

# COOK INLET REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL CIRCAC 1990-2019



**Formation:** In the wake of the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), establishing the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) to create an avenue for public participation in the oversight of the Cook Inlet oil industry.



Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed partnerships and encouraged consensus decision making. Through this process we bring stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

## Membership:

*City of Kodiak*

*City of Kenai*

*City of Seldovia*

*City of Homer*

*Kodiak Island Borough*

*Kenai Peninsula Borough*

*Municipality of Anchorage*

*Tourism*

*Alaska Native*

*Environmental*

*Aquaculture*

*Recreation*

*Commercial Fishing*



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





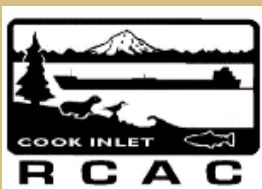
## Strategic Plan

To meet OPA 90 mandates, we established a framework of long-term programs under which we can develop specific projects and partnerships. CIRCAC's current programs are:

- *Biological and Chemical Environmental Monitoring*
- *Coastal Habitat Mapping*
- *Physical Oceanography*
- *Oil Fates and Effects*
- *Technical Review*
- *Contingency Plan Reviews*
- *Geographic Response Strategies*
- *Risk Assessment*
- *Prevention and Response*
- *Public Involvement*

### Notable CIRCAC Accomplishments:

- *In 2018, initiated Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment.*
- *Spearheaded efforts to fund and complete a comprehensive Navigation Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet.*
- *Developed Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) project for Cook Inlet, which led to a statewide program of these site-specific oil spill response plans.*
- *Compiled an extensive body of research on Cook Inlet's biology, chemistry, geomorphology, contaminants, and oceanography.*
- *Led Alaska portion of National Coastal Assessment in Southcentral Alaska*
- *Conducted first ShoreZone coastal habitat mapping project in Alaska and developed on-line data portal—which has since developed into a statewide, multi-organizational partnership ([www.shorezone.org](http://www.shorezone.org))*
- *Developed Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) as on-line data portal at [www.aaos.org](http://www.aaos.org)*
- *Established an ice-camera network that provides real-time, remotely accessed imagery of ice conditions for ice forecasters*
- *Conducting a robust oil spill Contingency Plan (C-plan) review process and is often the only public voice that weighs in on these complex documents.*
- *Actively participating in Incident Command System during agency and industry oil spill drills and actual response actions.*



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