



June 16, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister
Commander – 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
709 W. 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: USCG-2017-0289; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Dear Admiral McAllister:

The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) supports recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC) by the United States Coast Guard.

The Alaska SeaLife Center is the State's only public aquarium and marine mammal rehabilitation facility. We are a private, not-for-profit organization committed to generating and sharing scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems. Through a contract with Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc., we have become increasingly involved with regional oil spill prevention and response efforts, and we have had the privilege of interacting with CIRCAC and becoming more familiar with the important role they play in oil spill prevention and response.

CIRCAC has demonstrated a clear commitment to identifying, assessing, and mitigating oil spill risks by advocating for greater regulatory oversight and safety protocols, conducting risk assessments, encouraging public engagement, and reviewing oil spill contingency plans. Some of CIRCAC's most notable contributions include:

- Contributing to the development of Cook Inlet's first Harbor Safety Plan.
- Establishing an ice camera network that provides real-time, remotely accessed imagery of ice conditions for ice forecasters to increase navigation safety.
- Responding to the Unified Command for the Platform Anna spill.
- Developing a Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) project for Cook Inlet.
- Conducting a ShoreZone coastal habitat mapping project in Alaska and developing an online data portal (www.shorezone.org). In 2016 a photo exhibit based on this project was prominently exhibited at ASLC.

These are just a few examples of the important work done by CIRCAC, and we look forward to growing our partnership in the future. We respectfully request the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Sincerely,

Tara L. Riemer, Ph.D.
President and CEO