

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”

BRIEFS

USCG Honors Cook Inlet RCAC

At its quarterly meeting held in Anchorage on June 18, 2010, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC) received the United States Coast Guard’s Meritorious Public Service Award. The Award was presented to Cook Inlet RCAC Ex-

ecutive Director Michael Munger by Rear Admiral Christopher Colvin, 17th Coast Guard District commander (below).

“We are pleased to receive such an honor”, said Mr. Munger, “This award demonstrates that a citizen oversight group can make a difference and work cooperatively to find solutions during incidents.”

The Award cites the Cook Inlet RCAC for its actions during the Mount Redoubt eruption and the Drift River Terminal Coordination in March 2009, particularly working with the University of Alaska Fairbanks to deploy a series of High Frequency (HF) radars to map surface ocean currents in the vicinity of Drift River and nearby areas of Cook Inlet in order to better understand potential



photo courtesy of USCG

Second Quarter 2010

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Drift River: Evaluation and Recommendations

2010 COUNCIL

MOLLY MCCAMMON
Municipality of Anchorage

GARY FANDREI
Aquaculture Associations

BOB FLINT
Recreational Interests

JAY STINSON
Commercial Fishing

ROB LINDSEY
City of Kodiak

ROBERT PETERKIN II
State Chamber of Commerce

ALLISON MILLER
City of Seldovia

GRACE MERKES
Kenai Peninsula Borough

TOMMY JOHNSON, Jr.
Alaska Native Organizations

CARLA STANLEY
City of Homer

JOHN WILLIAMS
City of Kenai

BOB SHAVELSON
Environmental Interests

LIZ CHILTON
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As a follow up to the coordinated efforts of the Unified Command during the Mount Redoubt eruption, Cook Inlet RCAC commissioned a report to evaluate the event and the role of Cook Inlet RCAC within the Incident Command System.

The report contains an extensive background on the 1989-90 eruption, the formation of the modern Incident Command System and a comparison between the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound RCAC's actions during a response or incident.

The final report provides recommendations to the Council on ways to improve future response activities and interactions with the Unified Command and Industry. Specifically, the report recommends regulatory agencies develop criteria to form a Unified Command as

it relates to the different stages of Redoubt's eruptive states. Additionally, the report identified a need for "After-action" reports and recommended that the regulatory agencies research acceptable criteria and format for these reports.

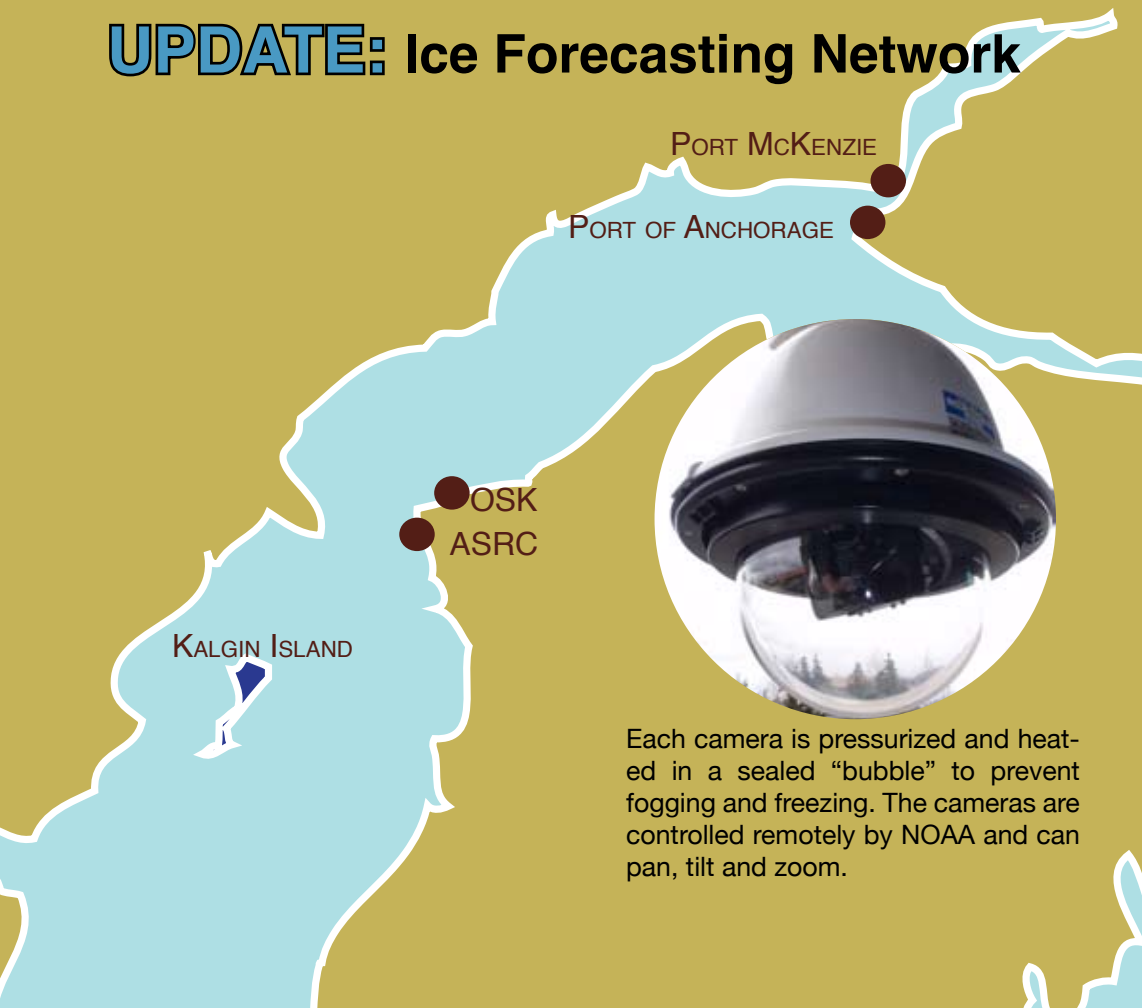
The report also recommended the RCAC provide the staff with defined Incident communications and emergency guidance. For external operations the report suggests that Council draft a Memorandum of Understanding with Cook Inlet oil industry companies to ensure that relevant information is provided to the Council in the event of an emergency. The Council elected to form a workgroup to address the report's recommendations.

A copy of the evaluation is available in the Library section of our website: www.circac.org





UPDATE: Ice Forecasting Network



Each camera is pressurized and heated in a sealed “bubble” to prevent fogging and freezing. The cameras are controlled remotely by NOAA and can pan, tilt and zoom.

STATE SUPPORTS NETWORK

This year the State of Alaska appropriated \$60,000 to the Cook Inlet RCAC Ice Forecasting Network.

The additional funds will be used to purchase wireless transmitters for the cameras at Port McKenzie, the Port of Anchorage, and at ASRC.

Cook Inlet RCAC plans to purchase three more cameras and install them off shore on the XTO A, Dillon, and Osprey platforms.

Camera installation began at the ASRC facility and the Port of Anchorage (POA). Each camera will have the ability to transmit its images, over the air, to a transceiver that is hard wired through a Business Exchange Circuit (BXC) that will carry the images to the system server, located at the NOAA facility in Anchorage. The camera at the ASRC facility in Niki-ski will complement the camera located at the OSK facility, also in Niki-ski. These two cameras will provide images of ice concentrations in the East Forelands area. Shortly after the camera installation at the POA, we will install another wireless camera at the Port McKenzie terminal. This camera will work in conjunction with the POA camera for opposing views of ice concentrations in Knik Arm.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



John Williams

In the twenty years of the Council's existence, only two people have represented the city of Kenai - Jim Carter and John Douglas. However, last year John Williams became the newest member of the board to represent Kenai; and as its former mayor it is a city he knows very well. In 1986, Mr. Williams was elected mayor of the City of Kenai and served in that position for 18 years (incidentally, it was Mayor Williams who appointed Mr. Carter and Mr. Douglas to represent Kenai on the RCAC board).

"I can assure you, it was though no desire of my own," said Mr. Williams, "but through the urging of others I found myself as the mayor of Kenai."

Mr. Williams made the most of his 18 years in office and much of what we see today in Kenai was built or developed under his leadership.

He worked with US Senator Ted Stevens and Representative Don Young to build the Fire Training

center and Challenger Learning Center. Other projects included the building of the Kenai Senior Center, the Expansion of the airport, the development of the park strip and the building of the Kenai Courthouse. The Kenai Visitors Center was built as part of Kenai's 1991 celebration of its bicentennial as a Russian settlement. That year the City was also recognized as the number one "All-American City" in the United States.

Mr. Williams began his career in Los Angeles, California, but quickly tired of the traffic. After venting his frustration to his boss, he was given the opportunity to relocate to Fairbanks.

"I said, 'I don't even know where Fairbanks, Alaska is, but if it has less traffic than Wilshire Boulevard...I'll go,'" Mr. Williams quipped as he recounted his migration north.

That migration was in 1962 un-

“Throughout my working career I was very cognizant of inserting educational opportunities whenever and wherever they presented themselves.”

"I've spent my entire career involved in construction, development, or job building...in one way or another," recalled Mr. Williams.

der a government contract at Fort Wainwright. That assignment led to Kenai and to a long career of supervising the installation of industrial instrumentation and automated systems at

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ShoreZone Flash Drive

One of Cook Inlet RCAC's goals is to provide the very best possible ShoreZone imagery and data to oil spill planners and responders. To accomplish that goal, 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 high resolution imagery will be invaluable to oil spill planners and on-scene commanders in emergency situations where fast internet access might be limited.

Cook Inlet RCAC not only hopes to provide flash drives to spill responders and regulators, but also to communities throughout Cook Inlet.



2009 Spirit Award

The Coastal America Spirit Award recognizes exceptional projects that demonstrate the 'spirit' of teamwork for group efforts that are poised to address the United States' challenging coastal issues.

In 2009, the Alaska ShoreZone program and its 30 plus partners received the Spirit Award for outstanding partnerships in protecting coastal ecosystems.



CISPRI SKIMMER UPDATE

Eric Haugstad, Director of Contingency Planning and Response for Tesoro and president of Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI), provided the Council with an update on the progress of the new “fuzzy-disc” skimmer.

CISPRI ordered two 56-disc skimmers this winter, but the shipment was delayed as all oil response equipment and resources were diverted to aid in the oil clean up in the Gulf of Mexico.

March test results for the 88-disc skimmer showed 860 gallons per minute (GPM) at 84% efficiency. The test was done using fresh Alaska North Slope Crude. The weathered crude oil results were 786 GPM at 78.4% efficiency.

The skimmer was made to run 24 hours

non-stop in the crude oil. No failures were experienced during this testing. To simulate real world situations, technicians also forced seaweed and kelp into the oil to check for problems with clogging the skimmer. No problems were experienced.

The two 56-disc skimmer is slated for delivery in late July and technicians will begin training on the new skimmers immediately. CISPRI hopes to replace the older skimmers that use weir technology with the newer more efficient oleophilic disc technology.

Once the skimmers arrive, CISPRI will be the only Oil Spill Response Organization in Alaska with this new skimming technology.



Board Member

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the Collier Carbon and Chemical plant and later at the Tesoro refinery in Nikiski.

Mr. Williams points out, "Throughout my working career I was very cognizant of inserting educational opportunities whenever and wherever they presented themselves."

His philosophy has served him well and with his knowledge of industrial technology and instrumentation, Mr. Williams found himself as the first full-time instructor hired by the Kenai Peninsula Community College, an institution he and Alaska State Senator Tom Wagoner were instrumental in starting.

In 2008, after serving a term as mayor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Mr. Williams ended his career as an elected official - a career that spanned four decades. For nearly five decades Mr. Williams' experiences in Alaska have fostered tremendous education in both state and federal government and in all facets of the state's major industries.

With all that he has accomplished Mr. Williams is most proud of his four children, eight grandchildren and wife of 42 years.



USCG Honor

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transport of surface oil. Other incidents where the Cook Inlet RCAC provided expertise and assistance to the Coast Guard were the *Seabulk Pride* grounding in February 2006 and the sinking of the *Monarch* in January 2009.

The Meritorious Public Service Award is one of the highest public recognition awards presented by the Coast Guard and is given to recognize dedication and support in advancing the Coast Guard's missions.

EVENTS & MEETINGS CALENDAR

August 21 - Industry Appreciation Days - Kenai

September 24 - Quarterly Board Meeting - Homer

November 17-19 - Pacific Marine Expo - Seattle, WA

December 2 - 20th Anniversary Reception - Kenai

December 3 - Quarterly Board Meeting - Kenai



COOK INLET

Regional Citizens Advisory Council

We Moved!

After 17 years at 910 Highland Ave. We have relocated our office to
8195 Kenai Spur Highway in Kenai. Our mailing address is now:

P.O. Box 2029
Kenai, AK 99611

