

Anchorage

Turnagain Arm

Kenai

Soldotna

Cook Inlet

Homer

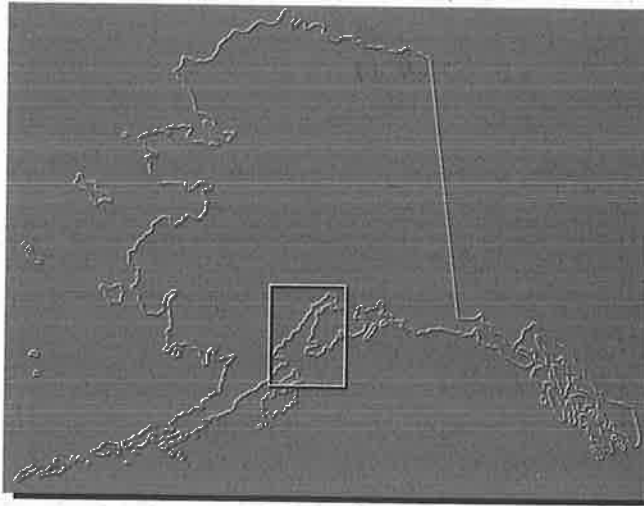
Kachemak Bay

Kamishak Bay

Key

-  Oil and gas platforms
-  Terminals or refineries
-  Oil and gas pipelines

Cook Inlet
Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Annual Report 1995



Cook Inlet, Alaska

- **length:** approximately 220 miles
- **width:** up to 50 miles at widest point
- **depth:** 200 feet average, maximum more than 330 feet
- **mean tidal range:** 10 feet at mouth, up to 30 feet at Anchorage
- **extreme tidal range:** approaching 40 feet
- **currents:** average 1 to 2 knots, maximum 4 to 8 knots
- **general circulation:** flows up east side and down west side, net outflow to Gulf of Alaska
- **general description:** Located near Alaska's population center, Cook Inlet is 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.

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Annual Report 1995

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Cook Inlet RCAC Annual Report 1995

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- page 10: courtesy Ken Castner
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- **design and production**

- Sean Reid, Reid Communications, Anchorage



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Message from the president



Here we are now on the back side of the '90s and moving rapidly toward the end of the century. Nineteen Hundred Ninety-Five was another good productive year for the Cook Inlet RCAC.

Once the budget and the work plans were given final approval, the committees proceeded with their projects.

The Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) contracted for another year of sampling different areas of the Cook Inlet. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minerals Management Service for the grant they gave us this year which allowed us to do some extra sampling. The grant was greatly appreciated. We are gradually building a data base that we anticipate will be useful in the future.

The Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety committee continued with its projects started in the previous year, with the bulk of the 1995 projects finished toward the end of the year.

Congratulations are in order for our executive director, Ms. Anne McCord. While continuing with her duties and commitments to the Cook Inlet RCAC, Anne studied for and passed the Alaska Bar Exam the first time, I might add.

On a less happy note we bid farewell to Mr. Doug Coughenower. He has represented the City of Homer since 1991 and has also served as the chair of the EMC. He tendered his resignation as of December 1995. Although Mr. Coughenower's leadership will be sorely missed, we wish him well in his future endeavors.

One of Doug's accomplishments was the formation of a Scientific Advisory Panel to advise the EMC. The representatives on this group bring a wealth of education and information to the EMC and the Council. Their service is invaluable.

In closing, I want to thank all of the people involved on the Council and the Committees. These ladies and gentlemen are VOLUNTEERS. They have committed their time and participation because they care. Without them we could do nothing.



***Doug Coughenower
receives a gift of
appreciation for his
years of volunteer
service***

1995 Officers & Directors

officers

President

Betty J. Glick

representation

Kenai Peninsula Borough

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

Vice President

Chair, Credentials Committee

Capt. "Glen" Glenzer

Municipality of Anchorage

Capt. Glenzer is a retired Navy Captain and former director of the Port of Anchorage. Before that he served as deputy commissioner of the state's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and was the Municipality of Anchorage's manager for operations. Capt. Glenzer has served on the board since December 1, 1990.

Secretary

Marie Becker

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

A resident of Nikiski and the owner/manager of Environmental Solutions, Ms. Becker represents the tourism industry of the Kenai Peninsula. She has served on the board since March 14, 1992.

Treasurer

Thomas Mears

Aquaculture Associations

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

1995 Officers & Directors (continued)

directors

representation

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 Cook Inlet RCAC board since February 6, 1993.

Doug Coughenower

City of Homer

Chair, Environmental Monitoring Committee

Mr. Coughenower is the regional representative for the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Marine Advisory Program on the Kenai Peninsula. Mr. Coughenower resigned from the EMC and the board on December 9, 1995, after serving since December 14, 1991.

John Douglas

City of Kenai

Mr. Douglas, a retired drilling and production manager, is a mining and petroleum consultant. He has served on the board since April 1, 1992.

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 flies for Maritime Helicopters. Mr. Walters owns the Katmai Wilderness Lodge. He has served on the board since February 5, 1994.

June Reuling

City of Seldovia

Ms. Reuling retired from Caterpillar Inc. of Peoria, Illinois, after 35 years and has lived in Seldovia for 7 years. Ms. Reuling has served on the board since April 8, 1994.

Ken Castner

Commercial Fishing Interests

Chair, Prevention, Response, Safety and Operations Committee

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 board since May 3, 1991.

Charles Dickson

Environmental Interests

Mr. Dickson is vice president of the Public Awareness Committee for the Environment, which he helped organize. He has served on the board since September 24, 1994.

Chris Berns

Kodiak Island Borough

Mr. Berns is a commercial fisherman who has lived in Alaska for more than 25 years. He has served on the board since December 9, 1994.

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 board since December 1, 1990.

Ex-officio members

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Joe Sautner

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Kris O'Connor

Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Mike Byington

Bureau of Land Management

Joe Dygas

Environmental Protection Agency

Al Ewing

Minerals Management Service

Richard Prentki

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

John Whitney

U.S. Coast Guard

Capt. Edmond Thompson

U.S. Forest Service

Gary Lehnhausen

Charter funding companies

Oil companies provide monies to fund the operations of the Cook Inlet RCAC. The companies that 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. A three year funding agreement, providing \$631,187.00 per year for the year 1995 and \$616,133.00 for the years of 1996 and 1997, was reached between Cook Inlet RCAC and its funding companies in 1994.

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. • Chevron •
Shell Western E & P, Inc. • ARCO Alaska, Inc. • Defense Fuel Supply

RCAC – An overview

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) provided for the establishment of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC) to rebuild trust and foster a long term partnership between industry, government and citizens following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Another objective is to provide citizen oversight of terminal and tanker operations that may affect the environment.

That environment is Cook Inlet, a large estuary in southcentral Alaska, which has been home to offshore oil and gas development since the 1960s. The inlet runs northeast from the Gulf of Alaska and is about 220 nautical miles long and ranges from 50 miles wide at the entrance to an average of about 15 miles. Some of the most extreme tides in the world – approaching 40 feet – rip in and out of the inlet. Such tidal ranges can generate currents exceeding seven knots. In winter, thick slabs of sea ice move with the tides and currents.

Despite the dynamic and often challenging conditions in Cook Inlet, it is one of the world's richest fishing grounds containing five species of salmon, numerous species of bottom fish, crab, clams and shrimp. This marine wildlife supports an abundance of seabirds and sea mammals, as well as human subsistence users, recreational users and commercial fish operations.

The oil industry shows a considerable presence in this rich environment. There are 12 offshore oil platforms producing about 35,000 barrels of crude oil per day; oil is transported from platforms to three onshore processing facilities via subsea pipelines; and tankers laden with oil transit the inlet. Cook Inlet oil products are shipped outbound to U.S. west coast markets and North Slope crude oil is shipped in from the Valdez terminal to the Tesoro refinery in Nikiski on Cook Inlet's east side.

Cook Inlet RCAC – Organizational structure

Cook Inlet 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.

Cook Inlet RCAC consists of 13 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 (MMS), Alaska Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Cook Inlet RCAC depends on the efforts of volunteers. Much of the Council'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 Cook Inlet RCAC staff.

Key duties of the Council & Council tasks – 1995

The key responsibilities of the Council as identified in section 5002 of OPA 90 were met in a variety of ways in 1995:

"Provide advice and recommendations on policies, permits and site-specific regulations for terminal and tanker operations and maintenance."

Cook Inlet RCAC fulfills its legal mandate in part by providing advice, comments and recommendations to industry and government and by participating in work groups with industry and agencies. In 1995 Cook Inlet RCAC participated in the *Cook Inlet Tug Escort Work Group*. This group evaluated whether the OPA 90 requirement mandating escort tugs for single-hulled oil tankers over 5,000 gross tons should be applied to Cook Inlet by regulatory decree. The group identified emergency response and towing capability and debated the effects a tug escort rule would have on Cook Inlet operations.

By invitation, the Council's executive director participated in a meeting on lifting the export ban on Alaskan oil hosted by Alaska's Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer and Assistant Secretary of Energy Bill White. The meeting provided a forum for the oil industry, native communities, environmental groups and the public to identify and discuss environmental concerns relating to tanker operations that might result from lifting the ban.

"Monitor environmental impacts of the operation of terminals and tankers."

Cook Inlet RCAC continued to investigate ballast water treatment and track the promulgation of Natural Resource Damage Assessments regulations. Both issues have important environmental implications for Cook Inlet.

"Monitor terminals and tanker operations and maintenance that may affect the environment near terminals."

The completion of a new general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit was one of this year's major regulatory actions impacting the oil industry in Cook Inlet. The EMC was very involved in a public review process of the permit. In addition to conducting a detailed review of permit conditions, the EMC held a public information forum and an educational workshop on permitting issues.

A report entitled "Platform Facility Evaluation, Cook Inlet, Alaska" was completed by Belmar Engineering & Management Services for Cook Inlet RCAC. The report documents a study of the basic well and safety systems of all Cook Inlet platforms. Three platforms were selected as subjects of a detailed review of their ability to withstand seismic activity.

"Review the adequacy of oil-spill prevention and contingency plans for terminals and tankers."

One of Cook Inlet RCAC's primary responsibilities is to review industry contingency plans for oil spill prevention and response. These documents, required by state and federal law, describe the equipment, resources, personnel and procedures that will be mobilized in case of an oil spill. In 1995 Cook Inlet RCAC reviewed and commented on the Stewart Petroleum Contingency Plan.

Council tasks – 1995

(continued)

"Provide advice and recommendations on port operations, policies and practices."

In a three-year project commencing in 1995, Cook Inlet RCAC is participating in a "Safety and Efficiency of Navigation in Cook Inlet" project funded by NOAA. The next two years will be spent defining safety and navigation problems and solutions.

"Review standards for tankers bound for, loading at, or exiting from oil terminals."

The Council has sent staff and board members to annual tanker legislation conferences and the States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force meetings to keep abreast of national and international policies affecting the operations of tankers entering Alaskan waters. Cook Inlet RCAC also has had PROPS members attend Alaska Board of Marine Pilots meetings for the last four years. Cook Inlet RCAC has commented on several proposed regulations that address training requirements for pilots, recency requirements for licensing and continuing education and periodic reappraisal of competency following full licensure by the state.

Any pollution incident inevitably involves human error. The PROPS committee continues to work with the State of Alaska, through DEC and the Board of Marine Pilots, and the United States Coast Guard, to improve methods of training and qualification.

Public outreach

In addition to meeting the mandates imposed by OPA 90, Cook Inlet RCAC took a more active role in developing a public outreach program in 1995 to help stimulate public interest and involvement.

The EMC designed an educational brochure with information about Cook Inlet RCAC's ongoing monitoring program in the inlet. The EMC also created the character "Al" whose name stands for "always looking." Al will be assisting with public outreach and will be found on educational brochures and committee information.

Cook Inlet RCAC began publishing *The Source*, a quarterly newsletter on Council activities.

Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee

The primary mission of the PROPS committee is a commitment to the prevention of oil spills in Cook Inlet. The 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. The secondary mission of the Committee is to review and monitor spill response efforts and the use of the best available technology. Some work topics include: Oil Spill Contingency Plan Review; Review of Spill Drill Exercises; Review of Spill Response Efforts; Evaluation of Spill Response Equipment; Near Shore Response Pilot Program Development; and Dispersants and In-Situ Burning.



In-situ burning, the controlled burning of spilled oil, is one of several response tools professionals might consider in the event of a Cook Inlet disaster.

Council Members

Ken Castner, Chair
Commercial Fishing
Homer

Capt. "Glen" Glenzer
Municipality of Anchorage

Tom Mears
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Kenai

Public Members

Capt. A.D. Santos
Anchorage

John Lewis
Anchorage

Douglas Jones
Anchorage

Barry Eldridge
Kenai

Mary Jacobs
Kodiak

Bill Cobb
Anchorage



Ken Castner

Ex-Officio Members

Doug Lentsch
CISPRI General Manager

Capt. Ed Thompson
U.S. Coast Guard

Kris O'Connor
ADNR

Mike Munger
ADEC

John Whitney
NOAA

Richard Prentki
MMS

Environmental Monitoring Committee

The EMC is concerned with minimizing the impacts of the oil industry on the health of the Cook Inlet ecosystem. Among the committee's goals are distribution of information about the Cook Inlet oil industry; monitoring the environmental compliance efforts of government agencies and industry; design and implementation of an independent environmental monitoring program for Cook Inlet; and identification, collection and dissemination of environmental literature and information for use in committee and Council activities and by the public.

Council members

Doug Coughenower, Chair
City of Homer

Betty Glick
Kenai Borough

Public members

Christopher M. Dillon
Anchorage

Dave Hanneman
Anchorage

Dennis Randa
Soldotna

Dora Dushkin
Anchorage

Tamara Smid
Beluga

Vince O'Reilly
Kenai

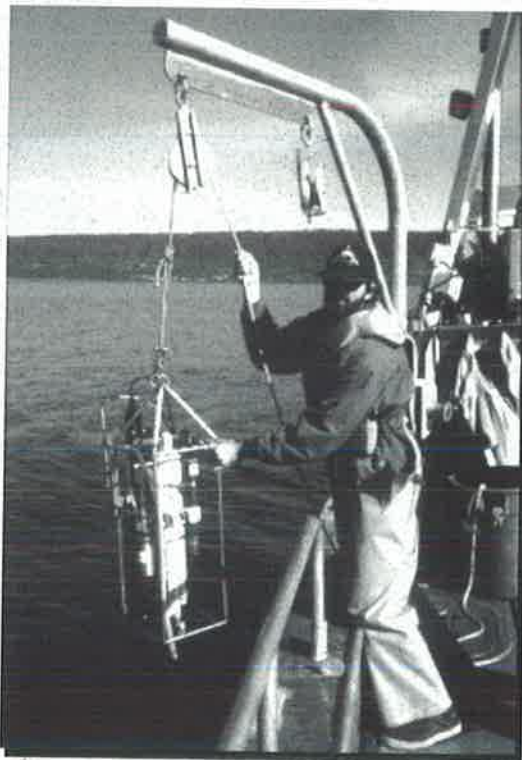
Karl Pulliam
Seldovia

Ex-Officio members

Kris O'Connor
ADNR

Mike Munger
ADEC

Richard Prentki
MMS



Under the direction of the EMC, vital studies and field monitoring projects are conducted by qualified engineering and testing firms.

Committee tasks – 1995

"Advise council on monitoring strategy to permit early detection of environmental impacts of terminal and tanker operations."

1995 heralded the formation of RCAC's Scientific Advisory Panel. Six volunteer scientists were recruited to assist the EMC on technical issues. The panel was extremely helpful throughout the year. The group reviewed and commented on project proposals, the 1995 Monitoring Report and the Committee's NPDES comments.

"Develop monitoring programs."

Having completed a two year pilot project, the EMC redesigned its strategy and hired a new firm to carry out a monitoring project in 1995. This study included innovative biological testing while maintaining some of the benchmark methods used in previous years.

"Monitor periodic drills and testing of contingency plans."

The PROPS Committee hired a contractor to monitor spill drill exercises. Cook Inlet RCAC staff also participated in a UNOCAL drill as planners and observers.

"Study wind and water currents and other environmental factors that would be useful for oil-spill prevention or response."

In 1995 Cook Inlet RCAC solicited proposals from contractors to produce a trajectory model capable of providing rapid predictions of the movement of spilled oil in the inlet. The model will aid in response planning.

"Identify highly sensitive areas that may require special protection during oil spills."

In September, 1995, Capt. Glenzer and Drs. John Whitney, Orson Smith and Doug Jones surveyed keeper beaches (beaches that tend to be natural collection sites for debris) along the southwestern shore of Cook Inlet. This information was presented to the sensitive area work group to be incorporated in the Cook Inlet Sub-Area Regional Plan which will be released for public comment in early 1996.

"Monitor developments in oil-spill prevention, containment, response and clean-up technology."

The PROPS committee has spent considerable time studying the effects and effectiveness of the burning of oil as a possible tool for response to spills, especially on the surface of a dynamic water body such as Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet RCAC contributed \$10,000 to Alaska Clean Seas for 1995-96 to determine the effective limitations that individual oil properties and environmental conditions place on in-situ burning. Also being studied is the effect of waves on the ability to ignite and sustain an efficient in-situ burn.

PROPS members and Cook Inlet RCAC staff also participated in meetings of the Alaska Regional Response Team and pressed for the adoption of guidelines that accurately reflect the air quality impacts of a crude oil burn.

Committee tasks – 1995

(continued)

The PROPS committee continues to monitor the development of various firebooms. Staff and committee members visited Seattle to attend a towing and burn demonstration using two different booms. North Slope crude oil was used in the controlled burn exercise to test the durability of these firebooms.

Cook Inlet RCAC is a member of the American Society for Testing and Materials, and Committee F-20, Hazardous Substances and Spill Response and Committee F-25, Ships and Marine Technology. PROPS participates by sending a representative to meetings and helping define industry standards. The goal of the committee members is to implement consensus standards in lieu of regulations.

In a joint project with the Prince William Sound RCAC, Cook Inlet RCAC and PROPS provided money and assistance, respectively, for the development of a Community Response Center Manual to help communities and villages in the *Exxon Valdez* spill-affected region create oil spill response centers.

RCAC staff

Anne McCord, Executive Director

Anne joined Cook Inlet RCAC in February 1994. A former assistant commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, she has a background in law, business administration and management.

Rory Dabney, Program Coordinator

Rory began working for Cook Inlet RCAC as a temporary employee in 1992. She has filled many roles and is familiar with all office and Council operations. In 1994 Rory took on program coordinator responsibilities.

Ruth Post, Science Coordinator

Ruth is the most recent addition to the staff, coming on board in October 1994. She received a Masters degree in Aquatic Ecology from Western Washington University in 1995.

Karen Williams, Office Manager

Karen has worked for Cook Inlet RCAC since 1990. She previously worked with the Kenai Peninsula Borough Emergency Management/Oil Spill Office following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

Kelly Rose, Secretary

Kelly began working for Cook Inlet RCAC in July 1994. Starting as a receptionist, she soon took on many responsibilities and is a valuable asset to the Council.

Cindy Sanguinetti, Special Projects

Cindy has worked for Cook Inlet RCAC since April 1991. She transcribes meeting minutes and works on special projects as needed.

**Statement of revenues, expenses and encumbrances
for the year ending December 31, 1995**

Financial report

REVENUES

Charter fund companies	\$ 631,187.00	
Interest revenue	9,316.85	
Other income	318.87	
1994 encumbered receipts	21,218.87	
MMS designated funds	10,000.00	
Total revenues		\$ 672,041.59

EXPENDITURES

Personal services	\$ 266,542.14	
Admin. travel, meals, lodging	18,018.33	
Council travel, meals, lodging	9,800.61	
Misc. travel, meals, lodging	24,210.83	
Facilities	27,761.96	
Telephone	18,516.67	
Office equipment & supplies	17,716.47	
Computers	5,475.64	
Public relations	5,336.64	
Education outreach	6,280.85	
Legal	4,006.64	
Accountant	12,812.00	
Professional services	162,436.19	
Dues and subscriptions	4,140.87	
Delivery charges	4,669.42	
Travel advances	846.74	
Prior expenses written off	(223.29)	
Encumbrances	109,744.90	
Total expenditures		\$ (698,093.61)
Net excess revenues/(deficit)		\$ (26,052.02)

Balance sheet December 31, 1995

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 201,046.55	
Accounts receivable	150.00	
Equipment	77,855.78	
Accumulated depreciation	(31,411.00)	
Total assets		\$ 247,641.33

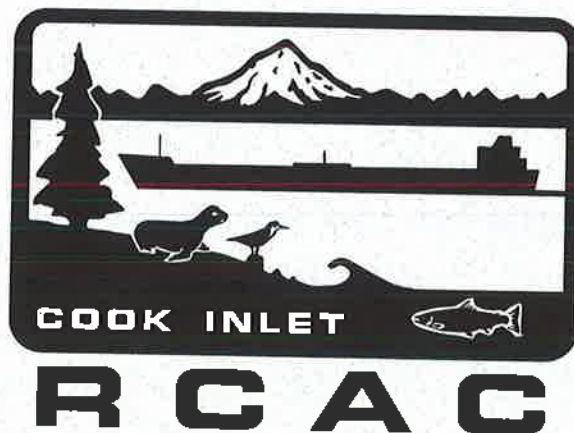
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	12,984.20	
Accrued wages	5,574.86	
Accrued payroll tax	174.03	
Accrued leave	11,652.06	
Total liabilities		\$ 30,385.15

FUND BALANCES

Encumbered funds	115,744.90	
Plant fund	46,444.78	
Unrestricted funds	55,066.50	
		\$ 217,256.18
Total liabilities and funds		\$ 247,641.33



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