

Cook Inlet RCAC Staff

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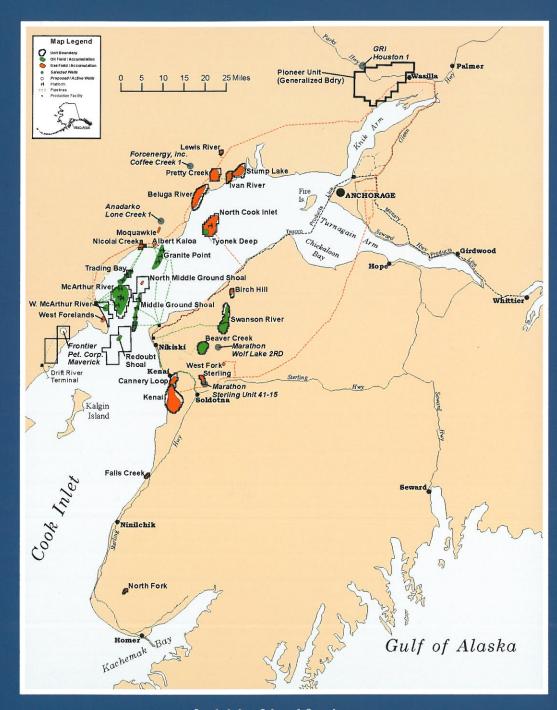
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Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Activity

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Credits

- Cover Photo: "Ice Eggs" © Greg Daniels
- Oil and Gas Activity Map: Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
- Inside Back Cover Photo: Hvide Marine



Membership/Organization

Board of Directors

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 includes specific directions on the organization of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council. The federal law created a 13-member Board of Directors that provides for representation from communities and interest groups in the Cook Inlet region. The Directors representing boroughs, cities, and municipalities are selected by their respective Mayors. The Directors representing interest groups are selected through an election process, with qualified groups participating in the election. The term for each Director is three years. The communities and interest groups represented on the Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors are:

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

Ex-Officio Members

Congress provided for input from federal and state agencies by designating several non-voting, Ex-Officio, members of the Cook Inlet RCAC. The officials are an integral part of CIRCAC and bring a high level of expertise and experience to the discussions. Ex-Officio members include:

Captain William Hutmacher

U.S. Coast Guard

Susan Harvey

AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Mike Munger

AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Kristina O'Connor

AK Dept. of Natural Resources

Jim Harris

AK Division of Emergency Services

John Whitney, Ph.D.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Matt Carr

Environmental Protection Agency

Richard Prentki, Ph.D.

Minerals Management Service

Gary Lehnhausen

U.S. Forest Service

Joe Dygas

Bureau of Land Management Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Committees

The Council is assisted in its work by two committees set up under the auspices of OPA 90. The **Environmental Monitoring Committee** (EMC) is mandated to, in the words of OPA 90, "devise and manage a comprehensive program of monitoring the environmental impacts of the operations of terminal facilities and of crude oil tankers while operating in Cook Inlet." The committee is made up of Board members and citizens with expertise in the field of environmental issues. Cook Inlet RCAC Science Coordinator Susan Saupe is the EMC Committee liaison.

The Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee (PROPS) is tasked, under OPA 90, "to review and assess measures designed to prevent oil spills and planning and preparedness for responding

to, containing, cleaning up, and mitigating impacts of oil spills." PROPS Committee members consist of members of the Board along with citizens well versed in the subject of oil spill prevention and response. During 2000, Cook Inlet RCAC Project Coordinator Rory Dabney was the Committee liaison for PROPS.

EMC Committee Council members:

Phil Squires, chair Merritt Mitchell James Hornaday Dexter Ogle Glen Glenzer

Public members:

Steve Hackett Steve Hunt Steve Okkonen Dennis Randa David Raskin Dora Dushkin Lani Kai Eggertsen-Goff

PROPS Committee *Council members:*

Doug Jones, chair June Reuling Mary Jacobs Glen Glenzer Ron Rainey **Public members:**

Bob Baker Bruce Gabrys Jerry Brookman Carol Kvasnikoff

Barry Eldridge Ken Castner

Board of Directors



Glen Glenzer

Municipality of Anchorage

President



Ron Rainey State Chamber of Commerce Vice-President



John Douglas City of Kenai Treasurer



Phil Squires
Commercial fishing
interest groups



Doug Jones Recreational interest groups



Dexter Ogle

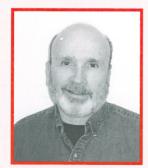
Alaska Native
organizations



Grace Merkes
Kenai Peninsula
Borough



Rob Lindsey City of Kodiak



Jim Hornaday
City of Homer



Paul Shadura *Aquaculture associations*



Mary Jacobs

Kodiak Island

Borough



June Reuling
City of Seldovia



Merritt Mitchell

Environmental
interest groups

2000 Projects and Activities

Council Activities

The Cook Inlet RCAC Mission Statement is simple and direct:

"...to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet."

Using that mission statement as a guide, the Council, working with the Committees, took on several projects during 2000 that will result in improved oil spill prevention and response capabilities in Cook Inlet. Along with special projects, the Council also held its regular quarterly meetings throughout the year. The quarterly meetings are an opportunity to provide updates on current projects and hear about issues important to the work of the Council. The Council receives updates from Ex-Officio members, such as

Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation Program Director Susan Harvey, (pictured at right with marine pilot Mike O'Hara) on a regular basis.

A priority of the Council throughout the year is improving communication between the citizens of Cook Inlet and the crude

oil industry. As a result of these efforts, the Council continues to build a foundation of trust and partnership that Congress called for when it adopted the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Recertification

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 includes a provision calling for an annual review of Cook Inlet RCAC's activities by the United States Coast Guard. The recertification process is designed to insure that Cook Inlet RCAC is meeting the mandates spelled out in OPA 90 and is representing the interests of the communities within the vicinity of the terminal operations. The

notice for recertification is published in the Federal Register and a public comment period is established. During the 2000 public comment period, the Coast Guard received several favorable letters endorsing the work of Cook Inlet RCAC. In fact, in his letter approving the recertification request for 2000, Rear Admiral T.J. Barrett, Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District, noted that all comments received during the evaluation process were supportive of CIRCAC. In addition, Admiral Barrett wrote that, "CIRCAC's endeavors to provide advice, oversight, and monitoring of the terminal facilities and tanker operations in Cook Inlet, Alaska, support the objectives of OPA 90."

Task Force on Motorized Oil Transport

In 2000, the Council was involved with projects aimed at extending the oil spill prevention safety net to

include not just oil tankers, but other large vessels as well. The Cook Inlet RCAC took a lead role in the issue with its forum, "Safety of Navigation In Cook Inlet" in 1999. In 2000, the Alaska Legislature passed legislation creating the framework to begin requiring non-tank vessels to have oil spill prevention

and response contingency plans. The Legislature also appointed a task force to make recommendations on how the regulations should be implemented. CIRCAC Executive Director Jim Carter was appointed to the panel to represent citizen interests. During the Task Force deliberations, Cook Inlet RCAC pushed hard for citizen participation and oversight in the process. At the request of Cook Inlet RCAC, the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Alaska Conference of Mayors passed resolutions supporting citizen participation in the Task Force work. The Task Force recommendations were submitted to the Alaska Legislature in January 2001.



2000 Projects and Activities

Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment

Cook Inlet RCAC participated in a Coast Guard project aimed at identifying possible improvements that could be made to the Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Management system. The Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment Workshop was carried out over a period of two days during the month of October. A panel of marine experts and stakeholders, selected by the Coast Guard, gathered in Anchorage to identify existing risk factors in Cook Inlet and assess the mitigation measures that could be used to offset the risk.

The work done by the group will be compiled into several reports. The Coast Guard views the workshop as a first step in implementing solutions that are both cost effective and meet the needs of the users and stakeholders in Cook Inlet.

Cook Inlet Risk Assessment

Cook Inlet RCAC remains committed to carrying out a comprehensive Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet. The issue was identified by several participants in the 1999 forum, "Safety of Navigation in Cook Inlet", as a necessary step before any additional prevention measures are put in place. During 2000, Cook Inlet RCAC pursued several funding possibilities, with mixed results. On the positive side, State Senator John Torgerson was able to include \$125,000 in the state budget for a "Cook Inlet Risk Assessment." The money was put in the Department of Environmental Conservation's budget and remains there today. CIRCAC is urging DEC officials to free up the money and begin the process of putting together a risk assessment plan for Cook Inlet.

Awards

Cook Inlet RCAC President Glen Glenzer was the recipient of a Legacy Award from the States—British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. In announcing the award, Task Force Executive Coordinator Jean Cameron pointed out that Captain Glenzer has represented the Municipality of Anchorage on the CIRCAC Board since its inception and has taken a leadership role in efforts to improve oil spill

prevention measures.

In December, Cook Inlet RCAC joined its sister organization, Prince William Sound RCAC, in honoring the volunteers that devote their time and energy to the organizations. Several awards were handed out at the banquet in Anchorage. CIRCAC Volunteer of the Year was Glen Glenzer; Board Member of the Year was a tie between Jim Hornaday of Homer and John Douglas of Kenai; Environmental Monitoring Committee Member of Year was Vince O'Reilly of Kenai; and Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee Member of the Year was Ken Castner of Homer (being presented his award by Board President Glen Glenzer, below).

Also recognized at the banquet for ten years of service to the organization were Board President Glen Glenzer, Ex-Officio member



Kris O'Connor (State Department of Natural Resources), and Office Manager Karen Williams (pictured below).



Environmental Monitoring Committee

Cook Inlet Intertidal Survey Project

The Environmental Monitoring Committee made significant progress during 2000 in its on-going efforts to increase our knowledge of the Cook Inlet ecosystem. This year's sampling efforts represented a shift in the

monitoring program from subtidal sampling to a focus on the intertidal habitat.

Project History

In previous years, the Committee had pursued a comprehensive program aimed at determining if the day-to-day oil industry operations in Cook Inlet were having an adverse

effect on the surrounding ecosystem. They collected samples through 1997 that provided sediment and tissue chemistry information as well as data on whether the sediments could be toxic to resident organisms. Overall, the findings were that the day-to-day oil

industry operations, including the permitted hydrocarbon discharges, were not accumulating in Cook Inlet benthic sediments or animals.

At the Committee's request, independent reviewers evaluated the program in 1998 and recommended a program shift to focus efforts on intertidal habitats.

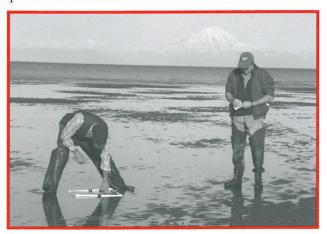
Intertidal data are lacking in

Cook Inlet and would be invaluable for monitoring impacts or identifying areas that may need extra protection in the event of a spill. The Committee combined two years of funding in order to accomplish the 2000 field sampling and laboratory analyses.

Project Team

The contract for the first phase of the intertidal work was awarded to Littoral Ecological & Environmental

Services (LEES). The LEES field team consisted of Dennis Lees, Bill Driskell, and Dr. Jim Payne. All three scientists have extensive Cook Inlet experience including intertidal, subtidal, and oil spill research dating back to the 1970s.



Scientists Dennis Lees and Bill Driskell collect data about invertebrates from intertidal habitats in Cook Inlet

In addition to these three scientists, the scientific team also includes two other scientists who did not participate in the field collections, but will

provide expertise in analyzing the data. Dr. Miles Hayes from Research Planning, Inc. is providing expertise for interpreting the geomorphology data. Dr. Hayes has extensive experience on Cook Inlet shorelines and produced the Cook Inlet Environmental Sensitivity



Access to many of the intertidal sites was made by Rediske Air. Pilot Chuck Rediske provided extensive local knowledge that was invaluable for site selection.

Maps. Dr. Helder Costa, from the Woods Hole Group, Inc. is conducting the laboratory analyses for sediment and tissue hydrocarbons as well as several other sediment

parameters such as total organic carbon.

Intertidal Survey Site Locations

The LEES field team, along with CIRCAC Science Coordinator Susan Saupe, began field work in late August. They based their operations out of Ms. Saupe's house and accessed their sampling sites via truck, fixed wing aircraft and helicopter.

The scientists gathered samples from twenty-five

Environmental Monitoring Committee

sites around the perimeter of Central Cook Inlet. These included:

- Six sites on the east side of Cook Inlet ranging from Clam Gulch to Chickaloon Bay.
 - Four sites on Kalgin Island.
- Four sites on Cook Inlet shoals, including shoals south, west, and north of Kalgin Island and the Middle Ground Shoal.
- Eleven sites on the west side of Cook Inlet ranging from Chisik Island in Tuxedni Bay north to a site near the Beluga River.

Site selections were based on a number of factors including vulnerability, accessibility, and their importance for biological, commercial, or subsistence productivity. Several sites, such as the shoal sites, were included mainly because there was no record of the shorelines having ever been assessed by scientists.

Data Collections

At most sites, general geomorphology data were collected that included beach measurements such as length, slope, and sediment grain size. Reconnaissance surveys were conducted to determine what invertebrate species were present at each site and whether they would be appropriate as sentinel species. Sentinel species are those that are relatively long-lived (multi-year) and that occur in quantities that would support periodic sampling for contaminant monitoring. Based on their feeding methods, sedentary invertebrates such as bivalves, can be good indicators of exposure to pollutants. Sentinel species were collected at fifteen of the sites and included either mud clams (Macoma



balthica), soft shell clams (Mya arenaria), razor clams (Siliqua polynyma), lugworms (Aberenicula pacifica), blue mussels (Mytilus trossulus), or surf clams (Macromeris (=Spisula) polynoma). Sediment samples were collected at all twenty-five sites that can provide information on background pollutant levels along Cook Inlet shorelines. A final data report will be produced in 2001.



Razor clams (below left) and a soft shell clam (above) are examples of the types of sentinel species collected from Cook Inlet shorelines.

Additional EMC Activities

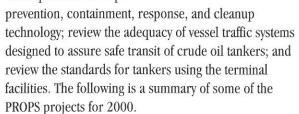
The Committee also remains active, through its scientific staff, on the Non-Indigenous Species Workgroup for Alaska, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Permitting Workgroup, and various other relevant workgroups. In addition, in 2000 they submitted comments on proposed Federal Rules, such as proposed changes to the Effluent Guidelines for coastal Cook Inlet, and renewals for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

The EMC is also actively pursuing opportunities to coordinate their work with other related projects. Currently they are coordinating a project with CIRCAC's oil spill trajectory model contractor, Dr. Bryan Pearce, LEES subcontractor Bill Driskell, and staff from the Hazardous Materials office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to produce a shoreline risk model. This model will help identify shorelines most likely to be impacted by oil spills in central Cook Inlet.

Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee

The Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee (PROPS) was busy during 2000 with several projects that are linked to the mandates spelled out in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Committee continued to review and make recommendations on oil spill

prevention and contingency plans; monitor oil spill response drills; study wind and water currents and other factors that may affect the ability to prevent, respond to, contain, and clean up an oil spill; identify sensitive areas which may require specific protective measures in the event of an oil spill; monitor developments in oil spill



Contingency Plan Reviews

The PROPS Committee, in conjunction with the Protocol Control Group, was actively involved in the review of contingency plans during 2000. The plans reviewed included: Tesoro Vessel Plan, Unocal Production Facilities, Kenai Pipeline Company, Cross Timbers, Forcenergy Exploration, Unocal Vessel, and Ocean Marine Services, Inc.

The reviews of contingency plans for vessels and facilities focused on several important issues including leak detection systems for pipelines, mooring systems at docks, the use of tugs at docking facilities, the use of best available technology, and winter ice rules. CIRCAC comments on the contingency plans were forwarded to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for consideration.

Geographic Response Strategies

The development of Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) is an on-going project for the PROPS Committee. GRSs are site-specific oil spill response plans for

environmentally sensitive areas. During 2000, a workgroup consisting of industry and agency representatives, along with staff from Cook Inlet RCAC and Prince William Sound RCAC, completed GRSs for 22 sites in Central Cook Inlet. The GRSs for Central Cook

Inlet are being exercised by Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. During 2000, CISPRI crews were able to drill the GRSs at four sites, including Stariski Creek (picture at left) and plan to do several more during 2001.

The development of GRSs for the Kachemak Bay zone got underway in 2000 with a

community meeting in Homer (picture below). Over 40 people attended the October meeting to learn more



about the process and provide input on the selection of possible GRS sites in Kachemak Bay. At the meeting, a decision was made to expand the boundaries of the Kachemak Bay zone to include the villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek. The Kachemak Bay GRS work is being funded by Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc., Cook Inlet RCAC, Prince William Sound RCAC, Chadux, and the Department of Environmental Conservation through the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Pipeline Safety Study

The safe operation of subsea oil pipelines that run across Cook Inlet is an issue that the PROPS Committee is keenly interested in. The leak in the pipeline that runs from the Dillon Platform in 1999 highlighted the need

Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee

for a comprehensive review of the pipeline system that exists in Cook Inlet. As a first step, the PROPS Committee commissioned a study that outlined the regulatory requirements that pertain to the operation of Cook Inlet Pipelines. The study included several recommendations that were adopted by the CIRCAC Board of Directors in May, including the convening of a workgroup to further investigate how agencies and operators address potential problems with pipelines in Cook Inlet. The study is available on the Cook Inlet RCAC web page at www.circac.org

Oil Spill Drills and Exercises

Cook Inlet RCAC observed several oil spill response drills during 2000. The drills were conducted by industry and evaluated by federal and state agencies, as well as by CIRCAC staff.



CISPRI workers deploy boom off deck of the SeaBulk Montana during a spill response drill.

The drills are an excellent opportunity for everyone involved in oil spill response operations to test their skills and identify areas where improvements need to be made. Along with the scheduled drills, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation also called two unannounced drills during 2000. The unannounced drills (Tesoro Petroleum and Williams Petroleum) tested the companies ability to respond as though the events were real. Both drills required the deployment of personnel, cleanup equipment and vessels. The drills also provide Cook Inlet RCAC staff the opportunity to review their role in responding to an oil spill. In an actual spill, the citizens of Cook Inlet rely on CIRCAC to keep them informed of on-going events and verify the information that is being released by the responsible party.

Remote Camera Project

The Cook Inlet RCAC sponsored a pilot project in the winter of 2000 to test the feasibility of setting up internet accessible video cameras to provide real-time images of ice conditions in Cook Inlet. The cameras were set up following several ice-related incidents in Cook Inlet that resulted in damaged vessels and docks.



Two cameras were placed on the bluff overlooking the industrial docks at Nikiski (picture above). One of the cameras had infrared capabilities and was able to provide images at low light. Both cameras were available at a web site provided by the National Weather Service and the images were available to anyone with access to a computer. A third camera was placed on the Unocal dock to record tide levels and current flow information. Images from this camera were not available on the web site. The project ran through April and over 2,000 visits to the web site were recorded.

Cook Inlet Oil Spill Model

In November, Cook Inlet RCAC sponsored a workshop to provide people some hands-on experience with the Cook Inlet Oil Spill Model. The model has been an ongoing PROPS project since 1996. Contractor Dr. Bryan Pearce gave representatives from oil companies, spill response organizations, and state and federal agencies an overview of the spill trajectory model and a demonstration of its use. Several different scenarios were run on the model, using a variety of conditions that would affect the spread of oil, such as wind and tides. One of the keys to improving the accuracy of the model is the collection of additional information about the currents in Cook Inlet. The model is available at CIRCAC's web site.

Public Outreach

"...only when local citizens are involved in process will the trust develop that is necessary to change the present system from confrontation to consensus." —OPA 90

The goal of the Cook Inlet RCAC Public Outreach program is to encourage citizen participation in Council activities and establish the level of trust that is spelled out in OPA 90. The Public Outreach program strives to make the public aware that there is a proactive effort underway between citizens, government, and industry to establish environmental safeguards for the Inlet. A number of different tools are used to accomplish the Public Outreach goals.

Newsletter

One tool is the monthly newsletter, **Council Briefs**. The newsletter goes out to citizens, local governments, mayors, industry representatives, agency officials, and all major media outlets in the state. Often, information included in the Briefs will end up in the newspaper or on the radio. The newsletter is distributed electronically through e-mail and is available on CIRCAC's web site.

The newsletter is used to highlight various activities that the Council is involved with. During 2000, the newsletter covered several CIRCAC committee projects, as well as taking note of significant industry activities such as the arrival of Tesoro's double-hull tanker, HMI Cape Lookout Shoals, and the setting of Forcenergy's Osprey platform in Cook Inlet.

Web Page

In this day and age, a key source of information for many people is the Internet. The Cook Inlet RCAC recognized that and made a commitment to upgrading its web site. The new address is www.circac.org

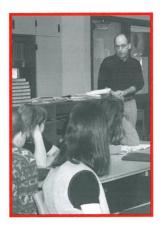
The site is a comprehensive source of information about the Council. There is information about the history of the RCAC and its membership; a list of the Charter Funding companies; the make-up of the Board of Directors; and pictures and short bios of the council members, committee members, and staff. The page also has specific information about the EMC, PROPS,

and Public Outreach programs and projects. The web site, like the newsletter, is a tool to educate people about Cook Inlet RCAC and generate enthusiasm for the organization's goals and activities.

Community Visits

CIRCAC Public Outreach Coordinator Joe Gallagher travels on a regular basis to visit communities in the Cook Inlet region. The visits are an opportunity to meet with local leaders and provide them with information

about Cook Inlet RCAC. A typical visit will usually include a presentation to the city council and one-on-one meetings with village and local government leaders. The Outreach Coordinator also talks to students (such as the sixth grade Kodiak class pictured at right) about CIRCAC.

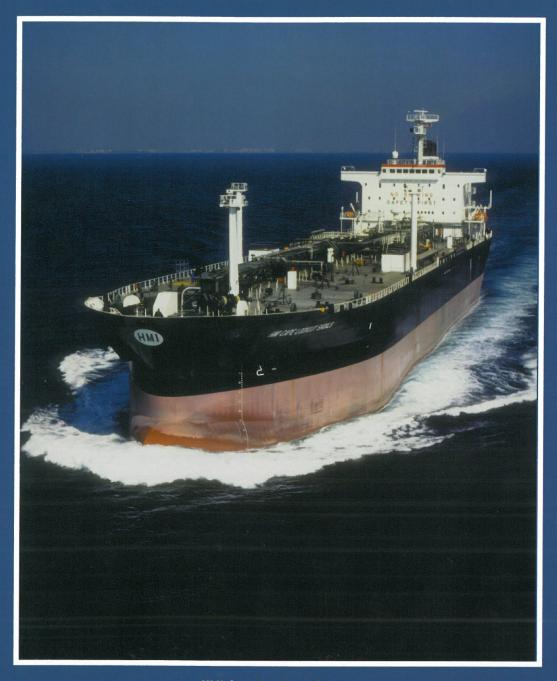


During 2000, Outreach trips were made to Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham, Kenai, Kodiak, and Anchorage.

The community visits also provide a forum where CIRCAC staff can hear the concerns and issues that are most important to the people that live in Cook Inlet area. Through successful public outreach efforts, CIRCAC is able to tap into local knowledge and make sure that everyone is working towards a common goal.

Spills and Drills

Public Outreach plays an important role in the event that there is an oil spill. Timely, verifiable, accurate information is critical to a successful response. CIRCAC works closely with industry during drills to make sure that everyone is prepared in the event there is an actual spill. When there is a spill, Cook Inlet RCAC can serve as the intermediary between the responsible party and affected communities at a time when tensions and emotions are running high. CIRCAC, through its Public Outreach coordinator, can help set up community meetings, verify reports from the field, and be the liaison between incident command and the citizens.



Charter Funding Companies

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 requires crude oil facility owners operating in Cook Inlet to fund the operations of the Cook Inlet RCAC. The 2000 Charter Funding companies were:

Tesoro Alaska/Kenai Pipeline Company Marathon Oil Company Unocal Cross Timbers Phillips Petroleum Cook Inlet Pipeline Company

HMI Cape Lookout Shoals

In August 2000, Tesoro Maritime Company announced the beginning of double-hull petroleum transport service in Alaska waters. The 46,000-ton HMI Cape Lookout Shoals, one of Hvide Marine's (HMI) new U.S.-flagged Lightship-class double-hull tankers, will operate under a three-year contract with Gold Star Marine, a subsidiary of Tesoro Maritime

Company. The typical itinerary for the double-hull tanker will include transporting Cook Inlet crude oil from the Drift River Loading Platform to the Kenai Pipeline Company dock, which services the Tesoro Alaska Refinery at Nikiski. The tanker will also be used to transport Alaska North Slope crude oil from Valdez to Tesoro's Anacortes refinery.



Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

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