



**2008  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# Contents



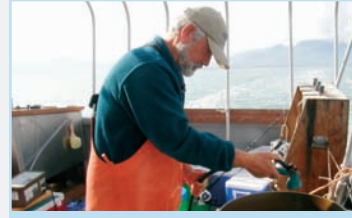
**Prevention & Response 2**



**Coastal Mapping 4**



**Geographic Response 6**



**Biological & Chemical 8**



**Integrated Plan 10**



**Contingency Planning 12**



**Physical Oceanography 16**



**Public Involvement 18**



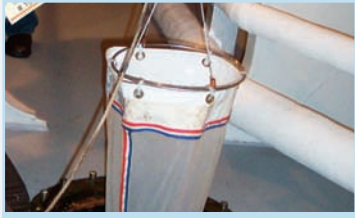
**Risk Assessment 20**



**Technical Review 22**



**Ballast Water 23**



**Board of Directors 24**



**Committees 26**



**Cook Inlet RCAC Staff 28**



"Cook Inlet RCAC's mission is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet."

# Message from the Executive Director & President

In 2008, we were pleased to announce that the United States Coast Guard recertified Cook Inlet RCAC following our triennial review. The Coast Guard recertification is a testament to the progress and success of our programs last year. We began the year by advancing the concept of a 5-year strategic plan into a working document that provides concrete goals and outcomes for us to strive toward.

Progress was also made in the area of risk assessment when the state of Alaska began "Phase I" of a three phase Oil and Gas Infrastructure Risk Assessment that includes the facilities located in Cook Inlet. This is a venture our organization has adamantly encouraged for several years and we

are pleased to see it moving forward.

Building solid cooperation and partnerships advanced as well as we teamed up with Chevron and XTO Energy to conduct an integrated sampling program in Cook Inlet. This partnership allowed each individual entity to maintain its integrity, while sharing the costs for the very expensive logistics and laboratory analyses. This arrangement was quite successful and we look forward to building more partnerships in the future.

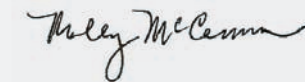
Our response tool, the Geographic Resource Information Network (GRIN), made great strides in its development. The web-based network has gone from a static application to a map-based, interactive tool that will

allow responders to locate resources more efficiently.

These are a few examples of the progress we made in 2008. The following pages illustrate the strides Cook Inlet RCAC has made in reestablishing the direction of our programs to more appropriately fit the goals and mandates outlined in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 - the driving force of our organization.



MICHAEL MUNGER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

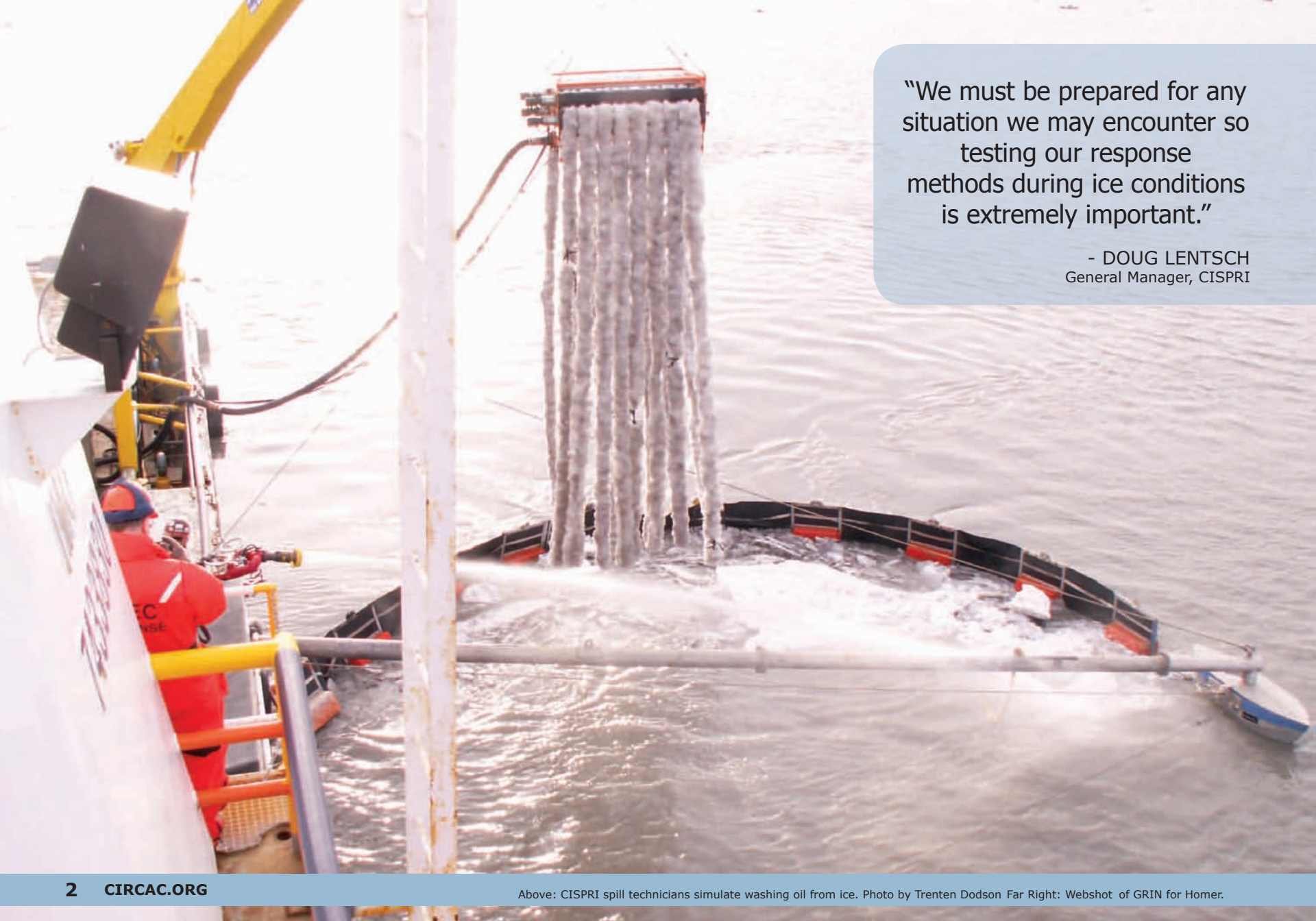


MOLLY MCCAMMON  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Municipality of Anchorage  
City of Homer  
City of Kenai  
State Chamber of Commerce

City of Kodiak  
City of Seldovia  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Kodiak Island Borough  
Recreational Groups

Environmental Interest Groups  
Alaska Native Groups  
Aquaculture Associations  
Commercial Fishing Groups



"We must be prepared for any situation we may encounter so testing our response methods during ice conditions is extremely important."

- DOUG LENTSCH  
General Manager, CISPRI



## Prevention & Response

The focus of the Prevention and Response Program is to concentrate efforts to minimize the risk of oil discharge into Cook Inlet by development of work plans, projects, and studies. Many of these projects and studies are collaborative efforts between citizens, regulatory groups, special interest groups, and industry. Ice continued to be an important topic in 2008 as Cook Inlet RCAC further developed its Ice Forecasting Network and observed broken ice response tactics. Another project that saw great strides in 2008 was the Geographic Resource Information Network (GRIN).

### Cook Inlet Ice

Cook Inlet RCAC and representatives from the US Coast Guard, Alaska DEC, Mineral Management Service, Oil Spill Recovery, and Alaska National Insurance company had an opportunity to observe Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc (CISPRI) during a broken ice response and recovery tactic training deployment held on March 10, 2008.

The deployment went smoothly as the CISPRI crew positioned the collection skirt along with an eight-rope, vertical adhesion band (V.A.B.) foxtail oil skimmer into the water. Once the set up was complete, the crew began to simulate collecting oil, by using the fire monitor to wash and roll ice collected in the skirt. As the "oil" was washed from the ice, the eight-rope V.A.B oil skimmer pulled it

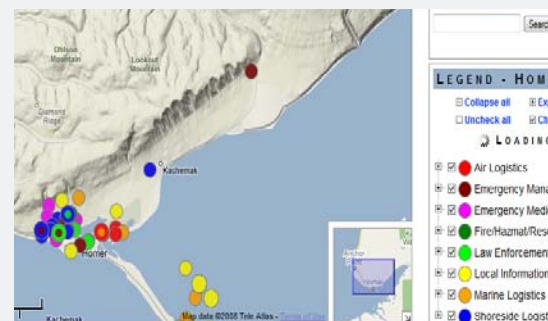
from the water. From the upper decks of the Nevada, the observers were able to watch CISPRI employ these tactics.

### Geographic Resource Information Network (GRIN)

GRIN took the next step in its development in 2008. This version of GRIN, like the original prototype, takes information from a number of sources, supplements that information as needed, and compiles both electronic and paper documents that allow the user to easily locate and view logistical information relevant to oil spill response in coastal Alaska. However, the new version uses an interactive GOOGLE™ map based system.

Information in the GRIN is organized by community, so that incident personnel assigned to a specific community (or a

number of communities within a larger geographic region) are able to access a broad range of community specific information in one central location. Four major groups of information are presented within each Community Profile, Logistics, Safety, Public Information, and Liaison Information. GRIN uses the GOOGLE™ map format and pictures to provide responders with a visual reference to accompany textual information in the Resources and Capabilities category.



# Coastal Mapping

This program's purpose is to assess the coastal habitats in Cook Inlet RCAC areas of concern. Specific goals are to inventory and characterize coastal habitats, including those that are unique, sensitive to impacts, good indicators of change, of high-value, or have historical records and to make this information accessible to a broad range of users.



## ShoreZone Mapping

Since our 2001 ShoreZone mapping program to inventory coastal habitats along the Kenai Peninsula, a long list of partners has sponsored similar projects along much of Alaska's coast. These partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and organizations have ensured that a coordinated and contiguous database of coastal habitat data and shoreline imagery is available to users. The "coastalaska.com" website that was originally developed by Cook Inlet RCAC to provide web-access to data and shoreline photos has been redeveloped by National Marine Fisheries Service's Habitat Division. Users can still "fly" along the Gulf of Alaska coastline and access data but the more comprehensive and powerful website is available at <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/maps/szintro.htm>.

## Unique and Sensitive Habitats

**Salt Marshes:** Cook Inlet shorelines include several unique habitats and areas particularly sensitive to oil spills. We worked with the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve to create detailed maps of salt marshes around the perimeter of Cook Inlet. So far we have created maps of the different plant communities making up the larger salt marshes in Chickaloon, Redoubt, Trading, Iniskin, Iliamna, Oil, and Chinitna bays. These maps help us understand the zonation of plants relative to general tidal elevations and give a measure of baseline information that can be referred to in oil spill planning and response efforts.

**Kamishak Bay Reefs:** During earlier ShoreZone surveys, we noted wide intertidal reef areas in lower Cook Inlet that appeared to be unique to those


areas of Alaska. In July 2008, we had the opportunity to visit several of the low intertidal reef habitats near Cape Douglas and in Kamishak Bay. With Mandy Lindeberg from NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratory, we documented two main types of reef substrate and intertidal communities, collected voucher specimens of the dominant algal species, and photo-documented the substrate and intertidal communities.

Samples of what appears to be a unique morphotype of the alga *Devaleraea ramentacea* were collected and sent away for DNA analyses to confirm its presence or determine whether it is a different species. These unique intertidal communities may be important spawning habitat for Kamishak Bay herring and may be particularly sensitive to oil spills so we are interested in continued mapping of these habitats.

"Partnering with Cook Inlet RCAC on coastal mapping and assessment projects has benefited NOAA Fisheries far beyond our expectations and I look forward to future collaborations"

- MANDY LINDEBERG  
NOAA, Auke Bay Laboratory





"Our harbors are extremely important to us. We welcome the development of a program to keep them clean and look forward to assisting with the process."

- MAVIS OWENS  
Cook Inlet RCAC Seldovia Representative



## Geographic Response Strategies

Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) provide a guide for oil spill responders to minimize response times. The program also serves to enhance the effectiveness of response efforts at environmentally sensitive areas and to not only protect the marine environment, but also the cultural, historic and archeological resources of the Cook Inlet Sub-Area. Upon finishing GRS for the Kodiak Island Borough in 2007, we concentrated our efforts in 2008 on Harbor Specific GRS.

### Harbor Specific GRS

This project is closely related to the Clean Harbors and Marinas Initiative. This project uses a multi-pronged approach to protecting coastal water quality by preventing spills and other environmental impacts caused by fishing and recreational vessels and preparing harbor staff and others to respond promptly and effectively in the event of a spill inside as well as outside of the harbor.

There are two project components:

- A Clean Harbors and Marinas Initiative Workgroup reviews environmental impacts of fishing and recreational boat use in Alaskan waters. The Workgroup will develop prevention and mitigation methodologies to be implemented by each participating harbor.


- Geographic Response Strategies will be developed for the Kenai Peninsula Borough's harbors to provide map-based tactics and strategies for prompt and effective response in the event of oil or other hazardous substance spills in or near a harbor.

This project benefits the communities and citizens of the Cook Inlet region by planning ahead to minimize or prevent the environmental impact of an oil spill in their harbor. The ultimate goal of the GRS program is to identify and to protect the sensitive areas within the region by providing responders with a tool to improve their response time and effectiveness.

This has been a collaborative Initiative of the Cook Inlet RCAC and Alaska Department of Environmental Conserva-

tion (ADEC). Initial funding originated through the Earth Energy Partners Program of ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. with matching funds and in-kind contributions from Cook Inlet RCAC and the ADEC.





"The biggest success of our 2008 field season was that we found common ground for three separate studies and built a solid program, supported by diverse interests, that leveraged expertise, logistics and costs."

- SUE SAUPE  
Director of Science & Research, Cook Inlet RCAC



## Biological & Chemical Monitoring

The purpose of this program is to monitor the biological and chemical environment in Cook Inlet and nearby areas to detect impacts of oil industry operations. Work in 2008 focused on two specific goals; (1) to identify and evaluate risks and potential impacts of oil industry operations to ecosystem components and (2) assess and monitor status and trends of biological and chemical components in Cook Inlet.

Since 1993, Cook Inlet RCAC has conducted numerous studies to assess the biological and chemical condition of the environment in the vicinity of Cook Inlet oil industry operations, focusing on detecting contaminants. Through partnerships, these studies have also included areas upstream of Cook Inlet industry activities to provide measures of background metals and hydrocarbons.

For example, we partnered with the national Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) in 2002 and 2004 to sample contaminants and environmental variables for coastal estuaries and bays throughout the Gulf of Alaska. EMAP studies use probabilistic sampling designs to assess the ecosystem health of large areas using a limited number of sites.

The results from the Gulf of Alaska EMAP surveys provided a context for continuing to design and interpret more focused Cook Inlet studies. To characterize Cook Inlet's water and sediment quality within that context, Cook Inlet RCAC received federal funds to conduct a local EMAP-type contaminants sampling program in 2008.

The study was designed to make these assessments throughout the Inlet while also making comparisons to areas specifically associated with Cook Inlet crude oil operations. During the planning stage, we sought partnership opportunities that would improve and expand the study while also leveraging sampling and analytical costs. This led to the development of an Integrated Cook Inlet Contaminants Program (see next page).



# Integrated Cook Inlet Contaminants Program

During the development of a Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) in 2008, we succeeded in coordinating field sampling and analyses with two additional studies. The resulting Integrated Cook Inlet Contaminants Program (Integrated Plan) included components of a Cook Inlet EMAP, a Produced Water Discharge study for Large Volume Dischargers, and a NOAA National Status and Trends Bioeffects Program.



## Cook Inlet EMAP

The EMAP was led by Cook Inlet RCAC to nest within regional EMAPs that assessed ecosystem health in coastal bays and estuaries of the Gulf of Alaska coast.

## Produced Water Discharge

This Study for Large Volume Dischargers was led by Chevron/Unocal and XTO Energy as required by EPA in the Cook Inlet General Oil and Gas National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit AKG-31-5000.

## NOAA National Status & Trends

NOAA National Status and Trends Bioeffects Program in the deep waters of Kachemak Bay is part of a two-year study to provide an assessment of environmental toxicity in that water body.

## The Integrated Plan


This plan identified overlap among the studies and an agreement was made that sampling efforts and resultant data would be shared. Cook Inlet RCAC, EPA, NOAA, and industry will each benefit from the coordinated sampling – the data collected will still meet the needs of each individual study while expanding its scope.

For example, the intensive sampling within the mixing zones and the end-of-pipe samples collected to meet industry's EPA discharge permit will help Cook Inlet RCAC better assess the fate of produced water discharges. In turn, industry, EPA, and NOAA will benefit from the extensive background and source sampling that took place for the Cook Inlet EMAP.

## Logistics & Personnel

Costs for each organization were greatly reduced by sharing vessels, logistics, and personnel. Field sampling took place onboard the R/V Island C in August 2008 and was accomplished by the tremendous efforts of many people.

Onboard, Chevron/Unocal and XTO Energy were represented by contractors from Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc., led by Mark Savoie; Cook Inlet RCAC sampling efforts were alternately led by Director of Science and Research, Susan Saupe, or by Tim Robertson or Mark Janes of Nuka Research and Planning, Inc.; and Dr. Ian Hartwell was onboard to direct the NOAA sampling efforts in Kachemak Bay. Additional scientists rotated on and off the ship during the sampling program to provide their expertise.



"The extreme currents in upper Cook Inlet made sampling at target locations challenging, but we are pleased with the number of stations we successfully sampled and surprised at the variety of benthic habitats we saw."

- MARK JANES  
Nuka Research





## Contingency Planning

An essential function of Cook Inlet RCAC is to review, evaluate, and comment on new and existing Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans for Cook Inlet area, exploration, production, and shipping facilities. 2008 did not see any Contingency Plan reviews. Contingency plans were placed on a five year cycle from a three year cycle in 2006. Over the 2006 and 2007 review periods the bulk of our c-plans were reviewed. However, Cook Inlet RCAC attended and participated in several drills designed to test contingency plan scenarios for Chevron, Pacific Energy, Marathon Oil Company, XTO Energy and Tesoro.

### Chevron Unannounced Drill

This drill was designed by ADEC to test the response capabilities of Chevron and their response contractor. The drill scenario included near shore and open water tactics. Cook Inlet RCAC staff participated as an evaluator of field operations. The drill was designed to exercise the response tactics and equipment of the Chevron /Union Oil and Chemical of California (UOCC) contingency plan.

Clockwise beginning from Top Left: CISPRI barge Responder deploys a Transrec; CISPRI vessel Tern deploying boom; US Coast Guard patrolling Kachemak Bay during the Tesoro exercise; Spill technicians deploy a skimmer into a current buster; The tug Vigilant steadies the "stricken" tanker during the exercise.

We also monitored a second drill conducted by Chevron that focused on the Incident Management Team (IMT) and their activities in the command center. Chevron IMT members worked through the drill scenario and all of the "injects" that were presented by the drill coordinator to test their abilities. Staff reported that the Chevron IMT was able to manage all of the additional "injects" while staying focused on the objectives to complete their drill.

### Tesoro Drill and Deployment

On the first day of this two-day drill Cook Inlet RCAC staff participated as a drill evaluator in the Nikiski Command Center and as a member in the Public Information Section at the Homer Command Center assisting with press releases

about the progress of the response activities. This is an extremely large and complex annual drill, which started with a tabletop exercise designed to test the Unified Command and the abilities of the Tesoro Incident Management Team.

Following the tabletop exercise (on the second day) Tesoro fielded a large equipment deployment. This year Cook Inlet RCAC staff was invited to observe the implementation of the Petersen Bay GRS, several different Near Shore Response tactics as well as a lightering operation involving the T/V Captain H.A. Downing and the CISPRI response Barge 141.



“Only when local citizens are involved in the process will the trust develop that is necessary



to change the present system from confrontation to consensus.” - Oil Pollution Act of 1990

# Physical Oceanography

Understanding and modeling Cook Inlet's complex circulation patterns is the focus of the Physical Oceanography Program. Our aim is an ocean observing system and models for Cook Inlet that nest within a larger regional and state-wide Alaska Ocean Observing System that will provide real-time data and forecasts. In the fall, we co-authored a final report summarizing the results of a three-year project collecting physical oceanographic measurements at the in-flow and out-flow boundaries of Cook Inlet: Pegau, S., S. Okkonen, S. Saupe. *In review. Seasonality of Boundary Conditions for Cook Inlet, Alaska. Final Report to University of Alaska Coastal Marine Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks and USDOI, MMS, Alaska OCS Region.*



## Seasonality of Boundary Conditions for Cook Inlet, Alaska

By measuring temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and light transmission at stations along each transect, we obtained information on the influences of freshwater from the Alaska Coastal Current and the Upper Cook Inlet rivers to improve our understanding of the physical environment of lower and central Cook Inlet.

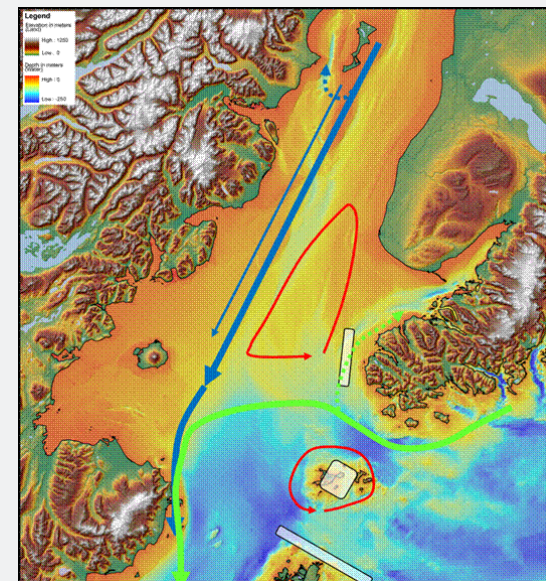
The study augments recent MMS-funded observational and modeling efforts and, combined, these efforts increase our knowledge of Cook Inlet ocean circulation and should improve our abilities to predict the potential transport of spilled oil or other pollutants.

Since winds can significantly influence

surface ocean circulation, it is also important to understand atmospheric circulation in order to predict ocean currents. We are contracting with the Alaska Experimental Forecast Facility at the University of Alaska to support the development and operation of a higher resolution, meso-scale Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) system for Cook Inlet and coastal south central Alaska.

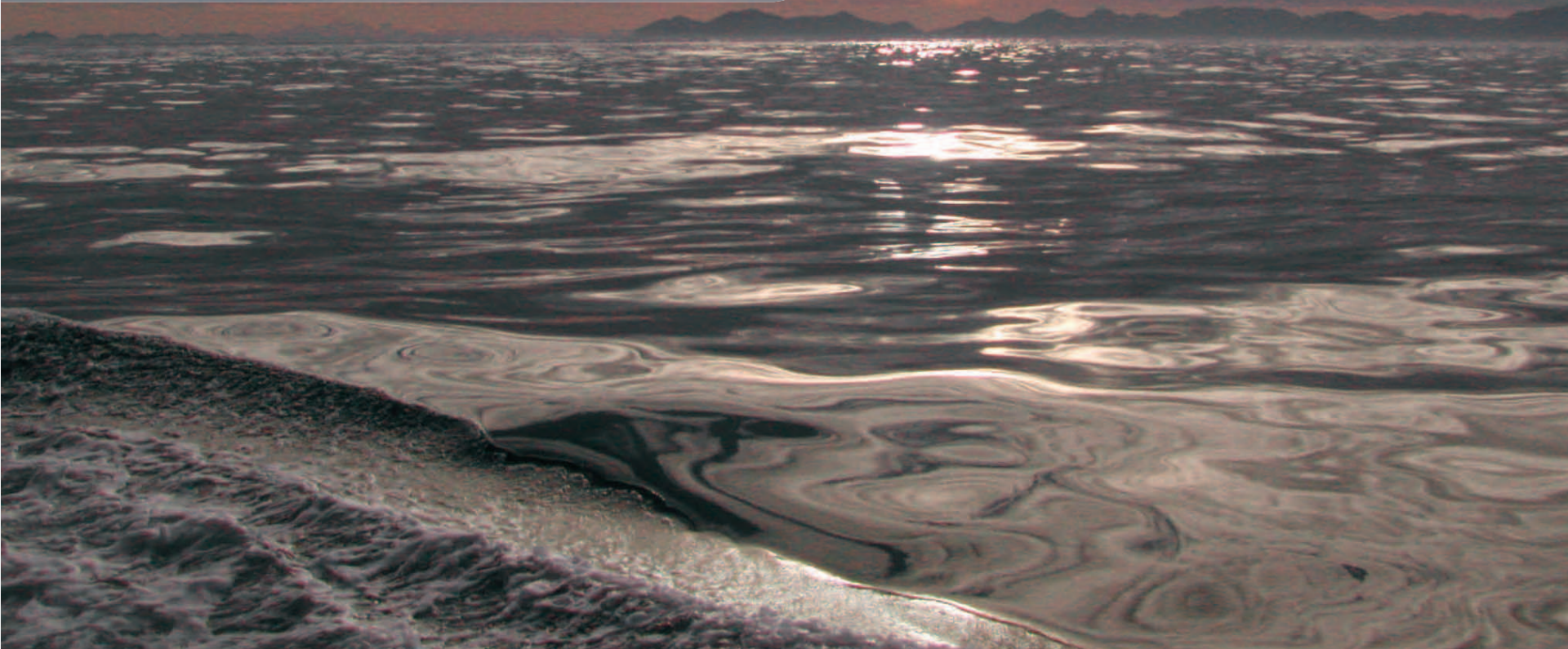
The WRF atmospheric model is run on a 4-km grid, integrated 48-hours into the future and is producing a growing archive of hourly simulated atmospheric data for the entire Cook Inlet area that can be accessed and referenced for correlation to ocean and atmospheric observational data. In the future, we hope that the WRF model will be a key com-

ponent of a Cook Inlet Ocean Observing System where it will inform ocean circulation and wave models.



"Cook Inlet RCAC is well known for high-quality, unbiased research. Their ability to pull researchers together to answer important questions has greatly improved our understanding of Cook Inlet circulation."

- SCOTT PEGAU  
Oil Spill Recovery Institute



# Public Involvement

Our Public Involvement and Outreach Program is not only designed to raise awareness of the work done by Cook Inlet RCAC, but to also increase public and stakeholder participation in Cook Inlet RCAC activities. Through this program we hope to promote participation from regional stakeholders and to gain recognition of our programs both nationally and internationally. The means by which we deliver our message are numerous and we continually strive to provide the best information available in a timely and efficient manner.



## Communications

Communications with our stakeholders and the public at large is a fundamental part of our program. Various print and digital resources deliver information to our constituents, regulatory agencies and industry representatives alike. Some examples of our media include:

- Council Briefs newsletter
- [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org)
- Cook Inlet RCAC Annual Report
- Project pamphlets
- Volunteer brochures
- Community Visits and Presentations

## Conferences

Conferences, workshops, and seminars provide a large-scale platform for us to communicate our message and educate

the public about our programs. In turn, these forums can provide the Council and committee members with an improved understanding of current issues surrounding the oil industry as well as new prevention and response technologies. Council staff, board members, and committee members attended and participated in many conferences in 2008, a few are presented below:

- Alaska Forum on the Environment
- International Oil Spill Conference
- Arctic Marine Oilspill Program
- Alaska Marine Science Symposium
- Industry Appreciation Days - Kenai

## Tours

Tours provide the Council and public members with a first-hand education and knowledge that can improve making

decisions on oil industry issues. Cook Inlet RCAC facilitated the following tours for the Council and others in 2008:

- XTO Energy Platform C
- Pacific Energy Osprey Platform & Kustatan and West McArthur production facilities
- Kasitna Bay Laboratories
- ConocoPhillips LNG Facility

Cook Inlet RCAC thanks those companies and organizations for making these tours possible.

Clockwise beginning from top left: Presentation to the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force; Tour of Kasitna Bay Laboratory; Examining a "pig" aboard XTO Energy Platform A; Tour of Pacific Energy Osprey Platform; Children study the Cook Inlet diorama during Industry Appreciation Days.

"The foundation of Cook Inlet RCAC lies within public involvement. Keeping our stakeholders and the people of Cook Inlet well informed is vital to our mission"

- Karen Delaney  
Assistant Executive Director, Cook Inlet RCAC



"Given the age of the Cook Inlet infrastructure...the Council is very supportive of the decision to include Cook Inlet in the state-wide oil and gas infrastructure risk assessment."

- MIKE MUNGER  
Executive Director, CIRCAC





## Risk Assessment

Our Risk Assessment Program functions to prioritize and focus Council efforts to identify and quantify Cook Inlet maritime risk factors and to maximize the effectiveness of projects designed to address health, safety and environmental Impact throughout Cook Inlet. Projects that assess vessel traffic, facility operations, and pipeline safety are all vital to risk assessment in Cook Inlet. In 2008, we worked hard to ensure that Cook Inlet be included in the state-wide oil and gas infrastructure risk assessment and continue to facilitate industry pipeline reports.

### Infrastructure Risk Assessment

Cook Inlet's oil and gas facilities are scheduled to be included within a state-wide risk assessment concerning the infrastructure of the oil and gas industry. Though the facilities in Cook Inlet are well maintained, many of them date back to the sixties.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) presented an introduction to the Alaska Oil and Gas Infrastructure Risk Assessment (ARA) to the Council at the September meeting. This event kicked off phase one of the project and the beginning of a series of community visits planned to introduce the ARA to the public and to solicit input from stakeholders in effort to gather information for the project design.

The second phase, the implementation of the assessment, is slated to begin in August of 2009. The final report and analysis, phase three, should be completed by February, 2010.

### Volunteer Pipeline Reports

As the Council worked with the State to secure the risk assessment they also ne-



gotiated an agreement with Cook Inlet's pipeline operators to set up a volunteer pipeline reporting project designed to ensure the structural integrity of the pipelines operating in and around the Cook Inlet area.

Two pipeline operators volunteered information during 2008 on their pipelines. Those companies were:

- Pacific Energy Resources, LLC
- Chevron

XTO Energy and Cook Inlet Pipeline Co. reports are still pending and anticipated for 2009.

The Council recognizes that these reports are voluntary and thank those companies who have put forth the effort to provide them.

# Technical Review

Through technical review, Cook Inlet RCAC strives to provide expert guidance to evaluate permits, regulations, findings, proposed legislation, and other information relating to Cook Inlet oil industry and regulatory agencies. Often the Council reviews and provides comments on legislation, regulation, and policies affecting Cook Inlet. Specific goals targeted in 2008 included (1) gather and summarize relevant information to effectively evaluate issues and (2) monitor compliance through permits, regulation, and legislation.

Cook Inlet RCAC reviewed or made recommendations on numerous issues in 2008 ranging from the Best Interest Findings for the State's Cook Inlet Area-wide lease sale to permit issues to study-specific proposals. Several focused projects looked at issues in more detail. One focused on Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted by industry to EPA under permits and the second study related to US Coast Guard ballast water regulation issues (see next page).

## Discharge Monitoring Reports

Under the Clean Water Act of 1972, any point-source discharge of pollutants requires a permit. A point source is any "discrete conveyance" that introduces the discharge - for example a pipe discharging produced water into Cook Inlet. In the U.S., the point-source control pro-

gram is called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and through 2008 EPA administered this program for Alaska.

In 2008, the State of Alaska received certification by EPA to begin administering this program in a phased approach beginning in 2009. The transfer of authority for oil and gas NPDES permits will not take place for three years. Either way, permit holders are required to provide monthly reports summarizing observational and analytical results documenting their compliance (or non-compliance) with individual permit limits for specific pollutants.

Cook Inlet RCAC contractors at Nuka Research and Planning Group, Inc. developing a draft on-line database that digitizes and summarizes DMR data and will allow quick comparisons of reported

data to the limits imposed by the discharge permits.



# Ballast Water

In 2008, Cook Inlet RCAC worked on two projects related to ballast water regulation issues. One was a compilation and review of data related to the ballast water management of vessels entering Cook Inlet and identification of the volumes and sources of ballast discharged to Cook Inlet that did not undergo ballast exchange at sea. The second study examined the potential transfer of aquatic invasive species from the western Pacific Ocean to Cook Inlet via the ballast tanks of LNG tankers that transit between Japan and Nikiski.

## Ballast Water Management

Data on ballast water management practices were compiled to help determine potential risks of ballast water as a vector for the introduction of aquatic invasive species to Cook Inlet. Significant regulatory changes had taken place since Cook Inlet RCAC commissioned an earlier report in 2003. Since 2004, federal regulations require ballast exchange at sea for all ships entering U.S. waters.

The draft data show that there is still a significant amount of ballast that enters Cook Inlet without undergoing exchange or treatment at sea. Additionally, there are a large number of vessels that are either failing to file reports, or are filing incomplete reports. Cook Inlet RCAC will provide these data to the Coast Guard and work to close regulation loopholes so

we can minimize the volume of untreated ballast discharged to Cook Inlet.

## Aquatic Species Transfer

This study had two objectives:

- Quantify and describe the zooplankton community in ballast water upon arrival to Nikiski, AK on LNG tankers coming from Tokyo, Japan by sampling the ballast tanks during arrivals
- Evaluate survival of zooplankton during two different voyages from Japan to Nikiski by measuring the effectiveness of mid-ocean ballast water exchange in removing coastal organisms entrained in ballast tanks.

The field sampling and laboratory taxonomy were completed in 2008 and a draft report is expected in 2009.



## 2008 Board of Directors

The organization of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council is outlined in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The thirteen-member Board of Directors represents various municipalities, cities, borough, and special interest groups to ensure board representation of all citizens within the Cook Inlet region. The Act also calls for the inclusion of non-voting Ex-Officio members, representing various state and federal agencies. The board meets quarterly and elects its officers at its annual meeting, often held in March.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### **MOLLY MCCAMMON**

Municipality of Anchorage

PRESIDENT

#### **GARY FANDREI**

Aquaculture Associations

VICE-PRESIDENT

#### **JOHN DOUGLAS**

City of Kenai

TREASURER

#### **JAY STINSON**

Commercial Fishing

#### **DOUG JONES**

Recreational Interests

#### **ROB LINDSEY**

City of Kodiak

#### **GRACE MERKES**

Kenai Peninsula Borough

#### **LIZ CHILTON**

Kodiak Island Borough

#### **TOMMY JOHNSON**

Alaska Native Organizations

#### **MAVIS OWENS**

City of Seldovia

#### **CARLA STANLEY**

City of Homer

#### **ROBERT PETERKIN II**

State Chamber of Commerce

#### **BOB SHAVELSON**

Environmental Interests

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

#### **Captain Mark Hamilton**

United States Coast Guard

#### **Cary Lehnhausen**

United States Forest Service

#### **Matt Carr**

Environmental Protection Agency

#### **Joe Dygas**

Bureau of Land Management

#### **Curt Menard**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

#### **Richard T. Prentki, Ph.D.**

Minerals Management Service

#### **Gary Folley**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

#### **Bruce Buzby & Saree Timmons**

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

#### **John Whitney**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration


#### **Patricia Winn**

Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management



**VERN McCORKLE** was a founder of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, served on the Board of Directors, and on the EMC and Protocol committees. Mr. McCorkle was publisher of Alaska Business Monthly and chair of the business school at University of Alaska Anchorage. He died in early January 2009 at age 73. To honor Mr. McCorkle, the Council awarded him the 2008 Captain Glenzer Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award.



An aerial photograph of a large offshore oil platform, likely the Alaskan North Slope platform, situated in a body of water with significant ice coverage. The platform is a complex of blue and grey metal structures, including two tall derrick towers and various support buildings. A long crane arm extends from the platform towards the right. The surrounding water is dark and filled with numerous ice floes of varying sizes. The sky is overcast and grey.

"Public members are an essential part of the committee process. Our involvement brings ideas from outside the Council and ensures that a boarder representation of Cook Inlet citizens are making decisions."

- Bob Flint  
Public Member EMC & PROPS



## Committees

Cook Inlet RCAC employs the use of committees for fulfilling the mandates of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The Protocol Control Committee is a technical committee that deals with issues related to state and federal contingency plans. The Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) conducts a monitoring program that provides early detection of any environmental effects due to oil industry operations in Cook Inlet and to determine whether oil industry operations are causing adverse impacts to Cook Inlet's ecosystem. The primary focus of the Prevention, Response, Operations, & Safety (PROPS) Committee is projects and studies designed to provide recommendations for minimizing oil spill risk in Cook Inlet. The Executive Committee acts as a governing body that deals with administrative issues.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Council Members**

Molly McCammon, Chair  
Gary Fandrei, Vice-Chair  
John Douglas  
Grace Merkes  
Liz Chilton

### **PROTOCOL COMMITTEE**

#### **Council Members**

John Douglas, Chair  
Bob Shavelson, Vice Chair  
Doug Jones  
Molly McCammon  
Rob Lindsey  
Robert Peterkin, II

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING COMMITTEE**

#### **Council Members**

Liz Chilton, Chair  
Carla Stanley  
Jay Stinson  
Molly McCammon  
Bob Shavelson  
Mavis Owens

#### **Public Members**

Craig Valentine, Vice-Chair  
Marilyn Sigman  
Woody Koning  
Steve Hackett  
Steve Hunt  
Bob Flint  
Deric Marcorelle

### **PREVENTION RESPONSE OPERATIONS & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

#### **Council Members**

Rob Lindsey, Chair  
Bob Shavelson  
Tommy Johnson, Jr.  
Doug Jones  
Grace Merkes  
Robert Peterkin, II

#### **Public Members**

Barry Eldridge, Vice-Chair  
Bill Osborn  
Bob Flint  
Deric Marcorelle  
Jerry Brookman  
Lois Epstein  
Philip Cutler  
Ted Moore

## Cook Inlet RCAC Staff

Michael Munger  
Executive Director  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222 Ex. 27  
[munger@circac.org](mailto:munger@circac.org)

Karen Delaney  
Assistant Executive Director  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222 Ex. 30  
[delaney@circac.org](mailto:delaney@circac.org)

Susan Saupe  
Director of Science & Research  
1130 West 6th Ave. Suite 110  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
1-907-278-7222  
[saupe@circac.org](mailto:saupe@circac.org)

Vinnie Catalano  
Director of Operations  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222 Ex. 29  
[catalano@circac.org](mailto:catalano@circac.org)

Trenten Dodson  
Director of Public Outreach  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222 Ex. 24  
[dodson@circac.org](mailto:dodson@circac.org)

Maritta Newgren  
Accounting/Grants Manager  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222 Ex. 22  
[newgren@circac.org](mailto:newgren@circac.org)

Cathy Stutsman  
Administrative Assistant  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222 Ex. 23  
[stutsman@circac.org](mailto:stutsman@circac.org)

Cindy Sanguinetti  
Special Projects  
910 Highland Avenue  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
1-907-283-7222

## Charter Funding Companies

Chevron  
Cook Inlet Pipeline, Inc.  
ConocoPhillips  
Marathon  
Pacific Energy Resources, LLC  
Tesoro  
XTO Energy





## COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

910 HIGHLAND AVENUE  
KENAI, ALASKA 99611

907.283.7222

[WWW.CIRCAC.ORG](http://WWW.CIRCAC.ORG)