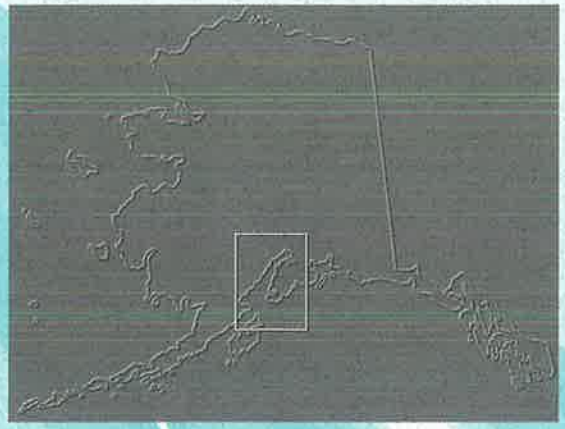
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Annual Report 1996



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.

Mission Statement

The Cook Inlet RCAC is guided by its mission, "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 Regional Citizens Advisory Council Annual Report 1996

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Cook Inlet RCAC Annual Report 1996

- photos courtesy *Peninsula Clarion*, Kinnetic Labs, Seldovia Oil Spill response team and Sean Reid
- design and production by Reid Communications, Anchorage

printed on recycled paper

Preface

As a result of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, the United States Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) and established two demonstration projects in Alaska – one in Cook Inlet, the other in Prince William Sound – designed to involve citizens in the oversight of oil operations and to foster a long-term partnership between the oil industry, government agencies and local communities and citizens. These demonstration projects became known as the Regional Citizens Advisory Councils. The law specifically allows a volunteer advisory group to fulfill the requirements for a Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC). Accordingly, the founding members of the Cook Inlet RCAC formed this council as a volunteer non-profit corporation in 1990.

Each year the United States Coast Guard assesses whether the Cook Inlet RCAC has fostered the general goals and purposes of the law and has broadly represented the communities and interests in the Cook Inlet region. In 1996 the Coast Guard recertified the Cook Inlet RCAC for another year, June 1, 1996 - May 31, 1997. As the certified council for the Cook Inlet region, Cook Inlet RCAC's responsibilities under OPA 90 are to

- Provide advice and recommendations on policies, permits, and site-specific regulations relating to the operation and maintenance of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers that 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 that 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 and 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.

This annual report is submitted to the voting and non-voting members of the Council and its committees, as well as to the citizens whom they represent and the Council's funding companies. It provides information on the activities undertaken by the Council to meet its legal mandates between February 1996 and February 1997, the period of activity between Cook Inlet RCAC annual meetings.

Message from the President

Nineteen hundred ninety-six was a year of change and accomplishment for the Cook Inlet RCAC.

Betty Glick

As with all organizations, we experienced change in our membership, but I'd like to recognize two long-term members who left our fold: Mr. Tom Mears, long-time representative for the Aquaculture Association, and Mr. Ken Castner, long-time representative of the commercial fishing industry and Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee (PROPS) chairman. Mr. Mears departed Alaska to farm fish in Tennessee. His insights and participation will be greatly missed. Mr. Castner chose not to seek reappointment on the board, but we are fortunate that he will continue to serve on the PROPS committee as a public member.

The remainder of this annual report is devoted to informing you of the strides and accomplishments we made in the past year.

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to our very competent and loyal staff, without whom we could do nothing, and to the men and women who volunteer their time and energy to make the Cook Inlet RCAC the great organization that it is today.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Glick

Betty Glick

Ken Castner

Tom Mears

Message from the Executive Director

Anne McCord

Cook Inlet RCAC has a unique charge: to represent the interests and concerns of our member organizations and communities, while fostering a cooperative partnership with industry and government. Our ability to build and sustain good working relationships with the oil companies operating in the Inlet and with state and federal agencies has been the key to our long-term success.

The Council has demonstrated that citizens, government and industry can work together to reach consensus. We are pleased to report on the collective strides taken by the Council, regulators and industry personnel we have worked with during the past year to foster what we all want: safe oil production and transportation.

The Council has benefitted greatly from the participation of its council and committee members on work plans. We are very grateful to our members for their attendance at meetings and investment of time and experience. We encourage you to continue in this process, for much remains to be done.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Anne McCord

Anne McCord

Committees

Much of Cook Inlet RCAC's work is done through volunteer committees consisting of council members and other citizens with interest, experience and background in a given area. The committees work for the council with assistance provided by staff. Committee recommendations are submitted to the full council for approval and further action. Public members of the committees are selected through a formal application process.

Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee

The PROPS Committee works to minimize the risks and impacts associated with oil production and transportation by evaluating oil spill contingency plans, spill drills and response efforts and making recommendations on terminal, tanker and port operations.

Chair: Ken Castner*

Members:

Captain "Glen" Glenzer*
Marie Becker*
Barry Eldridge
John Lewis
Mary Jacobs*
June Reuling*
Doug Jones
Susan Huse
Captain Santos

* Cook Inlet RCAC Board Member.

Environmental Monitoring Committee

The Environmental Monitoring Committee is charged with devising and managing a comprehensive program of monitoring the environmental impacts of oil terminal facilities and crude oil tankers operating in Cook Inlet.

Chair: Karl Pulliam

Members:

Betty Glick*
Joe Ray Skrha*
Dora Dushkin
Vince O'Reilly
Dennis Randa
Jim Dellinger
James Hornaday*
Al Hastings*
Tamara Smid
Sanne Berrig
Chris Dillon

* Cook Inlet RCAC Board Member.

1996 in review

Kinnetic Laboratories Inc. field crew collects samples from Shelikof Strait

Environmental Monitoring

Cook Inlet RCAC continued its fourth year of collecting baseline data on hydrocarbon concentrations in Cook Inlet. The data provide a benchmark for assessing the impacts of oil production and transportation and future oil spills. Detailed results on the following studies can be obtained by contacting Cook Inlet RCAC.

Cook Inlet Shelikof Strait Project

In 1996, Cook Inlet RCAC collected sediment and bivalve samples from three sites in upper Shelikof Strait. These samples were analyzed for toxicity, heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). In general, data from the three sites indicated that low levels of hydrocarbons and trace minerals exist in the sediment and tissue samples. "Fingerprint" analyses of the PAHs indicate a combination of biological and petroleum inputs. The data do not reflect whether the petroleum input-to-total PAH concentrations were from nearby Cook Inlet seeps or oil production. These results expand our database to include areas outside of Cook Inlet that may be depositional areas for pollutants carried out of the Inlet by sediments suspended in strong tidal currents. The Council will be coordinating with the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to assist in a more extensive study of lower Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. The MMS study is designed to "fingerprint" potential sources of PAHs and use naturally occurring radioisotopes in sediment cores to age the sediment layers for determining pre-industry and post-industry pollutant levels.

Long-term Intertidal Baseline Study

Pentec Environmental, Inc., was contracted to conduct intertidal surveys of invertebrates and algae on soft- and hard-substrate shorelines. Eleven intertidal sites were surveyed to determine if major community changes had occurred since the sites were first surveyed more than twenty years ago. The data and samples gathered in 1996 provide a qualitative and quantitative baseline of intertidal conditions, organism abundance and community structure for comparisons in the event of a major oil spill or other perturbation. The results of the study show no major changes in intertidal communities over the last twenty years for either rocky or soft sediment beaches.

Macoma Clam Study

The deposit-feeding clam, *Macoma balthica,* was collected from soft sediment shorelines within Lake Clark National Park to analyze body tissues for PAHs and heavy metals. The clams were also tested with a new procedure that measures for a toxic response by genetically engineered cells when exposed to the clam tissues. This method has recently been accepted by the American Society for Testing and Materials as a "screening method" to measure for toxic compounds in tissues or sediments. According to the contractor, the engineered cells responded to Lake Clark clams essentially the same way they respond to samples from pristine, or non-polluted, areas. No indication of toxicity was measured for these samples.

Cook Inlet Watershed Program

The Council has joined state and federal agencies, business and industry, academic institutions, native corporations and villages, and other citizens' groups in developing plans for a framework for managing Alaska's watersheds. Planning is under way for the Watershed '97 conference which will be held October 26-31 in Anchorage. This conference will cover regional and state watershed issues. As part of the larger watershed conference, a separate Cook Inlet Symposium will focus on presenting scientific information, plans for future studies, and policy and regulatory issues of concern to the general public and stakeholders in the watershed. The Council has been involved in several working groups and steering committees to make these events possible and to begin developing and implementing a consensus-based approach to the management of the Cook Inlet watershed ecosystem.

Community Outreach

Students sort and identify invertebrate samples collected from Cook Inlet

Congress mandated the creation of the Cook Inlet RCAC to inform and empower people who can be impacted by oil spills. Cook Inlet RCAC operates in a public forum and strives to involve the public. One of the ways it did this in 1996 was by involving high school students in analyzing sediment samples. Students sorted, identified and counted organisms taken out of sediment core samples collected from beaches around the perimeter of Cook Inlet. The students supplied a valuable service to Cook Inlet and in the process they were involved in an actual scientific study.

Throughout the year, Cook Inlet RCAC staff and members also made numerous presentations to civic, social and professional organizations. Members and staff were also invited to be on several Kenai Peninsula radio news and talk shows to discuss Cook Inlet RCAC projects.

Oil Spill Prevention, Response and Preparedness

Contingency Plan Reviewing

One of the Cook Inlet RCAC's most basic responsibilities is to review industry plans for oil spill prevention and response. These documents, required by state and federal law, describe the equipment, resources, personnel and procedures that would be mobilized in the event of an oil spill.

Cook Inlet RCAC has participated in the review of several Cook Inlet crude and non-crude prevention and response contingency plans this year. Comments are produced using a set of review protocols. The protocols were developed with criteria from federal requirements, state requirements and review criteria established by Cook Inlet RCAC. The protocols provide a consistent framework for review so that plans may be compared between plan holders over time.

1996 in review *(continued)*

The Cook Inlet Sub-area Contingency Plan was released for public review in 1996. Cook Inlet RCAC participated in workgroups during the compilation of the plan and offered comments to the Alaska Regional Response Team during the public comment period.

A report titled *Contingency Planning in Cook Inlet, A Review of Process and Efficacy* was completed this year. The focus of this study was to understand how the system for prevention and response, which includes contingency planning, is working in practice. The investigation consisted of two parts: a review and analysis of documents, regulations, contingency plans, drill reports, and documents relevant to the contingency planning process; and sixty confidential interviews that included government, industry, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI), independent consultants and individuals from Cook Inlet RCAC. Virtually all those interviewed believe that Cook Inlet RCAC's involvement in the contingency planning process is helpful. There was near-unanimous agreement that Cook Inlet RCAC plays a positive role in reviewing contingency plans and participating in drills.

Drill Monitoring

Staff and council members also participated in tabletop drills for UNOCAL, Phillips, Shell and a worst-case scenario drill conducted by Tesoro. In the event of an actual spill, our role is to keep the public informed about the progress of the spill and the ongoing and planned actions to mitigate its effects and to convey to the responsible party public concerns, local knowledge and offers of assistance.

Emergency Planning

Cook Inlet RCAC is a member of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee. The members are charged with preparing an emergency response plan for the community that dovetails with state and federal emergency response plans. In 1996 the Council focused on evaluating the effects of technological disasters on residents in impacted areas. Information generated from this research will be incorporated into a Community Impacts Planning Guidebook.

Doug Jones examines the computerized Cook Inlet oil spill trajectory model

Oil Spill Trajectory Modeling

In 1996 Cook Inlet RCAC developed a state-of-the-art computer model that can represent the behavior of hypothetical oil spills and predict the course of real ones. The model takes into account the ebb and flood water levels and tidal currents that dominate the Inlet. By using the software provided by Cook Inlet RCAC, oil representatives and government officials will be able to develop more realistic training exercises and pinpoint where to mobilize equipment in the event of a spill. Working in cooperation with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Cook Inlet RCAC plans

to make refinements to the model in 1997 and enlarge the model's geographical boundaries.

Sensitive Area Mapping

Cook Inlet RCAC partnered with industry and government to fund the production of maps for the Kodiak Island sub-area. The maps will show ecologically sensitive areas specific to each season. Used in conjunction with spill trajectory models, the maps will facilitate oil spill response efforts to protect environmentally sensitive areas at any time of the year.

Cook Inlet Navigation Safety Meetings

Cook Inlet RCAC promotes safety by participating in ongoing work groups with industry and regulatory members. Cook Inlet RCAC continued to participate in a three-year "Safety and Efficiency of Navigation in Cook Inlet" project funded by NOAA. The first two years have been spent on defining safety and navigation problems and solutions.

Broken Ice Study

Cook Inlet RCAC has been working with CISPRI, the University of Alaska Anchorage and NOAA to track, by air and land, ice buildup and movement in Cook Inlet. The information obtained from this study will be useful in assessing appropriate cleanup strategies in the event of an oil spill.

John Whitney examines Cook Inlet beach ice

Nearshore Demonstration Project

Cook Inlet RCAC has actively supported the creation, development and continuation of "Nearshore Demonstration Projects" which positioned oil spill equipment in coastal communities for use by volunteers. Facing a loss of state funding to keep this equipment available for response to Cook Inlet spills, Cook Inlet RCAC is seeking the commitment of funds and support from local communities, government officials and industry representatives to develop a local partnership to maintain the equipment and trained personnel in the region. Support has been given for the establishment of a networked spill response system, but funding and contractual issues still need to be resolved.

The 650-barrel oil spill responder barge and boom is deployed during a nearshore training exercise

Cook Inlet RCAC Member Organizations

Alaska Native organizations
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Aquaculture associations
City of Homer
City of Kenai
City of Kodiak
City of Seldovia
Commercial fishing interest groups
Environmental interest groups
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Kodiak Island Borough
Municipality of Anchorage
Recreational interest groups

Ex-Officio Members *(Non-Voting)*

Captain Ed Thompson
U.S. Coast Guard

Gary Lehnhausen
U.S. Forest Service

Joe Dygas
Bureau of Land Management

John Whitney
National Oceanic &
Atmospheric Administration

Matt Carr
Environmental Protection
Agency

Richard Prentki
Minerals Management Service

Joe Sautner
Department of Environmental Conservation

Mike Munger
Department of Environmental Conservation

Kris O'Connor
Department of Natural Resources

Mike Byington
Alaska Division of Emergency Services

Orson Smith
Alaska District Corps of Engineers

Board of Directors 1996

Betty Glick
Kenai Peninsula Borough
President

Glen Glenzer
Municipality of Anchorage
Vice-President

Tom Mears
Aquaculture
Treasurer

Mary Jacobs
Kodiak Island Borough

Joe Ray Skrha
Recreation

Al Hastings
Native Organizations

James Hornaday
Environmental

John Douglas
City of Kenai

June Reuling
City of Seldovia

Ken Castner
Fishing Organizations

Mariah Offer
City of Kodiak

Marie Becker
Alaska State Chamber
of Commerce

vacant
City of Homer

Cook Inlet RCAC Staff

Executive Director	**Elizabeth Anne McCord**
Program Coordinator	**Rory Dabney**
Science Research Coordinator	**Ruth Post / Susan Saupe**
Office Manager	**Karen Williams**
Secretary	**Kelly Rose**
Transcriber	**Cindy Sanguinetti**

Charter Funding Companies

Oil companies provide monies to fund the operations of the Cook Inlet RCAC. The companies that agreed to participate, listed below, 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 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 Company • Chevron • Shell Western E & P, Inc. • ARCO Alaska, Inc. • Defense Fuel Supply

Financial Statement

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending December 31, 1996

RECEIPTS		
Charter Fund Company	$612,388.24	
Encumbered Receipts	106,133.59	
Interest Revenue	8,311.06	
Broken Ice Mech. Joint Venture	5,000.00	
Total receipts		**$731,832.89**
EXPENDITURES		
Personal Services	265,319.30	
Admin Travel/Meals/Lodging	21,894.88	
Council Travel/Meals/Lodging	21,469.35	
Misc Travel/Meals/Lodging	23,535.74	
Facilities	27,367.06	
Telephone	21,333.65	
Office Equipment & Supplies	20,837.61	
Computers	3,829.47	
Public Relations	4,065.20	
Education Outreach	9,172.47	
Legal	1,939.14	
Accountant	12,461.67	
Professional Services	199,493.34	
Dues & Subscriptions	5,382.43	
Delivery Charges	9,592.22	
Travel Advance	10.00	
Prior Expenses Written Off	(223.21)	
Total expenditures		**$(647,480.32)**
Encumbered expenses - 1996		**$75,041.58**
Net excess receipts		**$9,310.99**

Balance Sheet December 31, 1996

ASSETS		
Cash	$170,576.99	
Equipment	77,855.78	
Accumulated Depreciation	(31,411.00)	
Total assets		**$217,021.77**
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	2,677.22	
Accrued Payroll Tax	547.17	
Accrued Leave	17,475.48	
Total Liabilities		**20,699.87**
FUND BALANCES		
96 Encumbered-Shelikof Strait	9,386.51	
96 Encumbered-Broken Ice	4,000.00	
96 Encumbered-C-Plan Review	3,226.07	
96 Encumbered-Broken Ice Mech	9,229.00	
96 Encumbered-Spill Trajectory	33,000.00	
96 Encumbered-Hardware & Data	10,000.00	
96 Encumbered	10,200.00	
Plant Fund	46,495.99	
Unrestricted Funds	61,473.34	
Current Year Excess (Deficit)	9,310.99	
		$196,321.90
Total liabilities and funds		**$217,021.77**

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