr. Skrha discussed going on platform tours, riding up Cook Inlet in tankers, and learning more about the Cook Inlet oil industry from the inside out. “We made it a point, everybody in the organization, to learn... to educate ourselves.”

In closing, Mr. Skrha stressed not to lose the openness that exists between Cook

Inlet RCAC and the oil industry and stated, “The idealism of those first few years began to fade a little bit and my big concern was whether that belief we had here in those beginning years was able to be maintained....and obviously it was.”

Following the speakers, Karen Delaney reflected on here twenty years with the Council, noting that Cook Inlet RCAC was incorporated on her birthday. She went on to recognize all Board members past and present in attendance. The audience was given a chance to make comments and reflect on the importance of Cook Inlet RCAC and what it has meant to them.

We would like to thank all of the many people who have contributed to the success of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council over the past twenty years and look forward to the future and the next twenty years.

ALTERNATIVE VOLUNTARY ADVISORY GROUP IN LIEU OF COUNCIL

The citizens of Cook Inlet elected to form a Council in accordance with the voluntary provision in section 5002, subsection (o) part 2 of OPA 90 which states:

“With respect to the Cook Inlet Program, the terminal facilities, offshore facilities, or crude oil tanker owners and operators enter into a contract with a voluntary advisory organization to fund that organization on an annual basis and the President annually certifies that the organization fosters the general goals and purposes of this section and is broadly representative of the communities and interests in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and Cook Inlet.”

With this provision, the Interest groups represented on the Council are able to elect their representative instead of the governor of Alaska appointing them. The Council is also required to prove it is following its OPA 90 mandates in order to be certified as a voluntary advisory group.

Logo Winner



To promote our twenty years of service, we held a “20th Anniversary” logo design competition. The winner of the competition was Roxanne Christensen of Homer. Ms. Christensen was awarded \$250.00 for her design at the Council’s 20th anniversary reception held in Kenai on December 2nd, 2010. Ms. Christensen’s design will be featured on the cover of the Cook Inlet RCAC 2010 Annual Report.





*Thank you to all of our many
Board Members - past and present.*

ANCHORAGE

BILL BLESSING
CAPTAIN GLEN GLENZER
MOLLY MCCAMMON

HOMER

CATHY GODFREY
DOUG COUGHENOWER
CHRIS CHAVASSE
PAUL MCCOLLUM
JACK CUSHING
JAMES HORNADAY
CARLA STANLEY

SELDOVIA

VERN MCCORKLE
KARL PULLIUM
JUNE REULING
MAVIS OWENS
KEITH GAIN
ALLISON MILLER

ALASKA NATIVES

JOHN CRAWFORD
DEXTER OGLE
AL HASTINGS
JAMES SHOWALTER
TOMMY JOHNSON, JR.

**AQUACULTURE
ASSOCIATIONS**

TOM MEARS
PAUL SHADURA
JOHN FRENCH
GARY FANDREI

**COMMERCIAL
FISHING**

DAN WINN
KEN CASTNER
PHIL SQUIRES
PAUL SHADURA
TRENTEN DODSON
JAY STINTSON

KENAI

JAMES CARTER
JOHN DOUGLAS
JOHN WILLIAMS

**KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH**

JAMES BUTLER III
JACK BROWN
BETTY GLICK
DEBRA HORNE
GRACE MERKES

**KODIAK ISLAND
BOROUGH**

WAYNE COLEMAN
MIKE MILLIGAN
CHRIS BERNIS
MARY JACOBS
LIZ CHILTON

**ALASKA STATE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

VALERIE EDMUNDSON
MARIE BECKER
RON RAINEY
VERN MCCORKLE
ROBERT PETERKIN, II

**ENVIRONMENTAL
INTERESTS**

LARRY SMITH
CHARLES DICKSON
JAMES HORNADAY
MERRITT MITCHELL
BOB SHAVELSON

**RECREATIONAL
INTERESTS**

JOE RAY SKRHA
JOHN LEWIS
DOUG JONES
PHIL CUTLER
BOB FLINT

1990

KODIAK

BOB BRODIE
DAVE WOODRUFF
TOM WALTERS
MARIAH OFFER
SAM CHRISTIAN
ROB LINDSEY

2010