



"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."

Members

28 April, 2021

*Tourism
Group*

Rear Admiral Nathan A. Moore
Commander 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

*Alaska Native
Group*

RE: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Recertification Application for 1 September, 2021 to 31 August, 2022

*Environmental
Group*

Admiral Moore:

*Recreation
Group*

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council is pleased to welcome you to Alaska, and to provide you with our annual Application for Recertification as the alternative advisory group for Cook Inlet, Alaska, pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), Section 5002(o). Our recertification request observes the revised U.S. Coast Guard guidelines that require an abbreviated application process every two years, with an expanded application and a full public comment period for one year out of every three; this is a year for that abbreviated process. The guidelines require a description of Council actions, programs and projects undertaken since the last application submitted in March 2020.

*Aquaculture
Associations*

Admiral Moore, due to caution in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were unable to schedule our customary in-person pre-submittal conference with Coast Guard personnel in advance of the preparation of this application. We have had the good fortune of working with LT. Ian McPhillips in a supporting role last year, and have consulted with him early this year by phone. His guidance through to launch the process this year was extremely beneficial.

*Commercial
Fishing Group*

We appreciate your thorough review of this recertification request, report and accompanying documents. I continue to be amazed at the passionate commitment and excellent performance of our volunteer leaders and staff, particularly during these trying times. This is demonstrated on every page of this application, and we believe they will be obvious to you, your staff, and all who review it.


City of Kodiak

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require additional materials or supporting information on any of our programs. I may be reached directly at 907-398-6207. Thank you for your consideration of our request for recertification.

City of Kenai

Sincerely,

City of Seldovia


Michael Munger
Executive Director

City of Homer

*Kodiak Island
Borough*

*Kenai Peninsula
Borough*

*Municipality of
Anchorage*

Enclosures

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Recertification Application 2020/2021
Submitted 28 April, 2021

We describe in this application specific activities initiated or continued by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) generally since the submittal of our 2019/2020 application to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). In it, we particularly emphasize work undertaken since our last recertification, effective 1 September 2020. Many relevant programs and projects identified here are continuations of long-running, multi-year activities. Also, it is noted in the text if a program or project referenced is anticipated to begin during this current review period.

While most projects and programs typically originate and are completed within a single standing committee (Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC), or Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee), it should be noted that critical projects are frequently coordinated and funded through both. Also, references made below to “staff” will generally refer to the staff Director who serves as liaison to these committees: Sue Saupe is the liaison to the EMC; Steve “Vinnie” Catalano serves in that capacity with PROPS and our Protocol Control Committee. References made to Public Outreach staff refer to Director Shaylon Cochran, while Administrative staff would refer to Executive Director Mike Munger, Jerry Rombach, Vaito’a Heaven, Maddie Jamora, or Cindy Sanguinetti.

We are following the Application format provided by the Coast Guard, with a “Miscellaneous” section included at the end. There are several attachments as well. The application and relevant supporting documents are sent via disk; hard copies have been sent via the U.S. Postal Service as well. Some documents referred to are available at the Council’s website www.circac.org; these are pointed out in the narrative below.

Upon submittal, this application will be posted to the above website for public review, with hard copies or electronic copies also available. [See Section 7 for additional details.]

1. Membership. *The advisory group should be broadly representative of the interests of the communities in the geographical area.*

CIRCAC was formed under Section 5002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). The Act identifies the Interest Groups (six stakeholders and seven local units of government) to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). The individual organizations which make up these Groups are referred to as our “Certified Members”. Our obligations are memorialized in our By Laws and Council Policies.

We currently have a total of forty-nine (49) individual stakeholder organizations in our thirteen (13) OPA 90-designated Stakeholder/Interest Groups. These Groups are listed below; the number of individual stakeholder organizations represented is shown where applicable:

- Commercial Fishing (7)
- Recreation (4)
- Alaska Native (12)
- Environmental (11)
- Aquaculture Associations (2)
- Tourism (6)
- Municipality of Anchorage
- City of Seldovia
- City of Kenai
- City of Homer
- City of Kodiak
- Kodiak Island Borough
- Kenai Peninsula Borough

Interest groups either appoint or elect their representative to the Council; Directors serve three-year terms, which are staggered. In 2021 the seats representing Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture Associations, and the Cities of Kenai, Kodiak and Homer were set to expire in April. As prescribed by Council Policy #4, relevant member groups were notified in early December 2020 of the upcoming expirations – by letter and e-mail communication – and invited to participate in this process. The process lasts 120 days, and includes advertising, recruitment of stakeholder groups, calls for nominations and ballots. Staff and incumbent Directors strive to meet with affected organizations throughout the year, but particularly during the active period of the election/appointment ‘season’.

Each of the five incumbent Directors were re-appointed or re-elected to serve full three-year terms. Commercial fishing interests re-elected Mr. Paul Shadura. The Aquaculture Associations re-elected Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Gary Fandrei. President John Williams (City of Kenai), Mr. Rob Lindsey (City of Kodiak), and Ms. Carla Stanley (City of Homer) were each re-appointed. CIRCAC’s Credentials Committee is charged with reviewing the credentials of any stakeholder organization seeking membership (there were none during this period), as well as certifying that the process followed met the requirements of Council Policy. They have done so, and recommended the above be seated during the Council’s Annual Meeting on 9 April.

During the 2021 Annual Meeting, the Board made the following appointments of Directors as Officers and to standing committees for 1 year terms:

- Officers – Gary Fandrei, President; John Williams, Vice President; Deric Marcorelle, Secretary/Treasurer.
- Executive Committee – Gary Fandrei, John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Grace Merkes, Deric Marcorelle
- Audit Committee – Deric Marcorelle, Grace Merkes, Molly McCammon, Robert Peterkin
- Credentials Committee – John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Grace Merkes, Michael Opheim
- Environmental Monitoring Committee – Molly McCammon, Paul Shadura, Deric Marcorelle, Gary Fandrei, Carla Stanley, Michael Opheim
- Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee – Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Michael Opheim, Carla Stanley, Bob Flint and Walt Sonen
- Protocol Control Committee – Robert Peterkin, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Paul Shadura, Rob Lindsey, Gary Fandrei

Steps will continue throughout the year to prepare for the coming election cycle, which for 2022 include the Recreation and Tourism Groups, the Municipality of Anchorage, and the City of Seldovia.

We frequently and deliberately reach out to member groups to keep them informed and engaged and to build trust. Stakeholders are always directly invited and are welcome to attend our public Board and Committee meetings. Meetings are generally rotated throughout our areas of responsibility and concern, enabling broad public participation, and Agendas always include an opportunity for public comment. Stakeholder presentations are frequently scheduled at these meetings as well. In 2020 and 2021 however, our meetings have so far been restricted to ‘virtual’ formats due to the various Covid-19 pandemic protocols.

Within five of our Interest Groups – commercial fishing, Alaska Native, environmental, recreation and tourism – we have an opportunity to engage and recruit organizations to become Certified Members of CIRCAC. We continually seek to build the membership ranks of those remaining five interest groups, through advertising, community outreach and our direct communications: Board reports, news releases, e-newsletters, Annual Report and the many meeting notifications throughout the year.

Concurrent with implementing the election and appointment process to designated seats on the Board of Directors, CIRCAC provides members of the general public opportunities to serve on our standing Environmental Monitoring Committee and Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee, recruiting primarily through advertisements. In 2021, incumbent Public Members Dr. Richard Prentki and Dr. Eric Klein were re-appointed to the EMC, while PROPS retained incumbents Jan Hansen and Captain Robert Pawlowski, and added new member Kyle Crow. All terms are for 3 years, and bring the number of Public Members on each committee to 8 – the maximum allowed by Council Policy.

It is our practice to recognize the contributions to CIRCAC and our mission by highlighting individual and organizational accomplishments throughout the year, both in person and via written communications. Last August, CIRCAC's Board of Directors honored and recognized Captain Sean Mackenzie – Commander Sector Anchorage, Captain of the Port of Western Alaska, and Council Ex Officio Director representing the United States Coast Guard – with Council Resolution 2020-01 for his support of CIRCAC, accomplishments in pollution response across Alaska, partnerships with Alaskan Natives on subsistence protection, and defense of State and Country.

CIRCAC also honored Environmental Group representative Deric Marcorelle as recipient of our 2019 “Captain Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year Award”. In addition, in 2020 we recognized the following for attaining milestone anniversaries of volunteer service:

- 20 Years – Rob Lindsey (Director, representing the City of Kodiak)
- 15 years – Carla Stanley (Director, representing the City of Homer)
- 10 years – Michael Opheim (representing the Alaska Native Group), and Scott Hamann, (PROPS Public Member)
- 5 years – Catherine Berg, (Ex Officio Director representing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA), and Eric Klein (EMC Public Member)

During our 2021 Annual Meeting, CIRCAC bestowed the 2020 “Captain Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year Award” on Secretary/Treasurer Gary Fandrei, who represents Aquaculture Associations. In addition, we recognized volunteers and staff for milestone years of service:

- 25 Years – Michael Munger (Executive Director and Ex Officio Director)
- 20 Years – Robert Peterkin, II (Board Vice President, representing Tourism Group)
- 15 Years – Gary Fandrei (Board Secretary/Treasurer, representing Aquaculture Associations), Deric Marcorelle (Director, representing the Environmental Group), and Steven “Vinnie” Catalano (staff Director of Operations)
- 10 Years – Dan Urban (EMC Public Member), John Bauer (PROPS Public Member), and Jerry Rombach (staff)
- 5 Years – Kyle Crow (past Director, representing the Kodiak Island Borough and PROPS Public Member), and Captain Robert Pawlowski (PROPS Public Member and Scholarship Committee)

In addition, we attempt to inform by providing Incident Reports of local discharges and other incidents. These reports are guided by policy stemming from OPA 90 mandates. We also distribute reports on incidents that provide particular insights, or will gain broad public attention, in order to keep our Board and stakeholders informed. Examples include the industry's pandemic protocols instituted in early 2020 and continuing into 2021; a spill of more than 6 million gallons of fuel into a river in the Russian Arctic; remediation of an abandoned vessel leaking fuel in the Homer Harbor; or a discharge of oil/water mix at the Valdez Marine Terminal. [Specific incidents are covered in greater detail in Section 4.]

We regularly attend meetings and programs of community and industry organizations – e.g. local and state Chambers, Rotary Clubs, the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, the Alaska Safety Alliance (formerly the Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium) and others – and participate in community functions which are produced by, or are of interest to, our members and partners. While these activities have been largely cancelled or limited to virtual events during this recertification period due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we continue to participate as allowed, and maintain close ties to these organizations.

2. Establishing communications with industry and government. *The Coast Guard will consider the means by, and the extent to which, the advisory group maintains open communications with industry and government interests (oil terminal, oil tanker, and State and Federal government representatives). In assessing the group's ability to communicate with these interests, the Coast Guard's review will include but not be limited to the following:*

CIRCAC has established a robust communications and engagement plan for industry and supporting companies; elected officials; state, local and federal governments; interest groups; educators and students; and the general public.

Ex Officio Directors:

Per OPA 90, ten federal or state agencies have seats on CIRCAC's Ex Officio, non-voting Board; at present, all seats are filled. These appointed individuals receive the same briefings, board documents and post-meeting reports as voting Directors. Ex Officio Directors and their respective agencies are:

- United States Coast Guard (Captain Leanne Lusk; Captain Sean Mackenzie)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (Robert Whittier)
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Dr. Heather Crowley)
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Graham Wood)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Jonathon Schick)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Catherine Berg)
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (Kevin Reeve)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Brian Blossom)
- Alaska State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (Anthony Strupulis)
- United States Forest Service (David Fitz-Enz)

Ex Officio Directors in attendance at Board meetings regularly provide updates or comments from their agencies relevant to CIRCAC activities during Board and Committee meetings.

Strategic Plan:

The Strategic Plan provides the direction for CIRCAC to fulfill the mandates of OPA 90 and our Mission, and it serves as a tool to inform the public and develop programs and partnerships. On an annual basis, CIRCAC's Committees and Board review proposed updates to the Council's vital Strategic Plan. Every 5 years, these parties, along with staff, do a 'deep dive' into the Council Priorities and Program Objectives to implement updates and add new objectives and goals. Science director Sue Saupe led the review at the December 2020 Board meeting. Key amendments undertaken include:

- Council Priorities – these were last comprehensively reviewed and modified in 2019; some were renewed as ongoing priorities; a few were removed due to

achievement or completion; others received minor amendments. Priorities added for 2021-2026 are:

- Develop an understanding of current and planned activities associated with Outer Continental Shelf areas in lower Cook Inlet
- Assemble and maintain a comprehensive library of Cook Inlet oil industry infrastructure and activities
- Program Goals or Strategies – minor amendments were made to reflect completion of tasks and achievements, to demonstrate a more ‘active’ role, or to refine our actual undertaking. Additions to Program Goals or Strategies are for 2021-2026 are:
 - Biological and Chemical Environmental Monitoring Program – Conduct trajectory analyses for simulated Cook Inlet oil spills that include shoreline impact, site oiling, threat zone and resource analyses
 - Coastal Habitat Mapping – Integrate habitat data and imagery with other information important for oil spill response including Environmental Sensitivity Index
 - Technical Review – Prioritize issues of concern to ensure efforts and funds are appropriately delegated
 - Geographic Response Strategies – Present shore-based GRS to AREA Committee GRS workgroup for inclusion into catalog
 - Prevention and Response – Develop and maintain a Geospatial Resource Inventory Database (GRID) for use by Area emergency responders; also, integrate GRID into web-based Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)
 - Risk Assessment – Expand Ice Monitoring Capabilities and user groups; conduct triennial Vessel Traffic Study in Cook Inlet to track vessel traffic trends; and provide limited access to ice monitoring cameras for user groups within project scope

The most recent amended document (upon completion) and annual updates are archived on our website at <https://www.circac.org/who-we-are/long-range-plan>.

Meetings & Presentations:

CIRCAC’s Board and Committee meetings are advertised and open to the public, and typically feature one or more presentations by industry, agency, specialty/expert presenters, research partners or staff offering insights into ongoing research, best available technology, programs and projects, regulations or developments of particular interest to all stakeholders. Despite relying on virtual meetings, the following presentations were made to our Board or Committees:

- Captain Leanne Lusk, United States Coast Guard
- Captain Sean Mackenzie, United States Coast Guard
- Lt. Bart Buessler, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- Commissioner Jason Brune, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Tim Robertson, Nuka Research

- Lori Nelson, Hilcorp
- Dr. Heather Crowley, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Graham Wood, PP&R Program Manager, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Vanessa Hughes, Jennifer Starck, and Jeff Lisonbee, Hilcorp/Harvest Alaska
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees and Gulf Watch Alaska
- Brian Webb, Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy
- Diane Dunham, Hilcorp
- Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research
- Todd Paxton, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response

Industry and agency representatives always receive notifications of scheduled meetings. Public Service Announcements are submitted to newspapers, and meeting dates and materials are posted on our website and announced in our e-newsletters. Anywhere from 10 to 20 representatives of agencies, industry, stakeholder groups, media and the public typically attend Board meetings, even in this virtual world.

Shared Data:

We have undertaken many projects and studies over the years, and regularly share the knowledge gained with our industry and agency partners for the long-term benefit of all. Examples of such shared knowledge would be the recently broadened distribution of images from our Ice Camera Network to the U.S. Coast Guard and Air Force, and Southwest Alaska Pilots Association; research on Marine Oil Snow in spill response; the public accessibility, training, and incorporation of our Geographic Resource Inventory Database (GRID) program into spill response planning and execution; and the creation of Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) for highway stream crossings between the Cosmopolitan facility in Anchor Point and the Marathon Petroleum refinery in Nikiski.

Direct Communication:

Our most effective forms of contact are our well-established, trusted, direct lines of communications with individuals at all levels of an entity's hierarchy – industry and government. With years of partnership-building behind us, staff has developed the relationships and trusted credentials necessary to reach out with questions, information, analysis, or even criticism – and expect and receive a timely response. Questions about operations, incidents, inspections, funding, and more are generally answered quickly by the source.

Formal communication is frequently called for, and CIRCAC strives to provide timely, informed comments on every matter pertaining to our Mission – primarily through our Protocol Control Committee. During this application period, CIRCAC has provided comments, through public comment periods, on Alaska Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (C-Plans), on proposed regulations or amendments, legislation, permitting, funding matters, wildlife takings, federal leases, operational changes, and the like. These comments provide valuable insights to agencies, industry, stakeholders and the

public about our concerns, and identify matters requiring improvement, clarification or correction. [While these exchanges are listed in this section on Communication, they are better detailed in Sections 4 and 5, and we direct you there for further information.] During this application period, CIRCAC submitted formal comments on the following matters:

- Federal Cook Inlet Lease Sale
- “Takings”/Harassment during Cook Inlet seismic testing
- DEC funding, staffing, c-plan regulatory review
- Water quality permitting on discharges into Cook Inlet from industry and municipal sources
- C-Plans, amendments, and revisions
- Letters of introduction to newly elected officials, appointed agency personnel, and industry leaders, expressing congratulations and mutual interests, are sent as appropriate throughout the year.

In addition, we communicate frequently through well-established vehicles:

- CIRCAC website – www.circac.org is our primary tool for posting and archiving board and committee meeting documents, presentations received, research activities, program reports, incident reports, and updates on all CIRCAC activities
- Annual Report – mailed directly to nearly 700 individuals – elected officials, agencies, industry companies, organizations, schools, libraries, governments, and more; at this writing, the Annual Report was set to be released – a copy will be forwarded and posted to our website
- Board Reports – these are sent by our Directors to their special interest group members, government stakeholders, as well as our Ex Officio Directors **[Attached]**
- Cook Inlet Navigator e-Newsletter – this ongoing electronic piece is sent to over 650 interested parties, mostly stakeholder group members, officials in government, industry, and the scientific community **[Attached]**
- Social Media – our posts increase recognition and awareness, and promote our activities, including engagement with agencies, industry, the Harbor Safety Committee, stakeholders, schools and students, and others
- Advertising and Releases – we regularly advertise and promote CIRCAC’s mission, projects and accomplishments, as well as special outreach efforts (e.g. – elections, membership building) through paid advertising, earned media, public service announcements, and press releases. In 2020 we expanded our display ad at the Kenai Airport terminal to feature one with rotating images and messages. We presume that those who work in government, industry and stakeholder groups also notice the broad ads on radio (collected at <https://www.circac.org/media-kit>), in regional tourism publications, economic development reports, newspapers, monthly and special publications such as the Pilothouse Guide and Alaska Business Monthly, and more. Some examples from this application period include:

- CIRCAC seeks new stakeholder organizations; election/appointment process open
- CIRCAC seeks Public Members for standing committees
- CIRCAC submits recertification application; open for public comment
- CIRCAC recertified by U.S. Coast Guard
- 2021 Scholarship application period opens
- CIRCAC announces scholarship awards
- Marathon Petroleum-sponsored ship simulator training
- Position on reduced funding and staffing at DEC/SPAR, and C-Plan regulatory review

Staff strives to be responsive and available to media inquiries pertaining to our areas of responsibility and concern, such as our comments on proposed regulations and contingency plans, inquiries regarding new or ongoing research and projects, or incidents pertaining to crude oil discharges.

Conferences & Expos:

Staff, Directors and Public Members regularly attend and/or participate in conferences and expos targeted at stakeholders, industry, regulating agencies and the scientific community. In addition, staff frequently presents topics or posters, serves on panels, and exhibits in related expos. It is important to be seen supporting these events, to have the opportunity to share and absorb valuable information, and to be able to meet directly with partners. For the past year, many of the events we enjoy participating in have either been cancelled or shifted to a virtual format due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we managed to participate in the following in 2020/21:

- Alaska Research Consortium – board meetings, and review meetings for the Alaska Seafood Futures and Alaska Seafood Applied Research initiatives in December 2020, January and April 2021
- Alaska Marine Science Symposium – pre-recorded presentations for any-time viewing, with live panel sessions in January 2021
- Arctic Domain Awareness Center – Annual Review meeting in January 2021
- Seminar ‘Crowdcast: Sounds in Nature’ in February 2021, featuring acoustic data collected during lower Cook Inlet seismic work in fall 2019; co-organized by EMC member Dr. John Morton
- Oil Spill Recovery Board Meetings in October 2020 and February 2021; Workplan Committee meeting in June 2020
- Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium – postponed to 2022; staff has continued to participate in the organizing committee virtual meetings throughout 2020 and 2021
- ShoreZone cost-benefit analysis meeting in March 2021; a follow-up meeting was held in April to evaluate CIRCAC’s input to the analysis
- Kachemak Bay Science Conference was held in March 2021
- Regulations and Guidance Group of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program Webinar, held in

December 2020, focused on amendments to Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan regulations

- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) – staff and volunteers are active in the organization and committees pertinent to CIRCAC’s mission
- Next Generation ESI – a series of 4 workshops to discuss the future of NOAA’s Environmental Sensitivity Index program, held from October to December 2020
- NOAA’s monthly on-line presentation series “You Don’t know What You Don’t Know”
- Gulf of Mexico Conference “virtual preview” that combines the annual Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting, the annual Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystems Science Conference, and the triannual State of the Gulf Summit – in April 2021
- Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet Marine Ecosystem Workgroup meetings, March and October of 2020, and April 2021

Scholarships:

We further our OPA 90 mandates and Council Mission by offering scholarships to richly deserving students. The scholarships are intended to launch or complete an undergraduate degree in environmental sciences, or a trade program in maritime studies. Started in 2015 to commemorate our 25th anniversary, we offer two \$2,500 scholarships – our Captain Barry Eldridge Memorial Scholarship for Maritime Studies, and the James Carter Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Science. In 2020 our recipients (respectively) were Rio Shemet Pitcher (Homer High School) and Autumn Carlson (Homer Flex High School). This year on 20 April, our committee awarded our 2021 scholarships to Dylan Bender (Maritime Studies) and Austin Cline (Environmental Sciences).

We continue to support the maritime program at Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) in Seward through a scholarship offering that began in 2019 and is co-funded by Marathon Petroleum Maritime and CIRCAC. Marathon’s commitment stems from the training their pilots and their competitors’ pilots received at AVTEC, initially coordinated by CIRCAC. And finally, the National Transportation Institute has again reached out seeking to partner with our scholarship program to advance their maritime Alaska Hire agenda.

3. Scientific work. *The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the advisory group coordinates its independent scientific work with the scientific work performed by or on behalf of the terminal operators and operators of the crude oil tankers in an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to ensure that research and studies are relevant to issues that impact the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and of crude oil tankers calling at those facilities.*

Chemical and Biological Monitoring:

Radium Isotopes – EMC is partnering on a new project that will expand work by Dr. William Burt of the University of Alaska - Fairbanks (UAF) to conduct baseline surveys of Radium isotopes across Cook Inlet to assess the potential utility of Radium as a freshwater tracer and to estimate residence time for waters in the Inlet. CIRCAC's match will support sampling to characterize river and groundwater end members; collecting sediment grabs and suspended samples to approximate sediment and particle fluxes; sampling to assess surface water concentrations of radium isotopes; and sampling to examine a produced water signal. Dr. Burt's Kachemak Bay sampling data were presented virtually at the Kachemak Bay Science Conference in March 2021. Additional Kachemak Bay sampling will continue throughout 2021 to refine sampling methods before the project is expanded to the larger Cook Inlet study area.

Oxidized Petroleum Contaminants – EMC encumbered funds to coordinate research with Dr. Pat Tomco of the University of Alaska - Anchorage (UAA) to more accurately assess the extent of potential petroleum-derived contaminants in Cook Inlet by including oxyPAHs in a pilot sampling program in Cook Inlet. Our past data, and historical data from other studies, focused on concentration levels of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), along with aliphatic or straight-chain hydrocarbons, to determine the presence or absence of hydrocarbon contamination. However, the more recent studies following the Deep Water Horizon oil spill measured oxyPAHs, which are oxidized molecules formed through physical and biological oxidation and degradation that produce an entire range of these highly water-soluble and bioavailable compounds. They've been found to be distributed throughout the aquatic environment once dissolve and are more bioavailable in the marine environment than their parent petroleum molecules. EMC funds will expand sampling in the Inlet to include organism tissues and sampling in areas where we have historical PAH data. Dr. Tomco also received additional funding from Conoco Phillips' Arctic Science and Engineering Fund to advance two new tools and techniques that are necessary for tracking oiled petroleum residues that result from spilled oil in the Alaskan marine environment: a fluorosensor design that detects oxidized petroleum residue, and characterize baseline levels of oxidized petroleum residues in water, sediment and biological tissues in Cook Inlet.

Kamishak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet Intertidal Habitats – CIRCAC completed its grant working with the National Park Service (NPS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and UAF – with funding by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and published the significant project: *Evaluation of Nearshore*

Communities and Habitats: Ecological Processes in Lower Cook Inlet. CIRCAC staff administered all of the contracts for helicopter and vessel support for the coordinated project of National Park Service, NOAA, CIRCAC and UAF. CIRCAC Director of Science and Research was also responsible for field planning, logistics, was Chief Scientist for all research cruises during the four-year project, and conducted data analyses and report writing. The team sampled the Douglas Reef system, near Augustine Island, and rocky reef habitat along the west side between Douglas Cape and Tuxedni Bay. The project also included aerial surveys of the entire coast between Tuxedni Bay and the Kamishak Bay Reef. An Unmanned Aircraft System was deployed to collect even higher resolution data for specific sites. The partners finalized all data entry, photo interpretation and taxonomic identifications and completed the analyses for a report to BOEM, accepted in January 2020. We have transferred the final database to BOEM. Staff continues to work with contractors, NPS and BOEM for the development of an on-line contaminants database for hydrocarbon, persistent organic pollutants, and heavy metals data. The final report recommended that a subset of the project study sites be incorporated into a long-term monitoring program, such as Gulf Watch Alaska, or the NPS's SouthWest Area Network.

Coastal Habitat Mapping Programs:

ShoreZone Imaging, Mapping and Website – Originally scheduled for spring 2019, EMC has set aside funding to re-survey the outer Kenai Peninsula coastline, and will be conducting that survey in May 2022. This delay is due to Covid-related restrictions and concerns. A partnership with NPS will extend the aerial survey further east to include the Kenai Fjords National Park shorelines.

Shore Station Surveys & Database – Our contractors are working with NOAA to complete tasks under our contract. Completed thus far:

- Alaska Peninsula sites have been posted to the online NOAA Alaska ShoreZone site
- Update of the master species list in ACCESS database
- Station photos assembled and checked
- Integration of shore station data into AOS data portal

Compiling the higher taxonomic levels in the master species database table for all shore stations remains to be accomplished.

Environmental Sensitivity Maps – CIRCAC continues to work with agencies to integrate ShoreZone and Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) data into AOS portals.

Human Impressions – NOAA funded to creation of a ShoreZone imagery exhibit titled *“Human Impressions along Alaska’s Coast”*, following the format developed by CIRCAC for the original *“Coastal Impressions: A Photographic Journey along Alaska’s Gulf Coast”*. Staff has participated in developing the scope and reviewing the draft project. A draft exhibit booklet and photo selections have been submitted to NOAA for review and revision.

Macrocystis Kelp – Expansion of Macrocystis kelp beds along the western Gulf of Alaska coast have implications for oil spill risk and oil retention, and likely respond to changes in sea surface temperature and circulation related to climate change. CIRCAC’s mapping survey planned for summer 2020 to document new kelp beds and potential expansion of previously mapped beds is currently on hold and will likely be delayed until summer 2022. Genetic tissue samples previously collected by CIRCAC are being analyzed by the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and the Hakai Institute.

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) – CIRCAC continues to integrate new data sets into the AOS Next Generation user Interface, including Cook Inlet hydrocarbon data, water quality data, the Environmental Sensitivity Index, and shore station data. We continue to provide training opportunities, as well as incorporate CIRT into spill drills and exercises (see further coverage in Sec. 5).

Physical Oceanography and Oil Fates & Effects Programs:

Cook Inlet Ocean Observing – Our goal is to partner with agencies to develop a high resolution three-dimensional on-line accessible circulation model that can be modified into a particle trajectory/oil spill trajectory model. NOAA’s Cook Inlet Operational Forecast System (CIOFS) model is currently not available for web access or public use, although operationally may be used by NOAA’s Office of Restoration and Response for oil spill modeling in the event of a significant spill. CIRCAC submitted a 5-year sub-award proposal to AOS in December 2020, with an overall goal to collaboratively test and improve ocean circulation modeling in support of a sustained, accessible oil spill trajectory model for Cook Inlet, maintained and served on an AOS online portal. In addition, a project team was established to a) evaluate the effectiveness of Cook Inlet circulation forecast models; b) assess critical observing gaps; c) fill data gaps; and, d) conduct model hindcasts for model validation and improvements. CIRCAC is a collaborator with AOS and NOAA on a proposal submitted in March 2021 to improve use of and accelerate development of the existing CIOFS model to meet stakeholder needs.

Marine Oil Snow in Cook Inlet – CIRCAC provided logistical support associated with the project *Potential Role of Marine Oil Snow Formation and Oil-Suspended Mineral Particle Aggregation in the Fate of Spilled Oil in Cook Inlet, Alaska*; it was part of a Master’s Thesis by Jesse Ross of the University of New Hampshire, supported by the Coastal Response Research Center. CIRCAC has committed to continue supporting this research to deeper depths, to include a spring algal bloom, and to sample in areas near Kodiak. Covid-19 restrictions prevented new graduate student Quinn Wilkens from undertaking additional sampling in 2020, and the university research facility was closed due to the pandemic as well. Nevertheless, equipment was constructed and with the partners he completed development of experiment plans.

Marine Oil Snow in Spill Response – A team of marine oil now researchers invited Science Director Sue Saupe to work on a marine oil snow manuscript in the context of oil spill response and recovery when assessing the potential for Marine Oil Snow Sedimentation and Flocculent Accumulation (MOSSFA) events and provide tools to enhance decision-

making. She wrote sections on Arctic conditions and potential shallow water events, and developed a decision-tree and supporting information for emergency responders and planners to help evaluate the potential for MOS/MOSSFA to reach the benthic environment. The resulting manuscript *“Integrating marine oil snow sedimentation and flocculent accumulation (MOSSFA) events into oil spill response and damage assessment”* has been published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin. CIRCAC funded the open-source publication costs to ensure the widest accessibility.

Technical Review Program:

Our Director of Science & Research assists or leads CIRCAC’s review of the technical aspects of proposed new regulations or amendments. CIRCAC’s Protocol Control Committee is charged with approving our positions on regulations and contingency plan reviews conducted by staff. A full synopsis of comments submitted during this application period is found in Section 5, but during this application period included:

- APDES Individual Permit for Furie Operating Alaska (KLU Julius R Platform)
- Environmental Impact Statement Review to BOEM for Outer Continental Shelf lease sale in lower Cook Inlet [note at this writing the public comment period and hearings were cancelled; the lease sale was later cancelled as well.]
- BOEM Environmental Studies Plan – and submitted study plan ideas
- House Bill 82: Establishing the Alaska Invasive Species Council – CIRCAC reviewed the draft bill and submitted letter of support for the legislation

Staff has been appointed to the Alaska Regional Response Team’s (ARRT) Wildlife Protection Committee. This fulfills requirements of the National Contingency Plan to ensure that the ARRT’s Area Contingency Plan includes “... coordinated, immediate and effective protection, rescue and rehabilitation of, and minimization of risk of injury to ... wildlife resources and habitat.”

4. Monitoring program. *The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the advisory group develops and carries out an effective monitoring program (terminal operation and maintenance, cleanups, drills).*

Site tours:

The Council strives to provide opportunities for volunteers and staff to visit critical sites and operations throughout our Areas of Responsibility and Concern. The pandemic, declared in mid-February 2020 and extended into 2021, largely prevented on-site visits.

Incidents:

- Crude Oil
 - 1 June, 2020 – *T/V Overseas Boston* experiences engine malfunction at Marathon’s Marine Port during routine, required maneuvers while operating in Cook Inlet
 - 5 July, 2020 – 32 gallons of oil captured in containment, and 10 gallons released to gravel pad during a ‘hot oil treatment’ of the well
 - 15 December, 2020 – Hilcorp reported 190 bbl of oil released into secondary containment due to a failed pipe at the Trading Bay Production Facility. Personnel from Hilcorp, CISPRI and a contractor cleaned up, removed the failed pipe for analysis.

- Non-crude/Other – while these fall outside our OPA 90 mandates, we pursue updates and inform our Board on non-crude incidents in our Area of Responsibility and beyond. These help to inform our Directors on response capabilities, performance and other considerations of interest to Cook Inlet.
 - 12 April, 2020 – over 53,000 gallons of oil/water mix collected in the Valdez Marine Terminal caused by an overflow in a sump
 - 18 April, 2020 – Staff contacted all operators to inquire about specific Covid-19 protocols implemented which may impact operations and response capabilities
 - 4 June, 2020 – a discharge of over 6.1 million gallons of fuel into a river when a tank collapsed at a power plant in the Russian Arctic
 - 21 July, 2020 – staff contacted all operators for reports of any damage or changes to operations resulting from an earthquake and expected tsunami centered near Kodiak Island.
 - 22 July, 2020 – the USCG and Homer Port and Harbor cooperated to offload fuel oil from the abandoned *M/V North Pacific Gold*. The vessel has been removed from the water and in July 2021 will be dismantled and disposed of as scrap.
 - 25 July, 2020 – grounding of the *M/V Wakashio* cargo carrier on the reefs of Mauritius
 - 30 September, 2020 – grounding of CISPRI’s Barge 141 where it settled on an abandoned engine block on the beach in Nikiski. 10 gallons of diesel were recovered. CISPRI remained in compliance with C-Plan requirements. The

barge has been repaired and returned to service. On 18 December CISPRI purchased the 80,000 bbl *Sasanoa Barge* primarily for contingency temporary storage capacity.

- 26 December, 2020 – USCG *Cutter Spar* releases hydraulic oil in Women’s Bay, Kodiak Island
- 14 January, 2021 – *Tug Courageous* allides with *T/V Polar Endeavor* in Valdez Marine Terminal. There was no discharge.
- 1 April, 2021 – A fuel gas leak from a subsea pipeline was reported by Hilcorp. Their Platforms A and C were shut in. At this writing, the cause remains under investigation. Repairs are planned when sea ice permits.

Drills:

Council staff participates in both drill planning activities and drill exercises. Due to Covid-19 precautions, drills were held virtually; during this application period, we participated in or studied the results of the following:

- CISPRI field deployment 23 July, 2020
- Glacier Oil – 5 August, 2020
- Hilcorp/Harvest – 8 October virtual drill, postponed from May 2020;
- Hilcorp Drill Planning annual joint field exercise; virtual segments conclude with a field deployment scheduled for June 2021, incorporating GRID training and use.

C-Plan reviews:

As a state-named Plan reviewer, CIRCAC effectively monitors industry operations by examining the adequacy of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans and other regulations for the terminal facilities and crude oil tankers. [Specifics of our work in this regard follow in Section 5 below.]

Research:

Staff conducts and supports field research in the vicinity of oil facility operations in the Cook Inlet and Kodiak Island areas. Further, we review industry data required or provided by agreement, including reports on their monitoring activities and platform discharges [covered in Section 3 above].

Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Study – first pursued as part of the Cook Inlet Navigation Risk Assessment, CIRCAC will update the vessel traffic study in 2021, and every 3 years thereafter.

Cook Inlet Pipeline Risk Assessment – CIRCAC undertook a Pipeline Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet. It was released in June 2020; it has been presented to interested parties and may be found on our website.

Regulatory Comments:

Examples of our formal communications to industry and government pertaining to C-Plans, regulations, legislation, response requirements and more may be found in Section 5 below. Comment letters are available.

5. Efforts to prevent oil spills and to plan for responding to, containing, cleaning up, and mitigating impacts of oil spills. *The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the advisory group:*

CIRCAC routinely engages in initiatives and activities – independently and in partnerships – which promote practices, technologies and regulations intended to prevent and respond to oil spills.

State Regulatory and Funding Issues:

With a new Governor and Legislature, and the state budget in flux, Alaska is going through a financial transition in 2020 and 2021, while departments are attempting to do more with less. Staff became aware in 2019 that DEC was planning revisions to the state’s C-Plan requirements for industry; we have voiced our insistence on being part of any process to amend C-Plan requirements. CIRCAC has provided comments on the regulatory process, funding, staffing levels and DEC training. Commissioner Brune has provided updates to the Council as requested.

Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT):

Staff attended the February ARRT meeting, which included individual Area plan committee reports; an update on the Barge 141 grounding and Trading Bay facility slop oil spill; discussion of the non-crude streamlined C-plan regulation changes, a presentation on dispersant capabilities for Alaska; and an operational update from Hilcorp.

Geographic Resources Information Database (GRID):

Staff and our primary contractor introduced GRID to the Hilcorp drill planning committee. GRID training was provided at the Hilcorp March drill exercise segment. We have begun collecting data for upper Cook Inlet. Once the upper Inlet data is collected, we will collect data for Kodiak to complete the dataset for CIRCAC’s area of responsibility and area of concern. Once the GRID has been proven it will be included in the Cook Inlet Response Tool for use during emergencies.

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT):

CIRT continues to be accessed by responsible parties and agencies during Cook Inlet oil spill drills and actual discharges to provide shoreline imagery and mapped data for oil spill planning and response decisions. CIRCAC is integrating GRID into the CIRT tool so that data can be visualized with the dozens of other data layers already available. CIRCAC is in discussions with agencies and the Oil Spill Recovery Institute to initiate a pilot project to better incorporate Environmental Sensitivity Index data with ShoreZone data and conduct a “cross-walk” of shoreline categories.

Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC):

In 2018 CIRCAC initiated a dialogue with AVTEC to establish a scholarship program for students pursuing maritime training at the facility. Marathon Petroleum Maritime and CIRCAC each continue to contribute \$1,250 annually to an award presented by the faculty.

Winter Ice Guidelines:

The annual Pre-Winter Meeting sponsored by Marathon Petroleum Maritime and supported by the United States Coast Guard, CIRCAC, and the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, was held in December 2020. An update on CIRCAC's Ice Monitoring Camera Network – including upgrades, new equipment, and an expansion of shared access (see item below) – was provided, as was a briefing from the NOAA Ice Forecaster and the Coast Guard Commander Sector Anchorage. This critical meeting addresses Cook Inlet-specific operating limitations, procedures and policies. At this writing, the Guidelines were about to be suspended.

Ice Camera Monitoring Network:

CIRCAC removed the ice monitoring camera from the shut in Osprey platform. However, Ice Monitoring Network upgrades continued in 2020 and into 2021. A new camera location has been developed at the Marathon Nikiski LNG Dock to replace the camera at the now-closed ASRC facility. The existing camera at the Port of Alaska has been scheduled for replacement as part of our ongoing maintenance program. Finally, the images from the Ice Monitoring Network are now available to the Coast Guard Command Center, the United States Air Force, the Marathon Marine Superintendent, and the Southwest Alaska Pilots Association.

Harbor Safety Committee:

The Harbor Safety Committee (HSC), formed in 2017, is continuing its groundbreaking work. The Harbor Safety Plan workgroup (Chaired by CIRCAC Director of Operations Steven “Vinnie” Catalano) completed its annual update of the Plan as part of the Public Review process. CIRCAC Executive Director Mike Munger serves on the Managing Board; Vinnie Catalano (Primary) and Shaylon Cochran (Alternate) serve on the HSC.

Regulatory Reviews & Alaska Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP, or C-Plans):

As mentioned in Section 2, CIRCAC regularly reviews and provides comments regarding C-Plans for crude oil operations, and proposed C-Plan amendments. Likewise CIRCAC provides comments through our Protocol Control Committee regarding proposed regulations and/or proposed changes to current regulations which would have an effect on oil spill prevention, response or safety. These communications allow us to interact with both industry and agency personnel. We submitted targeted comments to the appropriate federal or state agency on the following matters during the application period (in no particular order):

- United States Coast Guard: information collection request on the National Response Resource Inventory; Note that CIRCAC offered a briefing on the use of, and training on the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) and Geographic Response Information Database (GRID), addressed just above in this section of the application.
- United States Coast Guard: information collection request on expanded regulations on vessel Certification of Financial Responsibility

- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE): information collection request for oil spill response requirements for facilities located seaward of the coastline
- BSEE: information collection request on pipelines and pipeline Rights-of-Way
- Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA): notice of proposed rulemaking in Inspections and Investigations section
- BlueCrest Alaska Operating: Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan for the Hansen Production Facility
- BlueCrest Alaska Operating: Cook Inlet offshore exploratory drilling program
- Furie: request to modify its C-Plan for the current status of offshore exploration wells KLU 1, KLU 2A and KLU 4 from “Suspended” to “Plugged and Abandoned”, allowing it to leave pipes above the seabed
- Tesoro Kenai Pipeline Company: ODPCP comments on the Kenai Pipeline plan
- Harvest Alaska: ODPCP revisions for Swanson River Oil Pipeline plan
- Alaska Inland Area Contingency Plan: this section covers Kodiak and all of Alaska from 1000 yards above high tide mark
- Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy apply to suspend its operations in Cook Inlet

Should you wish to review these comments, they are posted on www.circac.org; hard copies will be made available upon request.

Individual CIRCAC staff members serve in primary and alternate capacities on the Kenai Peninsula Local Area Planning Committee (LEPC), and we have provided comments to Borough staff as it has re-written its Emergency Management Plan. In addition, staff served on the Borough’s initial steering group to establish FEMA’s “*Whole Community*” initiative on the Kenai Peninsula for disaster response and recovery locally.

6. Funding. *The Coast Guard will determine whether the advisory group has entered into a contract for funding in accordance with the requirements of 33 U.S.C. 2732(o) and will review the advisory group's expenditure of those funds.*

The companies obligated to fund CIRCAC in 2020 and 2021 are:

- Marathon Petroleum
- Hilcorp Alaska
- BlueCrest Operating Alaska
- Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy
- Furie Operating Alaska
- Hex, LLC

As of this writing, all companies are current on their funding payments and obligation, with the exception of Hex, LLC. The company is currently not in compliance with the funding provisions outlined in OPA 90. CIRCAC staff has been working with Sector Anchorage's Commander Captain Leanne Lusk and D-17 Staff Judge Advocate Captain Christopher Coutu to determine the proper enforcement mechanism to ensure that the funding obligation is met. A current five-year funding agreement is part of this application **(Attached)**. Operators are invoiced in December and again in May of each year. We are providing our 2020 and 2021 Operating and Program Budgets for your review as well **(Attached)**.

CIRCAC undergoes an annual financial audit, which is offered to the funding companies for review. In addition, a provision of the contract allows the funding companies to call for a special financial audit. To date, none has been requested.

7. Accessibility of Application. *The Coast Guard's review will include an examination of the extent to which the advisory group provided notification to the public via local press releases that it has applied for certification and, the extent to which the advisory council has ensured that the application is accessible for public review. Describe:*

Upon completion and submission to the United States Coast Guard, the application was promoted and made available to the public for review in the following means:

Website – Application has been posted to our website – www.circac.org.

E-Newsletters – Our April and May newsletters have notified recipients of the recertification process in progress, and to contact CIRCAC for a copy or additional information.

CIRCAC Office – A hard copy file is maintained for public review at CIRCAC's corporate office: 8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, Alaska; that access however is limited currently due to Covid-19 protocols.

Stakeholders – Notifications by announcement at our April Board meeting, through our Directors Reports, and via an e-mailed notification sent directly to our individual Interest Group stakeholder organizations.

Paid Print Advertising – CIRCAC advertised the availability of the application for review in newspapers of local circulation within our Geographic Area of Responsibility and Area of Concern (*Anchorage Daily News, Peninsula Clarion, Homer News, Homer Tribune, and Kodiak Daily Mirror*, and to the widely distributed *What's New* weekly environmental online newsletter). Readers are directed to our website to view the application, or to our physical office address to review a paper copy.

Media/Social Media Releases – Information releases and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been submitted at this same time to these same newspapers, as well as local radio and television stations within our areas of concern and responsibility. Readers, listeners and viewers are directed to our website or to our physical office address for a paper copy.

Miscellaneous. *In addition to the key activities referenced above, we offer a number of important administrative functions for consideration before concluding this report.*

Governing Documents:

CIRCAC has remained in full compliance with its By Laws, Council and Personnel Policies. None of these governing documents were amended during this period; staff reviewed all Personnel Policies in 2020, and recommendations for updates were provided.

Financial Audit & Tax Filings:

Auditors found no exceptions to Council finances during the 2019 financial audit, performed in mid-2020. Field work for the audit, and the delivery of the firm's report, were delayed by the pandemic, but were presented to the Council's Executive Committee and Audit Committee. The Council's professional firm filed a federal 990 tax return for 2019 on our behalf. Documents pertaining to these are available upon request.

Insurance, Licenses and Registrations:

CIRCAC is current on all state licenses and registrations, and Council insurance policies. Further, all of our grant management and reporting requirements are up-to-date.

Office Lease:

The Council is negotiating a three year extension of the lease for its headquarters office in Kenai.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of April 2021 by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council.



Michael L. Munger
Executive Director

Atts: Operating Budgets 2020 and 2021
Board of Directors Report
E-Newsletter
Funding Agreement



Update from the Board of Directors Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

John Williams, President, representing the City of Kenai

As with our previous council meetings this year, the December 4th CIRCAC Board of Directors meeting was held via video conference. We will continue to conduct Council business remotely to ensure the safety of CIRCAC directors, staff and our industry and government colleagues.

We were happy to be able to meet with two new Ex-Officio members of our board; United States Coast Guard Sector Anchorage Capt. Leanne Lusk, who will represent USCG and Anthony Strupulis who will represent the State Pipeline Coordinator's Office.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Jason Brune attended the meeting and gave another update on ADEC's review of state statutes and regulations regarding oil spill contingency plans. This review was announced in October of 2019 and Brune said ADEC staff is still working through the review, but anticipates recommendations to be made public later this year.

As we have stated since this process began, it is our position that any changes to state statute regarding oil spill preparedness and prevention laws should only strengthen current protections. While we respect the Dunleavy administration's wish to market Alaska as 'open for business', our focus will continue to be ensuring that no shortcuts are taken that could increase oil spill risks to Cook Inlet's sensitive resources. We look forward to seeing the Governor's proposed budget later this month, which will indicate the administration's priorities for the state's Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) program. ADEC's budget has been cut by nearly half in just eight years and we support an increase in the state's fuel surcharge to help rebuild the SPAR budget to safeguard against spill risk.

Our other main agenda item for this meeting was to review and approve CIRCAC's five-year strategic plan. This evolving document identifies Council priorities and provides guidance for CIRCAC staff, committees and the Board when developing annual work plans and budgets. A list of Council priorities, which can carry over from one five-year period to the next, elevates particular goals, ensuring focused attention by the organization. Looking ahead to 2021-2026, the Council identified and approved two new priorities.

The first aims to develop an understanding of current and planned activities associated with Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas in lower Cook Inlet. Much of CIRCAC's work over the past 30 years has focused on oil industry operations and transportation in the upper Inlet. However, over the past few years there has been a significant increase in activity in lower Cook Inlet. We seek to identify risks and potential consequences associated with OCS areas in lower Cook Inlet and outline our main concerns or

potential recommendations for input on Draft Environmental Impact Statements, Seismic Permit Applications, Drilling Plans, Environmental Monitoring Plans and more.

Another new priority approved by the Board is compilation of a comprehensive library of Cook Inlet oil industry and activities. We feel CIRCAC should serve as a clearinghouse for relevant information regarding things like facility history, ownership, modifications, current status and activities associated with each platform and facility in Cook Inlet. Web-based data tools and applications are finally making a project of this scale possible and the information would be summarized annually as part of a State of the Inlet report and be made available to the public.

Overall, despite the inherent difficulties of working remotely, CIRCAC continues to fulfill its mission on behalf of the residents of Cook Inlet. Like everyone, we are very much looking forward to a return to normal, but we have refined our operations to meet these challenges for the foreseeable future.

Moving ahead, we will soon be launching our election and appointment process and our annual scholarship program.

Our 2021 meeting schedule will include the Annual Meeting on April 9th in Kenai and regular meetings on September 10th in Seldovia and December 2-3 in Anchorage, with locations subject to change based on public health conditions.

On behalf of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, I'd like to wish you a healthy and safe holiday season.



COOK INLET Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Representing citizens in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet since 1990.



Board of Directors Update

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Annual and Board of Directors meeting was held virtually on April 9th, 2021. Remote meetings continue as a precaution to protect the health and safety of CIRCAC staff and directors.

Representatives from Hilcorp provided an update on the natural gas pipeline leak that was identified on April 1st. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) was notified that same day. The product being released was processed dry natural gas, containing more than 98 percent methane. The leak occurred between Hilcorp-owned Platform A and the Nikiski shore facility. The pipeline provides fuel gas to Platform A and Platform C. The pipeline has since been shut in and an investigation into the cause of the leak is ongoing. This same pipeline experienced a leak in 2017. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued a corrective order that the pipeline be replaced within one year. CIRCAC will continue to monitor the progress of both the investigation into the leak and the planning process for the pipeline's replacement.

[See the full update here](#)



Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee meets

The Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (CIHSC) met virtually on March 10th. The committee connects environmental, marine and business interests in the region and, with a focus on maritime safety, shares some common goals with CIRCAC.

"It's been great to see this group come together," said Michael Munger, CIRCAC Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer for the CIHSC Managing Board. "This committee serves as a forum for maritime operators to collaborate and ensure the highest standards of safety in navigation and we're proud to be a part of that effort."

[Learn more about the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee here](#)



USCG Commandant gives annual address

The commandant of the Coast Guard delivered his third State of the Coast Guard Address Thursday at Coast Guard Sector San Diego.

During the address, Adm. Karl Schulz made multiple policy and acquisition announcements including:

- Initiatives to support the Coast Guard workforce
- Updates on the status of the Coast Guard's aviation and cutter fleets and critical acquisitions including the offshore patrol cutter and polar security cutter
- An update to the Coast Guard's future Arctic operations

[Read Adm. Schulz's full remarks here.](#)

[Incidents](#)

[Media](#)

[Photos](#)

[Library](#)

[Calendar](#)



COOK INLET
REGIONAL CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONNECT

8195 Kenai Spur Highway

Kenai Alaska 99611

Phone: 907-283-7222

Free: 800-652-7222

Fax: 907-283-6102

CONTACT COOK INLET



Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council | 8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK 99611

[Unsubscribe jamora@circac.org](mailto:Unsubscribe_jamora@circac.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by shayloncochran@circac.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!

**COOK INLET RCAC 2020-2021
APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET**

based only on funds received from the Charter Funding Companies

| DRAFT | 2020 Operating Budget | 2021 Operating Budget |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| Charter Funding Companies | \$1,455,176.40 | \$1,493,010.99 |
| ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT | \$37,834.59 | |
| Subtotal | \$1,493,010.99 | \$1,493,010.99 |
| OPERATING EXPENSES | | |
| Personnel and Insurance Costs | \$986,700.00 | \$966,250.00 |
| Facilities | \$54,000.00 | \$63,000.00 |
| Office Supplies/Equipment/Furniture/Computers | \$25,550.00 | \$25,550.00 |
| Advertising/Gifts/Subscriptions | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Postage/Delivery | \$1,700.00 | \$1,700.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$9,010.99 | \$15,460.99 |
| TRAVEL EXPENSES | | |
| Administrative Travel, Meals & Lodging | \$43,750.00 | \$48,750.00 |
| Council/Committee Travel, Meals & Lodging | \$36,000.00 | \$36,000.00 |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | | |
| Professional Services (Workplan Related) | | |
| Council | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| EMC | \$125,000.00 | \$125,000.00 |
| PROPS | \$115,000.00 | \$105,000.00 |
| Protocol | \$10,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |
| Public Involvement | \$35,000.00 | \$35,000.00 |
| Subtotal | \$285,000.00 | \$285,000.00 |
| Legal Expenses | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Certified Public Accountant | \$14,400.00 | \$14,400.00 |
| LEGISLATIVE MONITORING EXPENSES | | |
| Legislative Monitoring | \$16,900.00 | \$16,900.00 |
| TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET | \$1,493,010.99 | \$1,493,010.99 |

AGREEMENT FOR COOK INLET RCAC FUNDING

The companies listed on Attachment A ("Charter Funding Companies") are required by the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) to provide annual funding to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council ("Cook Inlet RCAC"). The Charter Funding Companies agree to provide such funding subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. This Agreement is signed in counterparts, with each individual Charter Funding Company signing this Agreement separately. Each counterpart shall constitute a duplicate original; all counterparts together shall constitute a single agreement.

2. Each individual Charter Funding Company shall pay its share of Cook Inlet RCAC's funding in the amount described in Attachment A. Cook Inlet RCAC will submit an invoice to each Charter Funding Company for the amount due from that company thirty (30) days prior to the due date; provided, however, that failure to send or receive such invoice does not relieve the company from its obligation to timely pay each payment due. Each Charter Funding Company's share is due and payable in full directly to Cook Inlet RCAC by no later than January 1 of each year during the term of this Agreement. A company's annual share may be paid in two installments: the first installment of fifty percent (50%) of the annual payment shall be paid by no later than January 1 each year, and the second installment of fifty percent (50%) of the annual payment shall be paid by no later than June 30 each year. If an installment is not received by Cook Inlet RCAC on or before the due date, the entire annual share becomes due and payable in full.

3. Cook Inlet RCAC's funding under this Agreement will be adjusted annually, as of January 1 of each year, using the following formula:

2021 - \$1,493,010.98, plus an increase equal to the 2020 Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI);

2022 - Total funding for 2021, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2021 multiplied by the 2021 Anchorage CPI;

2023 - Total funding for 2022, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2022 multiplied by the 2022 Anchorage CPI;

2024- Total funding for 2023, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2023 multiplied by the 2023 Anchorage CPI;

2025- Total funding for 2024, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2024 multiplied by the 2024 Anchorage CPI.

4. The term of this Agreement is from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025. Funding adjustments in paragraph 3 are effective December 1 for the following year.

5. It is understood that the share of funding provided by individual Charter Funding Companies may vary from year to year, and that companies may be added to or deleted from Attachment A depending upon industry activity in Cook Inlet. Attachment A may be modified by the Charter Funding Companies to reflect such additions, deletions or changes in activities, and such modification shall be forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC by no later than December 1 each year; provided, however, that any such modification is not effective until the next funding year. Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response (CISPRI) shall confirm the accuracy and provide

documentation of the share of funding by the individual companies based on the volumes reported to CISPRI by the Charter Funding Companies or by virtue of exploration in Cook Inlet for crude oil and/or natural gas before Attachment A is forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC, and such documentation shall accompany the updated Attachment A forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC.

6. If a new company commences activities related to crude oil or natural gas exploration in Cook Inlet, said company shall pay a minimum of \$50,000 per year as its share of Cook Inlet RCAC's funding under Section 3, above.

7. It is also understood that if additional production or transportation or exploration sources are developed by the Charter Funding Companies or other new companies operating in Cook Inlet that will require additional filing of oil spill contingency plans, monitoring or oversight by Cook Inlet RCAC, funding shall be increased to cover this increased activity and the parties shall in good faith negotiate said increase.

8. Cook Inlet RCAC will provide the Charter Funding Companies with a copy of its annual report and financial statement. The Charter Funding Companies may jointly audit Cook Inlet RCAC accounts once per year, at the companies' expense. Cook Inlet RCAC will also provide the Charter Funding Companies at no charge with copies of the minutes of all Council and Committee meetings, along with any reports, recommendations or position papers which are prepared by the Council or its Committees, if requested by the Charter Funding Companies.

9. Funds provided to Cook Inlet RCAC by the Charter Funding Companies pursuant to this Agreement are to be used for the purpose stated in OPA 90, Alaska State Law, the Bylaws of Cook Inlet RCAC and its Strategic Plan, as applicable.

10. A Charter Funding Company shall not be released from the obligation to provide funding as described above as long as: 1) Cook Inlet RCAC retains OPA 90 certification during the term of this Agreement; 2) a Company operates oil facilities, produces, transports or explores for crude oil or natural gas in the Cook Inlet area.

11. Each individual Charter Funding Company agrees to provide written notice to Cook Inlet RCAC if such company intends to cease operating in Cook Inlet, at least ninety (90) days in advance of said cessation, and agrees further to cover all of its funding obligations to Cook Inlet RCAC until the end of the calendar year in which such company ceases operating in Cook Inlet.

12. If a Charter Funding Company fails to pay any installment due under Paragraph 2, above, within sixty (60) days of the date it is due, Cook Inlet RCAC may notify all Charter Funding Companies of such default. Within forty-five (45) days of such notice, the remaining Charter Funding Companies will provide to Cook Inlet RCAC payment in full of any installment payment due from the defaulting company.

13. In the event that a Charter Funding Company files for bankruptcy and Cook Inlet RCAC is required to defend against any claim for refund of any payment made by such Company under this Agreement, or is ordered by the bankruptcy court to refund such payment, Cook Inlet RCAC shall notify all remaining Charter Funding Companies of such claim or order, and the remaining Charter Funding Companies will cover Cook Inlet RCAC's reasonable defense costs or reasonable costs of compliance with such order.

14. If the Charter Funding Companies fail to make up a funding default as provided in paragraph 11, or fail to cover Cook Inlet RCAC's bankruptcy costs as provided in paragraph 12, Cook Inlet RCAC may terminate this Agreement upon no less than thirty (30) days written notice to all the Charter Funding Companies, and may pursue any legal or political remedies available.

15. This Agreement cannot be amended, modified or supplemented in any respect except by a subsequent written agreement entered into by Cook Inlet RCAC and all of the Charter Funding Companies.

END OF AGREEMENT

CHARTER FUNDING COMPANY: Marathon Petroleum Corporation
(Name)

DATE: _____

BY: _____
(print name)

TITLE: _____

COOK INLET CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: _____

BY: _____
(print name)

TITLE: _____