



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
ALASKA REGION
222 West 7th Avenue, #23
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7575

July 11, 2014

Lynda Giguere
Director of Public Outreach
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
8195 Kenai Spur Highway
Kenai, AK 99611

Dear Lynda:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the efforts of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) with regard to the installation and data sharing of the Cook Inlet sea ice webcams. Having access to the live data stream is highly valuable to the National Weather Service Sea Ice Program (SIP). This information provides our sea ice forecasters with an increased understanding of real-time sea ice conditions within the inlet, as well as validates the high-resolution satellite imagery used in the forecast process. These webcams allow the SIP to make a more accurate forecast regarding sea ice thickness and sea ice concentration, which is essential for the marine community to operate safely.

In addition, the sea ice webcams are essential for our sea ice analysis when visual satellite imagery of the inlet is unavailable due to cloud cover. The CIRCAC webcams provide details that allow the SIP to produce a much higher quality sea ice analysis of Cook Inlet. Cook Inlet mariners are better able to make informed decisions regarding navigation, safety, and planning because of these enhancements to our services. We truly value our partnership and your efforts toward promoting safe marine transportation and ice risk mitigation.

I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Aimee M. Devaris
Acting Director