



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

June 7, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister
Commander – 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
709 W. 9th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister,

Attention: LT Jonathon Dale

RE: Docket #USCG-2017-0289

As Regional Director of the National Weather Service (NWS) Alaska Region, I am writing this letter in support of recertification of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC).

CIRCAC supports the NWS Weather Forecast Office here in Anchorage as well as our Alaska Sea Ice Program (ASIP) by providing access to a live data stream for eight (8) remote web camera installations throughout Cook Inlet. Live observations of sea ice, sea state, precipitation, and visibility benefit our sea ice and weather forecast teams by enabling them to validate the high-resolution satellite imagery utilized in the forecast process. These webcams also allow ASIP to validate sea-ice thickness and sea-ice concentrations within Cook Inlet, which is essential for the marine community to operate safely.

In addition, CIRCAC has been proactive in identifying risks and concrete recommendations to address them. Before the series of recent leaks in Cook Inlet, CIRCAC was already in the process of updating its 2000 subsea pipeline report and is now actively participating in scoping out a pipeline risk assessment with federal and state agency partners. CIRCAC also prompted the State to review policies and procedures in conducting oil spill response. Throughout all the incidents, CIRCAC was heavily involved in monitoring and providing resources. NWS Alaska Region was an active participant in the Unified Command for the Platform Anna spill providing local knowledge and expertise regarding fully integrated sea ice, marine and aviation weather to support the response. CIRCAC also served as a subject matter expert in the environmental monitoring plan following the Platform A gas line leak and participated in overflights to monitor impacts.

Since its inception, CIRCAC has formed partnerships and encouraged consensus decision-making. Through this process, CIRCAC brings stakeholders together to create environmental monitoring and oil spill prevention programs to promote safe production and transportation of oil in Cook Inlet.

NWS Alaska would strongly support a U.S. Coast Guard decision to recertify CIRCAC, so that they may continue to expand their work to positively impact the future of Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

Carven Scott
Regional Director