



“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

30 June 2015

*Alaska State
Chamber of
Commerce*

LT James Nunez
CGD SEVENTEEN (drm)
District Response Advisory Team (DRAT)

*Alaska Native
Groups*

Juneau Federal Bldg. Room 661
709 W. 9th St.
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

*Environmental
Groups*

RE: Comments Regarding the Decommissioning of Oil Spill Response Equipment
Caches Located Throughout Alaska

*Recreational
Groups*

LT Nunez:

*Aquaculture
Associations*

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council respectfully submits the following comments on the proposed decommissioning of U.S. Coast Guard oil spill response equipment caches located throughout the state of Alaska.

*Fishing
Organizations*

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) is a nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for the oversight, monitoring, assessing and evaluation of oil spill prevention, safety and response plans, terminal and oil tanker operations, and environmental impacts of oil tanker and oil terminal operations in Cook Inlet under the provisions of Section 5002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Our mission is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet. CIRCAC consists of 13 members representing boroughs, cities and municipalities in the Cook Inlet region, as well as Alaska Native groups, commercial fishing, and aquaculture, tourism, recreational and environmental interest groups.

City of Kodiak

City of Kenai

City of Seldovia

City of Homer

*Kodiak Island
Borough*

The Cook Inlet region has two large Oil Spill Recovery Organizations (OSRO) based in Nikiski and Anchorage; each has equipment cached throughout the region. Additionally the State of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation has response equipment caches located throughout the State. The Coast Guard equipment caches located in Anchorage, Homer, and Kodiak form the nexus linking the existing compliments of response equipment. These equipment caches are located in the busiest areas of the region. When Coast Guard equipment caches are combined with State and OSRO inventories very meaningful stockpiles are created for deployment to any region wide event requiring immediate response.

*Kenai Peninsula
Borough*

*Municipality of
Anchorage*

Often significant amounts of oil are not recovered because assets cannot be brought to bear quickly enough. The availability and access to response equipment ensures those recoverable amounts of spilled oil can be controlled, contained, and recovered; not left

to dissipate into the environment. Coast Guard response equipment availability fills a specific niche and provides a mechanism to place aid where needed and protection to the environment when needed.

CIRCAC strongly supports retaining Oil Spill Response Equipment Caches throughout the Cook Inlet Region.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Munger
Executive Director