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July 15, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel  
Commander, 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
c/o Docket Management Facility (M-30)  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
West Building Ground Floor  
Room W12-140  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001  
Re: USCG-2014-0414; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Dear Admiral:

On behalf of the Alaska Salmon Alliance, I would like to express our support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC). Cook Inlet RCAC has been at the forefront of important initiatives to improve Cook Inlet's navigational safety and oil spill prevention and response capabilities, as well as advance our scientific understanding of the region's environment to better enable us to protect its wildlife and natural resources from the harmful effects of spills. Cook Inlet RCAC has achieved significant accomplishments in the areas of environmental monitoring, and oil spill prevention, response and preparedness, a result of a concerted effort to foster and develop a partnership with industry, local, state and federal governments and the citizens of Cook Inlet.

We value the organization's ability to represent and bring together a diverse group of stakeholders with a broad range of interests. Our relationship with Cook Inlet RCAC has been important to enhancing our understanding of the region, and our members are among the many beneficiaries of the research and studies they have done through their coastal habitats, biological and chemical monitoring, oil behavior, and physical oceanography programs. As a named reviewer of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP) for crude oil exploration, production, and transportation facilities, Cook Inlet RCAC proves its tremendous value on an ongoing basis. We welcome opportunities to work together with the Board of Directors, Committees and staff and share information that can make oil facility operations and marine transportation in the Inlet safer.

We look forward to continuing this positive relationship and respectfully request the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Sincerely,  
Arni Thomson, Executive Director