



COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*December 3 & 4, 2015 * Hotel Captain Cook * Anchorage, Alaska*



COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL
25 Years in Cook Inlet: Project Highlights

****AGENDA****

Hotel Captain Cook (Endeavor Room – lower level)

Anchorage, AK

Thursday, December 3, 2015

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 12:45 pm | Welcome and Introduction - Note: Breaks will be held at comfortable intervals |
| 1:00 | Oil Industry Operations: Assessing Risks and Minimizing Potential Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>CIRCAC Role in Oil-Spill Contingency Plan Reviews</i>• <i>Development of Geographic Response Strategies and Potential Places of Refuge</i>• <i>Cook Inlet Navigational Risks and Mitigations</i>• <i>Ice Camera Network for Improved Forecasting</i> |
| 2:30 | What is At Risk?: Assessing Cook Inlet and Nearby Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cook Inlet's Complex Oceanography</i>• <i>Nearshore Habitats</i>• <i>Biological Assessment and Contaminants Monitoring</i> |
| 3:30 pm | Improving Access to Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Development of Information Tools for Improved Planning and Response</i> |
| 4:05 | Perspective's on CIRCAC's Role (5 mins. each) |
| 4:40 pm | Thank-you and Adjourn |



**COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING**

****AGENDA****
Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage, AK

Friday, December 4, 2015 [Endeavor Room – lower level]

- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------|
| 8:30 am | Continental Breakfast | |
| 9:00 am | Cook Inlet RCAC Board Meeting | |
| | Call to Order/Roll Call | |
| | Approval of Agenda <i>(Action Item)</i> | |
| | Approval of Minutes <i>(Action Item)</i> | 1 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 11, 2015 | |
| 9:05 am | Welcome & Introductions | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Ex Officio Director – Captain Paul Albertson, USCG, Commander Sector Anchorage• New Ex Officio Appointment - Catherine Berg, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration | |
| 9:10 am | Welcoming Remarks | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor – Municipality of Anchorage | |
| 9:30 am | Public Comment <i>(3 minute limit per speaker)</i> | |

9:40 am	Presentations on Related Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alaska LNG Project – Larry Persily, Kenai Peninsula Borough BlueCrest Energy – Larry Burgess, COO Alaska 	
10:45 am	Executive Committee Report <i>(Informational Items)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 Meeting Dates <i>(Information Item)</i> 	6
11:00 am	Executive Director’s Report <i>(Informational Items)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 Proposed Operating Budget <i>(Action Item)</i> 	7 9
11:20 am	Status of Programs & Projects <i>(Informational Items)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Monitoring Committee Public Involvement Program 	26 31
12:00 pm	Break for Lunch <i>(Lunch will be provided)</i>	
12:40 pm	Status of Programs & Projects - Continued <i>(Informational Items)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protocol Control Committee Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee Administration 	36 38 44
2:15 pm	Calendars & Miscellaneous <i>(Informational Item)</i> Closing Comments	
2:25pm	Adjourn	



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 4, 2015

Action Item

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed 2016 Council Meeting Schedule

DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

To initiate planning and logistics for upcoming meetings and elections/appointments to board seats, staff requires direction from the Executive Committee for targeted meeting dates for 2016 Board of Directors meetings.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION:

Subject to approval at the December 4, 2015 meeting, the Executive Committee recommends the Board of Directors approve a 2016 Council meeting schedule of: April 15 in Kenai; September 9 in Seldovia; and December 1 & 2 in Anchorage. April 15 would also be the date of the 2016 Annual Meeting.

2015 Cook Inlet RCAC year in Review

As I have done in recent years I wanted to take the opportunity to address the Council and provide what I consider significant achievements and where I see we can focus our efforts in 2016. I have asked our staff to provide each committee; highlights of our activities or the year in review from each staff's perspective.

We have taken demonstrable steps in acting on some of the recommendations from the Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment (CIRA) that was completed in 2014. The long sought after assessment has been at the forefront of priorities for CIRCAC since our first safety of navigation forum held in Homer in 1999.

One of the risk reduction options that the CIRA Advisory Panel chose for immediate implementation that will be of most benefit to Cook Inlet is the implementation of a Cook Inlet Area Wide Harbor Safety Committee (CIHSC). We have taken great strides in forming the Committee and we recently held the Committee's second meeting. I am excited that Cook Inlet RCAC is at the forefront in the formation of the CIHSC. I firmly believe that this is a great forum to bring the maritime community together to discuss issues, including navigational safety. We will also continue to work on other key risk mitigation recommendations through our committee work.

As you can see from our staff reports we have had another busy year. In my nearly 15 years with Cook Inlet RCAC, each year continues to be busier but with new challenges. The oil industry in Cook Inlet is a reflection of the oil industry worldwide. Due to the precipitous drop in crude oil prices some activity has been curtailed in some areas but increased in others. With the departure of XTO Energy, we have seen another long time funding company leave the Cook Inlet and another company, Cook Inlet Energy, go into Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. During these challenging times our responsibilities and focus need to adjust accordingly. We must ensure that the Cook Inlet facilities and marine vessels associated with crude oil are being operated safely and that the agencies involved in the monitoring and oversight of the crude oil industry are adequately funded.

I want to thank all of you for the countless hours that each of you has volunteered to be a CIRCAC Board member. I also want to thank you for the unwavering support you have shown to the CIRCAC staff. We are fortunate as an organization to have the dedicated individuals involved to make this model of citizen participation successful.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING December 4, 2015

Action Item

AGENDA ITEM: Proposed 2016 Operating and Program Budgets

DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

At the December 4 Board of Directors meeting, an Action Agenda item will be the approval of the proposed 2016 Operating Budget and program budgets for the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC); Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee; Protocol Control Committee; and Public Outreach programs. The program budgets for PROPS and EMC have been reviewed and approved by their respective committees. Further, the Executive Committee has reviewed the budgets and recommends approval.

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION:

Approval by the Board of Directors of the proposed Operating and Program Budgets for 2016.

FY2015 EMC-Related Activities: Sue Saupe

Committee Meeting Activities

- In April 20015, EMC selected new public members Eric Klein and Robert Reges to be seated on the committee.
- EMC re-elected Molly McCammon as Chair and Ted Rockwell as Vice Chair.

Chemical and Biological Monitoring Program

Intertidal Studies

- Worked with our contractors Dennis Lees, Bill Driskell, and Dr. Jim Payne, to rewrite the 2002 Intertidal Reconnaissance Survey Report and integrate data into a contaminants database for serving on AOOS data portal. It has been difficult to get time from these contractors who were heavily involved in closing out Deep Water Horizon contaminant databases for the Trustee Agencies, but a settlement in the process, they will be able to put more time to finishing this. This project is being done to ensure a more complete and integrated report that can be accessed by agencies preparing EISs, EAs, and other documents associated with Cook Inlet lease sales and development. We will also integrate the data with the BOEM project described below.
- In May, flew a survey with NPS to assess potential sampling sites for our planned June vessel-based surveys in the Kamishak Bay areas. In June, I was Chief Scientist onboard the R/V *Island C* for our work associated with the project *Evaluation of Nearshore Communities and Habitats; Ecological Processes in Lower Cook Inlet*. This project is funded by BOEM through an inter-agency agreement with NPS, with CIRCAC as a sub-contractor to NPS. Our field work included intertidal and subtidal sampling, focusing on low angle, wide, boulder- and bedrock-ramp habitats in western Cook Inlet and Kamishak Bay. Onboard participants were represented by CIRCAC, NPS, UAF, NOAA, and BOEM.
- As part of study described above, last winter we compiled historical data into a GIS database (including past nearshore CIRCAC studies) and developed a habitat model used to select sites for field sampling in June.
- I will be spending the week of December 2-11 (next week) in Fairbanks working with the survey team to compile a report to BOEM by 31 December 2015, summarizing the first year of sampling. In January we will meet to discuss and plan the 2016 (and beyond) field seasons.
- In July, I worked with Heather Coletti of NPS to write and submit a proposal to BOEM to extend the above project for four years to include sampling additional habitats (this was funded). A component of the project also includes compiling hydrocarbon and other contaminant data for the areas at risk from potential activities associated with the proposed OCS federal lease sale areas in lower Cook Inlet. This will be leveraged with existing EMC projects to accomplish similar goals. The proposal was submitted by NPS to BOEM, with a significant portion of the budget proposed to be subcontracted through CIRCAC.

Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Study

- *Kachemak Bay Science Symposium, March 4-7, 2015*: Provided a presentation titled *Assessing Availability and Contaminants of Potential Cook Inlet Beluga Winter*. This

information was also be provided to the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Ecosystem Data Portal, a joint project with AOOS and the National Marine Fisheries Service and funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. This AOOS data portal will be a companion to the Cook Inlet Response Tool data portal. The data we provided included trawl catches by species (and biomass), individual length measurements, and hydrocarbon contaminant measurements.

- Participated on a steering committee to develop the Beluga data portal and we've met numerous times this year to focus and prioritize datasets that need to be gathered and compiled. We are also working to incorporate some of the CIRT data layers, as well as other available data related to Cook Inlet beluga whale habitat and prey.
- In early September, I received a call from Dr. John Reynolds of Mote Marine Laboratory asking if I would work with them to prepare a series of 4 manuscripts about our work with sediment and tissue PAHs and our prey abundance study for submission for a special journal of the Marine Fisheries Review. I will be working with them and our other contractors for earlier CIRCAC PAH studies to clarify our plans for this.

Coastal Habitat Program

ShoreZone and Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)

- I worked with Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc. (CORI) to submit a proposal to conduct ShoreZone surveys along the Alaska Peninsula to close a gap in data in the western Gulf of Alaska. We received notification from BOEM in late August that funding for this project was approved and we began planning meetings in September. The proposal to BOEM was submitted with Dr. Carl Schoch of CORI as project lead, with me as Co-Principal Investigator. CIRCAC will lead on the shore-station component of the project and CORI will lead for the aerial surveys. We plan to do aerial surveys in early May and shore-stations surveys in late May. We also plan to integrate additional shore work related to GRS ground-truthing and will work with NUKA to plan this work.
- We've had several Alaska ShoreZone Partners steering committee meetings to move the partnership activities forward and to ensure coordination among all agencies and organizations. Most recently, we had the annual two-day ShoreZone Partners meeting in October.
- Worked with AOOS and their database developers at Axiom to finalize a report of our activities associated with a project that was funded by the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership to train resource users and oil spill responders in the use of the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT). We held several workshops, a one-day workshop in Homer in March at the Kachemak Bay Science Conference and a shorter, two-hour workshop in June at the Kenai River Center in Soldotna. I participated as a presenter/trainer at both and in September we submitted the report of our training efforts, the feedback we received from participants, and the improvements made to the data portal.
- I gave a presentation on ShoreZone and its integration into the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) at the American Fisheries Society's annual meeting in Portland in August. The title of the talk was *Protecting Coastal Habitats through Improved Oil Spill Planning and Response: Web-based Data Portals and Visualization Tools for Integrating Resource Data with ShoreZone*.
- I gave a presentation on ShoreZone and CIRT at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle in

November. The title of the talk was *Alaska's Coast at your Fingertips: The Alaska ShoreZone Program*.

Coastal Impressions

- Worked with Lynda to prepare a showing of the *Coastal Impressions: A Photographic Journey along Alaska's Gulf Coast* exhibit. The exhibit opened in late May, with an opening reception coordinated with a 25-year Celebration of CIRCAC. The exhibit was on display until late October.
- Working with three artists for an exhibit for display at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) in January where they will be interpreting and painting a selection of ShoreZone images from our Gulf of Alaska Coastal Impressions exhibit, as well as several photographs from the Arctic exhibit. We hope this is a pilot project that will lead to a wider-exhibit with a call for art from artists of all mediums for a larger exhibit in 2017.

Physical Oceanography and Oil Fate and Effects Programs

- Attended the Alaska Oil Spill Symposium March 31-1 April, 2015, hosted by ADEC and UAF in Fairbanks. This was the second year of this symposium and it provides a venue where academic researchers integrate with those who make oil spill prevention and response decisions to facilitate better communication and identify research gaps.
- As a member of the *Organizing Committee for the State of Science for Dispersants in Arctic Waters Initiative*, I was invited by the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) to attend as an observer at the one-week workshop funded by NOAA and USEPA. Since the experts for each category were only allowed to attend during the day their group met, it was a unique opportunity to see the range of discussions for all categories. The expert meetings during the week of January 5-9 in Seattle were:

Monday: *Efficacy and effectiveness*

Tuesday: *Physical transport and chemical behavior*

Wednesday: *Degradation and fate*

Thursday: *Toxicity and sub-lethal impacts*

Friday: *Public health and food security*

These expert meetings at the request of planners for an Arctic Spill of National Significance (SONS) when they identified the need for a definitive evaluation of the state of the science for dispersants and dispersed oil. The final results of this workshop have not been finalized, as several of the expert groups are still holding additional teleconferences.

- Attended the *Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem Conference*, February 16-19, 2015 in Houston where there was a series of talks that focused on oil-dispersants/sediment interactions and weathering/degradation of spilled oil and. Although the focus was on Gulf of Mexico conditions, the research has implications for future research in the Arctic or other cold water conditions and I was originally invited as a participant on the CRRC dispersants workgroup.

- In June, I was a proposal reviewer for the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI) on proposals related to toxicity of oil and dispersed oil. Much of the research conducted by GOMRI has applications to Arctic or sub-Arctic conditions and the research they are conducting using GOM environmental conditions can be revised or expanded to include colder temperatures.
- I worked with Vinnie and a contractor at Nuka to comment on the proposed changes to Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan, which amends requirements regarding the use of dispersants, and other chemical and biological agents to respond to oil spills in waters of the U.S. We submitted in April 2015 after they were approved through the Protocol Committee. The proposed Subpart J amendments were developed to ensure that:
 - chemical and biological agents have met efficacy and toxicity requirements,
 - product manufacturers provide important use and safety information, and
 - the planning and response community is equipped with the proper information to authorize and use the products in a judicious and effective manner.
- OSRI is co-funding a research project looking at potential toxicity of dispersants in cold temperature environments, using Alaska fish species. I played “middle-man” in getting crude oil for the experiment, with the CREL facility shipping 20 liters of North Slope Crude to me in Anchorage for distribution for this and other OSRI studies. I will also be following this study closely and when they have refined their methods, we might consider expanding the study to include Cook Inlet crude and/or conditions mimicking our suspended sediment loads.

Technical Review Program

- Continued working on Phases II and III of the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) Project with contractors at Nuka Research. This summer, EMC member, Ted Rockwell, joined me in a meeting with our contractor, Brett Higman to discuss moving forward with Phase IV and the best ways to obtain agency review of and support for the project. Ted has provided additional review of the project database.
- Participated on first teleconference of Cook Inlet Subarea Committee’s Sensitive Areas Workgroup in September.
- Attended two-day workshop by ADEC and EPA on Human Health Water Quality Criteria.

Miscellaneous

- Attended Alaska Marine Science Symposium, 19-23 January 2015 in Anchorage where we also had our booth exhibited during the evening poster sessions.
- Presentation during the session “Community Participation in Oil Spill Planning and Response” at the Alaska Forum on the Environment, 9 February 2015.
- Presentation titled “*Twenty-five years in the Inlet: the monitoring and assessment programs of Cook Inlet RCAC*” at meeting of the Alaska Association of Environmental Professionals.
- Provided interview to Alan Bailey of the Petroleum News for article “*Some big programs start small but grow: CIRAC has pioneered ways of gathering environmental data and making that data available to industry, regulators and the public.*”
- Was a panelist for the “Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership” panel during the Kachemak Bay Science Conference in March 2015.

- In May, the Alaska LNG (AKLNG) environmental, pipeline, and permitting teams hosted a meeting to learn about Cook Inlet available data. I gave a presentation about CIRCAC's work in the Inlet to date and the types of data available and Molly and her team provided a demonstration of the AOOS Data Portals for making data more accessible, with a focus on the Cook Inlet Response Tool.
- In June, participated at an AOOS meeting to prioritize data needs for upper Cook Inlet. We also covered costs for Dr. Steve Okkonen to attend so that he could provide a more detailed summary of what we know of Cook Inlet oceanography and to highlight data gaps.
- In June, met with a sub-contractor to the AKLNG team who is working on their Environmental Impact Statement to provide more detail about Cook Inlet's physical environment.
- Attended the NOAA-hosted first meeting of the Kachemak Bay Area Habitat Blueprint (KBA HB) Implementation Team in July to discuss how to move forward with the Blueprint.
- As Board Member on the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, attended work-plan meeting in June, bi-annual meetings in February and October, and a Strategic Planning Session 14 October 2015.

Director of Public Outreach Report to the Board – December 3-4, 2015

This year, in addition to our usual public outreach activities (news releases, newsletters, annual reports, public events, community visits), we rolled out several initiatives designed to not only heighten public awareness about CIRCAC activities, but to give back to the community as well.

We launched our first scholarship program, ran an extensive radio ad campaign, designed a 25th Anniversary Logo, produced an online 25th Anniversary Report, hosted and co-hosted two anniversary receptions, and distributed hundreds of thumb drives (ship sticks) with our video presentation narrated by John Williams and Coastal Impressions images. Our Directors continue to illustrate CIRCAC's value through participating in Drills, making public presentations and serving as experts at conferences, on panels, in work groups, on committees and on management teams.

Through these and other tactics, we continue to work to increase brand recognition, heighten public interest in CIRCAC's work and gain recognition for the important role we play in the Cook Inlet region. Here is a summary of the key strategies we've employed in 2015.

Captain Barry Eldridge and James Carter Memorial Scholarships

We launched the Scholarship program to both heighten public awareness of our work and support future stewardship of Cook Inlet through rewarding students majoring in environmental or maritime studies.

We devoted a website to the program which includes photographs of our first recipients, both of whom were awarded \$2500 to pursue environmental studies. The Scholarship Program selection committee consists of Board Members Scott Smiley, Carla Stanley and Bob Flint. The scholarship idea and award process was developed by our Director of Administration Jerry Rombach with input from staff. The program is undergoing further refinement. We have more time to better promote next year's awards.

Coastal Impressions Exhibit

Our Coastal Impressions Exhibit at the Kenai Convention & Visitors Center was extended to November 7 and was very enthusiastically received judging by many Guest Book comments. We've taken the liberty of highlighting a few:

Beautiful photos. Very educational! I really enjoyed the close ups of the star fish. I did not realize how much land was covered in this project. Absolutely amazing."

Beautiful images! I love Alaska's coastlines. This exhibit showed all the amazing qualities that are rarely seen. Thank you!

What an extraordinary exhibit!

This is one of the best exhibits I have seen. Very well done.

Beautiful photos, I am speechless. Thank you to all involved parties for bringing the wonderful coast lines of Alaska to life and making them available to the public. P.S. Thank you, Lynda, for suggesting we come here at the Industry Appreciation Day. We definitely were not disappointed!

Community Visits, Conferences

In 2015, individual directors attended or participated in these following events, or met with the following individuals or groups. In addition to the very popular Ship Stick thumb drives, we have purchased 25th Anniversary mugs, magnetic calendars, and other items to give away at special events with CIRCAC's logo, web address and mission where appropriate.

Note: This list may not be inclusive of all participation; the Directors and Executive Director often report on activities in their own reports:

Alaska Support Alliance (attendee)
Alaska Marine Science Symposium (Exhibitor, Anchorage)
American Fisheries Society (Washington)
AMOP Technical Conference on Environmental Contamination and Response (BC)
Clean Gulf, LA (Attendees)
Coastal Impressions Exhibit/Reception (KCCVC, Exhibit: May through November)
Com Fish Expo (Exhibitor, Kodiak)
Kenai Chamber of Commerce Luncheon (Speaker, Kenai)
Kenai Rotary Club (Speaker, Kenai)
Kachemak Bay Science Conference (Homer)
Geographic Response Strategies Workshop
GOM Ecosystems Science Conference
Soldotna Rotary Club (Speaker, Soldotna)

2015 Earned Media (which mentions CIRCAC) to date

Unfortunately, we did not gain any earned media in 2015's 4th Quarter. It is worth noting that our scientific projects and Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee seem to be of particular interest to reporters. We will continue to seek opportunities, including through Op Eds, to pitch these types of stories. (This list does not include some radio stories based on interviews following Rotary, Chamber and Reception.)

- 06.04.2015 – CIRCAC–25 years protecting Cook Inlet, KDLL Radio
- 05.23.2015 – Harbor Safety Committee seeking members, Peninsula Clarion
- 04.22.2015 – Online tool aids oil spill response, Peninsula Clarion
- 04.22.2015 – Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee prepares to seek members, Peninsula Clarion
- 03.27.2015 – Some big programs start small but grow, Petroleum News
- 03.11.2015 – New technology helps prepare for spills, explore coastal areas, Homer News
- 03.11.2015 – Scientists, managers, and public connect at Kachemak Bay Science Conference, Homer News
- 02.20.2015 – Getting up close and personal with Alaska's coastline, Alaska Dispatch
- 01.19.2015 – Alaska seafood marketers prepare for sockeye blitz, Alaska Dispatch

Website, Social Media

Our website continues to grow as our primary archive and as a resource for media, photo gallery, our newsletters, annual reports, comments, committee minutes, reports, and presentations, etc.

CIRCAC's 25th Anniversary Report

For our 25th Anniversary report, we tried something new. Instead of the usual printed report, we created a new webpage which can be expended to include subsequent CIRCAC milestones.

This Online Report includes the CIRCAC Presentation narrated by Board President John Williams, which was previously on a separate page and was designed and is being hosted by SunDog Media.

As with our main web page, CIRCAC has the ability to update this landing page as new initiatives are launched or completed.

Facebook— Facebook and Twitter are platforms for sharing information, photos, news and comments. CIRCAC's accounts were created to be prepared during major spills or events. However, we're making efforts to post more often and share links through private Facebook pages and this seems to be paying off with an increase in "likes" on our Facebook page. We are not engaging through Twitter as of yet.

Paid Media--radio: In May, we launched a Cook Inlet-wide paid media campaign for radio to heighten public awareness about our work. The ads ran May through September 2015.

Perhaps as a result, the *Cook Inlet Navigator Newsletter* has seen a significant spike in subscriptions to 519 active contacts, up from 369 since our September report. Google Analytics also shows a marked spike in website visitation, particularly between July and August.

Public Outreach has funds to produce another radio ad and buy another 2 months of air time. Ads will be placed after the holiday season. The next ad will promote how CIRCACs public oversight and continued vigilance are more relevant than ever.

Paid Media Print and Online: CIRCAC also bought print and online ads to promote the May 28th Coastal Impressions Exhibit Opening/25th Anniversary Reception at the Kenai Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center. The event was very well-attended and the exhibit was extended to November 7. The Visitors Center estimates that thousands of people viewed the exhibit throughout the summer months.

(We are hosting a second and final 25th Anniversary Reception at the Anchorage Rasmuson Museum on December 3, by invitation, again displaying an abbreviated Coastal Impressions Exhibit, and giving away commemorative mugs and other small gifts.)

We also bought ads for the Kenai, Soldotna and Alaska's 2015 Visitors Guides, noting our 25th Anniversary.

Cook Inlet Navigator e-Newsletter – As noted above, our monthly online newsletter, Cook Inlet Navigator has seen a significant increase in subscribers since our paid media campaign. The newsletter also helped increase participation in a Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee meeting, which had to move to a larger venue after we included information about one of its meetings in our September issue. The newsletter continues to hold steady at a 34% open rate, which is considered better than average for non-profits.

A report and story ideas for 2015 are included with this update. We will continue writing profiles of our directors and committee members; new story ideas are welcome.

Online Digital Maps

This project involves hosting a website with detailed information about Cook Inlet’s oil and gas infrastructure, combined with the Cook Inlet Response Tool data layers. The Public Outreach component will be to provide seamless access to the information through the CIRCAC website.

Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report focused on the completion of the Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment. We printed 1,000 copies, mailed to our extensive mailing list and distribute the remainder at other events. For 2015: Field work, updates and new initiatives.

Directors Updates

Following each board meeting, we write a summary of the meeting for the Directors to share with their stakeholder groups.

2016 Events Calendar

(Please inform the Director of Public Outreach of relevant events that you would like to see posted on CIRCAC’s calendar and/or that may warrant participation)

January 25-29	AMSS (Sponsor)	Booth, Capt. Cook/Egan Center
February 8-11	AFE	Attendee/panel participant? (Oil Spill Prevention/Response on Agenda)
March 31-April 2	ComFish	Exhibitor (election year)/Kodiak
<i>April 17</i>	<i>Board Meeting (Annual Report due)</i>	<i>Kenai</i>
May 26-29	Kodiak Crab Festival	Kodiak

June	Kenai Community Awards Luncheon	Kenai
August	Industry Appreciation Day	Kenai (Booth)
<i>September</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>Seldovia</i>
October	Chamber Annual Mtg.	Presenter? Kenai
<i>December</i>	<i>Board Meeting</i>	<i>Anchorage</i>

Schedule Communities Visits

Port Graham, Seldovia

Cook Inlet Navigator Story ideas 2015/2016:

December 2015	Director Profile, CIHSC update
January	Upcoming Election, Board Meeting Recap, Director Profile
February	Scholarship Program, Ice Cameras/rules
March	Director Profile, Interview with new Captain of the Port
April	Director Profile, Annual Report, ComFish recap
May	Elections (commercial fishing, aquaculture, Kenai, Homer, Kodiak, and committees (PROPS EMC seats) updates, Scholarship winners
June	Partner Profile, CISPRI, AOOS, etc.?
July	Director Profile
August	CIRCAC Recertified
September	Director Profile
October	Chamber Annual Meeting, Partner Profile
November	Director Profile
December	Year in Review, Industry Update

Board of directors profiles outstanding: Gary Fandrei, Robert Peterkin, Deric Marcorelle, Molly McCammon, Walt Sonen, Rob Lindsey, Scott Smiley, and Paul Shadura

(Completed: Carla Stanley, John Williams, Grace Merkes, Michael Opheim, Bob Flint)

Protocol Committee Activities

Committee:

- Chair- Robert Peterkin
 - Vice-Chair-Bob Flint

Directors

- Carla Stanely
- Derric Marcorelle
- Rob Lindsey
- Paul Shadura

Over the 2015 calendar year the Protocol Committee reviewed and approved comments regarding the following Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP) and proposed rulemaking:

Tesoro Kenai Pipeline Company ODPCP. We found the plan to be well written and clear, citing only some adjustments to details in the scenarios, the addition of an on water scenario, and details about the material and general quality of the facility's tertiary containment.

Cook Inlet Energy, LLC ODPCP. We found the plan to be clear and thorough and cited only minor issues for clarification and changes to further improve the plan.

Aurora Gas, LLC ODPCP. We recognized the plan holder's efforts to comply with the oil spill prevention and response regulations and Aurora's past responses to CIRCAC's concerns. However there were still several outstanding issues remaining to be resolved. Our comments cited an overall lack of detail, typographic and syntax errors, inconsistent and unclear information.

BlueCrest Alaska Operating, LLC ODPCP. We found the plan to be comprehensive and in alignment with the requirements of the prevention and response regulations. One key issue of concern was the lack of an on-water recovery scenario.

The Protocol Committee reviewed and approved comments regarding the following proposed rules for:

40 CFR Parts 110 and 300: National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan Proposed Rule. The committee expressed appreciation to the EPA for revising Subpart J and expressed our belief that a science based approach to the use of chemical and biological agents would strengthen the regulations.

Proposed decommissioning of Oil Spill Response Equipment Caches located throughout the State of Alaska. Our comments reflected our strong desire to retain oil spill response equipment caches throughout the Cook Inlet Region.

Proposed changes to 18 AAC 75 Article 2 Financial Responsibility for Oil Discharges, dated September 29, 2015. Our comments supported the proposed changes citing our feeling that the proposed changes would strengthen the State's ability to ensure an applicant has sufficient assets within U.S. Jurisdiction to meet their financial obligation to self-insure. Pointing out in particular, the change in the definition of "working capital" to exclude petroleum inventories; which are subject to value fluctuations and may be affected by an oil discharge covered by a facility covered by self-insurance.

PROPS Staff Report

Cook Inlet Sub-Area Contingency Plan Workgroup

Staff attended the third Sub-Area committee meeting hosted in Soldotna at the Borough Assembly Chambers. This meeting was held, as all Sub-Area Committee meetings, one day prior to an Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) meeting. Each Sub-area committee is split into work groups that review, update, and improve each section of the sub-area plan such as the Resource Section and Sensitive Areas Section. This full committee meeting summarized the work that has been done in the Resource and Sensitive Area work groups and reviewed the work to be done by the Response Section work group. Other sections like the Scenarios, Geographic Response (GRS) and Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) remain to be reviewed and updated.

The Cook Inlet Sub-Area Contingency Plan review is on track and on time thus far. CIRCAC staff has been actively participating in workgroup meetings to provide updated information, and recommendations as each workgroup convenes and begins its review. To date the Introduction, Resources, and Sensitive Areas sections has been reviewed and is in the final draft stages. Once the final draft of the plan is complete it will go out for public review in its entirety.

Alaska Regional Response Team Meeting

Staff attended the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) meeting hosted at the Kenai Borough Assembly Chambers was the first ARRT meeting to come to the Kenai Peninsula. CIRCAC's Executive Director solicited the ARRT to bring their meeting to the peninsula more than a year ago. Due to meeting schedule rotation it took that long to bring the ARRT to the Kenai.

As with all ARRT meetings the Tri Chairs (USCG, EPA, and ADEC) and other agency members heard status reports from each Federal and State agency represented. The National Strike Force gave a presentation on their abilities and how they can respond to assist the ARRT during an event. Other topics on the agenda were Biennial Work Plan Review (for the ARRT), Food Safety Task Force update, and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) update on Shell Activity. This turned out to be especially interesting because on the Monday following the ARRT meeting Shell announced that they were pulling out of Alaska. When asked about Shell's progress, BSEE's report gave no indication that this was about to happen.

Harbor Safety Committee

Staff attended the Harbor Safety Committee Board of Directors meeting to review and discuss the Harbor Safety Committee Charter, Bylaws, Resolutions to the By Laws and Incorporation as a Non-Profit Corporation.

Following the Board of Directors Meeting staff also attended the very first Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee meeting. The meeting was well attended by most of the 27 seated members, their alternates, and Ex-officio members.

Drills

Staff attended a ConocoPhillips drill hosted at the CISPRI facility. This was a tabletop drill that centered on a helicopter crash as it responded to a medical emergency resulting from an ATV accident at the Beluga Field. Usually drills center on a release of oil to satisfy regulatory requirements by demonstrating their ability to respond. However it is good to see operators exercising other emergency response actions that may occur during their day-to-day operations and/or within an oil spill response.

These kinds of scenarios allow Incident Management Teams (IMT) to exercise different avenues of the Incident Command System (ICS) than are normally associated with oil spill response and an added layer of complexity, with the same net benefit to each section within the ICS.

2015 Prevention, Response, Operations, and Safety Committee Activities

PROPS

Committee:

- Chair- Bob Flint
 - Vice Chair-Jim McHale

Voting Directors

- Bob Flint
- Deric Marcorelle
- Paul Shadura
 - Alternates
 - Rob Lindsey
 - Walt Sonen
 - Michael Opheim

Committee Public Member appointments:

- Steve Lufkin- Reappointment
- Jan Hansen- Reappointment
 - Bob Favretto- Stepped down

Presentations:

- Integrated Robotics Imaging Systems (IRIS), un-manned aerial vehicle
- Pipeline Inspection by Federal and State regulators
- Voluntary Pipeline report:
 - Cook Inlet Energy
 - Hilcorp

New projects approved by the Committee:

- Captain Barry Eldridge Memorial; Maritime Studies Scholarship
- Assist and Escort Tug Discussion Panel- Awaiting Board approval
 - The purpose of the Tug Assist/Escort Panel would be to inform the Council and Committees about the history and issues associated with the idea of requiring tug escorts for tankers (and potentially other vessels in Cook Inlet). The discussion would intend to inform the layperson about what a tug escort is, how it might be applied in Cook Inlet, and what risks would be reduced or increased.
- Underwater Obstruction Charting- Awaiting Board approval
 - This project seeks to identify areas that vessels should avoid when attempting to anchor. As active pipelines and cables are currently charted; some abandoned infrastructure or other hazards may not be. This project will provide vessels

transiting Cook Inlet with charted locations of areas to avoid the attempt to anchor should the vessel need to self-arrest; by locating and charting these obstructions and conditions additional incidents can be avoided.

- Vessel Self Arrest Study-Awaiting Board approval
 - This project seeks to exercise and evaluate the feasibility of self-arrest for laden and un-laden tankers in various sea and weather conditions encountered in Cook Inlet. Additionally the project will attempt to identify best practices and procedures to be applied in Cook Inlet during the various conditions that may be encountered.
- Spill drill evaluation with summary report
 - This will be a multi-year project under the existing Oil Spill & Drills project in the PROPS Work Plan. The report will provide a formal documented summary of drills conducted over the 2016 calendar year
- Geo-Spatial Resource Information Database (GRID)- name changed from GRIN
 - See GRIN description below

Project Accomplishments:

Ice Forecasting Network:

- Installed new camera at the mouth of the Kenai River; this is the first camera with public access through the AOS website and the City of Kenai website. This camera was sponsored exclusively by AOOS
- Staff started evaluation of potential new camera locations by meeting with Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) to discuss Fire Island site

Geographic Response Strategies (GRS)

- Staff, Committee members, Federal and State resource trustees, and other stakeholders attended and participated in a GRS workshop to identify how to effectively test existing GRSs that have not been tested and require adjustments to the strategy.

Harbor Safety Committee (HSC)

- Staff participated in the forming of the Cook Inlet HSC as a member of the Convening Workgroup
- Staff participated in developing the Cook Inlet HSC as a Managing Board Member
- Staff participated in the HSC by filing the Cook Inlet RCAC seat and alternate seat

Cook Inlet Sub Area Contingency Plan Workgroup

- Staff participated in each section of the Sub-area Contingency Plan review and update in sequential order beginning with the Resources Section followed by Sensitive areas, and Response; Sub Area Plan review will continue into 2016

Geographical Resource Information Network (GRIN)

- The Geographical Resource Information Network or GRIN project was initially planned to take existing information from a number of sources and compile both electronic and paper documents that allow the user to easily locate and view logistical information relevant to oil spill response in coastal Alaska. By creating this “Data Base” of resources, users will be able to easily locate and identify sources and locations for various response assets and services needed to effectively respond to a spill and apply them to a geo-spatial platform or map of the region. Staff re-visited the project through discussions with various contractors to lay out the path forward to facilitate updating the database and required programming to allow integration of the database into the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)
- Staff recommended a project name change to the Geo-spatial Resource Information Database or GRID to more accurately describe the project and its content

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)

- Staff promoted use of the CIRT at each drill attended
- Staff conducted training for industry users; Hilcorp and Tesoro
- Began discussions with programming contractors to allow CIRT to integrate with the NOAA Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) program

Drills

Staff attended the following Cook Inlet drills to observe, recommend, and advise the Incident Command and Incident Management Team

- Tesoro Vessel Plan
- ConocoPhillips
- Hilcorp

Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT)

- Staff attended all ARRT meetings. Staff invited the ARRT to host a meeting on the Kenai Peninsula. In September the ARRT and the Cook Inlet Sub Area Plan committee each held a meeting at the Kenai Borough chambers. Both were well attended.

Clean Pacific Conference

- Staff and PROPS committee members Bob Flint, Jan Hansen, and Robert Reges attended the 2015 Clean Pacific Conference in Vancouver, B.C. The conference covered a wide range of prevention, preparedness and response topics, with a focus on the growth in crude transportation across the West. It provides a forum for responders, operators, regulators, equipment providers and environmental groups to openly discuss best practices and industry trends.

American Section of the International Association for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

- Staff and committee members fill seats on two ASTM committees; F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response, and F25 on Ships and Marine Technology. Staff and PROPS Committee members review and provide input for various standards under review by both committees. Additionally staff and Committee members attended ASTM committee meetings held throughout the year

Alaska Oil Spill Symposium

- Staff attended the Second Annual Oil Spill Technology Symposium hosted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI), the U.S. Coast Guard, and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The symposium seeks to close gaps among agencies, professional Oil Spill Organizations, energy producers, and academia while enhancing resource protection.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage Change of Command

- Staff attended the Sector Anchorage Change of Command Ceremonies where Admiral Dan Abel presided over the time honored ceremony. Departing Captain Paul Mehler passed the duties of Commander, Sector Anchorage/ Captain Of The Port (COTP) Western Alaska to Captain Paul Albertson

Administration Report – Year in Review
Cook Inlet RCAC Board of Directors Meeting – December 4, 2015

Below you will find a brief update on key administrative tasks performed in calendar year 2015.

- **Recertification** – The United States Coast Guard approved our Council’s annual recertification application on August 20, 2015. This marks the 24th consecutive review resulting in approvals without exception. Development of the Council’s Recertification application package for 2016/17 will begin in February.
- **Annual Financial Audit** – In its unmodified opinion, Lambe, Tuter, Wagner found our records and processes to contain “no weaknesses”, with “excellent controls in place” and no holes in our monitoring procedures. In a related matter, a Request for Proposals/Statement of Qualifications was released for independent financial audit and tax preparation for the years 2015 through 2017, generating three responses and two proposals. The Audit Committee has unofficially reviewed the proposals, and feels strongly that the LTW proposal should be accepted. That support was relayed to the Executive Committee, and it has directed CIRCAC to contract with LTW three years.
- **Elections/Appointments** – The Council’s process for filling expiring terms on the Board of Directors, Alternate Directors, and public committee members was successfully implemented without dispute. The open Board seats in 2015 were commercial fishing, the cities of Kenai, Kodiak and Homer, and the Aquaculture Associations. The process for 2016 expiring seats (recreation, tourism/State Chamber, and the cities of Anchorage and Seldovia) is currently underway.
- **Federal Taxes** – Our 2014 Federal Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax Form 990 has been prepared and filed.
- **Corporate Funding** – All payments for 2015 have been received. Contracts for 2016 and beyond are being negotiated.
- **Corporate Renewals** – On an annual or biannual basis, there are certain state, federal and routine business renewals we must pursue. We have renewed our U.S. Coast Guard Basic Ordering Agreement, as well as our required state certifications with the Department of Law and Department of Labor. We have renewed key council insurance policies covering Directors & Officers Liability; automobile liability; office loss and liability; etc. Personnel insurance policies have similarly been renewed.
- **Ex Officio Directors** – Due to retirements and agency reorganizations, several long time Ex Officio Directors have left their service to CIRCAC. We welcomed the following appointments to these important positions: Captain Paul Albertson, United States Coast Guard (replaced Captain Paul Mehler); Steve Russell, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (replaced Gary Folley); and Catherine Berg, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (to replace John Whitney). Additional appointments are expected soon for the remaining vacancy – U. S. Forestry Service (to replace Gary Lehnhausen).

- **New Staff** – In November we welcomed Vaito’a Heaven to our staff. Vaito’a joins us as Administrative Assistant, and training is well under way. We are delighted to have Vaito’a on the CIRCAC team.
- **Scholarship Offering** –Funds for both recipients have been dispersed. Efforts to offer scholarships in 2016 are underway.