



"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."

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kenai, Alaska

For more information, 907-283-7222

Cook Inlet RCAC Recertified

Citizens council will continue its work to protect Cook Inlet waters

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (Cook Inlet RCAC) has earned U.S. Coast Guard recertification for another year. Rear Admiral Thomas P. Ostebo, Commander U.S. Coast Guard 17th District, notified the council by letter on Oct. 10, they were recertified as an alternative voluntary advisory group for Cook Inlet. This certification allows Cook Inlet RCAC to continue monitoring oil facility operations and marine transportation in accordance with Subsection 5002(0) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA '90).

"Coast Guard approval reflects continuing support for the work we've been doing -- and the manner in which we've been doing it -- to protect Cook Inlet," said Cook Inlet RCAC Executive Director Mike Munger. "In addition to ongoing oil discharge prevention and contingency plan review, environmental monitoring, and ensuring industry spill preparedness, we have recently worked to strengthen spill prevention measures at the Drift River Oil Terminal, promote our position in support of a subsea pipeline as an alternative to future Drift River terminal and tanker operations, and have made significant progress toward completing a Cook Inlet navigational risk assessment. We look forward to working with the citizens of Cook Inlet to further our goals in these and other initiatives."

The Cook Inlet RCAC 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. The council consists of 13 members representing boroughs, cities and municipalities, as well as Alaska Native, commercial fishing, aquaculture, tourism, recreational and environmental groups in the Cook Inlet region.

By law, Cook Inlet RCAC must recertify every year with the U.S. Coast Guard to insure that it is meeting the mandates spelled out in OPA '90 and representing the interests of the communities within the vicinity of oil terminal operations.

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