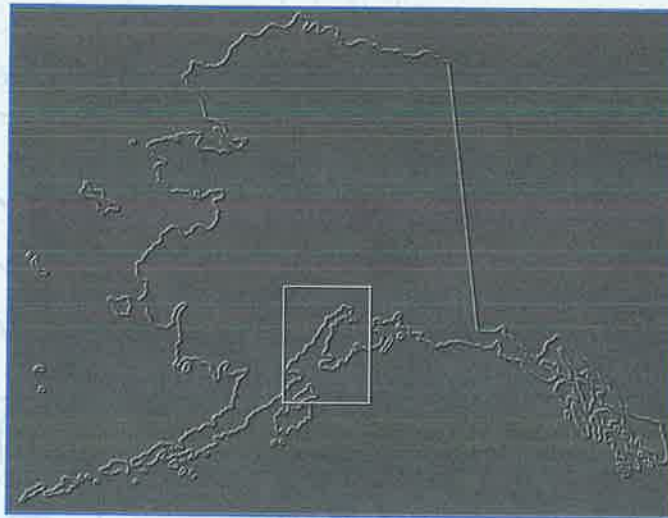


# Annual Report 1997

## *Mission Statement*

“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, 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 1997*

#### *Contents*

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Historical Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Legislative Findings</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Certification</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Message from the President</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Message from the Executive Director</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Organizational Structure</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Committees</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Environmental Monitoring Committee</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Oil Spill Prevention, Response, Operations &amp; Safety Committee</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Combating Complacency through Community Outreach</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Cook Inlet RCAC Staff</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Charter Funding Companies</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Financial Statement</b>	<b>14</b>

**Cook Inlet RCAC Annual Report 1997**

- cover photo © Sean Reid; other photos by Alaska Clean Seas, Sean Reid and Cook Inlet RCAC
- design and production by Reid Communications, Anchorage

## *Message from the President*



*Al Hastings*

It has been my pleasure to serve as president of Cook Inlet RCAC during 1997. During this past year, two of the more senior members of the council have left as well as our executive director. Joe Ray Skrha and Marie Becker have chosen to leave after years of devoted service. Anne McCord, our executive director for the past four years, has also left to pursue a private legal career in Kenai. Their experience and expertise will be missed.

We welcome our new council representatives and our new executive director, Dr. Bryan Mac Lean, to the organization. Bryan brings excellent community outreach experience to the council.

The experience and dedication of the council's hard-working staff continues to enable the council to run smoothly, and they deserve special thanks from all of us. The time and effort expended by the council, ex-officio and public members, as well as the committees, makes Cook Inlet RCAC an excellent organization for achieving our mission. I believe the council is poised to continue its growth for the foreseeable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Al Hastings".

Al Hastings



## *Message from the Executive Director*



*Bryan Mac Lean*

A change in leadership is an exciting time and I look forward to the challenges of the upcoming year. As always, we can expect that Cook Inlet RCAC's activities and progress will be closely monitored by industry, government and the public. Well-defined goals, clearly-identified objectives and active public participation will maximize our effectiveness and credibility. As the new executive director, I will be guided by my belief in the effectiveness of the public participatory process, the value of community empowerment and the importance of credibility and accountability.

Cook Inlet is a unique natural environment whose long-term sustainability requires careful planning, balanced development and diligent monitoring. Cook Inlet RCAC can play a significant role in these activities. I am under no illusions that there will be unanimous agreement on all issues. However, by staying focused on the issues and agreeing to work together, we can continue to move forward in a positive and meaningful manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Bryan Mac Lean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bryan" being more prominent.

Bryan Mac Lean



## *Organizational Structure*

Cook Inlet RCAC's membership consists of 13 member organizations which includes cities, boroughs, the Municipality of Anchorage and interest groups with a significant stake in the environment and resources at risk from oil production and transportation. Each member organization appoints a representative to the board of directors of the council. In addition, there are nine ex-officio members.

### **Cook Inlet RCAC Member Organizations (Voting)**

- 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)**

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska Division of Emergency Services
- Bureau of Land Management
- Minerals Management Service
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Forest Service



# Board of Directors 1997



**Al Hastings**  
President  
Alaska Native organizations



**Glen Glenzer**  
Vice-President  
Municipality of Anchorage



**Joe Ray Skrha**  
Treasurer/Secretary  
recreational interest groups



**Debra Horne**  
Kenai Peninsula Borough



**Mary Jacobs**  
Kodiak Island Borough



**John Douglas**  
City of Kenai



**Mariah Offer**  
City of Kodiak



**June Reuling**  
City of Seldovia



**Paul McCollum**  
City of Homer



**Paul Shadura**  
aquaculture associations



**Marie Becker**  
Alaska State  
Chamber of Commerce



**Jim Hornaday**  
environmental  
interest groups



**Phil Squires**  
commercial fishing  
interest groups

## Committees

Much of the council's work is done through two committees, the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) and the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee (PROPS), consisting of council members and other citizens with interest, experience and background in a given area. The committees design and implement work plans with assistance from staff and formulate advice and recommendations for consideration by the board of directors. Public members of the committees are selected through a formal application process.

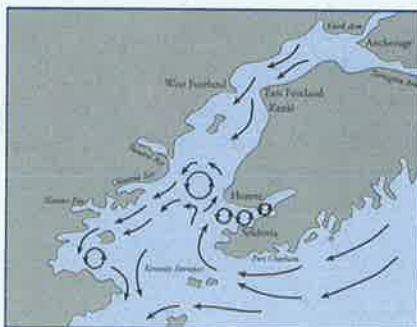
### Environmental Monitoring Committee



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

The Environmental Monitoring Committee's mission is to "insure that the environmental quality of Cook Inlet is not compromised or degraded by the operation of oil facilities and vessels."

EMC recognized early on that one of the obstacles to gauging the impacts of the oil industry was the absence of sound baseline data. Given the tremendous tidal fluctuations and currents that are present in the inlet, Cook Inlet RCAC had to first determine where sediments (potentially carrying hydrocarbons) were likely to be deposited. Potential sites were identified by experts in oceanography and environmental monitoring. Contractors have been employed to gather sediment samples and biological specimens for the last five years to ascertain the presence and source of hydrocarbons in the inlet.



Redrawn from Burbank 1977

*The Alaska coastal current enters through Kennedy Entrance and circles through Cook Inlet in a counter-clockwise direction. In the upper inlet, the general current direction is from the upper inlet as a result of freshwater inputs from the Susitna River. Several gyres occur in Cook Inlet, which can act as depositional areas for sediments.*



*Location of EMC hydrocarbon monitoring sites (1993 - 1997)*



## **Kenai River Sediment Characterization Study**

Twenty five sediment samples were collected in 1997 from within the Kenai River estuary and offshore. These samples were collected to help characterize where river sediments deposit and will provide some baseline data before potential oil and gas activities occur near the river as a result of Lease Sale 85 A-W. Sample collections were done in conjunction with an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation funded study through Trout Unlimited to reduce costs and to coordinate the studies. The sediments were analyzed for grain size distribution, total organic carbon and total organic nitrogen. In addition, hydrocarbon analyses were performed on 12 samples which had the highest percentages of fine-grained sediments, clay and mud, on which hydrocarbon contaminants are more likely to be found. The results of this study will be available in late spring, 1998.

## **Cook Inlet Sediment Toxicity Study**

During earlier sediment quality studies performed by the EMC, results of several tests showed positive toxicity. The results did not correlate with hydrocarbon concentrations. In other words, where the sediments indicated positive toxicity, concentrations of hydrocarbons in the sediments were low. Sediment toxicity tests can be affected by several factors other than contamination, such as nitrogen concentrations, pH, or grain size. Different standard toxicity tests react differently to various sediment parameters. In 1997, the EMC revisited four areas where toxicity test results were positive and conducted four different standard tests. The results of these tests will be compared to hydrocarbon concentrations to help determine which of the standard tests is most useful for detecting toxicity in Cook Inlet sediments. The data provides a benchmark for assessing the impacts of oil production, transportation and future oil spills. The results of this study will also be available in late spring, 1998.

## **Cook Inlet Watershed Conference and Symposium**

Cook Inlet RCAC joined with state and federal agencies, industry, institutions, native corporations and villages, as well as other citizen groups in developing a unique learning experience for managing Alaska's watersheds. Following the two-day conference, scientists and resource managers gathered for a three-day symposium to share information about past and on-going research projects within the Cook Inlet watershed. Cook Inlet RCAC gave presentations on the methods the organization has employed to monitor for petroleum contaminants; presented an oil spill trajectory model developed to use in response planning; and discussed the processes involved in state and federal contingency plan reviews.

EMC Chair: Al Hastings

Members: James Hornaday, Joe Ray Skrha, Phil Squires, Dennis Randa, Dexter Ogle,  
Dora Dushkin, Horace Hunt, Karl Pulliam, Sanne Berrig, Steve Okkonen,  
Vince O'Reilly

Staff Liaison: Susan Saupe

# Oil Spill Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee

The Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee (PROPS) mission is to minimize the risks and impacts associated with oil production and transportation. This is accomplished by evaluating oil spill contingency plans, spill drills and response efforts and making recommendations on terminal, tanker and port operations.

## Contingency Plans

One of the RCAC's most fundamental responsibilities is to review industry contingency plans for oil spill prevention and response and recommend improvements. Oil spill contingency plans, required by state and federal law, describe the equipment, resources, personnel and procedures that would be mobilized in the event of an oil spill. In 1997 Cook Inlet RCAC participated in the review of six Cook Inlet oil spill contingency plans submitted by Tesoro, Kenai Pipeline Co., Shell, Cook Inlet Pipeline and Unocal. Cook Inlet RCAC also participated in a review of Cook Inlet Spill Prevention & Response, Inc.'s (CISPRI) technical manual which is used as a supporting document by these companies.



*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.*

## Spill Drills

Cook Inlet RCAC also contributes to effective spill response by monitoring spill drills and exercises and participating in drills. Cook Inlet RCAC participated in 1997 oil spill response drills held by Tesoro, Shell, Cook Inlet Pipeline Co., Kenai Pipeline Co., Phillips and Unocal. Our role was to observe the activities of industry and government personnel and act as a liaison between persons managing the incident and organizations represented by Cook Inlet RCAC. In these exercises, Cook Inlet RCAC offers constructive suggestions for improving performance. Cook Inlet RCAC was an invited reviewer of Prince William Sound RCAC's participation within the incident command structure at an Alyeska drill sponsored by Tesoro.

## In situ Burning

*In situ* burning of oil spills on water has the potential to quickly remove large quantities of oil from the water surface. Cook Inlet RCAC supports the use of *in situ* burning particularly in a waterbody like Cook Inlet where ice, tidal and wave action can make recovery of oil very difficult.



Alaska Clean Seas with financial contributions from the oil industry, state and federal agencies, oil spill response companies and Cook Inlet RCAC, has been engaged in research and development efforts to improve the likelihood of successfully igniting weathered oils. The work in 1997 built upon earlier testing of ignition devices and chemical emulsion-breakers. A wave tank was installed on the North Slope and used for holding oil to determine the effective limitations of *in situ* burning in realistic environmental conditions.

### **Broken Ice Study**

Based upon the work done by Cook Inlet RCAC and CISPRI in 1996-1997, state agencies recognized the need to incorporate winter conditions in contingency planning and to identify operating limitations. In January 1998 Cook Inlet RCAC co-sponsored an ice symposium in Anchorage bringing together mariners and scientists to identify navigational problems and technological solutions.



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

### **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 worked with local communities, government officials and industry representatives in a coordinated effort to develop a local partnership to maintain the equipment and trained personnel in the region. This effort resulted in a 1997 Alaska Legislature appropriation of \$60,000 from the Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Prevention and Response Fund to assist in the development of a nearshore program that will be funded by communities and users in the future. A Local Response Agreement was also executed between the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Kenai Peninsula Borough for reimbursement of costs incurred by local governments for abatement of oil or hazardous substance spills.

### **American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)**

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. The committees work to build consensus standards on oil spill surveillance and tracking, fire-resistant boom, in situ burning, spill management, ship handling and other issues of interest to RCAC members.

PROPS Chair: Mariah Offer

Members: Captain "Glen" Glenzer, June Reuling, Marie Becker, Doug Jones, Barry Eldridge,  
Susan Huse, John Lewis, Ken Castner, Mary Jacobs

Staff Liaison: Rory Dabney

## *Combating Complacency through Community Outreach*

Complacency was viewed by the United States Congress as a contributing factor in the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. Legislators created the advisory councils to empower citizens that had been impacted by the spill by giving them a forum to be heard by industry and government and a hand in shaping policy. The Council operates in a public forum and strives to involve the public in its activities.

Cook Inlet RCAC keeps its constituents apprised of important issues through the publication of quarterly newsletters, press releases and information fairs. Cook Inlet RCAC had also developed an extensive collection of publications on oil spill prevention and response related issues.

## *Cook Inlet RCAC Staff*

Executive Director

**Elizabeth Anne McCord (1994 - 1997)**

Program Coordinator

**Dr. Bryan Mac Lean (began 1/5/98)**

Science Research Coordinator

**Rory Dabney**

Office Manager

**Susan Saupe**

Secretary

**Karen Williams**

Transcriber

**Kelly Rose**

**Cindy Sanguinetti**

## *Charter Funding Companies*

### **Funding Negotiations**

Oil companies provide monies to fund the operations of the Cook Inlet RCAC. In 1997 Cook Inlet RCAC negotiated a new three-year funding agreement with crude oil facility owners operating in Cook Inlet. 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. • Shell Western E & P, Inc.



# Financial Statement

## Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending December 31, 1997

### RECEIPTS

Charter Fund Company	\$612,804.13
Prince William Sound RCAC Contributions	11,200.00
Encumbered Receipts	49,514.10
Interest Revenue	6,658.57

Total Receipts \$680,176.80

### EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	257,369.68
Admin. Travel/Meals/Lodging	22,879.64
Council Travel/Meals/Lodging	29,040.27
Misc. Travel/Meals/Lodging	23,289.86
Facilities	27,952.28
Telephone	16,334.40
Office Equipment & Supplies	10,094.74
Computers	6,690.44
Public Relations	4,921.95
Education Outreach	6,000.00
Legal	743.72
Accountant	12,211.50
Professional Services	149,581.18
Dues & Subscriptions	5,772.41
Delivery Charges	5,714.74

Total Expenditures (\$578,596.81)

Prior Expenses Written Off	7,953.75
Miscellaneous	5,123.15
1997 Annual Report Encumbered	10,200.00
1997 EMC Encumbered Funds	59,273.72
1997 PROPS Encumbered Funds	28,705.52

Net Excess Receipts (\$9,676.15)

Balance Sheet December 31, 1997

### ASSETS

Cash	\$211,348.45
Equipment	77,855.78
Accumulated Depreciation	(31,411.00)

Total Assets \$257,793.23

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

#### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	11,107.16
Accrued Payroll Tax	725.02
Accrued Leave	10,913.28

Total Liabilities \$22,745.46

#### FUND BALANCES

97 Encumbered - EMC Community Education	2,000.00
97 Encumbered - Discharge Monitoring Reports Review & Outreach	2,000.00
97 Encumbered - Toxicity Studies	22,242.71
97 Encumbered - Depositional Areas	30,031.01
97 Encumbered - Trace Metals	1,000.00
97 Encumbered - EMC Public Education/Outreach	2,000.00
97 Encumbered - Contingency Plan Reviews	2,105.52
97 Encumbered - Broken Ice Mechanics	10,000.00
97 Encumbered - Board of Marine Pilots	600.00
97 Encumbered - In-Situ Burning	4,000.00
97 Encumbered - PROPS Community Education	2,000.00
97 Encumbered - Tesoro Contribution	10,000.00
97 Encumbered - Spill Trajectory Model	24,038.73
97 Encumbered - Spill Trajectory Hardware & Data Entry	5,488.75
97 Encumbered - Financial Audit & Annual Report	10,200.00
96 Encumbered - Broken Ice Mechanics	4,668.63
Plant Fund	46,495.99
Unrestricted Funds	65,852.58
Current Year Excess (Deficit)	(9,676.15)

\$235,047.77

Total Liabilities and Funds

\$257,793.23



**Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council**

**910 Highland Avenue**

**Kenai, AK 99611-8033**

**phone: (907) 283-7222**

**fax: (907) 283-6102**