

June 27, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Able
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

2014 JUL - 7 P 2:00
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET OPERATIONS

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

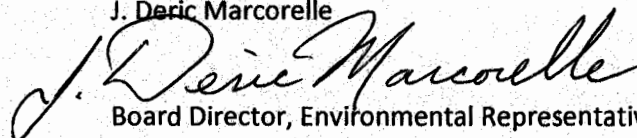
Admiral Able:

This is a letter of support for the Cook Inlet Citizen Advisory Council (CIRCAC) application for recertification. I am a member of the CIRCAC Board of Directors and represent the environmental groups in the area of Cook Inlet and Kodiak Island. I strongly recommend the recertification. For the past twenty-five years, CIRCAC has worked to foster long-term partnerships with industry, government and local communities to oversee compliance and address environmental concerns in crude oil terminal operations.

Some of the outstanding accomplishments completed by CIRCAC include the Coastal Habitat mapping and imaging database for improving shoreline protection. I consider this an extremely valuable tool for use by both mariners and the Coast Guard. It is an asset for use with oil spills and/or any vessel using CIRCAC's List of Places of Refuge for Stricken Vessels. CIRCAC has put together a comprehensive navigational risk assessment for Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet is now covered by a network of ice cameras during the winter months for improved safety and accident prevention. CIRCAC advocated for a dedicated docking assist and rescue tug for Cook Inlet. CIRCAC has partnered with state and federal agencies to conduct the first Alaska components of the National Coastal Assessment, which is now the Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program. CIRCAC organized numerous scientific panels to ensure coordination among oceanographic researchers and physical model developers to better understand and predict Cook Inlet's complex ocean circulation. CIRCAC scientists completed the beluga whale winter prey study to fill existing data gaps in the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Conservation Plan. CIRCAC personnel regularly monitor and participate in drills, exercises and training events. At our last board meeting, Captain Paul Mehler reported that CIRCAC Executive Director, Mike Munger's expertise was invaluable to him in the Command Center when Shell Oil Company's drill rig broke away and landed on Kodiak Island. CIRCAC staff regularly review oil spill prevention and contingency plans for terminal facilities and crude oil tankers. This is the short list of accomplishments.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and I truly hope you approve the CIRCAC application for recertification.

J. Deric Marcorelle


Board Director, Environmental Representative