



"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

*Tourism
Group*

*Alaska Native
Group*

*Environmental
Group*

*Recreation
Group*

*Aquaculture
Associations*

*Commercial
Fishing Group*

City of Kodiak

City of Kenai

City of Seldovia

City of Homer

*Kodiak Island
Borough*

*Kenai Peninsula
Borough*

*Municipality of
Anchorage*

10 May, 2022

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

RE: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Recertification Application for 1 September, 2022 to 31 August, 2023

Admiral Moore:

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council is 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 April 2021.

Admiral Moore, my staff was able to have a remote pre-submittal conference with Lt. Lauren Bloch in advance of the preparation of this application. We have had the good fortune of working with LT. Bloch for a second year; her guidance this year was extremely beneficial.

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. Our staff has not relaxed in the performance of our duties, as evidenced by the ongoing, evolving and growing programs and projects detailed throughout the enclosed application.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you or your staff 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.

Sincerely,


Michael Munger
Executive Director

Enclosures

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Recertification Application 2022/2023
Submitted 10 May, 2022

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 2021/2022 application to the United States Coast Guard (USCG). In it, we particularly confirm work undertaken since our last recertification application was submitted, on 28 April, 2021, while emphasizing activities engaged in since Rear Admiral N. A. Moore's official recertification effective 1 September, 2021. Many relevant programs and projects identified here are continuations of long-running, multi-year activities, while others are just being initiated.

While most programs and projects are likely to originate and be completed within the direction of 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. Others may include partnerships with academia, industry, and government.

References made throughout 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 apply to Director Shaylon Cochran; while Administrative staff would include Executive Director Mike Munger and Director of Administration Maddie Jamora, with Cassandra Johnson, Candice Elias and Jerry Rombach providing support.

We are following the Application format provided by the United States 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 not attached here, but are available at the Council's website www.circac.org, or by request; these are pointed out in the narrative which follows.

Upon submittal, this application will be posted to CIRCAC's website and advertised 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.*

Membership:

CIRCAC was formed as a voluntary organization under Section 5002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), Subchapter O. The Act identifies the Interest Groups (six special interests and seven local units of government) to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Individual organizations which make up these Groups are known as our “Certified Members”. These organizations – and their members – are located throughout our Area of Responsibility and Area of Concern. Our obligations to stakeholders are memorialized in our By Laws and Council Policies.

We currently have a total of fifty-two (52) individual special interest organizations in the 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 (12)
- Aquaculture Associations (2)
- Tourism (8)
- Municipality of Anchorage
- City of Seldovia
- City of Kenai
- City of Homer
- City of Kodiak
- Kodiak Island Borough
- Kenai Peninsula Borough

Membership Development:

Five of our Interest Groups – commercial fishing, Alaska Native, environmental, recreation and tourism – present an ongoing opportunity to engage and recruit organizations to become Certified Members of CIRCAC. We continually seek to build the membership ranks of these interest groups by initiating contact with non-member organizations, through in-person visits, advertising and our direct communications: Board reports, news releases, e-newsletters, Annual Report, social media and the many meeting notifications throughout the year. Among its tasks, CIRCAC’s Credentials Committee is charged with reviewing the credentials of qualified stakeholder organizations seeking membership. Two organizations in the Tourism Group were certified during this period: Visit Anchorage, and the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce.

Elections/Appointments:

Interest groups either appoint (governmental) or elect (special interest) their representative to the Council; Directors serve three-year terms, which are staggered to ensure continuity of leadership. In 2022, terms for the seats representing Tourism, Recreation, the Municipality of Anchorage and the City of Seldovia are set to expire in April. As prescribed by Council Policy #4, relevant member groups were formally notified of the upcoming expirations – by letter and e-mail communication in early December 2021 – and invited to participate in this process. The process lasts 120 days, and includes advertising,

recruitment of stakeholder groups, calls for nominations, and secret ballots, with specified deadlines for each step. Staff and incumbent Directors strive to meet with affected organizations throughout the year, but particularly during this active period of the election/appointment 'season', a strategy which required additional attention to overcome pandemic protocols.

In a unique development, in 2022 the Recreation Group members failed to nominate a representative – either the incumbent or a new candidate – a scenario not specifically addressed in Council Policy. Legal counsel determined that by state law, absent a nominee our Board may elect a director at the Annual Meeting. Recreation Group members were so notified.

The Committee's other task is to certify that the election/appointment process followed meets the prescribed requirements of Council Policy. The Committee met and has so certified, recommending the Board seat the above individuals during the Council's Annual Meeting on 8 April.

The Board in fact elected incumbent Bob Flint to represent the Recreation Group. Long-time Director Molly McCammon chose not to be considered for reappointment by the Municipality of Anchorage; Mr. Hans Rodvik has been appointed to fill that seat. The remaining incumbent Directors were re-appointed or re-elected to serve full three-year terms: the Tourism Group re-elected Robert Peterkin, II, and the City of Seldovia re-appointed Walt Sonen.

Steps will continue throughout the year to prepare for the upcoming election cycle, which for 2023 targets seats dedicated to the Alaska Native Group, Environmental stakeholders, the Kodiak Island Borough, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Officers and Committee Assignments:

During the 2022 Annual Meeting, the Board made the following election of Officers, and appointments 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, Robert Peterkin, Scott Arndt
- Credentials Committee – John Williams, Robert Peterkin, Grace Merkes, Michael Opheim
- Environmental Monitoring Committee – Paul Shadura, Deric Marcorelle, Gary Fandrei, Carla Stanley, Michael Opheim, Grace Merkes
- 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 Marcocelle, Paul Shadura, Rob Lindsey, Gary Fandrei

Public Members:

Concurrent with implementing the election and appointment process for designated seats on the Board of Directors, CIRCAC responds to OPA90 mandates by providing members of the general public opportunities to serve on our standing EMC and PROPS Committees as Public Members. We recruit primarily through advertisements, PSAs and word-of-mouth. In 2022, member Robert Reges chose to step down from EMC and PROPS committee service. Incumbent Public Members Rick Frederick and Bruce Magyar were re-appointed to the EMC, while former Director Molly McCammon was also appointed to a new 3-year term. While also losing Scott Hamann, who along with Mr. Reges retired after many years of service, PROPS retained incumbent Ted Moore, and added new members Cathy Foerster and Wendell Tuisaula.

Recognition:

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 our outreach efforts:

- Council Resolution honoring long-time Director Molly McCammon, representing the Municipality of Anchorage since 2004. Molly has served as President, as Chair of the Executive Committee, as Chair of the Environmental Monitoring Committee, and on the Audit and Protocol Control Committees
- Council Resolution honoring Alaska Congressman Don Young, who served 49 years while earning the title Dean of the House, and passed away in March 2022. Rep. Young was a co-sponsor and leading proponent of OPA 90.
- Science Director Susan Saupe received the 2021 Legacy Award from the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force for her “...*outstanding career in improving oil spill response in Alaska; for her tireless persistence and relentless partnership-building; for her excellent leadership and dedication to oil spill prevention, preparedness and response.*”

At its April 2022 Board of Directors meeting, CIRCAC also honored Aquaculture Association representative and Board President Gary Fandrei as the recipient of our 2021 “Captain Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year Award”. In addition, we recognized the following for attaining milestone anniversaries of volunteer service:

- 15 years – Bob Flint, Director representing the Recreation Group; Bob also serves on the Protocol Control Committee and the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee; and Ted Moore, who serves as a Public Member on PROPS
- 10 years – Walt Sonen, Director representing the City of Seldovia; and Jan Hansen, a Public Member serving on the PROPS Committee

Stakeholder Engagement:

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 invited at these meetings as well. While our meetings have been restricted to 'virtual' formats due to Covid-19 pandemic protocols, these presentations continued. If permitted, presentations are archived on our website.

In addition, we provide Incident Reports of discharges and other incidents to local stakeholders. These reports are guided by policy stemming from OPA 90 mandates and our Strategic Plan. We also distribute reports on incidents that provide particular insights, or will likely gain broad public attention, in order to keep our Board and stakeholders informed. [Specific incidents are covered in greater detail in Section 4.]

To share our story and learn from others, we regularly attend meetings, events and programs of stakeholders, and 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. We participate in community functions which are produced by, or are of interest to, our members and partners, such as Industry Appreciation Day in Kenai. 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. [Details presented in Sec. 2 below]

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 and agencies; 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; as we submit this application, we have a single vacant seat, which opened in January. 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)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (Robert Whittier)
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Dr. Heather Crowley)
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Graham Wood, Acting)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Jonathon Schick)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Catherine Berg)
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (Vacant at this writing)
- 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's or their own activities during Board and Committee meetings.

Meeting Presentations:

CIRCAC's Board and Committee meetings are widely advertised and open to the public. They typically feature one or more presentations by representatives of industry, agencies, research partners, staff or others offering insights into ongoing research, best available technology, programs and projects, regulations or developments of particular interest to all stakeholders.

Despite CIRCAC relying on virtual meetings, the following made presentations to our Board or Committees:

- Captain Leanne Lusk, United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Commissioner Jason Brune, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
- Captain Marc Bayer, Vice President of Marine Operations, Marathon Petroleum
- Jade Gamble and Anna Carey, ADEC
- Commander John Downing and Lt. Luke Milyard, USCG
- Sarah Moore, ADEC
- Dr. Pat Tomco, University of Alaska Anchorage
- Kris Holderied, Director – NOAA’s Kasitsna Bay Laboratory
- Kevin Reeve, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Tiffany Larson, Director – Spill Prevention and Response, ADEC
- Dr. Eric Klein, University of Alaska Anchorage and EMC Member
- Lori Nelson, Hilcorp
- Joseph Farrell, III, Deputy CEO – Resolve Marine
- Dr. Heather Crowley, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Graham Wood, PP&R Program Manager, ADEC
- Jonathon Schick, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Anna Kohl, HDR Engineering
- Vanessa Hughes, Jennifer Starck, and Jeff Lisonbee, Hilcorp/Harvest Alaska
- Brian Webb, Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy
- Diane Dunham, Hilcorp
- Luke Saugier, Hilcorp
- Paul Mazzolini, Hilcorp
- Tasha Bacher, Hilcorp
- Dan Polito, Hilcorp
- Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research
- Alisha Chartier, Nuka Research
- Sue Saupe, Director of Science and Research – CIRCAC
- 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.

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. CIRCAC's Strategic Plan received a complete review and update in 2020/21. While a major review was not undertaken in 2021/22, the PROPS Committee did take action to update Goals and Strategies relative to the GRS and Risk Assessment Programs within the Strategic Plan. These will be presented for consideration at the next Board planning session. The most recent amended document and annual updates are archived on our website at <https://www.circac.org/who-we-are/long-range-plan>.

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. CIRCAC commissioned an updated Vessel Traffic Study for Cook Inlet, sharing the results with stakeholders and the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee. We continue to expand access to our Ice Camera Network. Other ongoing examples include 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 ... a need made glaringly evident by the tanker truck spill near Ninilchik. CIRCAC continues to improve efforts to share scientific data and make it readily accessible to users by serving data via on-line tools, such as on AOOS and NOAA data portals to serve coastal imagery and habitat data, and are working with BOEM to make all historical contaminant data for Cook Inlet available on-line. We also work with our contractors and partners to publish research data to ensure it is available in scientific literature.

Direct Communication:

Our most effective forms of contact are our well-established, trusted, direct lines of communications with individuals at all levels of industry and government. For example, Rear Admiral N. A. Moore, Commander D-17 and his staff spent several hours with CIRCAC's Executive Director and Director of Science discussing the Council's history, programs and projects. 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. Our 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, as a named plan reviewer, CIRCAC has provided comments on such topics as Alaska Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (C-Plans), proposed regulations or amendments, new legislation, permitting, funding matters, draft environmental impact statements, 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, correction or clarification. [While these exchanges are mentioned in this section on Communication, they are better detailed in Sections 4 and 5, and we direct you there for further information.] And we also correspond with elected officials and appointed agency personnel as warranted, offering an introduction to CIRCAC and discussion of shared interests.

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

- CIRCAC website – a comprehensive update of our website www.circac.org is underway. The site is our primary tool for posting and archiving board and committee meeting documents, presentations received, research activities, program reports, incident reports, published research, 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]**
- 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]**
- In-Person – Staff attended the Cook Inlet Pre-Winter meeting, and the Director of Operations and Director of Public Outreach attended borough and municipal council meetings. We provide presentations of our activities and training to appropriate and interested parties; recent examples include training on the use of ShoreZone on-line tools to ADF&G staff and the Chugach School District, and project presentations at the Kachemak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet Marine Ecosystems Workgroup’s fall and spring meetings.
- Video – a new project stemming from the *Coastal Impressions* exhibit, this effort would largely target Coast Guard personnel deployed to the region and Alaska. An informational video on the Cook Inlet/Kodiak areas – touching on CIRCAC – is underway. It would also be shared with new agency and industry personnel, as well as with the general public. Expanded availability through other media is being considered by the Public Outreach Director.
- 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
- Printed Materials – CIRCAC’s fact sheets, flyers and more are being updated and redesigned
- Paid 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, calls for volunteers and scholarships) through paid advertising, earned media, public service announcements, and press releases. In

2021/22, we updated our rotating-image display ad at the Kenai Airport terminal. 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.

- 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. We believe 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 during 2021/22:

- BOEM Public Hearing for Federal Cook Inlet Lease Sale 258 (virtual)
- Alaska Research Consortium – staff participated in board meetings in January and March, 2022, and review meetings for the Alaska Seafood Futures and Alaska Seafood Applied Research initiatives; staff helped draft the 2023-24 Strategic Plan, approved in October.
- Alaska Marine Science Symposium (virtual)
- Ocean Sciences meeting (virtual)
- Clean Pacific – Renton, WA
- AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response (virtual)
- Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT)
- Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee/GRS Subcommittee
- Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Meeting
- Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting – Grand Rapids, MI
- Oil Spill Recovery Board Meetings; Workplan Committee meetings
- Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium – despite loss of hosts and sponsors, staff has continued to participate in the organizing committee’s virtual meetings throughout 2021 and 2022
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Environment and Safety Committee
- Coastal & Estuarine Research Federation (virtual)
- Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Annual Board of Directors Meeting
- Western Society of Naturalists (virtual)
- ExxonMobil Oil Response Knowledge Transfer series (monthly webinar)
- Marine Mammal Management in Oil Spill Response (webinar)

- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) – staff and volunteers are active in the organization and committees pertinent to CIRCAC’s mission
- NOAA’s monthly online 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
- Kachemak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet Marine Ecosystem Workgroup meeting in April 2021; staff presented our BOEM Contaminant Study March 2022
- 21st Century Maritime Challenges in the Arctic (webinar)
- Streamlined Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (webinar)
- Gulf of Mexico Research Alliance’s Gulf of Mexico Conference (in-person or virtual)
- Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Conference (virtual)
- Kachemak Bay Marine Mammal Forum – Homer, Alaska
- Sue Saupe provided on-line tutorial for ADF&G personnel that focused on oil spill planning and response, and demonstrated access on NOAA and AOOs portals

Scholarships:

We continue to 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 certification program in maritime studies and were begun in 2015 to commemorate CIRCAC’s 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. This year the committee awarded our 2022 scholarships to Matfey Reutov, Voznesenka School (Maritime Studies) and Dominic Austin, West Anchorage High School (Environmental Science).

We also have partnered with Marathon Petroleum to provide a Marine Operator Scholarship through the Alaska Vocational Training Center (AVTEC). And finally, the National Transportation Institute has again reached out seeking to support our scholarship program and work with CIRCAC 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:

Online Data Access – We finalized a Cooperative Agreement with BOEM for a contaminants compilation project of historical data that includes a meta-analysis of that data, ultimately to assess background conditions in Cook Inlet and evaluate anthropogenic and natural sources. The analysis will inform BOEM and CIRCAC on how best to move forward with environmental monitoring in Cook Inlet associated with oil and gas activities. The project is entitled *Synthesis of Contaminants Data for Cook Inlet – Evaluation of Existing Data as Baseline Conditions and Recommendations for Further Monitoring*. The work will be led by CIRCAC, working with a team of contractors with a combined total of close to 200 years of experience working in Cook Inlet on contaminant issues including specialties in hydrocarbon forensics. A Final Science Plan has been reviewed and approved by BOEM. CIRCAC submitted our first Quarterly Progress/Status Report in February; it has been approved. A second Progress Status Report is to be submitted by 30 April. Contracts and Scopes of Work for subcontractors are being finalized.

Oxidized Petroleum Contaminants – A UAA project funded by BOEM through the Coastal Marine Institute is *Hydrocarbon Oxidation Products in Cook Inlet: Formation and Bioaccumulation in Mussels*, which is two parts: formation of oxidized products, and bioaccumulation potential in marine aquatic life. This project is highly collaborative, and spread across several investigators. Now beginning lab experiments, the project will assess the chemical features of oxidized products formed when Cook Inlet crude oil is exposed to sunlight. The project is specific to Cook Inlet crude with Cook Inlet seawater and Kachemak Bay mussels; CIRCAC is supporting components of the research. Investigators also want to explore whether these residues have a bioaccumulation potential in marine aquatic life. A related investigation in Prince William Sound has been proposed; CIRCAC supports the additional detailed chemistry involved. We are discussing options for sampling in Cook Inlet in fall 2022.

Coastal Habitat Mapping Program:

ShoreZone Imaging, Mapping and Website – Surveys planned for the outer Kenai Peninsula coast that were planned for 2020 were again cancelled in 2021 when Canadian contractors postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. We are now planning to prioritize the survey for mid-June 2022, beginning in Windy Bay. We've also leveraged funding from the National Park Service to extend the survey to encompass the entire coastline of the Kenai Fjords

National Park. We are also working to identify funds and partners to update ShoreZone surveys along the northern Kodiak Island archipelago. CIRCAC submitted project proposal requests to our Congressional delegation for ShoreZone projects to support oil spill planning and response.

Shore Station Surveys & Database – Our Contractor completed the first four of five tasks identified in the original contract, leaving the expansion of the database to include historical Gulf of Alaska shore station survey data and photographs, and preparing data for serving on the AOOS data portal. Staff is working with the contractor to establish goals, a timeline and budget for the remaining tasks.

Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps (ESI) – The Oil Spill Recovery Institute Board approved funds to initiate an ESI map update project using the Cook Inlet area as a demonstration of how local organizations and agencies might take on a role previously funded by NOAA for updating ESI maps. CIRCAC is partnering in this effort with a focus on “cross-walking” the ShoreZone and ESI categories. Another project will focus on seasonal bird distributions.

Human Impressions – NOAA funded the 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 – Planned surveys did not take place in 2021 and are re-scheduled for 2022 or 2023. A full survey to track the expansion of *Macrocystis* in the western Gulf of Alaska was proposed to our Congressional delegation, along with the expanded ShoreZone surveys. Due to the increased seaweed mariculture industry in Alaska, there is a need to understand potential impacts to other species and habitats, and how the expansion of this kelp might impact oil spill planning and response, as they form very dense beds nearshore. We will follow closely two projects recently funded by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustees Council pertaining to mariculture development in the western Gulf of Alaska: *“Social, cultural and economic assessment of kelp mariculture opportunities for coastal villages within the EVOS spill zone”*, and *“Sustainable mariculture development for restoration and economic benefit in the EVOS spill area”*. While our interest is in better shoreline habitat data for environmental risk assessments and oil spill planning and response, we may be able to leverage our funds to map natural *Macrocystis* beds with some of the planned studies associated with those larger projects, and will seek opportunities to leverage with these studies.

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) – EMC and PROPS staff held a teleconference with a group including OSRI, NOAA, AOOS, PWSRCAC, USF&W, ADNRR and ADF&G to move forward with updates to Alaska’s EIS maps, looking towards integrating and serving ShoreZone and other EIS data layers in CIRT and other AOOS data portals. The developers of CIRT – Axiom Data Science – are participants in our BOEM-funded contaminants database project that

began in September 2021 and will be instrumental in integrating components of Cook Inlet contaminant data into CIRT, while also developing additional data access and visualization capabilities of CIRT. 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 – We have been working with other organizations (AOOS, NOAA, UAF, OSRI) to conduct a validation of NOAA’s Cook Inlet Operational Forecast System (CIOFS) model. Our initial proposal to the IOOS Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed program was not selected for funding in 2021. Ultimately, we hope to combine resources to conduct an up to 20-year hindcast to validate the CIOFS circulation model, identify model weaknesses and data gaps, work with NOAA to improve the model, and develop a particle trajectory model as the basis of an on-line, user-accessible oil spill trajectory model for Cook Inlet. OSRI is funding the initial hindcast component of the larger project and selected Axiom Data Science to conduct that analysis this year. Additional funding from CIRCAC and OSRI will go towards development of online accessible Oil Spill Trajectory Model based on the operational CIOFS. We submitted study plan ideas to BOEM for their Environmental Studies Program for further physical oceanographic and model verification work in Cook Inlet, and they have identified a project titled “Synthesis and Modeling, Cook Inlet”. We will work with BOEM and our other partners to leverage and integrate the projects to fulfill the needs for hydrographic model validation, ocean observations, and particle trajectory models (e.g. oil spill trajectories) for Cook Inlet.

In 2021, CIRCAC submitted a proposed 5-year plan and budget for inclusion in AOOS’s submission to IOOS for their funding. The full Cook Inlet Ocean Observing System plan was not funded, but AOOS has identified funding for a year-round deployment of a paired HF Radar system to develop near-real-time current and circulation maps. CIRCAC is working with AOOS and UAF to identify deployment sites and CIRCAC will be contributing funding towards data analysis. Additional funding needs would require partnerships among AOOS, CIRCAC, BOEM and others to expand a network of these surface current sensors.

Marine Oil Snow in Cook Inlet – We continued to support research conducted by a graduate student from the University of New Hampshire to explore potential pathways in which oil may impact the benthic environment, and aid in informed decision-making during an oil spill. Due to Covid-19, his field work to Alaska was cancelled by his university and we worked with him and his research advisors to develop a project that would incorporate Cook Inlet conditions but could be conducted wholly in the laboratory. His study looked at marine snow behavior in a flume tank, with treatments including seawater only, seawater + oil, seawater + sediment, and seawater + oil + sediment. He is looking at settlement rates and re-suspension in currents with marine snow that included Cook Inlet sediments (supplied by CIRCAC) and a phytoplankton species common in coastal Alaska bloom conditions.

The researcher's lab work is now complete, and his thesis is being written for submittal in spring 2022. Previously, 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. One of the papers submitted by Mr. Ross on his 2018-19 research was published in spring 2022. CIRCAC has committed to continue supporting this research to deeper depths, to include a spring algal bloom, and to sample in areas near Kodiak.

Technical Review Program:

Our Director of Science & Research assists or leads CIRCAC's review of technical aspects of proposed new regulations or amendments. CIRCAC's Protocol Control Committee is charged with approving Council positions on regulations and contingency plan reviews conducted by staff and others. Additional review comments submitted or ongoing monitoring during this application period is found in Section 5. During this period staff monitored or developed comments on:

- Cook Inlet General Permit – APDES General Permit AKG315200 Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, and Production in State Waters has been issued, effective 1 January 2022
- Cook Inlet Energy, LLC Osprey Platform Individual Permit AK0053309 – initial comments in 2019, and additional May 2021; ADEC issued General Permit AKG315200, intending to include the Osprey Platform under this general permit
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cook Inlet Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area Lease Sale 258
- APDES Individual Permit AK0053686 for Furie Operating Alaska (KLU Julius R Platform); final permit issued and posted, effective 1 January 2022

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 2022, has largely prevented on-site visits.

Incidents:

- Crude Oil
 - Carlile Tanker Truck Crude Oil Spill in Ninilchik, caused when the truck overturned along the highway
- 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.
 - T/V Bob Franco partial loss of propulsion and fouled the port propeller with a mooring line while assisting the T/V Alyarmouk depart its berth at the KPL Dock in Nikiski
 - Sunken F/V St. Patrick broke apart, releasing fuel and other petroleum products and water, in Women's Bay, Kodiak
 - F/V Laura grounding at Black Point on Sitkalidak Island, SE Kodiak
 - Mobile oil drilling unit the Randolph Yost departed Cook Inlet, after a year docked at OSK dock in Nikiski
 - T/V Western Mariner ran aground in Neva Strait outside of Sitka after a steering failure caused the barge to collide with the tug, discharging fuel
 - No reports of damage or major disruptions reported by operators following a 5.2 earthquake centered near Tyonek
 - No reports of damage or major disruptions reported by operators following a 4.7 earthquake centered near Lake Clark
 - Coast Guard determines a dragging anchor from the M/V Beijing ruptured an oil pipeline in Orange County, CA
 - Collision of an inbound cargo ship and a T/V at anchor outside the Chinese port of Qingdao
 - Subsea gas pipeline leak between Hilcorp's Platform A and the Nikiski shore facility.

Drills:

Council staff participates in both drill planning activities and drill exercises. Due to Covid-19 precautions, participation by Council staff were largely confined to virtual attendance for these internal facility exercises and training.

During this application period, we participated in, or studied the results of, the following:

- Hilcorp IMT exercise and field deployment at the Swanson River field
- Hilcorp workgroup exercises on virtual IMT platforms
- Coast Guard and Navy hold joint oil pollution exercise in Kachemak Bay
- Coast Guard and ADEC conducted a deployment in Kodiak, ‘ground-truthing’ the use of remote aerial surveillance systems of GRSs

C-Plan reviews and Regulatory Comments:

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 terminal facilities and crude oil tankers. Examples of our formal communications to industry and government pertaining to C-Plans include new or amended regulations and legislation, response requirements and more. [More may be found in Section 5 below]. Comment letters are available upon request.

Staff Training

Mr. Cochran and Mr. Catalano undertook training for Incident Command Systems, including 300-level training.

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 updated the vessel traffic study in 2021, and presented it to the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee for review. This project represents a 10-year culmination of AIS and other data to get a holistic view of vessel traffic through Cook Inlet. Data will be collected annually and applied in an updated report every 3 years.

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.

New Project:

CIRCAC is developing an overview of how the pandemic has changed the response industry, oil industry, CIRCAC, state and federal agencies, and forced them to adjust operations. Using interviews and other methods, the project will culminate in a white paper with lessons learned and recommendations on best practices.

State Regulatory Reviews:

CIRCAC staff and committees – along with the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council – have meticulously reviewed the State’s revised Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan regulations (C-Plans) for amendments, corrections, and their impact on not only industry’s prevention and response responsibilities, but also CIRCAC’s status as a named reviewer of contingency plans. We have submitted comments formally to ADEC, and have prepared template Resolutions containing key concerns and recommendations, including staffing/attrition, funding, training and more. These were shared with the local governments in our Area of Responsibility and Area of Concern for consideration as they shaped their own responses.

DEC Commissioner Jason Brune and his key staff have remained accessible to CIRCAC’s Board and staff throughout this process.

Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT):

Staff attends all ARRT meetings, which includes individual Area plan committee reports, including the GRS Subcommittee’s report on ADEC’s conversion of the GRS catalog to a Geographic Information System (GIS) format; and an EPA update on the National Contingency Plan, Sub-Part J on dispersants. CIRCAC’s Science Director 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.”

Arctic and Western Alaska (AWA) Area Subcommittees:

Staff participates in the GRS subcommittee to aid the transition from the legacy pdf version of the GRS catalog to a GIS database version, and the inclusion of CIRCAC’s stream crossing GRS data. Staff also serves on the Administration subcommittee, helping review and develop administrative protocols and processes to meet the needs of the area plan.

Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium (AOSTS):

This valuable event is in danger of dissolving, with support from the State and the University of Alaska Fairbanks reduced. CIRCAC continues to support the Symposium – which may return in 2022/2023 – as an opportunity for industry, government, OSROs and academia to share information, ideas and best available technology.

Geographic Resources Information Database (GRID):

CIRCAC is working to ensure GRID and its host program, CIRT, are up-to-date in both function and data. GRID provides an easy way to search out emergency response resources in a GIS format, throughout the CIRCAC area of responsibility and concern. Staff provided introduction and basic operating instructions to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management during a trial for consideration to adopt for use, and additional training is planned. Issues encountered by the Borough and Hilcorp during its use in recent drills have been addressed by our contractor. In addition, staff initiated outreach with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management; their database is compatible with GRID, and may provide a training opportunity.

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):

Marathon Petroleum Maritime continues its pilot training program at the AVTEC simulator in Seward. A component of that training is a ‘self-arrest’ technique that has proven to be very effective under certain conditions in Cook Inlet. This program was originally launched by CIRCAC. The Council continues to support 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. This stands as a companion to CIRCAC’s own annual scholarship program offered for environmental science and maritime services.

Winter Ice Guidelines:

The annual maritime Pre-Winter Meeting sponsored by Marathon Petroleum Maritime and supported by the United States Coast Guard, the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee and CIRCAC, was held in December 2021. An update on CIRCAC’s Ice Monitoring Camera Network 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 winter operating limitations, procedures and policies while providing a forum for Cook Inlet’s marine operators.

Ice Camera Monitoring Network:

A new camera was installed at the Marathon LNG facility dock, replacing an old-style camera located at a nearby facility which was no longer in operation. The new-style camera offers better image resolution, greater magnification and provides a better field of view. We also upgraded the ACS circuitry used to transmit the data signal for faster speed and less cost. To date, access and/or control of the camera system and/or specific cameras have been provided to the NOAA weather forecaster, Coast Guard, Air Force, Marathon Marine, and Southwest Alaska Pilots Association.

CIRCAC staff worked with the USCG, NOAA, University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center and CISPRI to aid in the development of an 'oil in ice' project to be conducted in Cook Inlet. The project sought to use aerial sensors and unmanned aerial systems to identify a wide range of oil concentrations in multiple ice concentrations. Throughout the process sites were evaluated for use. CIRCAC ice monitoring cameras are in use near several sites being considered for the project and were used to inform project managers of ice conditions at the sites being evaluated. However, after several weeks of work to adequately identify and evaluate project sites, no satisfactory site could be secured to conduct the project.

Harbor Safety Committee (HSC):

Staff attends all meetings of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee and its various workgroups, including the Harbor Safety Plan (Mr. Catalano chairs) and the Marine Firefighting workgroup. The HSC addressed a Coast Guard outdated Navigation Advisory concerning under-keel clearances. Along with the outdated Navigation Advisory the Navigation Safety workgroup reported on its work to amend under-keel clearance language with the Harbor Safety Plan. The amended language will seek to clarify under-keel clearances to be observed by commercial vessels transiting and to be maintained while moored at the Port of Alaska. Additionally, the Committee discussed the development of the Marine Firefighting Symposium in the Cook Inlet area that will benefit statewide coastal community firefighters. Finally, CIRCAC's 2021 Vessel Traffic Study was presented to 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 C-plan reviews often include direct communications 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:

- National Contingency Plan, Subpart J – Dispersants

- CIRCAC responded to ADEC's initial call for comments as part of its 2019-20 scoping process to update the Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP), Article 4, and continues to monitor the development of these revisions
- Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Cook Inlet General Discharge Permit AKG315000 – comments in 2019; permit was issued in October 2021, effective 1 January 2022
- Cook Inlet Energy, LLC Osprey Platform Individual Permit AK0053309 – comments in 2019 and May 2021; ADEC issued General Permit AKG315200, intending to include the Osprey Platform under this general permit
- KLU Julius R. Platform Individual Permit – CIRCAC commented in 2019 and in 2021 based on amendments; ADEC issued the final permit in September 2021
- BOEM's Cook Inlet Planning Area Lease Sale 258
- Alternative Planning Criteria proposed regulation changes for Cook Inlet
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Cook Inlet Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area Lease Sale 258
- Hilcorp Alaska LLC Cook Inlet Exploration Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan, ADEC Plan #: 17-CP-5216
- Comments Regarding Alaska Regional Contingency Plan, Version 2
- Furie Operations Alaska, LLC (Furie) RFAI Response Dated 16 September, 2021 following their Cook Inlet Exploration Program ODPCP (16-CP-5184)
- Crowley Alaska Tanker, Cook Inlet Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan, ADEC Plan #: 21-CP-5252
- Hilcorp Alaska, LLC Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan for Cook Inlet Production Facilities, ADEC Plan #:16-CP-2008
- Collaborative Comments and Background Information Regarding PWSRCAC/CIRCAC's Proposed Resolution to the Kenai Peninsula Borough, City of Kenai, City of Homer, City of Seldovia, Municipality of Anchorage, Kodiak Island Borough and the City of Kodiak.
- 18 AAC Chapter 75 – Oil and Other Hazardous Substances Pollution Control Proposed Regulation Revisions, dated 29 January, 2022

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

Agency Training:

Staff provided an on-line tutorial in March 2022 for ADF&G personnel that focused on oil spill planning and response, and demonstrated access to NOAA and AOS portals.

Kenai Peninsula:

Individual CIRCAC staff members serve in Primary and Alternate capacities on the Kenai Peninsula Local Area Planning Committee (LEPC). We have provided comments to Borough staff as it has re-written its Emergency Management Plan.

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 2021 and 2022 are:

- Marathon Petroleum
- Hilcorp Alaska
- BlueCrest Operating Alaska
- Glacier Oil and Gas

As of this writing, all companies have been invoiced for their funding payments and obligation. A current five-year Funding Agreement is part of this application **(Attached)**.

We are providing our 2021 and 2022 Operating and Program Budgets for your review as well **(Attached)**. Budgets and work plans are reviewed and approved by the Council's standing committees and Executive Committee, prior to being reviewed and approved by the full Board of Directors at its December meeting.

CIRCAC undergoes an annual independent financial audit, which is offered to the funding companies for review. That audit was completed in December 2021. 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 is to be promoted and made available to the public for review in the following means:

- Website – Posted to our website – www.circac.org.
- E-Newsletters –Notified recipients of the recertification process in progress, and to contact CIRCAC for a copy or additional information.
- CIRCAC Office – Hard copy file is maintained for public review at CIRCAC's corporate office: 8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, Alaska. At the present time, that access is limited due to Covid-19 protocols, with pre-arrangements necessary.
- Stakeholders – Notified by announcement at our April Board meeting, through our Directors Reports, and via an e-mailed notification sent directly to individual Interest Group stakeholder organizations.
- Paid Print Advertising – 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 and Kodiak Daily Mirror*). Readers are directed to our website to view the application, or to our physical office address to review a paper copy, by appointment.
- Media/Social Media Releases – Submitted information releases and Public Service Announcements to these same newspapers, as well as local radio and television stations within our areas of concern and responsibility, and to the widely-distributed *What's Up* weekly environmental online newsletter. 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.

Financial Audit & Tax Filings:

Auditors found no exceptions to Council finances during the 2020 financial audit, performed in late 2021. Field work for the audit, and the delivery of the firm's report, were delayed by the pandemic and CIRCAC staffing changes, but were presented to the Council's Executive Committee and Audit Committee. The Council's professional firm filed a federal 990 tax return for 2020 on our behalf. Documents pertaining to these are available upon request. The dates for the 2021 financial audit have not yet been set, as of this writing.

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 has negotiated a three year extension of the lease for its headquarters office in Kenai.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of May 2022 by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council.



Michael L. Munger
Executive Director

Atts: Operating Budgets - 2021 and 2022
Board of Directors Report (sample)
E-Newsletter (sample)
Funding Agreement

COOK INLET RCAC 2021-2022
APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET

based only on funds received from the Charter Funding Companies

	2021	2022
DRAFT	Operating Budget	Operating Budget
Revenue		
Charter Funding Companies	\$1,493,010.99	\$1,578,112.60
ANNUAL CPI ADJUSTMENT \$85,101.61		
Subtotal	\$1,493,010.99	\$1,578,112.60
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Personnel and Insurance Costs	\$966,250.00	\$1,001,250.00
Facilities	\$63,000.00	\$77,000.00
Office Supplies/Equipment/Furniture/Computers	\$25,550.00	\$49,800.00
Advertising/Gifts/Subscriptions	\$10,000.00	\$11,000.00
Postage/Delivery	\$1,700.00	\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$15,460.99	\$17,162.60
TRAVEL EXPENSES		
Administrative Travel, Meals & Lodging	\$48,750.00	\$48,800.00
Council/Committee Travel, Meals & Lodging	\$36,000.00	\$36,600.00
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		
Professional Services (Workplan Related)		
Council	\$0.00	\$0.00
EMC	\$125,000.00	\$125,000.00
PROPS	\$105,000.00	\$115,000.00
Protocol	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00
Public Involvement	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Subtotal	\$285,000.00	\$285,000.00
Legal Expenses	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00
Certified Public Accountant	\$14,400.00	\$15,000.00
LEGISLATIVE MONITORING EXPENSES		
Legislative Monitoring	\$16,900.00	\$19,000.00
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$1,493,010.99	\$1,578,112.60



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

Gary Fandrei, President, representing Aquaculture Associations

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Annual and Board of Directors meeting was held virtually on April 8th, 2022. Remote meetings continue as a precaution to protect the health and safety of CIRCAC Directors and staff.

Representatives from Hilcorp provided an update on the company's operations in Cook Inlet, noting that 2022 marks ten years for the company in Alaska. Lori Nelson, Hilcorp's Manager of Public Affairs briefed the board on the Middle Ground Shoals gas field. A natural gas line that was used to feed offshore platforms was found to be leaking in April of 2021. The line remains shut in as Hilcorp continues an internal review to develop long term plans for the Middle Shoals. A full replacement of the line is not planned for 2022. Todd Duke, General Manager of Compliance Services for Resolve Marine also provided an operational update and overview of their response capabilities for the board.

Other updates came from Graham Wood from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, detailing the department's plans for unit realignment that will add a Western Region for state regulators while separating Kodiak Island and Cook Inlet for management. Jonathan Schick from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources gave the board an update on preliminary natural gas exploration activities in the Susitna Valley and announced that work for potential geothermal permitting is beginning for St. Augustine Island.

CIRCAC Executive Director Michael Munger provided a report and update on the US Coast Guard Alternative Planning Compliance issue and recent federal legislative changes that he has been following in Washington D.C. He plans to continue his involvement working with Senator Sullivan's staff on the Senate's version of the legislation. The Council unanimously voiced support for his continued efforts.

CIRCAC's 2022 scholarship winners were announced at the meeting. Matfey Reutov, a graduating senior at Voznesenka won our Captain Barry Eldridge Memorial Scholarship for Maritime Studies. Dominic Austin, a graduating senior from West Anchorage High won our James Carter Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Science. Reutov will attend Kenai Peninsula College to study welding and Austin plans to attend Colorado State University to pursue a degree in Fisheries/Wildlife Biology. To date, CIRCAC has awarded \$40,000 in scholarships to local students.

The Board also adopted resolutions recognizing Representative Don Young, who passed in April, for his longtime support of CIRCAC and Molly McCammon, who has represented the Municipality of Anchorage on the Council since 2004 including terms as Board President and chair of the Environmental Monitoring Committee. McCammon was also named CIRCAC's 2015 Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year. The MOA has appointed Hans Rodvik as its new representative on the Board and we very much look forward to working with Mr. Rodvik in the coming years to advance the mission of CIRCAC.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September and its location will be announced at a later date.

From: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2022 12:19 PM
To:
Subject: Cook Inlet RCAC April Newsletter

COOK INLET Regional Citizens Advisory Council

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



CIRCAC Board and Annual Meeting

The CIRCAC Board of Directors met virtually and held its annual meeting on April 8th.

We received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Tim Robertson of Nuka Research announced forthcoming updates to our 10-year Vessel Traffic Study, last updated in 2020. Lori Nelson from Hilcorp and Todd Duke from Resolve Marine each provided operational updates and presentations.

[Read More](#)

Scholarship Winners Announced

We are proud to announce recipients for CIRCAC's annual scholarship program.

Matfey Reutov, a graduating senior at Voznesenka won our Captain Barry Eldridge Memorial Scholarship for Maritime Studies.

Dominic Austin, a graduating senior from West Anchorage High won our James Carter Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Science.

Thanks to Scholarship Selection Committee members Capt. Bob Pawlowski, Rick Frederic and Carla Stanley.

[Learn More](#)



Board Member Spotlight

In the coming months, we'll be reviving a feature of our newsletter, spotlighting our dedicated volunteers who serve as the CIRCAC Board of Directors. This month, we meet Carla Stanley. Carla was first appointed to the CIRCAC Board of Directors in 2004 representing the city of Homer.

[Read Carla's CIRCAC Profile](#)



Remembering Rep. Don Young

The CIRCAC staff and Board of Directors was saddened to learn of the passing of Rep. Don Young in April. Rep. Young was a co-sponsor of and leading proponent for the passage of the Oil Pollution



Past Board President Molly McCammon transitions from CIRCAC Board


After 18 years, we are saying a partial goodbye to Board member Molly McCammon. Molly was first appointed to represent the Municipality of Anchorage in 2004 and since that time has left a big mark on the organization, serving at various times as Board President, Chair of the Environmental Monitoring and Executive Committees and winning the 2015 Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year Award.

[Learn more about Molly's long service to CIRCAC](#)

Act of 1990, the federal legislation created following the Exxon Valdez oil spill that created the citizens advisory group model we and our colleagues at Prince William Sound RCAC operate under.

[Read More](#)



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COOK INLET
REGIONAL CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

[CONTACT COOK INLET](#)

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

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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: ll _____
(print name)

TITLE: _____