



## **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

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**MIKE NAVARRE  
BOROUGH MAYOR**

May 23, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister  
Commander  
United States Coast Guard – District 17  
P.O. Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

Attn: Lt. Jonathan Dale

**RE: Recertification letter of support: Docket #USCG-2017-0289**

Dear Rear Admiral McAllister,

As Director of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Office of Emergency Management, I am pleased to write in support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC).

In addition to strong participation in the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) process, CIRCAC continues to promote a healthy Cook Inlet by effectively promoting programs to prevent spills, enhance marine transportation and petroleum related facilities operations.

CIRCAC is a strong advocate in protecting Cook Inlet's waters, shorelines, cultural, natural and wildlife resources.

Since its inception in 1990, CIRCAC has consistently provided a means of public participation in identifying, assessing and mitigating risks in this region, advocating for better regulatory oversight and safety measures, sharing data through public engagement, planning and prioritization of prevention and safety.

Always proactive in identifying risks and related solutions, CIRCAC remains front and center in monitoring and providing resources when incidents occur, and is an active participant in Unified Command (UC) for any response. Responses under UC have included Kenai Peninsula Borough resources alongside CIRCAC and others.

CIRCAC provided this list of its many accomplishments:

- Spearheaded efforts to fund and complete a comprehensive Navigation Risk Assessment for Cook Inlet.
- Developed Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) project for Cook Inlet, which led to a statewide program of these site-specific oil spill response plans.
- Compiled an extensive body of research on Cook Inlet's biology, chemistry, geomorphology, contaminants, and oceanography.
- Led Alaska portion of National Coastal Assessment in Southcentral Alaska.
- Conducted first Shore Zone coastal habitat mapping project in Alaska and developed online data portal, which has since developed into a statewide, multi-organizational partnership. ([www.shorezone.org](http://www.shorezone.org)).
- Developed Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) as an online data portal at [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org)
- Established an ice camera network that provides real-time, remotely accessed imagery of ice conditions for ice forecasters to increase navigation safety.
- Conducts a robust oil spill Contingency Plan review process and is often the only public voice that weighs in on these complex documents
- Actively participating in Incident Command System during agency and industry oil spill drills and during actual response actions.
- Contributed to development of Cook Inlet's first Harbor Safety Plan.

I strongly urge the U.S. Coast Guard to recertify CIRCAC so that it can continue to build on its work and positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Respectfully,



Scott Walden, Director  
Office of Emergency Management  
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Cc: Mayor Mike Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Borough