



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Rear Admiral Daniel B. Abel  
Commander, 17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
Via electronic submission, <http://www.regulations.gov>

## **RE: USCG-2014-0414; Support for Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification**

Dear Admiral Abel,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore federal waters. Consistent with UFA's past position regarding National Ocean Policy and oil spill response, **we are pleased to support the continuation of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC).**

In a 2011 letter to the National Ocean Council, UFA stated:

*"Regional Citizens Advisory Councils (RCAC), such as those established in Alaska under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, should be established in all areas where production or transportation of potential ocean pollutants occurs. We feel that healthy and successful commercial fleets are the best "tool in the toolbox" for containment and cleanup exercises. Local fleets can provide vessels that are capable in design with operators that are most familiar with the local waters, currents, and conditions. So rather than "fence off" areas for development, we suggest enabling access by local fleets, and providing opportunities for fishing fleets to be developed if not already established in areas such as the Arctic that may see future offshore resource development or new shipping activity.*

*We reiterate the recommendation of the Presidential Panel from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill calling for RCACs as one meaningful act that the National Ocean Policy Council should enact."*

Cook Inlet RCAC has been at the forefront of important initiatives to improve Cook Inlet's navigational safety and oil spill prevention and response capabilities, as well as advance scientific understanding of the region's environment to better enable us to protect its wildlife and natural resources from the harmful effects of spills. Cook Inlet RCAC has achieved significant accomplishments in the areas of environmental monitoring, and oil spill prevention, response and preparedness, a result of a concerted effort to foster and develop a partnership with industry, local, state and federal governments and the citizens of Cook Inlet.

We value the organization's ability to represent and bring together a diverse group of stakeholders with a broad range of interests. As a named reviewer of Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (ODPCP) for crude oil exploration, production, and transportation facilities, Cook Inlet RCAC proves its tremendous value on an ongoing basis. We welcome opportunities to work together with the Board of Directors, Committees and

staff and share information that can make oil facility operations and marine transportation in the Inlet safer.

We look forward to continuing this positive relationship and respectfully request the Coast Guard approve Cook Inlet RCAC's application for recertification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julianne Curry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Julianne Curry  
Executive Director