



August 3, 2023

Rear Admiral Megan Dean
Commander - 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard

Admiral Dean:

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Charter Association to voice our full support for recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as the alternative advisory group for Cook Inlet, per the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Since its inception in 1990, CIRCAC has been effectively monitoring, preventing and mitigating threats to the region's marine environment by working in collaboration with governmental agencies, private industry, and public entities. CIRCAC plays a vital role in protecting the invaluable marine resources that residents of the region rely on. Highlights of their recent accomplishments include:

- Working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation on regulatory updates to strengthen the state's oil spill response rules.
- Expanding its ICE camera network through coordination with various private industry and governmental organizations to reduce the risk of an incident due to Cook Inlet's challenging winter sea conditions.
- Entering a 3 year agreement with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to compile data on historical contaminants to Cook Inlet into a database for online access through CIRCAC'S science program.
- Updating Alaska ShoreZone visual data with new surveys along the outer Kenai Peninsula coast.
- Educating and encouraging participation of the public in monitoring and protecting the area's marine ecosystem through various forms of media and advertising.

Through its work, CIRCAC has brought together the various stakeholders involved in the pursuit of an interest they all have in common: the safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet. In light of concerning trends in the decline of a number of biologically, culturally and economically significant marine species in recent years, it is imperative that CIRCAC continue its work protecting critical habitat. Therefore, the Alaska Charter Association strongly endorses the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne T. Nasu
Executive Director
Alaska Charter Association