



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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July 28, 2017

Rear Admiral Michael F. McAllister  
Commander, 17th Coast Guard District  
United States Coast Guard  
Via electronic submission, <http://www.regulations.gov>

## **RE: USCG-2017-0289 - Support for Cook Inlet RCAC Recertification**

Dear Rear Admiral McAllister,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 34 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... . 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,



Jerry McCune  
President



Mark Vinsel  
Executive Administrator

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association  
Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association  
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association  
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance  
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association