

## 2011 Recertification Application

**SECTION 1. Membership: The Cook Inlet RCAC should be broadly representative of the interests of the communities in the geographical area.**

A Board of Directors whose membership is governed by its bylaws manages the affairs of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). Member organizations are communities affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill and stakeholder interest groups in the vicinity of the oil facilities as defined in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). Membership is described in three member classes, Municipal Member, Interest Group, and Agency Member. These organizations appoint or elect, according to their class, individuals to represent them on the Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors.

**Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors**

Director	Home	Organization/Interest Groups Represented
Molly McCammon	Anchorage	Municipality of Anchorage
Bob Flint	Anchorage	Recreational Interest Groups
Carla Stanley	Homer	City of Homer
Deric Marcorelle	Soldotna	Environmental Interest Groups
Robert Peterkin, II	Kenai	Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
John Williams	Kenai	City of Kenai
Jay Stinson	Kodiak	Commercial Fishing Interest Groups
Rob Lindsey	Kodiak	City of Kodiak
Liz Chilton	Kodiak	Kodiak Island Borough
Allison Miller	Seldovia	City of Seldovia
Gary Fandrei	Kenai	Aquaculture Associations
Michael Opheim	Seldovia	Alaska Natives Interest Groups
Grace Merkes	Sterling	Kenai Peninsula Borough

The following organizations hold ex-officio seats on the Board of Directors:

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation & Enforcement (BOEMRE)
- Division of Homeland Security and Emergency (DHSE)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough

### **(a) Membership policies, including the selection and appointment process for the Cook Inlet RCAC and any of its Committees, to ensure full public participation.**

Directors serve at the pleasure of the organization they represent and Cook Inlet RCAC bylaws require each director be a resident of the State of Alaska, qualified to receive an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. Only those directors representing the Interest Groups and Municipal Members have the right to vote on any matter affecting Cook Inlet RCAC. Directors serve three-year terms.

When a director's term expires, the Municipal Member organization submits in writing the name of the person it wishes to be seated on the board. Interest Groups nominate and elect a replacement among those groups who hold a valid voting membership at the time of the election. Directors are formally seated by a vote of the directors at the annual meeting in March. When a director leaves in mid-term, the member organization may appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term, subject to formal seating by the Board of Directors. A director who fills a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office. In no case may a vacancy continue for longer than six months or until the next annual meeting of the Council, whichever occurs first.

Six volunteer committees operating with financial and staff support from Cook Inlet RCAC assist the Council with its work. Cook Inlet RCAC recruits participants annually or as needed using advertisements and press releases in the Cook Inlet/Kodiak region. These committees and its members are as follows:

The **Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS)** and **Environmental Monitoring Committees** are structured to address requirements outlined in sections 5002(e) and (f) of OPA 90. Committee meetings are advertised and open to the public. Membership on each committee consists of at least three voting representatives from the Board of Directors and 6-8 voting public members. Public members serve staggered three-year terms and are seated by the Council. Vacancies are advertised in local newspapers and over local radio stations. Interested members of the public must submit a letter of interest and resume.

Notification letters are sent to Committee members whose terms are expiring. Committee members wishing to be reappointed must submit a letter of intent and an updated resume. All applications are reviewed first at the committee level; individual(s) are selected from the candidates then forwarded to the Council for final approval. Appointments are made

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at the annual Council meeting (in March). Interim appointments are made on an “as needed” basis, by the Council, at regularly scheduled meetings. Director level assignments and public member committee appointments are made each year at the annual Council meeting. Each Committee also has provisions for participation from non-voting Council members, ex-officio members and affiliates.

<b>PROPS: Prevention, Response, Operations &amp; Safety Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>
Deric Marcorelle - Chair	Council; Environmental Interest Group
Grace Merkes	Council; Kenai Peninsula Borough
Bob Flint	Council; Recreational Interest Groups
Carla Stanley	Council; City of Homer
Michael Opheim	Council; Alaska Natives Interest Group
Rob Lindsey	Council; City of Kodiak
Barry Eldridge	Public; Kenai
Bill Osborn	Public; Kenai
Scott Hamann	Public; Kenai
Doug Jones	Public; Anchorage
Robert Favretto	Public; Kenai
Ted Moore	Public; Eagle River
John Bauer	Public; Anchorage

<b>EMC: Environmental Monitoring Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>
Liz Chilton - Chair	Council; Kodiak Island Borough
Carla Stanley	Council; City of Homer
Bob Flint	Council; Recreational Interest Groups
Jay Stinson	Council; Commercial Fishing
Molly McCammon	Council; Municipality of Anchorage
Deric Marcorelle	Council; Environmental Interest Groups
Craig Valentine	Public; Anchorage
Kashif Ahmed Naser	Public; Anchorage
Steve Hunt	Public; Eagle River
Merritt Mitchell	Public; Homer
James Showalter	Public; Kenai
Paul Blanche	Public; Anchorage

The **Audit Committee** is charged with assisting the Board of Directors and Executive Director in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial reports and other financial information provided by CIRCAC staff and the accountant(s); the systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance and business conduct that have been established; and auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes.

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Working with the Council's lawyer, this committee also reviews and updates Council policies and by-laws as needed.

<b>Audit Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>
Gary Fandrei - Chair	Aquaculture Associations
John Williams	City of Kenai
Grace Merkes	Kenai Peninsula Borough
Robert Peterkin	Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

The **Credentials Committee** is charged with ensuring that the Council has balanced geographic and interest groups representation pursuant to Section 5002 (d)(2)(A) of OPA 90. The Committee certifies special interest groups eligible to vote in the election of five of the six special interest group Council members. This committee also oversees and certifies the voting process for the five special interest group representatives.

<b>Credentials Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>
Gary Fandrei - Chair	Aquaculture Associations
Molly McCammon	Municipality of Anchorage
Liz Chilton	Kodiak Island Borough

The **Protocol Committee** is charged with reviewing, evaluating, and providing comments on contingency plans, legislative, and regulatory development and to periodically monitor drills that test contingency plans. The committee routinely addresses issues that require a timely response due to time-sensitive deadlines. This Committee meets on an "as needed" basis. Members volunteer each year, from within the Board of Directors, at the Annual Meeting. The committee will meet in July to select a chair and vice-chair.

<b>Protocol Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>
Robert Peterkin, II	State Chamber of Commerce
Bob Flint	Recreational Interest Groups
John Williams	City of Kenai
Rob Lindsey	City of Kodiak
Deric Marcorelle	Environmental Interest Groups
Grace Merkes	Kenai Peninsula Borough

The **Executive Committee** is composed of five Council members selected each year at the Annual Meeting. Membership is established in the by-laws and consists of the three Council officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer) and two at-large

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Council members. Officers are selected each year at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote. This committee meets on a monthly basis to transact Council business between Council meetings.

<b>Executive Committee</b>	
<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>
John Williams – President	City of Kenai
Grace Merkes – Vice-President	Kenai Peninsula Borough
Gary Fandrei – Secretary/Treasurer	Aquaculture Associations
Molly McCammon – At-Large	Municipality of Anchorage
Liz Chilton – At-Large	Kodiak Island Borough

### **(b) Opportunities provided for interest groups to participate.**

Cook Inlet RCAC recruits member organizations for the Council’s six interest group seats on a tri-annual basis (coinciding with the expiration of each seat’s three-year term) or as needed. All interest groups meeting criteria outlined in **Council Policy #3** (Appendix A) are sent a letter requesting their participation as a member. All responding organizations are authenticated and added as a member organization allowing them to nominate and vote for their respective Interest Group representative.

### **(i) Local commercial fishing industry organizations whose members depend on the fisheries resource of the waters in the vicinity of the terminal facilities:**

<b>Commercial Fishing Organizations</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Alaska Draggers Association	Kodiak
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank	Kodiak
Kenai Peninsula Fisherman’s Association	Soldotna
North Pacific Fisheries Association	Homer
Northern District Setnetters Association	Anchorage
United Cook Inlet Drift Association	Soldotna

### **(ii) Aquaculture associations in the vicinity of the terminal facilities:**

<b>Aquaculture Associations</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Associations	Kenai
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association	Kodiak

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**(iii) Alaska Native Corporations and other Alaska Native organizations whose members reside in the vicinity of the terminal facilities:**

<b>Alaska Native Organizations</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.	Anchorage
Kenai Natives Association, Inc.	Kenai
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	Kenai
Nanwalek IRA Council	Nanwalek
Natives of Kodiak, Inc.	Kodiak
Ninilchik Native Association	Ninilchik
Port Graham Village Council	Port Graham
Port Graham Corporation	Port Graham
Seldovia Native Association	Seldovia
Seldovia Village Tribe	Seldovia
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak	Kodiak

**(iv) Environmental organizations whose members reside in or use the vicinity of the terminal facilities:**

<b>Environmental Organizations</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Kenai Watershed Forum	Soldotna
Kodiak Audubon Society	Kodiak
National Parks Conservation Association	Anchorage
National Wildlife Federation	Anchorage
Re-Group	Soldotna

In late August 2010, there were nine certified environmental organizations, including the Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Cook Inletkeeper, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Kenai Watershed Forum, Kodiak Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, and the Anchorage branch of the National Wildlife Federation.

At a special meeting of the Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors on September 1, 2010, the Cook Inlet RCAC's Environmental Organization's representative was removed from the Board for conduct and behavior by acting in a "disloyal" and "harmful" way to the organization and specifically violating Board policies. Details of the special meeting were not released to the public as it is an approved policy of Cook Inlet RCAC that all personnel issues be conducted in executive session to protect the privacy of any individual (staff, committee, or board member) involved.

Despite our efforts to communicate otherwise, four of the nine certified environmental organizations decided that the removal of the environmental representative was an effort

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to stifle dissenting views. In a letter dated September 24, 2010, the Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Cook Inletkeeper, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, along with two other organizations who had not previously participated with Cook Inlet RCAC as certified members, stated they would be boycotting participation with Cook Inlet RCAC until Cook Inlet RCAC met several conditions, including changing policies and re-instating the removed board member.

Our policies are consistent with the Alaska Nonprofit Corporation Act and have been extensively reviewed by legal Counsel. The Board was in full compliance with policies in removing the board member. In October 2010, following Cook Inlet RCAC policies, we began the process (as previously described) for soliciting new environmental organizations to become certified members. At the end of this process, there was one new organization that became certified and four existing certified organizations that participated in the nomination and election process. One individual was nominated, an election was held, and a new Environmental representative was elected. The elected individual was seated at the March 2011 Cook Inlet RCAC Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **(v) Recreational organizations whose members reside in or use the vicinity of the terminal facilities:**

<b>Recreational Organizations</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Alaska Charter Association	Homer
Alaska Sportfishing Association	Anchorage
Deep Creek Charter Boat Association	Ninilchik
Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Soldotna
Kenai River Professional Guide Association	Soldotna

### **(vi) The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce or other organization, representing the locally based tourist industry:**

<b>Tourism</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce	Anchorage

### **(c) The extent to which meetings are publicized in the media and are accessible to members of the general public.**

Cook Inlet RCAC publicizes board and committee meetings through press releases and advertisements in local newspapers in the region. The Council also advertises meetings through public service announcements on community calendars to encourage attendance from all regional citizens. All meetings, except executive sessions when used, are open to

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the public. All visitors including industry, government, or the public are invited to comment at these meetings. Quarterly-meeting locations are rotated through Cook Inlet communities to ensure participation from all stakeholders and board members. For example:

<b>Meeting Schedule</b>	
<b>Meeting Month</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 2010	Anchorage
September 2010	Homer
December 2010	Kenai
March 2011 (annual meeting)	Kenai
June 2011	Nikiski
September 2011	Seldovia
December 2011	Anchorage



## **SECTION 2. Communication: Establishing communications with industry and government**

Cook Inlet RCAC maintains open, cooperative communications with government and industry to improve our efforts toward safer oil transportation and facility operations in our area. Cook Inlet RCAC has been very successful using a workgroup approach whereby all interested parties come to the table to address issues and determine a cooperative plan for attaining goals.

In an effort to better communicate our programs to funding sources, research partners, industry and government, Cook Inlet RCAC has developed a strategic plan (Appendix D). The plan allows Cook Inlet RCAC to better coordinate its OPA 90 mandates, research efforts, and partnerships as the document lays out specific program purposes, goals, strategies, and outcomes.

Cook Inlet RCAC provides the public, industry, and government agencies with information and updates on Council activities and promotes citizen participation in its initiatives. Below are some examples of outreach media and activities conducted or planned during the current recertification period (1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011) by the Director of Public Outreach, board members, and staff:

### Newsletter: *Council Briefs*

Cook Inlet RCAC staff publishes a quarterly newsletter, the *Council Briefs*, and distributes it electronically to several hundred recipients including legislative and congressional delegations. Cook Inlet RCAC sends the newly redesigned newsletter in an interactive format that features *html links* to related websites providing the reader with more information.

### Annual Report

The Council publishes an annual report that is used as a tool to improve communication with the public, industry and government. This report is an annual summary of the activities and projects undertaken or completed by the Council and the Committees during the year. Cook Inlet RCAC distributes the report through the mail as well as at meetings and public outreach events. An electronic version of the report is also emailed and posted on our website for download.

The 2010 Annual Report (can be provide upon completion) was distributed to all government agencies and companies that are involved in Cook Inlet RCAC issues. The Annual Report is also sent to mayors and village leaders within the Cook Inlet region. Copies of the Annual Report are distributed at special events and during community visits.

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### Website: [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org)

We redesigned our website in May 2000; the website provides the user with all updated information on Cook Inlet RCAC programs as well as archived RCAC reports, data, newsletters, annual reports, etc.

### Participation Information

This year, Cook Inlet RCAC updated its informational brochure. These brochures were distributed to many other organizations and at several special events including the International Oil Spill Conference.

### Community Visits/Presentations

Cook Inlet RCAC staff has provided presentations to numerous local governments and community groups, various local interest-groups, and at numerous conferences, work-groups, and symposia. Included were presentations to local city councils, rotary clubs, or chambers of commerce in Kodiak, Homer, Kenai, Soldotna, and Anchorage; presentations of research results at marine symposia in Anchorage and Kodiak; and presentations at planning sessions for coordinated government and agency research such as for the Alaska Ocean Observing System. Several of these are discussed in more detail below:

### Special Events

The Cook Inlet RCAC staff, board, and committee members attend many outreach events throughout the year. Cook Inlet RCAC also hosts local, regional, and international groups for informational presentations both in and outside Alaska and coordinates such efforts where possible with other groups. Some examples include:

- Pacific Marine Expo  
In November 2010, Cook Inlet RCAC Staff operated the Council's exhibitor booth and distributed Cook Inlet RCAC information at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle.
- Marine Science Symposium  
In January 2011, Cook Inlet RCAC staff and contractors attended the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) to present ShoreZone mapping aerial survey results and to demonstrate recent web tools developed for accessing species-level data from on-the-beach surveys.
- Kodiak Marine Science Symposium  
Research results from Cook Inlet RCAC-sponsored studies were presented by our Director of Science and Research at the Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium (KAMSS).
- Alaska Forum on the Environment  
Cook Inlet RCAC participated as an exhibitor at the Alaska Forum on the Environment. This venue afforded the opportunity to meet with students, citizens

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and professionals, and to provide details about ongoing projects and the RCAC model.

- International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)  
Cook Inlet RCAC staff and committee members operated an information booth during the trade show portion of the IOSC in Portland, OR. The opportunity provided Cook Inlet RCAC an avenue to interact with an international audience and to demonstrate the success of the RCAC model in the Cook Inlet and Kodiak regions. Session presentations offered many opportunities to hear about new and ongoing research and updates of spill recovery technology and spill response activities.
- Industry Appreciation Days (Scheduled August 2011)  
Cook Inlet RCAC staff will attend this annual event and operate an information display booth and distribute materials about the Council and its projects.
- Alaska Support Industry Alliance Luncheons  
Cook Inlet RCAC staff regularly attends luncheons whenever Cook Inlet crude oil topics are presented by regional operators.
- Industrial Outlook Forum  
Cook Inlet RCAC staff attended the forum to present an overview of Cook Inlet RCAC roles, activities and projects.

**(a) How Cook Inlet RCAC works with industry and government to establish and employ communications protocols for reviewing policies, projects, and release of information relating to the operation and maintenance of the oil terminal facilities and crude oil tankers which affect or may affect the environment in the vicinity of the respective terminals.**

- Contingency Plan review – see Section 5 part a
- Volunteer pipeline reports – see Section 4 part a
- Reports on tanker operations at docks – see Section 5 part f
- Solicit presentations from industry to address PROPS Committee and Council about exploration, production, and marine operations in Cook Inlet.
  - Presentation from Cook Inlet Energy regarding their operations in Alaska
  - Presentation from Buccaneer Alaska Operations, LLC regarding Jack-up rig operations in Cook Inlet
  - Presentation from Escopeta Oil regarding Jack-up rig operations in Cook Inlet
- See “Special Events” listed above

**(b) The extent to which Cook Inlet RCAC participates in discussions with industry and government concerning permits, plans and site-specific regulations governing the activities and actions of the facilities which affect or may affect the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and of crude oil tankers calling at those facilities.**

- Staff continues to work with industry to obtain Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for integration into our DMR database project.
- We worked with agency personnel at EPA and ADEC to remain up-to-date on issues related to EPA remanding certain permit limits under their Permit No. AKG-31-5000, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production Facilities in State and Federal Waters in Cook Inlet.
- Staff remains in contact with personnel from EPA and ADEC on issues relating to the transfer of NPDES permitting authority from EPA to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, specifically relating to the proposal to postpone by 18 months the transition of primacy for the program for the oil and gas sector.
- Cook Inlet RCAC provided access to all data obtained and compiled during a project led by our Director of Science and Research for an Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (ICIEMAP). These data were integrated by industry contractors for their NPDES permit-required study on hydrocarbon fate and transport in Cook Inlet.
- Cook Inlet RCAC staff provided information for and reviews of plans developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on Beluga Whale Issues, such as their designation of Cook Inlet beluga whale critical habitat (76 FR 20180, April, 2011) and during the development of a research program sponsored by the Kenai Peninsula Borough to address data gaps identified in the Cook Inlet Beluga Conservation Plan.

**(c) The extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC works to build cooperation rather than confrontation with industry and government by:**

By staying aware of each other's activities, Cook Inlet RCAC, industry, and government representatives are better able to find consensus on difficult issues and opportunities for innovation. Below are a few examples:

- Informal relationships with the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Kenai provides a conduit for exchange of information and documents related to specific issues about the environmentally safe operation of the facilities and tankers in Cook Inlet.
- Representatives from government and industry attend and participate in board and committee meetings. Cook Inlet RCAC provides materials such as agendas, meeting packages, and background information by email and post prior to those meetings.

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- Cook Inlet RCAC's board provides ex-officio seats for nine government agencies, including the Coast Guard, the EPA, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).
- The Executive Director of Cook Inlet RCAC and the Charter Funding Companies representatives meet regularly to discuss relations between the organizations.
- Cook Inlet RCAC staff interacts regularly with officials of the production, refining, and shipping companies operating in Cook Inlet, and executives of these companies frequently visit the Council's Kenai office on an informal basis.
- Industry representatives regularly accept invitations to address the Council at board meetings.
- Cook Inlet RCAC staff was invited to, and participated in; a Tesoro hosted Practical Observation for Oil Spill Response course.
- Cook Inlet RCAC staff has been invited to participate in a Marathon Alaska Production, LLC hosted Incident Command System and Contingency Plan training exercise to be held in August 2011.
- Cook Inlet RCAC Executive Director holds a seat on the Cook Inlet Navigational Safety Committee and attends scheduled meetings.

### **(i) Working with industry and government to develop spill prevention and contingency plans:**

- Reviews and provides comment on industry contingency plans – see Section 5 part b.
- Provided Buccaneer Alaska Operation, LLC with an early C-plan review (prior to submission to ADEC) for their offshore (Jack-up rig) operations.
- Participates at the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) meetings and on the ARRT Science and Technology workgroup.
- Works closely with the ADEC and EPA personnel for the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP).
- Works with the Kodiak Places of Refuge workgroup and the Geographic Response Strategies workgroup.
- Participates in the Sub-Area Committees and related working groups led by the Coast Guard.
- Attends regular Cook Inlet Navigational Safety Committee meetings.

### **(ii) Coordinates study projects, policies, and legislative or regulatory recommendations:**

- Works closely with agency and industry for logistical support of the physical oceanography program and in developing a Cook Inlet Ocean Observing System as a component of the Alaska Ocean Observing System. Recent efforts have been to deploy a SNOTEL remote, telemetered weather station in Kamishak Bay, an area lacking in available real-time weather data. Data from this area, especially real-time wind data, are instrumental to developing accurate atmospheric wind and oceanic current and wave models, which, in turn, are necessary for predicting oil spill trajectories in southern Cook Inlet.

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- Works with industry to compile Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted by industry to EPA and ADEC as a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for oil industry discharges to Cook Inlet.
- Works with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) and the National Ballast Water Information Clearinghouse to compile a ballast water catalogue for Cook Inlet, documenting ballast water sources, treatment, and discharge volumes and locations.
- Participates on the Alaska ShoreZone Workgroup which is comprised of numerous state and federal agencies, oil spill response organizations, and other organizations. Coordinates aerial and on-the-ground surveys to ensure uniformity of data.
- Works with ADEC and EPA in developing Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) surveys. Actively coordinated an EMAP program for Cook Inlet that integrated the needs of the national program with those of oil industry in Cook Inlet and provided data and reports to agencies, industry, and public.
- Participates as a research advisor to the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve which is a NOAA sponsored and Alaska Department of Fish and Game administered program.
- Participates as Member at Large on the Oil Spill Recovery Institute's Advisory Board, which sponsors oil spill research in Alaska.
- Developed the Cook Inlet Ice Forecasting Network in coordination with industry and the NOAA National Weather Forecast's Ice Forecasting Office.
- Worked with Alaska legislative delegation for Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment.
- Worked with Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force to develop guidelines for Potential Places of Refuge.
- Worked with ADEC and AOGCC to develop a coordinated review of Well Blowout Contingency Plans to become part of the Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan review process.
- Provided comments to the State of Alaska regarding Spill Preparedness and recommended changes to Statutes and Regulations.
- Provided comments to the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regarding proposed rulemaking covering pipeline safety for on-shore hazardous liquid pipelines.
- Participates on the National Dispersants Workgroup sponsored by the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) to evaluate research needs and coordinate efforts towards understanding the fates, effects, and efficacy of dispersants.

### **(iii) Keep industry and government interests informed of plans, findings, and recommendations:**

- Government agency representatives sit on the board and committees as ex-officio members and receive information packets (which include agendas, calendars, staff reports, and project reports) for each meeting.

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- Industry affiliates are given information packets (which include agendas, calendars, staff reports, and project reports) for each meeting.
- Cook Inlet RCAC newsletter, *Council Briefs*, is sent out quarterly to its subscribers including industry and government representatives. The newsletter provides readers with a regular update on Cook Inlet RCAC projects.
- Information is regularly updated on the Cook Inlet RCAC website, [www.cirac.org](http://www.cirac.org)
- Cook Inlet RCAC meets with personnel from various governmental agencies and Cook Inlet oil industry operators on common issues throughout the year.
- Staff regularly works with personnel from various agencies and industry during planning phases for field research to ensure coordination when possible and to reduce duplication.
- Staff regularly touches base with personnel from various agencies and industry when compiling information during preparation of comments or recommendations to obtain clarifications if needed to ensure that information released by Cook Inlet RCAC is factual.

**SECTION 3. Scientific Work: The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC coordinates its independent scientific work with the scientific work performed by or on behalf of the terminal operators and operators of the crude oil tankers in an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to ensure that research and studies are relevant to issues that impact the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and of crude oil tankers calling at those facilities.**

Cook Inlet RCAC is tasked by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to conduct 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 Environmental Monitoring Committee formulates advice and recommendations for the Board of Directors. Committee members work together with staff to advance projects and facilitate communications among citizens, regulatory groups, special interest groups, and industry.

Cook Inlet RCAC uses a combination of staff, independent contractors, and partnerships with government agencies and industry to undertake many of its scientific projects. Listed below is a breakdown of Cook Inlet RCAC's active scientific programs with a brief historical summary of each programs' respective projects. The Cook Inlet RCAC scientific work is designed to specifically address the needs and goals identified in our Strategic Plan, which was developed and organized around Programs based on tasks outlined in OPA 90.

Funding for Cook Inlet RCAC's science, research, and monitoring efforts are through a combination of industry contract funds, federal or state agency appropriations, competitive grants, and through leveraging of funds via various partnerships. In the past 10 years, the majority of Cook Inlet RCAC's science program has been funded outside of industry grants with staff soliciting funding through proposals that address the needs of our Strategic Plan. Many of the funded projects were also leveraged significantly by partnering with other organizations with similar goals to minimize duplication and maximize the value of the research.

**Biological and Chemical Monitoring Program**

Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Project (ICIEMAP)

For this project, Cook Inlet RCAC coordinated a Cook Inlet contaminants program that incorporated components of the national Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), oil industry monitoring that was required as part of their current NPDES permit for large-volume produced water dischargers, and a NOAA National Status and Trends Benthic Surveillance Program. With a funding grant from NOAA's Office of Restoration and Response, Cook Inlet RCAC took the lead on developing the integrated sampling plan for field work to that took place in August 2008 and September



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2009. Other major funds were provided by Chevron and XTO to collect samples required by their NPDES permit. ICIEMAP was developed based on protocols used in 2002, when Cook Inlet RCAC coordinated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to conduct Alaska's first component of the national EMAP program by sampling in Southcentral Alaska's coastal bays and estuaries using a modified Sediment Quality Triad approach.

The 2008 and 2009 sampling program nests within the larger Gulf of Alaska coastal assessment and was developed to include both probabilistic sampling and targeted sampling to assess point source discharges. Project Coordination with the EPA, NOAA, Chevron, and XTO resulted in a sampling plan that was approved by each agency by integrating sampling programs that had originally been designed to meet specific needs. Cook Inlet RCAC staff worked with agency and industry personnel, contractors, and EPA statisticians to design a sampling framework with a statistical design that can meet the needs of the multiple programs and leveraged field and analytical costs among the programs. Samples and data were shared and were used to produce reports that met the requirements of the major participants; Cook Inlet RCAC produced a report for its major funder at NOAA's Office of Restoration and Response, Chevron and XTO submitted a data report on hydrocarbon fate and transport as required by EPA under their NPDES permit, and NOAA's National Status and Trends Bioeffects Program produced a summary of data from Kachemak Bay.

Work in 2010 and 2011 has focused on compiling the data into formats that will allow access and visualization on the web. We are currently working with consultants and with the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) to provide ICIEMAP data through the AOOS web portal in a way that will allow data access and query tools. In addition, Cook Inlet RCAC has contractors compiling the historical data collected by Cook Inlet RCAC since its inception so that all contaminant data will also be accessible via the web.

#### Belugas - Contaminants and Habitat

Cook Inlet RCAC worked with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) scientists and contractors at Motes Marine Laboratory to evaluate contaminants in Cook Inlet belugas whales and prey species from summer feeding areas. Cook Inlet RCAC funded the analyses of beluga tissue samples that had been archived by the Alaska Marine Mammal Tissue Archival Program (AMMTAP) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Analyses included metals, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), and persistent organic pollutants. In addition, known fish prey species collected from summer habitat beluga whale feeding areas were also analyzed for contaminants. Data were presented in October 2010 at the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Science Conference hosted by NMFS in Anchorage.

Based on known science gaps identified in the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Conservation Plan, Cook Inlet RCAC submitted a proposal to the Kenai Peninsula Borough in January 2010 to extend the above contaminants work to include winter habitat areas. The proposal was selected for funding with Cook Inlet RCAC identified as project lead with

## Section 3: Scientific Work

participation by Motes Marine Laboratory and Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Sampling will take place in late fall 2011 and late winter 2012 and will include trawling for potential winter fish prey species and subsequent analyses for contaminants.

### **Coastal Habitat Mapping Program**

#### Alaska ShoreZone Mapping Data and Imagery

##### *Aerial Surveys*

Cook Inlet RCAC introduced ShoreZone habitat mapping in Alaska in 2001 when we sponsored the first of many aerial surveys to photograph, map, and inventory nearshore habitats in our areas of concern. Those initial surveys led to efforts by over 30 participating organizations to survey and map the entire Alaskan coast. This statewide partnership was described as “unprecedented in size and scope” when it received a 2009 Spirit Award by Coastal America, recognizing outstanding partnerships in protecting, preserving and restoring the nation’s coastal resources and ecosystems.

ShoreZone is a mapping and classification system that specializes in the collection and interpretation of aerial imagery of the intertidal zone and nearshore environment. Its objective is to produce an integrated, searchable inventory of geological and biological features which can be used as a tool on local and regional scales for science, education, management, and environmental hazard mitigation. Continuing ShoreZone efforts in Alaska are accomplished through the efforts of numerous funders and partnering organizations since Cook Inlet RCAC’s first surveys in 2001, and the data and imagery are currently hosted by National Marine Fisheries Service at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/shorezone/szintro.htm>.

##### *Oil Spill Response Applications of ShoreZone: Flash Video Tool and ERMA*

Cook Inlet RCAC’s most recent efforts in 2010 and 2011 have focused on obtaining and delivering high quality imagery, data, and summary information to improve oil spill planning and response in our areas of concern. To accomplish these goals, we collected high resolution digital video and over 13,000 aerial photographs of the entire Cook Inlet shoreline during a particularly low six-day tide window in June 2009. These images replaced the lower resolution imagery collected in 2001-2003. In addition to serving 1-second captures of the video on the NOAA web site, we developed a new stand-alone product where users can access hours of high resolution flash video of Cook Inlet, the Kodiak Island archipelago, and the Katmai and Kenai Peninsula coasts. This ShoreZone Flash application was designed be an interactive, self contained interface that relates high resolution ShoreZone video and photographs. This pilot project used Cook Inlet high definition (HD) video collected in June 2009 where all HD video tapes were rendered into digital flash files, linked to a customized display program that shows satellite base maps, oblique aerial photography and flight tracks. Trackline position, video imagery, and digital photo times are linked to a GPS navigation system during each aerial survey.

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Phase II is delivering digital flash files for the Katmai, Kodiak and outer Kenai coasts using previously collected digital video imagery and digitized slides.

This high resolution imagery will be invaluable to oil spill planners and on-scene commanders in emergency situations where fast internet access might be limited. Contractors are currently finalizing a stand-alone flash video drive that can be delivered to agencies and responders for planning and response efforts with an expected final delivery date of late summer 2011.

In 2010 and 2011 (and earlier), numerous presentations have been made state-wide and nationally that focused on applications of ShoreZone imagery and data for oil spill planning and response, using the Alaska database as an example. Specific data queries and imagery access tools were described that are of most use to decision-makers for either long-term planning efforts or at Incident Command centers where On-Scene Coordinators need immediate access to information. Recent real-time response operations that used web-accessible ShoreZone images and data were presented. While these examples proved the usefulness of existing databases, Cook Inlet RCAC still believes that ShoreZone is not currently packaged in a way that first responders can access the information in the most efficient and useful manner.

We are currently working with contractors and the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) to work with NOAA's Emergency Response Management Application (ERMA) database and programming personnel to use Cook Inlet as a pilot area to demonstrate applications for developing the Arctic ERMA. We have had several meetings and are working to develop an application that (1) provides web access queries that are capable of extracting data and imagery for specific oil spill areas of concern, (2) exports the data for off-line use, (3) tests the system using response personnel to verify the field operation of the system, and (4) applies the system for a specific oil spill application such as pre-SCAT surveys.

#### ShoreZone – Ground Station Surveys

In 2010, the Cook Inlet RCAC-sponsored ShoreZone Ground Station web site was released through the NOAA ShoreZone website to provide access to species-level data that links to the aerial survey data and imagery. This project was initiated in 2009 to design and produce a web-based dataset, enabling online access to ground station observations of biota, select geomorphic features and site photos. Objectives of the website project were to build web access to mapped ground station locations displayed as an integrated layer of ShoreZone; provide interactive queryable data, with a searchable display of species occurrences by station or groups of stations, and; display photos from the ground stations. To do this, the ground station database was modified and re-designed to serve as the off-line master dataset where the data are stored, compiled, and upgraded to include fields required for web-ready arc server posting. The master database includes all ground observations, including the species observations for each station, along with qualitative abundance scores. The ShoreZone Ground Station website together

### Section 3: Scientific Work

with the web-posted Alaska ShoreZone dataset and supporting documentation are available at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/shorezone/szintro.htm>.

#### Macrocystis Kelp Beds

In late August 2009, Cook Inlet RCAC coordinated a dive survey project at a series of *Macrocystis* kelp beds in the Kodiak Island Archipelago that were discovered during 2002 and 2005 ShoreZone surveys. Based onboard the R/V *Waters*, we worked with three University of Alaska graduate student divers surveying kelp beds on Afognak, Shuyak, and Kodiak islands to look at the geographic extent of the kelp beds and quantify densities of the kelp and associated invertebrates, algae, and fish.

*Macrocystis* is common on the U.S. west coast and in southeast Alaska, but naturally occurring beds of it had not previously been reported or described in the western Gulf of Alaska. It is not clear whether these kelp beds have had a long presence in the area or whether plants or fertilized eggs were introduced to the region more recently via prevailing currents, ballast water, or by the herring-roe-on-kelp fishery. Whether the kelp beds were established naturally or introduced by human activities, the existence of these newly documented kelp beds have implications for oil spill planning and response, shoreline access, and habitat availability for forage fish, birds, and marine mammals. If the kelp expands geographically, these plants may be able to out-compete the other two Alaskan canopy kelps (bull kelp and dragon kelp) since *Macrocystis* has a different reproductive cycle and the potential to biochemically deter grazing invertebrates.

In 2010 and 2011, Cook Inlet RCAC compiled data collected from the dive surveys and worked with GIS mappers to prepare distribution maps. We conducted interviews in coastal communities to obtain any historical or anecdotal information about *Macrocystis* kelp in the Kodiak area as well as other areas in the western Gulf of Alaska. Data and maps were presented at the Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium (KAMSS) in April 2010.

#### Seaweeds of Alaska

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to support projects that help distribute data collected from our many intertidal surveys. We supported the development of the website [www.SeaweedsOfAlaska.com](http://www.SeaweedsOfAlaska.com) by web-developers at Octavient, Inc. who worked closely with Mandy Lindeberg of NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratory. This web site is used by educators and researchers and will help ensure more consistent identification of coastal seaweeds that will help ensure more accurate representations of Alaska's coastal biodiversity. To that end, we also supported the production and printing of a seaweed field guide which was released in fall 2010 in partnership with NOAA and the Alaska Sea Grant Program. We also organized presentations by the authors at numerous coastal Alaska communities and at various science symposia.

### **Physical Oceanography Program**

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to work with agencies and research organizations to improve observational data collections on the physical oceanography of Cook Inlet and nearby areas. We wrote the first Cook Inlet Ocean Observing System Plan and continue to work closely with the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) to revise plans for the Cook Inlet area. Cook Inlet RCAC has continually been a partner in coordinating data collection and improving model development for Cook Inlet. In 2010 and 2011 we have been working with AOOS, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Department of Agriculture's National Resources Conservation Council (NRCS) to plan for and deploy a new remote, telemetered weather station, based on the SNOTEL technology that was used to develop the Prince William Sound Ocean Observing System. This remote weather station will help fill a critical gap in atmospheric information for a remote corner of Cook Inlet in lower Kamishak Bay, at ADF&G's McNeil River station. Our plan is to improve the weather observational data that will improve our ability to provide more accurate atmospheric models for lower Cook Inlet. In turn, the atmospheric models are used to drive wave and current models for Cook Inlet, which are instrumental to improving our ability to determine potential oil spill trajectories. In addition, the data alone are key to improved response decisions for an area of Cook Inlet that is known to be a potential oil spill "keeper beach" and is downstream of any large potential oil spill from traffic or operations in the upper Inlet.

### **Oil Fates and Effects Program**

There is a strong link between this program and the Physical Oceanography and Coastal Habitat Mapping Programs. During the early development of Cook Inlet RCAC's strategic plan, we identified the need for better coastal environmental data and better understanding of Cook Inlet's atmospheric and ocean currents before we could develop the tools needed to improve our understanding of potential fate, transport, and effects of spilled oil, including naturally or chemically dispersed droplets. We continue to conduct scientific work under those programs that will provide the tools and information necessary for many of the potential projects identified for an oil fates and effects program.

In the meantime, staff continues to address this program by participating on national, regional, state, and local initiatives. For example, staff sits on a national dispersants workgroup addressing fates and effects dispersants research, participating in discussions of the Joint Industry Program sponsored by several Arctic nations, on the BC/States Oil Spill Task Force, on the Alaska Regional Response Team's Science and Technical Committee for reviewing *in situ* burn and dispersant guidelines, etc... Staff participates at conferences and workgroups on issues relating to the goals of this program. We have also collected samples from Cook Inlet to extend other studies to include Cook Inlet conditions. For example, we have provided Cook Inlet oil samples for testing at the OHMSETT facility and provided Cook Inlet sediment samples to a Canadian study on dispersed oil/mineral fine aggregates.

### **Technical Review Program**

#### **Ballast Water Catalog**

This project is developing an on-line database and is updating the Ballast Water catalog for Cook Inlet. The original catalogue was provided in 2004 and was compiled by Nuka Research with funds that Cook Inlet RCAC received from the USF&WS. These catalogues include information gathered from ballast water discharge reports for ships entering Cook Inlet. The purpose of the updated report is to look at major sources and major discharge locations in order to better evaluate risks of non-indigenous species (NIS) introductions into Cook Inlet via ballast water as the vector. At that time of the earlier report, US Coast Guard (USCG) Federal Regulations required ballast water management practice reporting, but did not require ballast water treatment for ships entering the United States. Since that catalog was produced, the USCG passed regulations that required ballast water treatment from any ship entering the US waters from outside of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). An update of this catalog allows us to evaluate whether risks have reduced and what are still the major risks of ballast water to Cook Inlet; a database has been compiled from the ballast water reports and the data linked to port arrival information. A draft report was submitted by our contractors in fall 2010 and an update including the most recent ballast water data is being finalized for an August 2011 completion date.

#### **Discharge Monitoring Report Database**

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to archive and evaluate monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) from the major oil industry dischargers to Cook Inlet. DMRs are self-reporting documents required of industry by their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits that allow discharge of contaminants to Cook Inlet. Through the certification of mixing zones by the State of Alaska, these reports document concentrations discharged at “end-of-pipe” that can violate water quality standards within state-certified mixing zones. We worked with EPA and Chevron to obtain monthly copies. Currently we are soliciting the support of XTO to obtain their DMRs directly at the time that they submit them to EPA. By summarizing these reports, we can compile the volumes and concentrations of certain pollutants in various discharge sources such as produced water. In the past, this project mainly focused on archiving the hardcopies of DMRs received from industry. Our contractors have developed an electronic database so that monthly DMR data can be entered and evaluated against permitted discharge limits. Plans are underway to provide on-line access to the summary data and the electronic database.

**SECTION 4. Monitoring Program: The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC develops and carries out an effective monitoring program.**

Cook Inlet RCAC uses a combination of staff and independent contractors to monitor drills, exercises, and training events and regularly participates in the planning of these events. Cook Inlet RCAC is also an active part of the drill performance evaluation working with Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI), Chadux, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and others to improve response capabilities.

**a. Reviewing the operation and maintenance of terminals and tankers.**

Annual Voluntary Pipeline Report

Cook Inlet RCAC worked with the Sub-sea pipeline operators to put together a standardized Annual Pipeline Activity Report on the status of pipelines in Cook Inlet. Each Cook Inlet pipeline operator provides a presentation to the PROPS Committee that includes:

- Summary of previous year's activities highlighting goals, accomplishments and improvements.
- A description, including location and age, of the facility(s).
- Pipeline design description or Inventory List (Pipe size, length, material, operating pressures, etc).
- Identify most recent DOT audits and the date each was conducted with a brief summary of the audit.
- Description of Integrity Management Program listing general PM protocols, recent maintenance accomplishments etc.
- List risks or known issues and how each is addressed.
- List of reportable leaks from sub-sea pipelines and how each was resolved.
- Describe Spill Prevention Program, listing activities conducted during the previous year (Drills or actual spill response etc.).
- Any physical changes in facility or procedural changes as a result of activities conduct in the previous year.

Cook Inlet Energy has committed to provide the PROPS Committee with a pipeline report prior to the September Council Meeting.

Chevron Dolly Varden/Baker pipeline meeting

Staff attended a planning meeting for the proposed pipeline work associated with the platforms. The meeting was also attended by state and federal agencies as well as Chevron's OSRO. Cook Inlet RCAC encouraged Chevron to have their OSRO on-scene while work was being performed. Staff monitored pipeline repair/maintenance activities on the Dolly Varden pipeline. Cook Inlet RCAC received notification of work schedules for the Dolly Varden pipeline repair; staff monitored and tracked the projects progress.

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Staff received notification of two small spills associated with the repair. Staff will continue to monitor pipeline work projects as they occur.

### **b. Monitoring cleanup drills and actual spill cleanups.**

During each drill event, Cook Inlet RCAC staff observes the Unified Command and the Incident Management Team and makes recommendations regarding opportunities for improvement. Cook Inlet RCAC has a process for obtaining current information at the command center and distributing it to Council members for dissemination to respective communities and interest groups. Staff also brings the concerns for the Council and Committees to Command Center personnel. This process also allows Cook Inlet RCAC to test its own internal communications with its board members and committees.

Cook Inlet RCAC attended the following drills/demonstrations during this recertification period (1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011):

#### Sea River

Staff attended a two-day Sea River drill in Valdez. The scenario centered on a collision between a small vessel and a tanker. Two of the tanker's tanks were breached and approximately 170,000 bbls of oil were released. To combat the spill, the Unified Command employed mechanical response and surgical dispersant use. During the drill, Cook Inlet RCAC's Director of Public Outreach participated in the Regional Stakeholders Committee (RSC) along with Prince William Sound RCAC and representatives from several Prince Williams Sound communities. The RSC acts as a separate committee and receives updates of drill activities from the collection of Incident Action Plans (IAP) and through the Liaison Officer (LO). Each day, the Unified Command met with the RSC to discuss actions and plans and to field questions and concerns. The RSC monitors drill activities and provides advice and recommendations to the IMT and Unified command. The RSC is located near to, but separate from the Command Center.

#### Marathon

The Marathon drill took place at the Beaver Creek facility located off of Marathon Rd. between Kenai and Nikiski. The drill scenario centered on a tank failure and facility fire. Response operations focused on equipment deployment, site familiarization, and deployment strategies for responders. Responders for this drill included not only Marathon personnel and CISPRI spill technicians but area Fire Departments and Life Flight responders, adding another layer of practicality for all.

Staff attended a second Marathon Oil Company Drill hosted at the CISPRI facility in Nikiski. This was not the routine drill scenario staff expected to attend. The drill scenario involved a large explosion of a gas pipeline located within the Kenai city center. While it is not within our scope of operations to monitor gas operations, Marathon Oil Company does have crude oil holdings in the Cook Inlet region and Cook Inlet RCAC is a named reviewer of their C-Plan. It was very beneficial for staff to have met with the Marathon Incident Management Team (IMT) members involved with this drill, since many



## Section 4: Monitoring Program

members were from lower 48 Marathon business units (Gas Operations) and have never been exposed to the Citizens Advisory Council concept.

Unlike other drills staff did not participate but only observed and answered questions about our role during crude oil drills and spills and our role as a named C-plan reviewer.

### XTO Energy

The XTO drill scenario centered on a storage tank breach caused by a loader accident. The drill incorporated an equipment deployment at the facility and full ICS deployment at the CISPRI command post. This was the first time the O'Brien's Group has worked with XTO as part of the Incident Management Team (IMT). Cook Inlet RCAC staff filled two roles at this drill, one as the Liaison Officer in the Incident Management Team (IMT) in the command center and the other as a field operations observer.

### Chevron

The Chevron drill took place at the CISPRI command post and the Chevron, Swanson River facility. The Chevron IMT was made up of local personnel, key personnel from Chevron facilities in the lower 48, and contractors from The Response Group (TRG). This spill scenario incorporated a pipeline leak, involving an over-the-ground transport of oil that threatened to enter the Swanson River. Cook Inlet RCAC staff in the command post observed Chevron and TRG personnel exercise electronic forms and permits software. Staff observed response efforts in the field which included spill control, spilled oil recovery from soil and resource protection from potential spill contact.

### Cook Inlet Energy

The Cook Inlet Energy drill scenario involved a pipeline break caused by a 7.4-magnitude earthquake. The quantity of oil and produced water discharged was 250 barrels (10,500 gallons). The actual spill portion of the drill was straight forward: there was a breach caused by an earthquake resulting in a spill on land. The response portion of the drill addressed the discharge properly and aggressively, preventing oil from entering the waters of Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet Energy is a new company working as a new team and incorporated the O'Brien's group as a facilitator and as a response team member (as listed in their Contingency plan). The Incident Command Center was located in Anchorage and the Response Command Center was located at the CISPRI facility in Nikiski, adding another layer of complexity. Finally, this drill incorporated many different considerations due to the nature of the cause. The Incident Management Team (IMT) performed their duties well, addressing the myriad of difficulties associated with a spill scenario during a widespread catastrophic event such as an earthquake of this magnitude.

### Kenai Pipeline (KPL)

Staff attended a Tesoro/KPL drill hosted at the CISPRI facility in Nikiski. The drill scenario involved a ruptured pipeline on the causeway leading to the dock face, while a vessel was at the dock. This drill as with all Tesoro drills was well scripted and was not short on personnel. Tesoro incorporates personnel from all of its operations into the Incident Command(IC) to insure there is enough staff to meet any challenge encountered.

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This approach also helps to insure enough personnel are trained in the IC and Incident Command System (ICS) to immediately respond to an actual incident.

### CISPRI Crucial Skimmer Deployment

CISPRI deployed its new 13 disc and 56 disc Crucial skimmers to test the established daily recovery rate. Staff attended the first of the two day exercise. The first day CISPRI deployed the 56 disc Crucial skimmer in conjunction with the Current Buster collection system. CISPRI is developing a new configuration for use with the Current Buster, in order to improve recovery and skimming efficiency. The deployment revealed that the tactic needs further development to minimize deployment time and effort in order to maximize recovery. Another part of the deployment was to demonstrate the skimmer's ability to pump oil from the Current Buster pocket to the piping system of the recovery barge; which it did without issue.

The second day deployment consisted of deploying the 13 disc Crucial skimmer with the current buster in the conventional manner, establish maximum over the bottom speed to determine the optimum speed for collection and skimming without splash over or entrainment. The system was maneuvered in various directions to capture a tracking buoy while maintaining the proper configuration. During the second half of the day the 13 disc Crucial skimmer was deployed into the pocket of an ODI collection skirt. The ODI collection skirt is a collection system that is part of the skimming package permanently stationed on board the response vessel *Perseverance*, CISPRI's primary response vessel. Typical ODI configuration incorporates the use of an 8-rope foxtail skimmer. This configuration utilized the more efficient Crucial skimmer. During both days CISPRI contract vessels were used to further train vessel operators in towing the current Buster and other booms used for these tactics.

### Tesoro Vessel Drill Planning

Staff attended a Tesoro Vessel Pre-Drill planning meeting to discuss objectives for the upcoming 2011 Tesoro Cook Inlet Vessel Exercise. In attendance were representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The group discussed the drill date and objectives and preliminary information about the scenario. There will be at least one more meeting in late summer to review the final details of this 2 day exercise. The first day is slated as a tabletop exercise and the second will be the equipment deployment portion of the exercise. Staff will continue to participate in the development of the drill and its implementation.

### Tanker Towing Demonstration

Cook Inlet RCAC, along with ADEC and the USCG were invited to observe a tanker towing exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to familiarize participants, demonstrate capabilities, and to practice and improve the techniques for rescue of a disabled tanker in Cook Inlet. The OSRV *Perseverance* demonstrated its ability to deploy towing gear, connect to a disabled tanker (T/V *Overseas Boston*), tow the tanker, and then return it to its original heading.

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RCAC staff observed and reported to the Council that each crew worked safely and efficiently to connect the two ships. Likewise, the communication between the tanker and the *Perseverance* during the towing exercise was excellent and greatly improved the ability of the *Perseverance* to successfully position the tanker to its desired bearings.

### Oil Spill Detection and Mapping Technology Demonstration

Staff attended a demonstration hosted by Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) of newly developed oil spill detection and mapping technologies. Remote sensing aircraft overfly a spill site carrying a camera array, developed by Ocean Imaging Corporation, which uses a combination of infrared and multi-spectral imaging to detect and quantify oil on water thickness and gps technology to locate the spill site. The data is then applied through a mapping system to provide a detailed chart showing spill locations and thickness at those locations. During the demonstration fluorescent dye was applied to the waters' surface in Knik Arm from a CISPRI response vessel. Following the application of the dye, the detection instrument was flown over using a float plane; the information collected by the sensing array was transmitted back to the operational observers located in the former MMS building in Anchorage. After the overflight portion of the demonstration, the on-water participants observed CISPRI conduct a boom-and-skimmer deployment.

Cook Inlet RCAC monitored the following spills that occurred during this recertification period (1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011):

#### October 2010

Continued to monitor Chevron Swanson River Oilfield - Crude Oil

#### February 2011

Swanson River Oilfield - Produced Water

Dolly Varden Platform – Hydraulic Oil

#### March 2011

Overseas Martinez – Cargo spill on deck

Anna Platform – Mineral Oil through loose valve fitting

King Salmon Platform - Methanol spill to secondary containment

#### May 2011

Dolly Varden Platform – Crude Oil spill during pipeline repair

Grayling Platform – Lube Oil from leaking hose

King Salmon Platform – Hydraulic Fluid to secondary containment

#### June 2011

Monopod Platform – Envirolube Oil

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Cook Inlet RCAC monitored the following Marine Accidents involving vessels that frequent Cook Inlet and surrounding waters:

### October 2010

M/T Overseas Nikiski-Blackout and main engine shutdown

### February 2011

M/T Overseas Martinez – Main engine overspeed and shutdown

## **c. Reviewing results of oil spill (incident) in its region**

### Drift River Oil Terminal

Major volcanic activity at Mount Redoubt started on January 25, 2009, leading to several major explosive events - the largest on April 4, 2009. Each explosion caused pyroclastic flows and lahars to flow down the Drift River Valley (Cook Inlet RCAC involvement outlined in 2009 Recertification letter to USCG dated 7/31/2009). Though no one was injured and no oil was spilled, Cook Inlet RCAC recognized that in each incident there can be improvement - including within our organization. To that end, the Council commissioned an independent third-party to review the response efforts, including the Council's involvement in the process, and to provide recommendations for improvement. The evaluation report, developed by Pearson Consulting LLC, was presented to the Council on June 18, 2010 (Reported in 2010 Recertification letter to USGC dated 9/2/2010)

The Council accepted the report and elected to review the six recommendations through a workgroup process. All members of the Council were invited to participate in the workgroup; eight Council members volunteered. Staff and agency representatives were present to provide information and advice. The workgroup reviewed each recommendation independently and made a decision to accept or not to accept each recommendation in whole or in part.

The workgroup's decisions were presented to the full Council on December 3, 2010 at the quarterly Board Meeting in Kenai. During the meeting the Council elected to solicit public comment on the recommendations of the workgroup. After considering the public comments, the workgroup reconvened for discussion and presented its final recommendations to the Council. At the June 17, 2011 Board Meeting, the Council accepted the following comments and recommendations for the workgroup:

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- Establishing a Unified Command is based on judgments dependent on the particular incident or spill. We do not believe structured criteria would be workable. Rather, we recommend the Council develop for each situation key points for a successful response, track those closely, and expand its procedures for communicating information to the public.
- It is critical that industry provide information to the Council and the public in the event of a spill. The Council should investigate and clearly make known what industry information is considered "sensitive" and "confidential", and under what circumstances it can be made public or to Council and staff. This information should be collected in advance of any particular incident.
- The current system of Cook Inlet RCAC staff working within the Incident Management System (ICS) Team should remain "informal" so the Council can retain its autonomy. This independence allows staff to remove themselves at any time during an incident if the situation compromises the Cook Inlet RCAC mission and its commitment to the public.
- Communicating to the public and member groups is an important part of Cook Inlet RCAC's mission. The recommended communication procedures (as noted in Section 5b) should be adopted as operational procedures, subject to improvements over time as needed.
- The Council concurred that during a potential or real incident Cook Inlet RCAC should assess whether or not industry and government are responding adequately. However, the criteria should be developed on an incident specific basis.
- Lessons can be learned after any action, and we strongly endorse developing after-action report procedures. Additionally, we recommend that staff work with regulators to determine a procedure for compiling after action reports and to
- Identify a funding source for these reports.

### Spill Notification and Review

Cook Inlet RCAC routinely receives spill notifications from industry, USCG and ADEC. Cook Inlet RCAC is identified in industry contingency plans for notification in the event of a spill. Staff at Cook Inlet RCAC works with ADEC and oil facility operators to review all aspects of the spill to minimize reoccurrence of the discharge. Spill notification is sent to all Council and Committee members via email once all pertinent facts of the spill can be gathered.

### Cook Inlet Annual Spill Report

Cook Inlet RCAC annually compiles a spill report using the ADEC spill database. The results from this compilation are presented to the Council and committees. Staff is

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currently working with ADEC to assemble the data to be presented to the PROPS Committee and Council in the fall of 2011.

### **d. Reviewing government and company reports**

Cook Inlet RCAC staff reviews reports, study plans and manuscripts that relate to our mandates under OPA 90. These often include studies done by state and federal agencies, the Prince William Sound RCAC, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, Universities, Industry, and other organizations. For example, Cook Inlet RCAC staff has:

- Reviewed documents and reports from National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the potential listing of the Cook Inlet beluga whale under the Endangered Species Act.
- Reviewed all documents and study plans associated with the Industry sampling program linked to the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas NPDES permit.
- Reviewed spill reports from industry and agencies (ADEC and USCG NRC).
- Voted as a member of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- Attended ASTM meetings and submitted comments to F-20 and F-25 Committees.
- Provided independent scientific peer review of proposals and reports for research entities such as the North Pacific Research Board, the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, and the Coastal Research and Response Center.
- Reviewed numerous submitted or final scientific manuscripts relating to contaminants research, physical oceanography, habitat mapping, and ballast water treatment technology, vectors for introductions of invasive species, ocean observing systems, dispersants fates & effects, invertebrate and algal taxonomy, and many other research categories.

### **e. Conduct or review necessary scientific studies with or by recognized experts in the field under study**

Most of Cook Inlet RCAC's scientific work is done through a process that brings together experts in the field. Cook Inlet RCAC often develops a team that includes expertise required for a particular study. Over the years, Cook Inlet RCAC has identified which scientists have the most experience and expertise in various fields of study, especially those with particular experience in Cook Inlet. During the past year, Cook Inlet RCAC has contracted with many recognized experts. Below are some examples:

- Dr. John Harper, Coastal and Ocean Sciences, Inc.: ShoreZone Mapping.
- Mary Morris, Archipelago Marine Research: Shore-station species-level database for ShoreZone Mapping.
- Dr. Carl Schoch, Coastwise Research: ShoreZone Oil Spill Response Tool.

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- Dr. Sandra Lindstrom, University of British Columbia: Expert seaweed taxonomy.
- Dr. Alan Fukuyama: Expert invertebrate taxonomy.
- Dr. Dennis Lees, Littoral Ecological and Ecosystem Services: Cook Inlet Intertidal Studies.
- Mr. Mark Savoie and Gary Gillingham, Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc: Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program.
- Dr. John Treffry, Florida Institute of Technology, Cook Inlet contaminants.
- William Driskell, Independent Contractor, Cook Inlet contaminants and database development.
- Dr. Ian Hartwell, NOAA National Status and Trends, Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program.
- Dr. Doug Dasher, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program.
- Tim Robertson and Brent Higman, Nuka Research: Development of a Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program and Ballast Water Catalogue.
- Dr. Tony Olson, EPA: Statistical Support for Cook Inlet Contaminants Program.
- Gary Greenberg, Alaska Map Company, GIS Mapping for ICIEMAP and Macrocyctis surveys.
- Dr. Greg Ruiz, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center: Ballast Water Sampling for LNG Tankers in Cook Inlet.
- Dr. James Reynolds and Dr. Dana Wetzel, Motes Marine Laboratory: Beluga Tissue Contaminants Study.
- Mandy Lindeberg, NOAA Auke Bay Laboratory: Expert seaweed taxonomy and intertidal ecology.
- Rick McClure, Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service, Cook Inlet Ocean Observing System (SNOTEL)
- Rob Bohanek, Axiom Consulting and Design, Cook Inlet contaminants database and Oil Spill Response Tool for Cook Inlet.
- Kathleen Cole, NOAA Anchorage Forecast Office: NOAA Ice Forecaster
- Sam Albanese, NOAA Anchorage Forecast Office: Warning Coordinator Meteorologist

Individual scientific studies are described in other sections. Please refer to Section 3 which describes the scientific studies and efforts to coordinate efforts with recognized experts in the fields of study.

**SECTION 5. Prevention and Response: Efforts to prevent oil spills and to plan for responding to, containing, cleaning up, and mitigating impacts of oil spills. The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC:**

Cook Inlet RCAC's programs are designed to monitor actual and potential environmental impacts stemming from the operation of oil facilities in Cook Inlet, and to review operational and maintenance practices at the facility in the interest of mitigating those impacts.

The **Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee** and the **Protocol Committee** monitor and review port organizations, operations, incidents, and vessel traffic. As industry submits additions to their contingency plans such as the addition of "spot charters," or revisions and amendments to contingency plans Cook Inlet RCAC researches the provided information with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

**a. Periodically reviews oil spill prevention and contingency plans for terminal facilities and crude oil tankers while in Cook Inlet in light of new technological developments and changed circumstances;**

Oil spill prevention and response plans for tankers and for facilities are submitted to the State of Alaska under a five-year review cycle. Cook Inlet RCAC's Protocol Committee reviews contingency plans for new and existing operations within Cook Inlet. When these plans are reviewed every section is completely and thoroughly reviewed each time. This is done to ensure that, while some plans have been reviewed three times, nothing has been missed in the previous reviews and to look for areas where Best Available Technology (BAT) and best management practices can be implemented.

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to receive contingency plans for review, to add updates or amendments, and revisions. The following plans received approved amendments, revisions or were submitted for review during this recertification period (1 September 2010 – 31 August 2011):

- Tesoro Alaska Company- 15 October 2010- Review of Major Amendment
- Buccaneer Alaska Operating, LLC (On-shore operations) – 02 Dec 2010- Review
- Cook Inlet Pipeline – 23 Dec 2010- Review
- Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska- 31 January 2011- Plan Amendment
- Buccaneer Alaska Operating, LLC (On-Shore operations)- 09 Feb 2011- Second round of review process
- Escopeta Oil, LLC – 30 March 2011- Review
- Cook Inlet Energy – 09 May 2011 Review
- Cook Inlet Energy- 17 June 2011 Second round of review process
- XTO Energy – 08 July 2011- Review



## Section 5: Prevention and Response

### Tesoro Spot Charter reviews

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to review Tesoro spot charters as new amendments to plans are submitted. These spot charter reviews are important to the continued safety of navigation in Cook Inlet and are conducted in cooperation with ADEC. Spot Charter packages are received on a routine basis and are reviewed and evaluated. Spot Charter packages received and reviewed during this recertification period (1 September 2010– 31 August 2011) are as follows:

- *M/T Ratna Shradha* – 06 May 2011
- *T/ V Cape Aspro* – 14 June 2011

### **b. Monitor periodic drills and testing of the oil spill contingency plans for terminal facilities and for crude oil tankers while in Cook Inlet;**

Cook Inlet RCAC has long advocated for exercising contingency plans through drills; which provides an excellent opportunity to verify and improve planning assumptions. Cook Inlet RCAC's role in drills is varied and in some cases Cook Inlet RCAC was integrated into the command structure. Depending on the need of the company being tested Cook Inlet RCAC participated in the flowing incident command structure areas:

- Public Information
- Liaison
- Operations
- Planning

Cook Inlet RCAC has a process for obtaining current information at the command center and distributing it to Council members for dissemination to respective communities and interest groups. Staff also brings the concerns for the Council and Committees to Command Center personnel.

From more information on Drills, please refer to Section 4 part b.

### **c. Wind and water currents and other environmental factors in the vicinity of the terminal facilities that may affect the ability to prevent, respond to, contain, and clean up oil spills;**

Please refer to Section 3, Physical Oceanography Program that describes efforts to better understand wind and water currents in Cook Inlet. Also review Sections 3 & 4, Coastal Habitat Mapping Program which describes efforts to better understand nearshore habitat which is an environmental factor that affects the ability to prevent, respond to, contain, and clean up oil spills. Cook Inlet RCAC is in the process of developing a project that will link the habitat information to oil spill response needs so that the information can be provided in a timely fashion at Incident Command during oil spill planning and response efforts.

**d. Identifies highly sensitive areas which may require special protection in the event of a spill in Cook Inlet;**

Coast Habitat Mapping

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to develop a coastal habitat mapping program and database in the northern Gulf of Alaska. After piloting the project in 2001, Cook Inlet RCAC has expanded this program through numerous partnerships to include much of the northern Gulf of Alaska coastline using ShoreZone Mapping methods developed and conducted by Dr. John Harper of Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc. ShoreZone Mapping is a procedure for mapping coastal habitats that has been applied widely to the British Columbia and Washington state coastlines as well as Cook Inlet, Kodiak and the Lower Kenai Peninsula. This information is useful for long-term environmental monitoring, spill-response planning and protection strategies, and for natural resource management. More information on the progress and environmental monitoring aspects are discussed in Section 3 of this application.

Geographic Response Strategies

These strategies, tailored to protect a specific sensitive area in Cook Inlet, Kodiak, or the Outer Kenai Coast, can save time during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response. They show responders where sensitive areas are located and where to place oil spill protection resources. Cook Inlet RCAC continued building upon its success developing more GRS for the remaining two areas in the Cook Inlet region and continued work on the Kodiak Region. Cook Inlet RCAC co-funded the Kodiak phases of GRS development in 2007 along with the Prince William Sound Response Planning Group, Prince William Sound RCAC and others, including the Sun'aq tribe. The workgroup weighed the advantages and disadvantages of each location and developed plans for 20 sites in each of the two remaining zones for Kodiak – the Eastern and Southern Zones. Budgeted funds for this project have been retained in order to facilitate site updates. More information for Kodiak GRS is provided at <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/grs/ki/home.htm>.

Harbor Specific Geographic Response Strategies

Harbor Specific GRS utilizes a template of GRS and the Clean Harbors and Marinas initiative. This program follows the GRS template by developing a GRS to prevent spilled oil from entering small boat harbor areas with the additional benefit of developing a spill response and prevention program to address any spills that may occur inside the harbor area. Cook Inlet RCAC worked with ADEC to develop a work plan and form the Harbor Specific GRS workgroup. The workgroup set up the basic groundwork for the first phase of the project:

- Gather the best management practices for Alaska Ports and Harbors
- Conduct a gap analysis of the pilot project harbors – Homer and Seldovia
- Develop a training, education and public incentive/outreach program to fill the gaps
- Form two subgroups to perform bullets 1 and 2, and a second to perform bullet 3

**e. Periodically reviews port organization, operations, incidents and the adequacy and maintenance of vessel traffic service systems designed to assure safe transit of crude oil tankers;**

Cook Inlet RCAC receives AIS notifications of vessel traffic in Cook Inlet. This data was used to generate Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Reports (2005/2006 and 2007/2008). Additionally, in the event of a marine casualty within Cook Inlet, the system may be used to provide valuable information about vessel movements prior to and after the casualty. Cook Inlet RCAC no longer maintains a subscription but does continue to receive the vessel notifications. We can access vessel information on an as needed basis in the event of a vessel emergency.

Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Study

Cook Inlet RCAC collected vessel tracking data provided by the Marine Exchange of Alaska for Cook Inlet over an eleven month period. The data was compiled and analyzed by Cape International, an independent contractor. Twenty-two tanker ships called at Cook Inlet during the study period, spending approximately 420 tanker-days in Cook Inlet, either in transit, at berth, or moving between Nikiski and the Drift River Terminal. Annualized, that is 540 tanker-days. This study identifies the makeup and duration of vessels entering Cook Inlet and will continue over a 3-5 year period in order to establish a base line of vessel activity and data for a Cook Inlet Risk Assessment. Although no work was done on this project in 2010-2011, we are maintaining funds to be available to update the project for use in the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment.

Potential Places of Refuge

Cook Inlet RCAC collaborated with the ADEC to fund a multi-stakeholder project that, following the Alaska Regional Response Team criteria, seeks to pre-identify potential places of refuge within the Kodiak Island subarea. Cook Inlet RCAC participates in the workgroup that identifies and selects sites for Places of Refuge development. Our efforts also include community outreach via email and letter distribution of information, visits to the Kodiak communities, and final information published on our web site. Like the Vessel Traffic Study, no work was done on this project in 2010-2011, we are maintaining funds to be available to update the project for use in the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment

Cook Inlet Ice Forecasting Network

Cook Inlet RCAC designed and coordinated a reporting form and procedures to provide the NOAA Ice Forecaster with daily direct observations to compare and reconcile with satellite radar imagery. These daily reports come from operators of facilities in key locations throughout upper Cook Inlet and are instrumental in providing the NOAA Ice Forecaster with the detailed information required to provide an accurate ice forecast for Cook Inlet. This project continued through 2008 spawning plans to include a network of digital video cameras linked to a central control center. In August of 2009 Cook Inlet RCAC signed contracts with Alaska Communication Systems (ACS) to install data transmission circuits at key locations around Cook Inlet to provide landline data carrier service to support high resolution video cameras. By January of 2010 the first Camera was installed at the OSK facility in Nikiski, followed by camera installation at the ASRC

## Section 5: Prevention and Response

facility in Nikiski and the control station at the NOAA office in Anchorage, allowing access to the images provide to the NOAA Ice Forecaster. Later in the spring cameras were installed at the Port of Anchorage and Port MacKenzie, adding to the range of view for the Ice Forecaster. Additional camera installations are scheduled to take place in mid-July on the XTO Energy platform “A”. These camera images coupled with field observations will provide the NOAA Ice Forecaster with data to provide a more accurate ice report and forecast for Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet RCAC has made provisions to provide the Navy Ice Desk (the alternate site for the NOAA Ice Forecaster) to have access to the network (to receive ice data) and for NOAA in the event the Anchorage office is rendered inoperable during a catastrophe, such as an earthquake.

### **f. Periodically reviews standards for tankers bound for, loading at, exiting from or otherwise using the terminal facilities;**

#### Tanker Reports

Cook Inlet RCAC continues to receive KPL dock schedule updates with information regarding the mooring status of Tesoro Chartered tankers in Cook Inlet. These tanker mooring reports and Spot Charter packages promote an open and earnest cooperation between industry and the citizens of Cook Inlet, and continue to build on the transparency mandated by OPA 90. Interaction such as this diminishes complacency, addressing a primary concern of OPA 90. See earlier in this section.

#### Crude Oil Spot Charter Packages

Cook Inlet RCAC receives crude oil Spot Charter Vessel Information packages from Tesoro containing pertinent information about each spot charter vessel. See part “a” of this section.

### **g. Reports findings to local industry and responsible State and Federal officials.**

Cook Inlet RCAC supplies industry and agencies with Committee meeting packages which include copies of completed studies, staff reports on Cook Inlet RCAC activities and upcoming studies, reports, and staff/ committee activities. Please refer also to Section 2.

**PART 6. Funding: The Coast Guard will determine whether the Cook Inlet RCAC has entered into a contract for funding in accordance with the requirements of 33 U.S.C 2732(o) and will review the Cook Inlet RCAC's expenditures of such funds**

Cook Inlet RCAC's primary funding source is a long-term contract with the Charter Funding Companies operating in Cook Inlet. The contract provides \$967,000 per year with an annual Anchorage CPI increase. A copy is included in Appendix B.

The Companies that fund Cook Inlet RCAC are:

- Cook Inlet Pipeline Company
- Cook Inlet Energy
- Marathon Oil Company
- ConocoPhillips Company
- Tesoro/Kenai Pipeline Company
- Chevron
- XTO Energy

As discussed above, Cook Inlet RCAC has also received money from other sources in the course of conducting joint scientific and technical research, and occasionally contributes its own funds to research projects conducted by others. Below are sources of external funding:

- AK Designated Legislative /Kenai Peninsula Borough Grant
- Kenai Peninsula Borough Grant (separate from above)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service Grant
- Federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grant
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill /NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service Grant

**a. Expenditures and controls are carried out in a manner consistent with sound business practices;**

The annual audit of Cook Inlet RCAC's financial statements, in the opinion of the independent auditor, was "in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America". The full report is included in Appendix C.

**b. Expenditures are reasonably related to the prevention or response to oil spills from tanker or terminal operations, including environmental information, in the Cook Inlet RCAC area of responsibility;**

The Cook Inlet RCAC approves an annual operating budget that guides the expenditure of funds. A copy of the 2010 budget, which also reflects the additional funds received in 2011, is attached as Appendix E.

**PART 7. Accessibility of Application: The Coast Guard’s review will include an examination of the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC provided notification to the public via local press releases that it has applied for certification and the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC has ensured that the application is accessible for public review.**

Cook Inlet RCAC will inform the public of its recertification through newspaper advertisements and press releases. Copies of the application will be available at the Kenai office, Anchorage office, and [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org).

Advertisement/Press Release Example:

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC) is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for the oversight, monitoring, assessing and evaluation of oil spill prevention, safety and response plans, terminal and oil tanker operations, and environmental impacts of oil tanker and oil terminal operations in Cook Inlet.

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 (USCG). 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.

A copy of Cook Inlet RCAC’s application to the USCG is available at the Cook Inlet RCAC Kenai office at 8195 Kenai Spur Hwy., the Anchorage Office at 1130 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 110, or on the web at [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org). The deadline for public comment letters to the USCG is August 31, 2011.

The mailing address:  
Seventeenth Coast Guard District  
P.O. Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

Letters should reference USCG-2011-XXX, which is the document number of the Coast Guard’s Federal Register notice about the recertification.