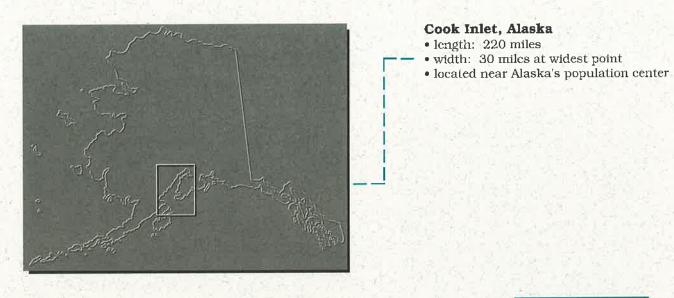
# COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1994

"The mission of the council is to ensure the safe operation of the oil terminals, tankers, and facilities in Cook Inlet so that environmental impacts associated with the oil industry are minimized."

Cook Inlet -- a rich and productive habitat for a variety of marine species and associated wildlife. The ecosystem supports jobs while providing incomparable beauty and recreational opportunities.





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### Cook Inlet RCAC 1994 annual report

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### design, graphics and production

Sean Reid, Reid Communications, Anchorage

### Message from the president



It has been my privilege to become not only an active member of the Cook Inlet RCAC, but to serve as president. In this past year we have had many changes at Cook Inlet RCAC. All of a positive nature.

First, we had a change in the executive director position. Our new executive director is Ms. Elizabeth Anne McCord. She has proven herself to be a valuable asset to the Cook Inlet RCAC. Under her direction we cut overhead costs by relocating and making other positive changes to staff and operations.

Secondly, following an aggressive recruiting effort we have filled the vacant environmental interest groups' seat — this after a vacancy of almost three years. Mr. Charles Dickson of Public Awareness Committee for the Environment is the new representative and is already proving himself to be a valuable member of the board.

We were also able, once again, to accomplish work projects by the Environmental Monitoring Committee and the Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee through the dedication of time and energy by the volunteers on these committees.

This organization relies on volunteers — volunteers who see a need and feel they can make a positive contribution for the betterment of mankind. Thank you, we couldn't do it without you.

I also want to thank the oil industry, the State of Alaska, agencies of the U.S. government, the communities in our region and special interest groups for their input and cooperation as we strive to fulfill our mission.

Betty & Glick

### 1994 board of directors

directors --- representation ---

President Betty J. Glick

### Kenai Peninsula Borough

Ms. Glick is a member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly, having served as president for the last three years. She also represents the State of Alaska on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors. Ms. Glick has served on the RCAC Board since April 8, 1994.

Vice President Chair, Credentials Committee Captain "Glen" Glenzer

### **Municipality of Anchorage**

Captain Glenzer is a retired Navy Captain and former director of the Port of Anchorage. Previous to that he served as deputy commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Works director as well as city manager for operations for the Municipality of Anchorage. Captain Glenzer has served on the RCAC Board since December 1, 1990.

### Secretary Joe Ray Skrha

#### Recreational Interests

Mr. Skrha is an attorney in private practice, and the owner/operator of Fire Sky Adventures, a professional guiding operation on the Kenai Peninsula. Mr. Skrha has served on the RCAC Board since December 1, 1990.

## Treasurer Chair, Policies, Education and Procedures Committee Marie Becker Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Becker represents the tourism industry of the Kenai Peninsula. Ms. Becker is a resident of Nikiski and the owner/manager of Environmental Solutions. Ms. Becker has served on the RCAC Board since March 14, 1992.

### Chair, Environmental Monitoring Committee Doug Coughenower City of Homer

Mr. Coughenower is the regional representative for the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Marine Advisory Program on the Kenai Peninsula. Mr. Coughenower has served on the RCAC Board since December 14, 1991.

# 1994 board of directors (continued)

### Chair, Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee Ken Castner Commercial Fishing Interests

Mr. Castner is a set net fisherman on the west side of Cook Inlet, a seine fisherman in lower Cook Inlet and a tender operator along the Alaska Peninsula and Bristol Bay. He has served on the RCAC Board since May 3, 1991.

#### **Thomas Mears**

### **Aquaculture Associations**

Mr. Mears is the executive director of the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association. He has served on the RCAC Board since December 1, 1990.

### John Douglas

### City of Kenai

Mr. Douglas, a retired drilling and production manager, is a mining and petroleum consultant. He has served on the RCAC Board since April 11, 1992.

### Dexter Ogle

### **Alaska Native Organizations**

Mr. Ogle lives in Seldovia and is a commercial fisherman. He is also a member of the board of directors for the Seldovia Native Association, Inc. Mr. Ogle has served on the RCAC Board since February 6, 1993.

### June Reuling

### City of Seldovia

Ms. Reuling retired from Caterpillar Inc. of Peoria, Illinois after 35 years and has lived in Seldovia for 6 years. She is vice president of the Seldovia Oil Spill Team. Ms. Reuling has served on the RCAC Board since April 8, 1994.

#### **Thomas Walters**

### City of Kodiak

Mr. Walters is a 20 year retiree from the military with 10 years in the U.S. Coast Guard and 10 years in the U.S. Air Force. He has lived in Kodiak since 1981 and presently flies helicopters for Maritime Helicopters. Mr. Walters owns the Katmai Wilderness Lodge. He has served on the RCAC Board since February 5, 1994.

### Charles Dickson

#### **Environmental Interests**

Mr. Dickson is vice president of the Public Awareness Committee for the Environment which he helped organize over 10 years ago. He has served on the RCAC Board since September 24, 1994.

### Michael Milligan

### **Kodiak Island Borough**

Mr. Milligan is a commercial fisherman in Kodiak. He resigned from the RCAC Board on December 10, 1994 after serving since December 1, 1990.

### Chris Berns

### Kodiak Island Borough

Mr. Chris Berns has been appointed by the Kodiak Island Borough to replace Mr. Milligan. A commercial fisherman for 25 years, Mr. Berns has lived in Alaska since 1960.



### Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Joe Sautner

### Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Kris O'Connor

### Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Pete Petram

### Bureau of Land Management

Joe Dygas

### Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc.

Bill Stillings

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Al Ewing

### **Minerals Management Service**

Richard T. Prentki, Ph.D.

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

John Whitney

#### U.S. Coast Guard

Captain Edmond Thompson

### U.S. Forest Service

Gary Lehnhausen



An oil spill response vessel deploys a floating boom and skimmer as part of a spill exercise.

### RCAC -- an overview

Following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill Congress enacted the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) in part to ensure the safe transport of crude oil on Alaska's waterways. The act established, among other things, demonstration programs to involve local citizens in overseeing the environmental impact of oil terminals and tanker operations in two locations, Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC), a non-profit organization, was incorporated in 1990 to meet the mandates of OPA 90. OPA 90 describes the membership, appointment process and structure of the council.

### **Organizational Structure**

Cook Inlet RCAC consists of thirteen members from the cities of Anchorage, Homer, Kenai, Kodiak and Seldovia; the boroughs of Kenai and Kodiak; Native groups; commercial fishermen; and aquaculture, tourism, recreation and environmental interest groups that have a significant stake in the environment and resources at risk from oil production and transportation in the region.

Besides the Council members there are nine ex-officio members who represent the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Division of Emergency Services, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Minerals Management Service, Alaska Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

RCAC depends on the efforts of volunteers. Much of RCAC's work is done through two committees: the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) and the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee. The committees design and implement work plans and formulate advice and recommendations for consideration by the board of directors. Each committee is assisted by RCAC staff.

### **Legal Mandates**

The work of the Cook Inlet RCAC is guided by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. RCAC's responsibilities under OPA 90 are to:

- Provide advice and recommendations on policies, permits, and sitespecific regulations relating to the operation and maintenance of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers which affect or may affect the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities;
- Monitor the environmental impacts of the operation of the terminal facilities and crude oil tankers;
- Monitor those aspects of terminal facilities' and crude oil tankers' operations and maintenance which affect or may affect the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities;
- Review the adequacy of oil spill prevention and contingency plans for the terminal facilities and the adequacy of oil spill prevention and contingency plans for crude oil tankers operating in Cook Inlet;
- Provide advice and recommendations on port operations, policies and practices; and
  - · Recommend-
- (i) standards and stipulations for permits and site-specific regulations intended to minimize the impact of the terminal facilities' and crude oil tankers' operations in the vicinity of the terminal facilities;
- (ii) modifications of terminal facility operations and maintenance intended to minimize the risk and mitigate the impact of terminal facilities, operations in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and to minimize the risk of oil spills;
- (iii) modifications to the oil spill prevention and contingency plans for terminal facilities and for crude oil tankers in Cook Inlet intended to enhance the ability to prevent and respond to an oil spill.

The RCAC has met those responsibilities through the activities and projects conducted by two committees, the PROPS and the EMC.

### Committees

### **Environmental Monitoring Committee**

The primary mission of the Environmental Monitoring Committee is to insure that the environmental impacts associated with oil industry operations are minimized. The Environmental Monitoring Committee is charged by OPA 90 to monitor the impacts of the oil industry on the health of the Cook Inlet ecosystem. Among the Committee's goals are familiarization and distribution of information regarding the environmental impacts of the Cook Inlet oil industry; ongoing monitoring of the efforts of governmental agencies and industry with respect to environmental compliance; design and implementation of an independent environmental monitoring program for Cook Inlet; and identification and collection of environmental literature and information for use in Committee and Council activities.

#### **Council Members**

Doug Coughenower, Chair • City of Homer

Betty J. Glick Kenai Peninsula Borough

Marie Becker Alaska Chamber of Commerce

#### **Public Members**

Christopher M. Dillon Dora Dushkin David Hanneman Vince O'Reilly Dennis Randa Tamara Smid



### Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee

The primary mission of the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee is a commitment to the prevention of oil spills. The Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee's primary work has involved the development of work plans, projects and studies designed to provide recommendations to minimize the risk of oil spills in Cook Inlet. The secondary mission of the Committee involves review and continued monitoring of spill response efforts and utilization of the best available technology. The Committee continues to review oil spill contingency plans, spill drill exercises, spill response efforts, nearshore response pilot program developments, human factors in the Alaska maritime profession, dispersants and in situ burning.

### **Council Members**

Ken Castner, Chair Commercial Fishing City of Homer

Captain Glen Glenzer Municipality of Anchorage

Tom Mears Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association

#### **Public Members**

Bill Cobb Mary Jacobs Douglas Jones Mike Lucky Captain A.D. Santos Dann Winn



**EMC** projects

### **Environmental Monitoring**

Cook Inlet RCAC has completed field work in year two of a pilot environmental monitoring program. The 1994 field work was conducted by scientists and staff from Arthur D. Little, an international firm with expertise in marine monitoring, the U.S. Department of Interior Minerals Management Service and Cook Inlet RCAC. Sites sampled in 1994 included two new industry-specific sites, Granite Point and East Foreland. Trading Bay, another industry-specific site, was sampled in 1993 and 1994. The study included analysis of sediment chemistry, hydrocarbon accumulation and sediment toxicity. The monitoring program was designed to act as a benchmark to indicate environmental changes at the earliest stages so closer evaluation can occur. A report should be finished early in 1995.

### National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Review

Cook Inlet NPDES permits expired in 1991. Cook Inlet RCAC is reviewing the new proposed NPDES permit regulations as they become available. Comments and suggestions are forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency for their consideration. Through involvement in regulatory planning, Cook Inlet RCAC promotes responsible use and guardianship of Cook Inlet waters.

### PROPS committee projects and studies

### Current and Future Cook Inlet Oil Production Profits Study

This report was completed in September of 1994. It provides a framework for analyzing Cook Inlet production economics considering ownership of fields and platforms, and tanker and facility operations. Comments in the report address Cook Inlet production forecasts and expenses associated with platform dismantling, removal and rehabilitation.

### **Cook Inlet Platform Integrity Studies**

Belmar Engineering and Management Services Company, a consulting firm involved in the development and operation of offshore oil and gas fields, continued work on a multi-task project begun in 1993. Task 1 involved the compilation of structural and production information, and a review of the structural integrity of fifteen oil platforms in Cook Inlet. Task 2 was a detailed safety audit for three platforms. Audits included review of production rate, platform storage volume, topside modifications, platform age, and designed-versus-operating capacity for each unit. Task 3 addresses the ability of the Cook Inlet platforms to withstand earthquake conditions. Documentation completing Tasks 2 and 3 will be available in early 1995 and will complete this project.

#### **Human Factors Needs Assessment**

The Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound regional citizens advisory councils entered into a joint agreement with Dr. Thomas Sandquist, a senior research scientist with the Batelle Seattle Research Center, and Dr. Martha Grabowski, a professor in the Department of Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems at Renssalear Polytechnic Institute, to survey 40 members of the Alaska maritime community regarding maritime accidents caused by human error. The results of the survey were reviewed and published as Alaska Maritime Human Factors - Needs Assessment. The report outlines topics for further research to reduce the potential for human error accidents in the Alaskan oil and maritime transport industry. This report can be obtained from the Cook Inlet RCAC.

### In Situ Burning Field Project

Cook Inlet RCAC was one of several private, non-profit companies and state government organizations that participated in and funded the largest experiment to date in burning of emulsified oil. The goal of the experiment conducted by Alaska Clean Seas, a non-profit oil spill response cooperative, was to evaluate burning of highly-weathered and emulsified crude oils as a response tool and to study the burning characteristics of emulsified oil. The burn, conducted at Prudhoe Bay in September 1994, provided an opportunity to evaluate in situ burning under actual field conditions. Data from the burn will be used in developing in situ burn guidelines for Alaska and other regions. A public education video about in situ burning and a technical air quality report will be completed in early 1995.

### In Situ Burning Guideline Review

The council provides comments to the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) regarding ongoing development of in situ burning guidelines for Alaska. The guidelines have been reviewed with a particular interest in how they will impact response efforts in Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet RCAC issued a letter to the ARRT asking them to give this technique priority as a response to spills in broken ice conditions during the winter months in upper Cook Inlet. The council intends to continue to study this promising response technique and promote its use where appropriate.

### Sensitive Area Mapping

Cook Inlet RCAC entered into a joint Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and several other groups. Four maps of Cook Inlet were created to show the ecologically sensitive areas specific to each season. The maps include many species of animals, from clams to whales, and show temporary habitat use such as spawning grounds and migratory staging areas. Used in conjunction with spill trajectory models, the maps will help facilitate oil spill response efforts to protect environmentally sensitive areas at any time of the year.

### Contingency Plan Reviews, Response and Spill Drill Exercises

Cook Inlet RCAC continued its active role in the review of spill contingency plans and spill response drills in 1994. Nine reviews were done on plans for five facilities and Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc., a spill response organization. The Contingency Plan Control group (C-plan) met six times to consider and revise draft comments on plans covering every major crude oil facility on Cook Inlet. The comments were forwarded to the plan holder as well as the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Most plans were revised to make at least some of the changes recommended by the Cook Inlet RCAC C-Plan Control Group. Although much progress is being made in spill prevention and response within Cook Inlet, the council still has concerns in some areas such as fire fighting capabilities, secondary containment, and site-specific protection of sensitive resources. The council looks forward to continuing work with the local oil industry and regulatory agencies on oil spill prevention and response issues.

Cook Inlet RCAC volunteers, staff and contractors observed and participated in several oil spill drills and demonstrations in 1994. In April the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation held the first Nearshore Demonstration Project in Seldovia. The Council strongly supports the preparation and utilization of fishing community resources in oil spill response. The Nearshore Demonstration Project is a result of the state's efforts to form a volunteer oil spill response corps and equip them through regional equipment depots. The Council held a seat on the work group which developed the Nearshore Demonstration Project and guided it to success. The Council intends to continue to work with the Coast Guard, state, and oil industry to promote the rapid and effective use of local fishing community resources for oil spill response.

Council members observed or participated in several spill response drills held by the local oil industry. Tesoro Alaska Petroleum Company held a large table-top spill response drill in October. A report was submitted to Tesoro and the regulatory agencies commending Tesoro for its knowledge of its oil spill contingency plans and their commitment to oil spill response preparedness.

### Council staff

### Anne McCord, Executive Director

Anne McCord joined Cook Inlet RCAC in February 1994. She has a background in law, government service, and natural resource administration and management.

### Rory Dabney, Program Coordinator

Rory Dabney began working for Cook Inlet RCAC as a temporary employee in January of 1992. Since that time she has filled many roles and has become familiar with all the operations of the office and Council. In November of 1994, Ms. Dabney took on the responsibilities of the program coordinator.

### Ruth Post, Scientific Support Coordinator

Ms. Post is the most recent addition to the staff, coming on board on October 31, 1994. She has a background in aquatic ecology.

### Karen Williams, Office Manager

Ms. Williams has worked for Cook Inlet RCAC since October 26, 1990. She previously worked with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Management/Oil Spill Office following the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

### Kelly Rose, Receptionist

Ms. Rose began working for Cook Inlet RCAC on July 18, 1994. She brings to the Council a wonderful disposition and a willingness to respond to the needs of the Council and staff.

### Cindy Sanguinetti, Special Projects

Ms. Sanguinetti has worked for Cook Inlet RCAC since April 9, 1991. She transcribes all Council and Committee meeting minutes and is available to work on any special projects as needed.

### Charter funding companies

Ten oil companies provide monies to fund the operations of the Cook Inlet RCAC. The companies that have agreed to participate, listed here, are required to file an oil spill contingency plan for the Cook Inlet region under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Agreements were signed with the oil companies in August, 1992 that provided Cook Inlet with a total of \$1,625,000.00 through December 1994. A new three year funding agreement, providing \$650,000.00 per year for the years 1995 -1997, was reached between Cook Inlet RCAC and its funding companies.

Payments are made by the oil companies directly to Cook Inlet RCAC in accordance with a formula provided by the oil companies.

• Cook Inlet Pipeline Company • Kenai Pipeline Company • Phillips Petroleum • Tesoro Alaska Petroleum Company • UNOCAL • Marathon Oil Co. • MAPCO • Chevron • Shell Western E & P, Inc. • ARCO Alaska, Inc.

### Financial report

REV	

Charter fund company	\$ 650,015.44
Interest revenue	7,609.30
Other income	150.00
1992 encumbered receipts	14,133.35
1993 encumbered receipts	28,896.75

Total revenues \$ 700,804.84

#### **EXPENSES**

Personal services	\$ 240,451.47
Admin. travel, meals, lodging	16,066.14
Members travel, meals, lodging	38,952.19
Consultant travel, meals, lodging	11,428.61
Meetings, training; seminars	6,507.40
Facilities	28,279.04
Telephone	20,715.26
Office equipment machines & supplies	16,923.22
Computers	2,052.06
Public relations	16,032.32
Legal	3,270.29
Accountant	14,495.50
Professional	214,980.93
Dues and subscriptions	6,357.78
Delivery charges	4,780.13

Total expenses \$ (641,292.34)

Net excess revenues \$ 59,512.50

### ASSETS

 Cash
 \$ 157,323.26

 Equipment
 63,056.78

 Accumulated depreciation
 (16,608.00)

Total assets \$ 203,772.04

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

### LIABILITIES

Accrued payroll tax 108.04 Accrued leave 2,408.05

Total liabilities \$ 2,516.09

### FUND BALANCES

 1993 encumbered funds - A.D. Little
 3,996.57

 Plant fund
 46,448.78

 Unrestricted funds
 91,298.10

 Current year excess (deficit)
 59,512.50

\$ 201,255.95

Total liabilities and funds

\$ 203,772.04



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