



*"The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet."*

## **Members**

*Tourism Group*

*Alaska Native Group*

*Environmental Group*

*Recreational Group*

*Aquaculture Associations*

*Commercial Fishing Group*

*City of Kodiak*

*City of Kenai*

*City of Seldovia*

*City of Homer*

*Kodiak Island Borough*

*Kenai Peninsula Borough*

*Municipality of Anchorage*

24 June, 2019

Rear Admiral Matthew Bell  
Commander 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
P.O. Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

RE: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council  
Recertification Application for 1 September, 2019 to 31 August, 2020

Admiral Bell:

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council is pleased to provide you with our Application for Recertification as the alternative advisory group for Cook Inlet, pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), Section 5002(o). Our recertification request observes the revised U.S. Coast Guard guidelines that establish a streamlined application process without full public comment period for two years out of every three; this is a year for the streamlined process. The guidelines require a description of Council actions, programs and projects undertaken since the last recertification application submitted in April 2018.

Admiral Bell, we were able to schedule our customary pre-submittal conference with Coast Guard personnel in advance of the preparation of this application. We have had the good fortune of working with LCDR Jonathon Dale the past two years; we knew his guidance through the process this year would be extremely beneficial.

We appreciate your thorough review of this recertification request, report and accompanying documents. The passionate commitment and excellent performance of our volunteer leaders and staff are demonstrated on every page of this document, and we believe they will be obvious to you, your staff, and all who review it.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office should you have any questions or require additional materials or supporting information on any of our programs. Thank you for your consideration of our request for recertification.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Munger  
Executive Director

Enclosures

**Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council**  
**Recertification Application**  
**2019/2020**  
**Submitted 24 June, 2019**

We describe in this application specific activities initiated or continued by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council generally since the submittal of our 2018/2019 application to the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and emphasize work undertaken since our last recertification 1 September 2018. Many relevant programs and projects identified are continuations of long-running, multi-year activities. Also, it is noted in the text if a program or project referenced is anticipated to begin during the review period.

While most projects and programs typically originate and are completed within a standing committee (Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) or Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee), it should be noted that critical projects are frequently coordinated and funded between both. Also, references made below to "staff" will generally refer to the staff Director who serves as liaison to these committees: Sue Saupe is the liaison to the EMC; Steve "Vinnie" Catalano serves in that capacity with PROPS and our Protocol Control Committee. References made to Public Outreach staff refer to Director Lynda Giguere, while Administrative staff would refer to Executive Director Mike Munger, Jerry Rombach, Vaito'a Heaven, Maddie Jamora, Cindy Sanguinetti or Maritta Eledge.

We are following the Application format provided by the Coast Guard's reviewer, with a "Miscellaneous" section included at the end. There are several Exhibits attached as well. The application and relevant supporting documents are sent via disk; hard copies have been sent via the U.S. Postal Service as well. Some documents referred to are available at the Council's website, [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org); these are pointed out in the narrative below.

**1. Membership. *The advisory group should be broadly representative of the interests of the communities in the geographical area.***

CIRCAC was formed under Section 5002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). The Act identifies the Interest Groups (six stakeholders and seven units of government) to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). The individual organizations which make up these Groups are our "Members". We frequently and deliberately reach out to these member groups to keep them informed and engaged.

While the number of organizations is set in most Interest Groups (government and aquaculture, specifically), CIRCAC continually seeks to build the membership ranks of the remaining five interest groups, through advertising, community outreach and direct communications – Board reports, news releases, e-newsletters, Annual Report and many meeting notifications throughout the year.

In addition, we attempt to inform by providing Incident Reports. These are guided by policy stemming from OPA 90 mandates. We also provide reports on incidents that will gain public attention – like the Shuyak Bay spill and the 2017 gas line leak – in order to keep our Board informed. Specific incidents are covered in greater detail in Section 4.

Stakeholders are always invited and welcome to attend our public Board and committee meetings. Public comments are solicited and stakeholder presentations are frequently scheduled.

It is our practice to recognize the contributions to CIRCAC and our mission by highlighting individual and organizational accomplishments throughout the year, both in person and via written communications. Since our last submittal, CIRCAC honored Tourism representative Robert Peterkin, II as its "Captain Glen Glenzer Volunteer of the Year" award recipient. In addition, we recognized the following for attaining milestone anniversaries of volunteer service: Dr. Richard Prentki, 25 years (Materials Management Service Ex Officio Director, and EMC Public Member); Molly McCammon, 15 years (Director representing the Municipality of Anchorage); John Williams, 10 years (Director representing the City of Kenai); and James McHale, 5 years (PROPS Public Member).

We regularly attend meetings of community organizations – e.g. local and state Chambers, Rotary, Economic Development District, Support Industry Alliance, Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium, and others, and participate in community functions which are produced by or attract our members and partners.

We currently have a total of forty-nine (49) individual stakeholder organizations in our thirteen (13) Interest Groups. These groups are listed below; the number of individual stakeholder organizations represented is shown where applicable:

- Commercial Fishing (7)
- Recreation (4)
- Alaska Native (12)
- Environmental (11)
- Aquaculture (2)
- Tourism (6)
- Municipality of Anchorage
- City of Seldovia
- City of Kenai
- City of Homer
- City of Kodiak
- Kodiak Island Borough
- Kenai Peninsula Borough

Interest groups either appoint or elect their representative to the Council, serving staggered, three-year terms. In 2019, the seats representing Recreation, Tourism, the Municipality of Anchorage and the City of Seldovia were set to expire in April. The relevant member groups were notified in early December 2018 of the upcoming expirations – by letter and e-mail communication – and invited to participate in this process. Staff and incumbent Directors strive to meet with willing organizations throughout the year, but particularly during this election/appointment ‘season’.

Seldovia and Anchorage each reappointed their Board representatives: Walt Sonen and Molly McCammon, respectively. Nominations for Director Bob Flint were received from Recreation Group members, and Mr. Flint was re-elected. The new Tourism Group – expanded in 2016 and now standing at six members – nominated and re-elected Director Robert Peterkin, II, with five of the groups fully participating in our process.

Steps continue throughout the year to prepare for the coming election cycle, which for 2020 will include the following Interest Groups: Environmental (Deric Marcorelle) and Alaska Native (Michael Opheim) organizations, as well as the Kodiak Island (Kyle Crow) and Kenai Peninsula (Grace Merkes) Boroughs.



**2. Establishing communications with industry and government. *The Coast Guard will consider the means by, and the extent to which, the advisory group maintains open communications with industry and government interests (oil terminal, oil tanker, and State and Federal government representatives). In assessing the group's ability to communicate with these interests, the Coast Guard's review will include but not be limited to the following:***

CIRCAC has established a robust communications plan for industry and supporting companies; elected officials; state, local and federal governments; interest groups; educators and students; and the general public.

Per OPA 90, CIRCAC also has representation on its Ex Officio, non-voting board, consisting of appointees from ten (currently) state and federal agencies. At present, all seats are filled. These individuals receive the same briefings, board documents and post-meeting reports as voting Directors. These individuals and their respective agencies are:

- United States Coast Guard (Captain Sean Mackenzie; LCDR Brent Mellen)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (Robert Whittier)
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (Dr. Heather Crowley)
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Graham Wood)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (Jonathon Schick)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Catherine Berg)
- Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (Kevin Reeve)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Brian Blossom)
- Alaska State Pipeline Coordinator's Office (Jason Walsh)
- United States Forest Service (David Fitz-Enz)

CIRCAC Board and committee meetings are open to the public, and typically feature one or more presentations by industry, agency, specialty/expert presenters, or staff offering insights into research, best available technology, programs and projects, regulations or developments of particular interest to all stakeholders. Industry and agency representatives always receive notifications of all scheduled meetings; Public Service Announcements are submitted to newspapers, and meeting dates and materials are posted on our website and announced in our e-newsletters.

We have undertaken many projects and studies over the years, and regularly share the knowledge gained with our industry and agency partners for the long-term benefit of all. One example of such shared knowledge would be the self-arrest study which was a risk reduction option identified in our Cook Inlet Risk Assessment project. In 2016-2017, CIRCAC invited Marathon Petroleum (formerly Andeavor/Tesoro Maritime) to participate in interviews as maritime experts with extensive experience transiting Cook Inlet, to obtain information and input to develop and validate proposed simulations to test self-arrest in Cook Inlet.

Simulations, using the scenarios developed, were run multiple times using the Alaska Vocational Training and Education Center ship simulator, clearly demonstrating the successful application of the self-arrest technique. Andeavor/Tesoro Maritime recognized the value of the technique and the use of the ship simulators, and launched a training program for their personnel – as well as competitors’ – and Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA) marine pilots.

That successful program led to now-Marathon Petroleum’s contributions of \$95,000 to AVTEC in 2018 and again in 2019. In addition to the ongoing advanced training of skilled crews operating in the challenging environment of Cook Inlet, the contributions led to substantial improvements for the ship simulators.

Our most effective forms of contact are our well-established, trusted, direct lines of communications with individuals at all levels of an entity’s hierarchy. With years of partnership-building behind us, staff has developed the relationships necessary to reach out with questions, information, analysis, or even criticism – and expect and receive immediate response. Questions about operations, inspections, funding, and more are answered quickly by the source.

Formal communication is frequently called for, and CIRCAC strives to provide timely, informed comments on every matter pertaining to our Mission. During this application period, CIRCAC – primarily through its Protocol Control Committee – has provided comments on Alaska Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (C-Plans), on proposed regulations or amendments, legislation, funding matters, public comment periods, situation reports, operational changes, and the like. These comments provide valuable insights to industry and agencies about our concerns, and identify matters requiring clarification or correction. While these exchanges are listed in this section on communication, they have been better detailed in Section 5, and we direct you there for further information.

In addition, we reach out frequently through traditional forms of communication:

- CIRCAC website – [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org) is our primary vehicle for posting and archiving board and committee meeting documents, presentations, program reports, incident reports, and updates on all CIRCAC activities
- Annual Report – mailed, typically in early April, directly to nearly 700 individuals, industry companies, organizations, schools, libraries, governments, and more
- Board Reports – these are sent to our special interest group members, government stakeholders, as well as our Ex Officio Directors
- Cook Inlet Navigator e-Newsletter – this ongoing electronic piece is sent to over 650 interested parties, mostly our stakeholder members, officials in government, industry, and the scientific community
- Social Media – posts increase brand recognition and promote our activities, including engagement with agencies, industry, the Harbor Safety Committee, stakeholders, and others



- Advertising and Releases – we regularly advertise and promote CIRCAC’s mission, projects and accomplishments, as well as special outreach efforts (e.g. – elections, membership building) through paid advertising, earned media, public service announcements, and press releases. In 2019, we secured our first-ever display ad, at the Kenai Airport terminal. We presume that those who work in government, industry and stakeholder groups also notice these broad ads on radio (collected at <https://www.circac.org/media-kit/>), in regional tourism publications, economic development reports, newspapers, monthly and special publications such as the Pilothouse Guide and Alaska Business Monthly, and more. Some examples from this application period include:
  - CIRCAC seeks new stakeholder organizations
  - CIRCAC seeks Public Members for standing committees
  - CIRCAC recertified by U.S. Coast Guard
  - 2019 Scholarship application period opens
  - CIRCAC Recognized with U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award
  - Risk Assessment planned for Cook Inlet pipelines
  - Hilcorp replaces tankers with Cross Inlet Pipeline
  - Little Boat on a Big Adventure
  - CIRCAC announces scholarship awards
  - Marathon Petroleum-sponsored ship simulator training
- Letters of introduction to newly elected officials, appointed agency personnel, and industry leaders expressing mutual interests are sent as appropriate throughout the year.

We strive to be responsive and available to media inquiries pertaining to our areas of concern, such as our comments or concerns with regulations and contingency plans, status of the Pipeline Risk Assessment, or incidents pertaining to crude oil spills.

We attend and/or participate in conferences and expos targeted at industry, the regulating agencies, and the scientific community, frequently presenting topics or posters, serving on panels, and exhibiting in related trade shows. It is important to be seen supporting these events, to have the opportunity to share and absorb valuable information, and to be able to meet directly with partners. In 2018/19, a record number of CIRCAC volunteers and staff attended critical conferences and events, notably:

- Alaska Marine Science Symposium (Sponsor, poster session)
- Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative’s Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Environmental Symposium
- Alaska Forum on the Environment (panel discussion)
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission
- Kodiak ComFish Expo (exhibitor)
- Kachemak Bay Science Symposium (presenter)
- Oil Spill Recovery Institute (Workplan Committee member)
- PRIMER-e Course in Plymouth, UK (student)
- Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group (inspiration for RCACs)

- Kenai Industry Appreciation Day (exhibitor)
- Clean Gulf
- Clean Pacific (presenter)
- Pacific Marine Expo (attendee, exhibitor)
- Kenai Peninsula Fair (exhibitor)
- Kodiak Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner
- SeaGrant Workshop
- Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium Annual Meeting

Our industry and agency partners often do incredible work warranting particular, special recognition. We recently honored Hilcorp/Harvest Alaska with a Board Resolution for their work in developing the Cross Inlet Pipeline with the goal of dismantling the Drift River Oil Terminal on the west side of Cook Inlet and eliminating the tanker movement of crude oil across the Inlet.

We further our OPA 90 mandates and Council Mission by offering scholarships to richly deserving students. The scholarships are intended to launch or complete an undergraduate degree in environmental science, or a trade program in maritime studies. Started in 2015, we offer two \$2,500 scholarships – our Captain Barry Eldridge Memorial Scholarship for Maritime Studies, and the James Carter Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Science. In 2019, our recipients (respectively) were Christopher Knox, graduating senior from King Career Tech Academy in Anchorage, and Alie Minium, graduating from Nikiski High School – our first recipients from either school.

And finally, the national Transportation Institute has reached out seeking to partner with our scholarship program to advance their maritime Alaska Hire agenda.



**3. Scientific work. *The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the advisory group coordinates its independent scientific work with the scientific work performed by or on behalf of the terminal operators and operators of the crude oil tankers in an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to ensure that research and studies are relevant to issues that impact the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and of crude oil tankers calling at those facilities.***

**Chemical and Biological Monitoring:**

Kamishak Bay/Lower Cook Inlet Intertidal Habitats – CIRCAC is in its fifth year working with the National Park Service (NPS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks – with funding by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on this significant project: *Evaluation of Nearshore Communities and Habitats: Ecological Processes in Lower Cook Inlet*. Staff had responsibility for field planning and logistics. The team sampled the Douglas Reef system, and near Augustine Island in June. Aerial surveys of the entire coast between Tuxedni Bay and the Kamishak Bay Reef took place in July. An Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) was deployed to collect even higher resolution data for specific sites. The partners are finalizing all data entry, photo interpretation and taxonomic identifications in order to merge the data sets and complete the analyses for a draft report to BOEM in fall 2019; the final report is due by the end of the year. A poster presentation was made by CIRCAC and NOAA staff at the 2019 Alaska Marine Science Symposium. Staff continues to work with contractors, NPS and BOEM for the development of our EMC on-line contaminants database for our hydrocarbon, persistent organic pollutants, and heavy metals data.

**Coastal Habitat Mapping Programs**

ShoreZone – Staff and partners are continuing to work to compile the Alaska Peninsula Shore Station data into a new format to incorporate into a revamped Shore Station Database and Visualization Tool on the NOAA ShoreZone website, and a new data portal at the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS). Additional partners are being sought to extend the effort to include all shore stations from Alaska. In addition, pressed algal specimens have been scanned and collected into a collection catalog, taxonomic tree and a complete species list. This was included in the final report submitted to BOEM, and was published by the authors as a NOAA Tech Memo. It can be viewed or downloaded at:

<https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-389.pdf>

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) – AOOS migrated the Cook Inlet Response Tool to their Next Generation User Interface. It is planned to integrate the Council's Geographic Resources Information Database (GRID) program as well (see further coverage in Sec. 5).

**Physical Oceanography and Oil Fates & Effects Programs:**

Staff participated in a Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet Ocean Circulation Workgroup in Homer in June 2018. EMC and PROPS will coordinate with partners to evaluate operational models and needs against known circulation patterns and hydrographic regime in Cook Inlet, and develop an oil spill trajectory interface that will be available as a desk-top or on-line model that is accessible to any user.

CIRCAC is providing logistical support associated with the project *Potential Role of Marine Oil Snow Formation and Oil-Suspended Mineral Particle Aggregation in the Fate of Spilled Oil in Cook Inlet, Alaska*. A winter sampling component was undertaken in January. This is part of a Master's Thesis by Jesse Ross of the University of New Hampshire, supported by the Coastal Response Research Center and CIRCAC. Our EMC provided planning and funding for vessel logistics, as well as field sampling assistance. CIRCAC has committed to continue supporting this research to deeper depths, to include a spring algal bloom, and to sample in areas near Kodiak. A poster presentation was made by Mr. Ross at the 2019 Alaska Marine Science Symposium: *Potential Role of Marine Snow in the Fate of Spilled Oil in Cook Inlet, Alaska*.

**Technical Review Program:**

Our Director of Science & Research assists or leads CIRCAC's review of the technical aspects of proposed new regulations or amendments. CIRCAC's Protocol Control Committee is charged with approving our positions on regulations and contingency plan reviews conducted by staff. A full synopsis of comments submitted during this application period is found in Section 5.

Staff has been appointed to the Alaska Regional Response Team's (ARRT) Wildlife Protection Committee. This fulfills requirements of the National Contingency Plan to ensure that the ARRT's Area Contingency Plan includes "... coordinated, immediate and effective protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of, and minimization of risk of injury to ... wildlife resources and habitat."

**4. Monitoring program.** *The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the advisory group develops and carries out an effective monitoring program (terminal operation and maintenance, cleanups, drills).*

Site tours: The Council strives to provide opportunities for volunteers to visit critical sites and operations. In 2018/19, we arranged the following opportunities for Directors and Public Members to experience operations:

- Hilcorp/Harvest Beluga Point subsea pipe facility (Board)
- Anchorage Emergency Management Center (Board)
- AVTEC Marine Simulator in Seward (PROPS Committee)
- NOAA's Kasitsna Bay Laboratory in Kachemak Bay (EMC)
- Marathon Petroleum refinery in Nikiski (PROPS)

**Incidents:**

- Crude Oil
  - 6 June 2018 – Hilcorp's Middle Ground Shoal subsea pipeline; 10-15 1" size tarballs observed. The Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) recovered all, plus sheen; estimated volume of about 1 cup
  - 30 November 2018 – CIRCAC conducted a post-earthquake interview with industry operators in Cook Inlet to assess potential incidents; minor damage only reported, with no reports of injury or discharges
  - 5 March 2019 – BlueCrest Alaska Operating reported a spill to secondary containment during a transfer operation; an estimated 280 gallons of a crude oil mix was released; 279 gallons were contained, with 239 gallons recovered; remaining contaminants removed
  - 15 April 2019 – Hilcorp reported a 3.5 bbl spill at the Middle Ground Shoal on-shore facility; spill contained above-ground and removed
  - 27 April 2019 – Hilcorp/Harvest reported an estimated 1 bbl of crude oil discovered above-ground during decommissioning activities at the Drift River Oil Terminal facility
- Non-crude/Other – while these fall outside our OPA 90 mandates, we pursue updates and inform our Board on non-crude incidents in our Area of Responsibility. These help to inform our Directors on response capabilities, performance and other considerations.
  - 23 April 2018 – Unified Command announces end of Port Williams/Shuyak Bay spill response
  - 27 February 2019 – Vessel aground near Cape Kuliuk on Kodiak Island
  - 17 March 2019 – American President Lines dock in Kodiak
  - 27 April 2019 – Derelict barge on Kodiak Island
  - 27 April 2019 – Hilcorp reported a small, sub-sea natural gas leak from its Platform A.



#### Drills:

Council staff participates in both drill planning activities and drill exercises. During this application period, we participated in the following:

- Marathon Petroleum Drill Planning led to a two part drill in August and November
- Hilcorp/Harvest planning meeting led to a drill in June
- Andeavor/KPL –a National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) unannounced drill in late July. An Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was established. Staff attended the drill at the EOC. The drill emphasized notifications.
- Andeavor/Port of Anchorage – the drill scenario was a 2,800 bbl discharge of refined product into Knik Arm. An EOC was established; staff participated in the Operations Section and Joint Information Center. The drill employed uses of an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). The drill satisfied NPREP requirements for the operator.
- Hilcorp/Harvest – two drill exercises (respective to each company) were attended in June, both with an offshore discharge of crude to water. The drill exercises focused on ground-truthing the State required contingency plans' requirements for wildlife response operations, resource and procurement, Joint Information Center/Public Information Office (JIC/PIO), leak detection systems and development of a demobilization plan. These were Tier III annual exercises.
- BlueCrest Operating Alaska – Staff participated in drill planning for an exercise to be held in March. The scenario focused on an uncontrolled release of crude oil. Staff provided BlueCrest drill planners with "Truth" injects to be used to guide the Operations and JIC/PIO sections during the drill. Staff participated in the Operations section.
- Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy – This two-day drill featured a tabletop exercise on day one. The scenario was 400 bbls of crude oil discharged onshore, near a Cook Inlet feeder stream. The drill entailed Incident Management Team (IMT) staffing limitations initially, due to weather delays for IMT personnel, with full staffing as the day progressed. An equipment deployment exercise scheduled for a week later was postponed due to weather. This drill mimicked real-life, as IMT and on-site personnel were prepared and equipped to begin response activities, both in the Command Center and on-site.
- Alaska CHADUX Equipment Deployment – The OSRO deployed a new NOFI Ocean Buster 8 in Kachemak Bay, utilizing contract vessels of opportunity, and deployment of a UAS. CIRCAC staff was present as an observer with U.S. Coast Guard personnel from Sector Anchorage and MSD Homer.

#### C-Plan reviews:

As a state-named Plan reviewer, CIRCAC effectively monitors industry operations by monitoring the adequacy of oil spill prevention and contingency plans for the terminal facilities and crude oil tankers. Specifics of our work in this regard follow in Section 5 below.

**Research:**

Staff conducts and supports field research in the vicinity of oil facility operations in the Cook Inlet and Kodiak Island areas. Further, we review industry data required or provided by agreement, including reports on their monitoring activities and platform discharges. See more in Section 3 above.

Our Pipeline Risk Assessment, currently underway, is intended to assess the integrity of the existing network of subsea pipelines in Cook Inlet. These will enable industry and agencies to anticipate problems in this aging infrastructure, and to recommend and implement risk reduction measures before further loss of integrity events occur.

**Regulatory Comments:**

Examples of our formal communications to industry and government pertaining to C-Plans, regulations, legislation, response requirements and more may be found in Section 5 below.

**5. Efforts to prevent oil spills and to plan for responding to, containing, cleaning up, and mitigating impacts of oil spills. *The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the advisory group:***

With a new Governor and Legislature, and the state budget in flux, Alaska is going through a financial transition in 2019, and departments are attempting to do more with less. Staff became aware in March that DEC was planning revisions to the state's C-Plan requirements of industry; we have voiced our insistence on being part of any process to amend C-Plan requirements. On 30 April 2019, CIRCAC staff was advised by DEC's Div. of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) that \$9.5 million was being diverted from oil spill funds to address contaminated sites and chemical clean-ups.

**ARRT:**

Staff regularly attends scheduled ARRT meetings, and provides input as appropriate.

**Council priority on DROT:**

The Cook Inlet Risk Assessment process identified a primary objective to eliminate cross-Inlet tanker traffic taking crude oil from the Drift River Oil Terminal (DROT) to the refinery in Nikiski. This finding supported CIRCAC's 2012 Resolution calling for the discontinuance and dismantling of the DROT and related Christy Lee Platform. In 2018, Hilcorp/Harvest held a ceremonial ribbon cutting to mark the completion of the Cross-Inlet Pipeline. It had applied for permits from the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to proceed with work to remove all oil from the DROT site, and commence with dismantling. That approval has now been granted, and work is underway.

**Geographic Resources Information Database (GRID):**

Phase 1 – community data collection – has been completed, with the data entered into the GIS database. As part of Phase 2, a pilot visualization tool was created for beta testing during a daylong training workshop in February. GRID has been presented to USCG personnel at Sector Anchorage for their input. The input captured was used to refine the product. Currently the program is awaiting testing at a spill exercise scheduled for October 2019 before being presented to PROPS and the Council. We will steward the program until it is moved into the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT).

**Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT):**

AOOS and its contractor AXIOM have migrated CIRT to their Next Generation User Interface. During the application period, staff led training for Andeavor and Hilcorp IMT staffers. CIRT was utilized during the Andeavor drill in November. Marathon Petroleum staff has requested additional training in 2019.



#### Alaska Inland Plan and Arctic and Western Alaska Plan Committee:

CIRCAC staff attended the first meeting in Anchorage. This is a joint effort of the USCG and AK-DEC to transition from the previous Unified and Sub-Area Plans construct to a new Regional and Area Plans construct. CIRCAC has sought to provide a voice and expertise to the process. Staff is a member of the Geographic Response Strategies (GRS), Exercise and Training, and External Communications sub-committees to aid in the development of those portions of the Area plan.

#### Integrated Subsea Pipeline Risk Assessment:

CIRCAC has successfully worked to fund an integrated Subsea Pipeline Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet. With funding coming from ADEC, industry, and a US Department of Transportation-Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (DOT-PHMSA) grant, contractors have worked with industry to identify the network of subsea pipelines, to assess their condition, maintenance history, and integrity. A Panel of Experts was convened to review documentation from industry and agencies, and a public hearing on the process was held in early May 2019.

#### Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC):

In 2018 CIRCAC initiated a dialogue with AVTEC to establish a scholarship program for students pursuing maritime training at the facility. Details have not been finalized at the time of this application.

Marathon Petroleum - for a second year - has held marine training at the AVTEC Ship Simulator for its personnel as well as personnel from other Cook Inlet marine operators. And also for a second year, the company has contributed \$95,000 to AVTEC for simulator upgrades. Improvements made have already yielded results, for example shorefast ice is now a feature which can be added into simulations.

#### Winter Ice Guidelines:

The annual Winter Ice Meeting sponsored by Marathon Petroleum Maritime and supported by the United States Coast Guard, CIRCAC, and the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, was held in December 2018. An update on CIRCAC's Ice Monitoring Camera Network was provided, as was a briefing from the NOAA Ice Forecaster and the Coast Guard Commander Sector Anchorage. This critical meeting addresses Cook Inlet-specific operating limitations, procedures and policies.

#### Ice Camera Monitoring Network:

Upgrades to the Ice Monitoring Camera Network have been underway, with three cameras being replaced for physical condition issues at the Middle Ground Shoals "A" platform and the Granite Point platform, and an additional site at a critical location - the Tyonek Platform site has been authorized. When these advances are completed, the Network will consist of 10 cameras on 8 facilities. Efforts continue to make the images available directly to pilots navigating the upper Inlet.

## Harbor Safety Committee:

The Harbor Safety Committee (HSC), formed in 2017, is continuing its groundbreaking work. In 2019, its Harbor Safety Plan workgroup (Chaired by CIRCAC Director of Operations Steven "Vinnie" Catalano) completed the annual revision of the Plan. Modifications were focused on safety, with specific additions including: sub-sea pipelines; identification of Cook Inlet "high risk" areas; NOAA's automated wreck and obstruction system; mooring policies and petroleum transfers in heavy weather; salvage and marine firefighting; and much more. CIRCAC Executive Director Mike Munger serves on the Managing Board; Vinnie Catalano (Primary) and Jerry Rombach (Alternate) serve on the HSC.

Regulatory Reviews & Alaska Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (C-Plans): As mentioned in Section 2, CIRCAC regularly reviews and comments regarding C-Plans for crude oil operations, and proposed C-Plan amendments. Likewise CIRCAC provides comments regarding proposed regulations, and/or proposed changes to the current regulation which would have an effect on oil spill prevention or response. These communications allow us to interact with both industry and agency personnel. We submitted targeted comments on the following matters during the application period (in no particular order):

- State of Alaska Proposed changes to Title 18, Chapter 75 of the Alaska Administrative Code dealing with Oil and Other Hazardous Substances Pollution Control
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Draft Proposed Program for 2019-2024
- Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems – Revisions 1014-AA37
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) proposed rulemaking for revision of Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf – Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Revisions, Proposed Rule (Docket No. BSEE-2018-0002; 189E1700D2 ET1SF0000.PSB000 EEEE500000) RIN 1014-AA39
- BSEE: Inclusion of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council for review of offshore facility response plans in Cook Inlet Outer Continental Shelf
- Alaska Ecological Research – Draft Cook Inlet & Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – Proposed Changes to Alaska's Planning Structure – Spill Prevention and Response
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – 2018-2019 Permit Issuance Plan
- Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) – Proposed Changes on Bonding in the Regulations of AOGCC
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – Proposed Authorization to Discharge under the APDES for General Permit AKG315200 – Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, and Production in State Waters in Cook Inlet

- National Marine Fisheries Service – Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Oil and Gas Activities in Cook Inlet Alaska (Docket No. 190214112-9112-01)
- Harvest Alaska, Cross-Inlet Pipeline: C-Plan Major Amendment
- Decommissioning of the Unified Plan and Sub-Area Plans, and the transition to a Regional Plan with 4 Area Plans
- Hilcorp Seaview Pad Well Drilling and Testing: Plan Addition
- Legislation introduced by Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) S.865 *The Oil Spill Response and Prevention Surety Act*, legislation to modify and permanently reauthorize the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.
- U.S. Senate Bill 21 *Pay Our Coast Guard Act*
- BlueCrest Alaska Operating: C-Plan Major Amendment
- Regulatory Commission of Alaska: requesting action on Hilcorp/Harvest application to decommission and dismantle Drift River Oil Terminal
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation: proposed authorization to discharge under APDES for Individual Permit AK0053309 – Cook Inlet Energy Osprey Platform

Should you wish to review these documents, they are posted on [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org); hard copies will be made available upon request.

Individual CIRCAC staff members serve in primary and alternate capacities on the Kenai Peninsula Local Area Planning Committee (LEPC), and we have provided comments to Borough staff as it has re-written its Emergency Management Plan. In addition, we have served in the Borough's initial steering group's effort to establish FEMA's "Whole Community" initiative for disaster response and recovery locally.



**6. Funding.** *The Coast Guard will determine whether the advisory group has entered into a contract for funding in accordance with the requirements of 33 U.S.C. 2732(o) and will review the advisory group's expenditure of those funds.*

The companies obligated to fund CIRCAC in 2018/19 are:

- Marathon Petroleum (formerly Andeavor, formerly Tesoro)
- Hilcorp Alaska
- BlueCrest Operating Alaska
- Furie Operating Alaska
- Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy
  
- Buccaneer Alaska – Note: firm filed for bankruptcy; court-dispersed funds were received in May 2018; funding companies have been reimbursed for this receipt)

As of this writing, all companies are current on their funding payments.

Following a 2017 amendment to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), funding for CIRCAC was changed to "... not less than \$1,400,000...". This increase was memorialized in a new five-year funding contract between CIRCAC and the industry companies operating in Cook Inlet (see attached Exhibit). Operators are invoiced in December and again in May of each year. As of this writing, all companies are current in their funding obligations. We are providing our 2018 and 2019 Operating and Program Budgets for your review as well.

CIRCAC undergoes an annual financial audit, which is offered to the funding companies for review. In addition, a provision of the contract allows the funding companies to call for a special financial audit. To date, none has been requested.

**7. Accessibility of Application.** *The Coast Guard's review will include an examination of the extent to which the advisory group provided notification to the public via local press releases that it has applied for certification and, the extent to which the advisory council has ensured that the application is accessible for public review. Describe:*

Website – Application was posted to our website – [www.circac.org](http://www.circac.org) – upon completion.

E-Newsletters – Beginning with our June 2019 edition, our newsletters have notified recipients of the recertification process – in progress – and to contact CIRCAC for a copy or additional information.

CIRCAC Office – A hard copy file is maintained for public review at CIRCAC's corporate office: 8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, Alaska.

Stakeholders – An e-mailed notification was sent upon submittal of this application directly to our individual Interest Group stakeholder organizations.

Paid Print Advertising – Upon submittal of this application to the Coast Guard, CIRCAC advertised the availability of the application for review in newspapers of local circulation within our Geographic Area of Responsibility and Area of Concern (*Anchorage Daily News, Peninsula Clarion, Homer News, Homer Tribune, and Kodiak Daily Mirror*, and to the *What's New* weekly environmental e-newsletter). Readers are directed to our website to view the application, or to our physical office address to review a paper copy.

Media Releases – Press releases and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been submitted at this same time to these same newspapers, as well as local radio and television stations within our areas of concern and responsibility. Readers, listeners and viewers are directed to our website or to our physical office address for a paper copy.

**Miscellaneous.** *In addition to the key activities referenced above, we offer a number of important administrative functions for consideration before concluding this report.*

CIRCAC has remained in full compliance with its By Laws, Council and Personnel Policies. None of these governing documents were amended during this period, though several Personnel Policies are currently under review.

The Council did move to approve minor amendments to its Strategic Plan at its November 2018 Board of Directors meeting – primarily reflecting the completion of objectives and programs. A full Plan review is scheduled to take place in late 2019. These updates are available upon request, and may be viewed on our website.

Auditors found no exceptions to Council finances during the 2017 financial audit, performed in mid-2018. Field work for the 2018 financial audit took place during the first week of May 2019; their report is expected in early August. The Council issued a Request for Proposals for audit and tax preparation services for FYs 2019-2021, and a local firm has been selected. The Council's professional firm filed a federal 990 tax return for 2018 on our behalf. Documents pertaining to these are available upon request.

CIRCAC is current on all state licenses and registrations, and Council insurance policies. Further, all of our grant management and reporting requirements are up-to-date.

The Council agreed to a three year extension of the lease for its headquarters office in Kenai, with no increase in rent.

Finally, following the major 7.1 magnitude November 30, 2018 earthquake centered near Anchorage – the site of our Board of Directors meeting that very morning – staff began to develop a Safety Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan to better prepare for a future natural or man-made disaster affecting CIRCAC's staff, headquarters facility, contractors and vendors, or other aspects of its operations.

Respectfully submitted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019 by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael L. Munger  
Executive Director

Att:   Operating Budgets 2019 and 2019  
      2018 Annual Report  
      Board of Directors Report  
      E-Newsletter  
      Funding Contract



# COOK INLET RCAC 2018-2019 OPERATING BUDGET

	2018 APPROVED
	OPERATING BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>	
Charter Funding Companies	\$1,425,246.22
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,425,246.22</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Personnel and Insurance Costs	\$899,794.50
Facilities Costs	\$53,200.00
Office Supplies/Equipment/Furniture/Computers	\$28,050.00
Advertising/Gifts/Subscriptions	\$9,500.00
Postage/Delivery	\$2,650.00
Miscellaneous	\$7,801.72
<b>TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative Travel, Meals & Lodging	\$45,750.00
Council/Committee Travel, Meals & Lodging	\$38,500.00
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	
Professional Services (Workplan Related)	
Council	\$0.00
EMC	\$130,000.00
PROPS	\$120,000.00
Protocol	\$16,000.00
Public Involvement	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$301,000.00</b>
Legal Expenses	\$11,000.00
Certified Public Accountant	\$13,500.00
Consultation Expense & Travel	\$14,500.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>\$1,425,246.22</b>

## AGREEMENT FOR COOK INLET RCAC FUNDING

The companies listed on Attachment A ("Charter Funding Companies") are required by the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) to provide annual funding to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council ("Cook Inlet RCAC"). The Charter Funding Companies agree to provide such funding subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. This Agreement is signed in counterparts, with each individual Charter Funding Company signing this Agreement separately. Each counterpart shall constitute a duplicate original; all counterparts together shall constitute a single agreement.

2. Each individual Charter Funding Company shall pay its share of Cook Inlet RCAC's funding in the amount described in Attachment A. Cook Inlet RCAC will submit an invoice to each Charter Funding Company for the amount due from that company thirty (30) days prior to the due date; provided, however, that failure to send or receive such invoice does not relieve the company from its obligation to timely pay each payment due. Each Charter Funding Company's share is due and payable in full directly to Cook Inlet RCAC by no later than January 1 of each year during the term of this Agreement. A company's annual share may be paid in two installments: the first installment of fifty percent (50%) of the annual payment shall be paid by no later than January 1 each year, and the second installment of fifty percent (50%) of the annual payment shall be paid by no later than June 30 each year. If an installment is not received by Cook Inlet RCAC on or before the due date, the entire annual share becomes due and payable in full.

3. Cook Inlet RCAC's funding under this Agreement will be adjusted annually, as of January 1 of each year, using the following formula:

2016- 1,422,400.00, plus an increase equal to the 2015 Anchorage CPI;

2017 - Total funding for 2016, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2016 multiplied by the 2016 Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI);

2018 - Total funding for 2017, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2017 multiplied by the 2017 Anchorage CPI;

2019- Total funding for 2018, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2018 multiplied by the 2018 Anchorage CPI;

2020- Total funding for 2019, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2019 multiplied by the 2019 Anchorage CPI.

4. The term of this Agreement is from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020. Funding adjustments in paragraph 3 are effective December 1 for the following year.

5. It is understood that the share of funding provided by individual Charter Funding Companies may vary from year to year, and that companies may be added to or deleted from Attachment A depending upon industry activity in Cook Inlet. Attachment A may be modified by the Charter Funding Companies to reflect such additions, deletions or changes in activities, and such modification shall be forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC by no later than December 1 each year; provided, however, that any such modification is not effective until the next funding year. CISPRI will confirm the accuracy and provide documentation of the annual amounts for the individual companies based on the volumes reported to them by the Charter Funding Companies

before Attachment A is forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC, and such documentation shall accompany the updated Attachment A forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC.

6. It is also understood that if additional production or transportation sources are developed by the Charter Funding Companies or other new companies operating in Cook Inlet that will require additional filing of oil spill contingency plans, monitoring or oversight by Cook Inlet RCAC, funding shall be increased to cover this increased activity and the parties shall in good faith negotiate said increase.

7. Cook Inlet RCAC will provide the Charter Funding Companies with a copy of its annual report and financial statement. The Charter Funding Companies may jointly audit Cook Inlet RCAC accounts once per year, at the companies' expense. Cook Inlet RCAC will also provide the Charter Funding Companies at no charge with copies of the minutes of all Council and Committee meetings, along with any reports, recommendations or position papers which are prepared by the Council or its Committees, if requested by the Charter Funding Companies.

8. Funds provided to Cook Inlet RCAC by the Charter Funding Companies pursuant to this Agreement are to be used for the purpose stated in OPA 90, Alaska State Law, the Bylaws of Cook Inlet RCAC and its Strategic Plan, as applicable.

9. A Charter Funding Company or the Companies shall not be released from the obligation to provide funding as described above as long as: 1) Cook Inlet RCAC retains OPA 90 certification during the term of this Agreement; 2) a Company operates oil facilities in the Cook Inlet area.

10. Each individual Charter Funding Company agrees to provide written notice to Cook Inlet RCAC if such company intends to cease operating in Cook Inlet, at least ninety (90) days in advance of said cessation, and agrees further to cover all of its funding obligations to Cook Inlet RCAC until the end of the calendar year in which such company ceases operating in Cook Inlet.

11. If a Charter Funding Company fails to pay any installment due under Paragraph 2, above, within sixty (60) days of the date it is due, Cook Inlet RCAC may notify all Charter Funding Companies of such default. Within forty-five (45) days of such notice, the remaining Charter Funding Companies will provide to Cook Inlet RCAC payment in full of any installment payment due from the defaulting company.

12. In the event that a Charter Funding Company files for bankruptcy and Cook Inlet RCAC is required to defend against any claim for refund of any payment made by such Company under this Agreement, or is ordered by the bankruptcy court to refund such payment, Cook Inlet RCAC may notify all remaining Charter Funding Companies of such claim or order, and the remaining Charter Funding Companies will cover Cook Inlet RCAC's reasonable defense costs or reasonable costs of compliance with such order.

13. If the Charter Funding Companies fail to make up a funding default as provided in paragraph 11, or fail to cover Cook Inlet RCAC's bankruptcy costs as provided in paragraph 12, Cook Inlet RCAC may terminate this Agreement upon no less than thirty (30) days written notice to all the Charter Funding Companies, and may pursue any legal or political remedies available.

14. This Agreement cannot be amended, modified or supplemented in any respect except by a subsequent written agreement entered into by the affected parties.

END OF AGREEMENT

CHARTER FUNDING COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

DATE: January 7, 2016

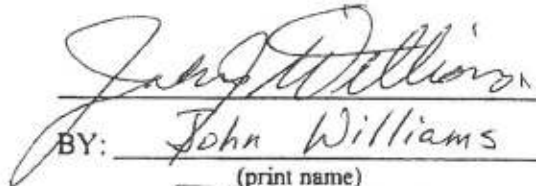
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

(print name)

TITLE: HSE Manager

COOK INLET CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: 1/13/16

  
BY: John Williams  
(print name)  
TITLE: President



# Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Board of Directors Regular & Annual Meeting Friday, April 5, 2019 Kenai, Alaska

## Update from John Williams Representing the City of Kenai



CIRCAC held its Regular and Annual Board of Directors meeting in Kenai on April 5. In attendance were representatives from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Hilcorp Alaska, LLC, Nuka Research, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, CIRCAC's Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC), State Pipeline Coordinator's Ex Officio, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), City of Kenai Mayor's Office, Crowley Alaska Tankers, Peninsula Clarion, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Ex Officio, Cook Inletkeeper and CISPRI. Mayor Brian Gabriel welcomed the Board to Kenai and thanked the organization for its work.



Denise Koch (right) addresses the Board.

DEC SPAR (Spill Prevention and Response) Director, Denise Koch, introduced herself and her experience with the department and background in environmental consulting. She addressed Commissioner Brune's remarks regarding regulation review and efficiencies, in particular a review of C-Plan regulations "with an eye toward maintaining stringent environmental protections." She assured the Council that DEC would be talking with the RCACs during that process, and thanked CIRCAC for its productive partnership. Ms. Koch spoke to the Governor's proposed budget for SPAR. DEC budget reductions include an economist and dairy program in Environmental Health Division and the Ocean Ranger program. On questioning from the Board, she addressed the impetus to remove the Ocean Ranger program, which is supported by passenger fees, saying that the scrutiny of the industry was disproportionate to that applied to other industries. Of concern to CIRCAC is the C-Plan regulation review, whether there are enough DEC staff in house to conduct such a review and what it would entail.

## Public Comments

Mr. Bob Shavelson with Cook Inletkeeper spoke to the Clean Water Act and the increase in effluent discharges in Cook Inlet.

## Special Presentations

The Board of Directors honored Hilcorp Alaska for the construction of the Cross Inlet pipeline and safe operations.

## Service Awards and Special Recognition

Jim McHale, 5 Years on PROPS

John Williams, 10 Years as City of Kenai Representative

Molly McCammon, 15 Years as Municipality of Anchorage Representative

Dr. Richard Prentki, EMC and Ex Officio, 25 years

Robert Peterkin, Volunteer of the Year (for second consecutive year)

The Executive Committee honored Michael Munger with a Special Recognition and Bonus for his tireless work and many contributions on behalf of the Council



John Williams (left) honors Dr. Richard Prentki for 25 years of service to CIRCAC.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment

Tim Robertson with Nuka Research spoke of significant progress being made with the pipeline risk assessment project, including the nearly completed pipeline inventory and selection of the Expert Panel. He also introduced a separate public outreach campaign to engage stakeholders and the general public in developing strategies for pipeline safety.

### Hilcorp/Harvest Projects Update

Rich Novcaski, Harvest Alaska, provided an update on the Cross Inlet Pipeline and Drift River Oil Terminal. Harvest has recently received RCA (Regulatory Commission of Alaska) approval to begin decommissioning Drift River and will work with ADEC to devise a contaminants cleanup plan.



Rich Novcaski (right) accepts commendation award on behalf of Hilcorp

### Environmental Field Research

CIRCAC Director of Science and Research, Susan Saupe, provided an in-depth review of CIRCAC's 2018 field research, including the fourth year of sampling for the Lower Cook Inlet Habitat Assessment and Ecosystem Modeling project funded mainly by BOEM, with contributions by CIRCAC, NPS, UAF, and NOAA. CIRCAC organized the field program for the project which was initiated in 2015 to provide information in areas at risk from future activities associated with BOEM's lease sales in lower Cook Inlet. BOEM is interested in understanding baselines and trends, as well as recommendations for future monitoring in the Inlet.

Ms. Saupe also described CIRCAC's interest in and support of a study of water column particulate organic matter (marine snow) and its potential role in the fate and transport of dispersed oil. Recent research has shown that marine snow can be a mechanism for oil to reach the seafloor. Our role in the research grew out of concerns for shallow shelf areas that overlapped with proposed preauthorization zones for dispersant use in the western Gulf of Alaska. In 2019, CIRCAC will continue to support a graduate student's field work in Kachemak Bay, as well as a small pilot project on the shallow "banks" northeast of Kodiak. For more on the Marine Snow research project, see our [September 2018 e-Newsletter](#) and [2018 Annual Report](#).

### Seismic Surveys

In light of Hilcorp's proposal and subsequent decision to postpone 3-D seismic surveys in Lower Cook Inlet until after fishing season, the board made a motion to add the topic to the agenda to discuss concerns about the potential negative impacts on Cook Inlet marine life.

### Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director is meeting with Alaska's congressional delegation and senior US Coast Guard personnel in Washington to advocate for CIRCAC issues and for passage of Senator Sullivan's Spill Response and Prevention Surety Act.

Mr. Munger announced Maddie Jamora's transition to full-time staff and welcomed the appointment of Denise Koch as SPAR Director, but described Commissioner Brune's plans to revise ADEC's contingency plan regulations because they are "burdensome," as very concerning. C-Plan review and comment is CIRCAC's strongest avenue to influence how industry does their business and conducts their operations. C-Plans have gone through numerous revisions and CIRCAC supports clarification of existing regulations and additional regulations if they result in safer operations and environmental protection; however, CIRCAC will reject efforts to diminish what Mr. Munger considers some of the most robust oil spill contingency plan regulations in the United States.



CIRCAC Executive Director Michael Munger is recognized for his considerable contributions.

Finally, CIRCAC is putting the finishing touches on a scholarship program with Marathon Petroleum and AVTEC to address a shortage of professional licensed mariners.



## The Council announced the following Appointments and Reappointments, election of officers, and seats on committees:

Bob Flint (reelected for 3 years by Recreation Interest groups)

Robert Peterkin, II (reelected for 3 years by Tourism interest groups)

Molly McCammon (reappointed for 3 years by the Municipality of Anchorage)

Walt Sonen (reappointed for 3 years by the City of Seldovia)

### Election of Officers

President: John Williams

V. President: Robert Peterkin, II

Secretary Treasurer: Gary Fandrei

### Executive Committee

John Williams, Robert Peterkin, II, Gary Fandrei, Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint

### Audit Committee

Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Grace Merkes, and Robert Peterkin as alternate

### Credentials Committee

Robert Peterkin, II, Grace Merkes, Gary Fandrei and Michael Opheim as alternate

### Protocol Control Committee

Robert Peterkin, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Paul Shadura,, Rob Lindsey and Gary Fandrei as alternate

### PROPS Committee

Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Bob Flint, Michael Opheim, Carla Stanley and Walt Sonen

Public Members Reappointed for 3 years: Robert Reges, Scott Hamann, and Ted Moore

### Environmental Monitoring Committee

Michael Opheim, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle

Appointed: Kyle Crow

Public Members Reappointed for 3 years: Robert Reges, Rick Frederic and Bruce Magyar

The Council holds its next meeting on September 6, 2019, in Seldovia. To download board packets and presentations from this or any previous board meeting, visit: <https://www.circac.org/who-we-are/council-meetings-minutes/>



8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK 99611

907.283.7222



**COOK INLET**  
REGIONAL CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

8195 Kenai Spur Highway  
Kenai, Alaska 99611  
Phone: 907-283-7222



## APRIL 2019 Cook Inlet Navigator e-News

### Message from the Executive Director

We had a very productive gathering in Kenai on April 5, when the Board of Directors met for our Regular and Annual meetings. In addition to appointments and elections (see next article), we heard from the new Director of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Division of Spill Prevention and Response, Denise Koch (above right). Tim Robertson with Nuka Research provided an update on our pipeline infrastructure risk assessment, which has nearly completed the inventory. Our panel of experts meets in May. CIRCAC's Director of Science and Research, Sue Saupe, provided a detailed overview of our environmental field research. Rich Novcaski with Harvest Alaska reported on progress being made to dismantle Drift River Oil Terminal.



The Board appreciated hearing from Ms. Koch regarding ADEC's priorities; however, Commissioner Brune's plans to significantly revise ADEC's contingency plan regulations are very concerning. C-Plan review and comment is CIRCAC's strongest avenue to influence how industry does their business and conducts their operations. C-Plan regulations have gone through numerous revisions since inception. CIRCAC supports clarification of existing regulations and additional regulations if they result in safer operations and environmental protection. But CIRCAC will oppose efforts to



diminish what we consider some of the most robust oil spill contingency plan regulations in the United States.

I'm also pleased to report that we are putting the finishing touches on a scholarship program with Marathon Petroleum and AVTEC to address a shortage of professional licensed mariners. Finally, I will be meeting with Alaska's congressional delegation and the Governor's Director of State and Federal Relations to advocate for passage of Senator Sullivan's Spill Response and Prevention Surety Act, as well as other priorities.

Board packets and presentations from all our meetings can be found [online](#).

## BOARD ANNOUNCES 2019 APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

**The Council held our regular and annual meeting in Kenai on April 5 and made the following Appointments and Reappointments, election of officers, and seats on committees:**

Bob Flint (reelected for 3 years by Recreation Interest groups)

Robert Peterkin, II (reelected for 3 years by Tourism interest groups)

Molly McCammon (reappointed for 3 years by the Municipality of Anchorage)

Walt Sonen (reappointed for 3 years by the City of Seldovia)

### **Election of Officers**

President: John Williams; V. President: Robert Peterkin, II; Secretary Treasurer: Gary Fandrei

### **Executive Committee**

John Williams, Robert Peterkin, II, Gary Fandrei, Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint

### **Audit Committee**

Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Grace Merkes

### **Credentials Committee**

Robert Peterkin, II, Grace Merkes, Gary Fandrei

### **Protocol Control Committee**

Robert Peterkin, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Paul Shadura, and Rob Lindsey

### **PROPS Committee**

Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Bob Flint, Michael Opheim, Carla Stanley and Walt Sonen

Public Members Reappointed for 3 years: Robert Reges, Scott Hamann, and Ted Moore

### **Environmental Monitoring Committee**

Michael Opheim, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle

Appointed: Kyle Crow

Public Members Reappointed for 3 years: Robert Reges, Rick Frederic and Bruce Magyar

**Staff:** Maddie Jamora has transitioned to full-time.

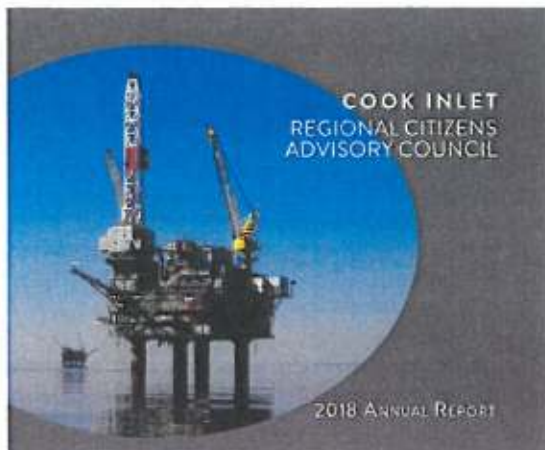
## CIRCAC NAMES 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Two outstanding students were selected to receive our 2019 CIRCAC Scholarships in maritime studies and environmental sciences. Graduating seniors Christopher Knox from Anchorage's King Career Technical School and Alie Minium from Nikiski High School distinguished themselves during their personal interviews to our Scholarship Panel with their accomplishments, ambitious goals and for making a difference in their respective communities. Read [more](#).



#### CIRCAC ANNOUNCES 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



This year's highlights include progress on the Cook Inlet Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment and supporting marine snow research to help predict the potential fate of oil spilled in lower Cook Inlet if transported through physical or chemical dispersion. Click on the photo at left to download the entire report.

#### Calendar of Events

8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, Alaska 99611  
Phone: 907-283-7222 | Email: [giguere@circac.org](mailto:giguere@circac.org)



**Confirm that you like this.**

Click the "Like" button.