



COOK INLET

AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

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June 24, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel
Commander, 17th 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

Subject: USCG-2014-0414; Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification

Admiral Abel,

The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) would like to express its support for the recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC).

CIAA maximizes the value of Cook Inlet's common property salmon resource using science, education, and technology. We are keenly aware of the importance of preventing oil spills and other types of pollution from fouling the waters of Cook Inlet. Unfortunately, we have experienced the devastating impacts an oil spill can have on the fishing industry. In 1987, the tanker Glacier Bay went aground near the mouth of the Kenai River spilling 130,000 gallons of oil at the start of the commercial fishing season forcing the closure of fishing for several periods.

Cook Inlet RCAC, by advocating for improved spill response and protection of important habitats, provides a necessary link between the citizens of Cook Inlet, CIAA and the oil industry. We recognize the value of the coastal habitat mapping and imaging database for shoreline protection, the comprehensive navigational risk assessment for the Cook Inlet region, and the dedicated docking assist and rescue tug for Cook Inlet. These and other accomplishments are the result of the Cook Inlet RCAC's efforts.

CIAA has worked closely with Cook Inlet RCAC since 1990 to make improvements in oil spill prevention and response. Through frequent and regular meeting and public outreach efforts, Cook Inlet RCAC helps keep our constituents current with the issues affecting our resources. Cook Inlet RCAC's monthly newsletter and personal appearances have kept the channels of communication open between citizens, government agencies, and industry.

With the increased oil and gas activity in Cook Inlet, citizen oversight of the industry is as important as ever. We have enjoyed working with Cook Inlet RCAC and look forward to our continued partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Fandrei". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "F".

Gary Fandrei
Executive Director