



"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

Tourism Group

Alaska Native Group

Environmental Group

Recreational Group

Aquaculture Associations

Commercial Fishing Group

City of Kodiak

City of Kenai

City of Seldovia

City of Homer

Kodiak Island Borough

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Municipality of Anchorage

1 April, 2020

Rear Admiral Matthew Bell
Commander 17th Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802-5517

RE: Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
Triennial Recertification Application for 1 September, 2020 to 31 August, 2021

Admiral Bell:


The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council is pleased to provide you with our Triennial Application for Recertification as the alternative advisory group for Cook Inlet, pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), Section 5002(o). Our recertification request observes the revised U.S. Coast Guard guidelines that require a full application process with a full public comment period for one year out of every three; this is a year for that full process. The guidelines require a description of Council actions, programs and projects undertaken since the last triennial recertification application submitted in 2017.

Admiral Bell, due to caution in response to the global health crisis, we were unable to schedule our customary pre-submittal conference with Coast Guard personnel in advance of the preparation of this application. We have had the good fortune of working with LCDR Jonathon Dale the past three years, and have consulted in December at our regular board meeting, and by telephone as necessary. As always, his guidance through the process this year was extremely beneficial.

We appreciate your thorough review of this recertification request, report and accompanying documents. The passionate commitment and excellent performance of our volunteer leaders and staff are demonstrated on every page of this application, and we believe they will be obvious to you, your staff, and all who review it.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office should you have any questions or require additional materials or supporting information on any of our programs. Thank you for your consideration of our request for recertification.

Sincerely,


Michael Munger
Executive Director

Enclosures

2017/2020 Triennial Recertification Application Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

INTRODUCTION.

We describe in this application specific activities initiated or continued by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, covering the period from the submittal of our last triennial recertification in 2017, and those projected to the end of our current period of recertification, August 31, 2020. We emphasize those undertaken or significantly progressed since our last recertification in August of last year.

The nature of the application format requires that many activities highlighted are duplicated in other sections. We attempt to focus our response on aspects of the undertaking that best address the question; nevertheless there is some redundancy.

While most programs and projects originate and are completed within a standing committee, e.g. – Environmental Monitoring or Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety – it should be noted that some critical projects are coordinated and funded collaboratively. Our board Directors may also be referred to as “council members”. Also, references made below to “staff” will generally refer to the staff Director who serves as liaison to these committees: Sue Saupe is the liaison to the EMC; Steve “Vinnie” Catalano serves in that capacity with PROPS and our Protocol Control Committee. References made to Public Outreach staff refer to Director Lynda Giguere, although now to Mr. Shaylon Cochran who replaces Ms. Giguere in May 2020 upon her retirement. Administrative staff references would typically fall to Executive Director Michael Munger, with support from Vaito’a Heaven, Madeline Jamora, Jerry Rombach and Cindy Sanguinetti. Director and staff profiles appear on our website.

We are following the triennial application format provided, with a Miscellaneous Comments conclusion. Exhibits are also provided, and are referenced throughout the text. The application and most supporting documents are sent via disk; hard copies have been sent via U.S. Postal Service as well. Some documents referenced are available at the Council’s website www.circac.org; these are identified in the narrative below.

Section 1: Membership

SECTION 1. Membership: The Cook Inlet RCAC should be broadly representative of the interests of the communities in the geographical area.

A Board of Directors, whose membership is governed by its Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and policies, manages the affairs of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC, Cook Inlet RCAC, or the Council). Member organizations are communities affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, and stakeholder interest groups in the vicinity of the oil facilities as defined in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). Membership is described in three member classes: Municipal Member, Interest Group, and Agency Member. These organizations appoint or elect – according to their class – individuals to represent them on the CIRCAC Board of Directors.

Current Board of Directors

Director	Home	Organization/Interest Group Represented
John Williams, President	Kenai	City of Kenai (seat exp. 2018, 2021)
Robert Peterkin, II, Vice President	Kenai	Tourism (seat exp. 2019, 2022)
Gary Fandrei, Secretary/Treasurer	Kenai	Aquaculture Associations (seat exp. 2018, 2021)
Deric Marcorelle	Soldotna	Environmental (seat exp. 2020, 2023)
Carla Stanley	Homer	City of Homer (seat exp. 2018, 2021)
Bob Flint	Anchorage	Recreational (seat exp. 2019, 2022)
Paul Shadura	Kenai	Commercial Fishing (seat exp. 2018, 2021)
Rob Lindsey	Kodiak	City of Kodiak (seat exp. 2018, 2021)
Kyle Crow/Scott Arndt	Kodiak	Kodiak Island Borough (seat exp. 2020, 2023)
Walt Sonen	Seldovia	City of Seldovia (seat exp. 2019, 2022)
Michael Opheim	Seldovia	Alaska Natives (seat exp. 2020, 2023)
Molly McCammon	Anchorage	Municipality of Anchorage (seat exp. 2019, 2022)
Grace Merkes	Sterling	Kenai Peninsula Borough (seat exp. 2020, 2023)

CIRCAC's mission is a complex one, and an informed and engaged Board is invaluable to our success. The Council has been fortunate to have directors who are passionate about the organization and committed to seeing it succeed. This current Board has accumulated a combined 170 years of volunteer board service to this organization.

While continuity is essential, there is always a need for new ideas and experiences to help shape our planning and outcomes. In 2020, the Kodiak Island Borough appointed Mr.

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Scott Arndt to replace Kyle Crow, who served for 4 years until April 2020. Concurrently, Grace Merkes was reappointed to the Board by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. These directors will both be seated at the Annual Meeting on April 3, 2020 in Kenai, Alaska (now teleconference only).

OPA 90 identifies and requires the participation of non-voting, agency directors. The following organizations hold Ex Officio seats on the Board of Directors:

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources – Division of Oil & Gas
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources – State Pipeline Monitoring Office
- Alaska Department of Veterans and Military Affairs – Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- U.S. Forest Service

Efforts are made to seek appointments to fill vacancies as they occur.

No changes were made to the Council's governing documents – By Laws, Articles of Incorporation or Council Policies – during this recertification period. Changes were made to specific personnel policies covering employee benefits to ensure compliance with federal law and provisions of specific policies and accounts in place. CIRCAC reviews its governing documents on an annual basis and recommends proposed changes to the appropriate committee.

(1a) Membership policies, including the selection and appointment process for CIRCAC and any of its Committees, to ensure full public participation.

CIRCAC By Laws require each director be a resident of the State of Alaska, qualified to receive an Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. Only those directors representing Interest Groups and Municipal Members have the right to vote on any matter affecting the Council. Directors serve staggered, 3-year terms. Council Policies #3 and #4 address the eligibility of organizations in Interest Groups to become members and participate in elections for representative seats.

Just before a Director's term expires, or the Director resigns or is removed, a detailed process – contained in Council Policy – is initiated. We repeat this process annually; the dates of each Group's elections/appointment are shown in the table on p. 2 of this application. A Municipal Member organization submits in writing the name of the person it wishes to appoint to the Board. In contrast, Certified Interest Group members nominate

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and then elect their representative. Directors are formally seated by a vote of the Directors at the Council's Annual Meeting.

Should a Director leave in mid-term, the member organization may appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term (if a Municipal Member), or may elect a replacement (if an Interest Group), subject to formal seating by the Board of Directors. A Director who fills a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office. In no case may a vacancy continue for longer than six months or until the next annual meeting of the Council, whichever occurs first.

In April 2020, the terms of four seats on the Board of Directors are set to expire – Alaska Native, Environmental, Kodiak Island Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough. In keeping with Council Policies, the procedure for nomination and election of representatives was initiated with the affected Interest Groups in late 2019. In addition, we reach out directly to numerous non-member organizations in not only the specific stakeholder groups, but in all special interest groups. Over this recertification period, several Tourism organizations applied for and were approved for membership, bringing the current total number of members in that Group to six.

Simultaneously, the Executive Director formally initiated the appointment process with the Borough Mayors – Charlie Pierce (Kenai Peninsula) and Bill Roberts (Kodiak Island). As stated above, Grace Merkes was reappointed to represent the Kenai Peninsula Borough, while Scott Arndt was appointed to represent the Kodiak Island Borough.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Credentials Committee reviews the entire election and appointment process for Directors and public committee members, and certifies that it complies with the Council's requirements under its Bylaws and Policies. For this current election cycle, that meeting took place on March 11.

Six standing committees – consisting of volunteers (Directors and Public Members) and operating with financial and staff support from CIRCAC – assist the Council with its work. Four of these committees are executive, advisory or administrative in nature, and consist entirely of Directors. These are the Executive Committee, Audit Committee, Credentials Committee and Protocol Control Committee. Two others are comprised of Directors as well as members of the broader public. CIRCAC recruits these Public Member participants annually or as needed, using direct community outreach, newspaper advertisements and press releases in the Cook Inlet and Kodiak regions, and notifications on our website and via e-newsletters. These committees and its members are presented below.

The **Executive Committee** is comprised of five Directors selected each year at the Annual Meeting. Membership is established in the Bylaws and consists of the three Council officers (President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer), and two at-large Council members. Officers are selected each year at the Annual Meeting by a majority vote. This committee meets on a monthly basis to transact Council business between

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Council meetings. Current members of the Executive Committee have served throughout this current application period.

Executive Committee	
Committee Member	Affiliate
John Williams – Chair	City of Kenai
Deric Marcorelle	Environmental Group
Gary Fandrei – Secretary/Treasurer	Aquaculture Associations
Bob Flint	Recreation Group
Robert Peterkin, II – Vice Chair	Tourism Group

At the April 3, 2020 Annual Meeting, new Executive Committee assignments will be made.

The **Audit Committee** consists entirely of Directors and is charged with assisting the Board of Directors and Executive Director in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing and monitoring:

- financial reports and other financial information provided by CIRCAC staff and the accountant(s);
- systems of internal controls regarding finance, accounting, legal compliance and business conduct that have been established;
- administration of Council and Personnel Policies pertaining to financial matters;
- audit, accounting and financial reporting processes; and
- compliance with IRS requirements

During this certification period, the Council has complied with all reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Treasury - Internal Revenue Service, and the State of Alaska's non-profit and business licensing and certification requirements established by the Department of Law; Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development.

Council Bylaws require an annual financial audit be conducted. The most recent audit for fiscal year 2018 was conducted in May of 2019. For each year of this current application period, the auditors raised no significant concerns during the exit interview. Their final reports and letters of findings to the Board of Directors were presented each year to the Audit Committee and Executive Committee. Our most recent Letter of Findings from the 2018 audit is included in this submittal for your information and consideration (**Exhibit 1**). Lambe, Tuter & Associates has scheduled our 2019 financial audit for the week of May 11, 2020.

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Audit Committee	
Committee Member	Affiliation
Gary Fandrei – Chair	Aquaculture Associations
Molly McCammon	Municipality of Anchorage
Grace Merkes	Kenai Peninsula Borough
Robert Peterkin, II	Tourism Group

These directors have been part of this committee throughout the application period. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, new Audit Committee assignments will be made.

The **Credentials Committee** is charged with ensuring that the Council has balanced geographic and interest groups' representation pursuant to Section 5002 (d)(2)(A) of OPA 90. The Committee certifies special interest group organizations for eligibility for membership and to vote in the elections of special interest group Council members (Alaska Native, Recreation, Commercial Fishing, Environmental, Tourism and Aquaculture). This committee also oversees and certifies that the annual election process for those interest group representatives is in compliance with Council Bylaws and Policies. The Credentials Committee consists entirely of Directors.

Credentials Committee	
Committee Member	Affiliation
Gary Fandrei	Aquaculture Associations
Grace Merkes	Kenai Peninsula Borough
Robert Peterkin, II – Chair	Tourism Group
Michael Opheim	Alaska Native Group

These directors have been part of this committee throughout the application period. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, new Credentials Committee assignments will be made.

The **Protocol Control Committee** reviews, evaluates, and provides comments on industry contingency plans and on legislative and regulatory developments. The committee routinely addresses issues that require a timely response due to time-sensitive deadlines, and speaks for the Board on such matters. This committee meets on an “as needed” basis. The Protocol Control Committee consists entirely of Directors.

Protocol Control Committee	
Committee Member	Affiliation
Robert Peterkin, II - Chair	Tourism Group
Bob Flint	Recreational Group
Gary Fandrei	Aquaculture Associations

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Rob Lindsey	City of Kodiak
Deric Marcorelle	Environmental Group
Paul Shadura	Commercial Fishing Group

There has been little turnover on this important committee. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, new Protocol Control Committee assignments will be made.

The **Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee and the Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC)** are structured to address specific requirements outlined in sections 5002(e) and (f) of OPA 90. Committee meetings are advertised and are open to the public. Membership on each committee consists of at least three voting representatives from the Board of Directors (as opposed to non-voting Agency Directors), and 6 to 8 public members.

Public members serve staggered 3-year terms and are seated by the Council at its Annual Meeting (upcoming - April 3, 2020 in Kenai). Vacancies are promoted in local newspapers of wide distribution, via social media, our website and monthly electronic newsletter, in public meetings (e.g. - Chambers of Commerce) and in local community calendars. These positions are all served on a volunteer basis; out-of-pocket meeting expenses, within guidelines set by policy, are reimbursed. To be considered for appointment, members of the public must submit a letter of interest and resume.

Notifications are sent to current Committee members whose terms are expiring several months in advance. Committee members wishing to be reappointed must submit a letter of intent and an updated resume. All applicants are reviewed first at the committee level; individual(s) are selected from the candidates, and the recommendations are forwarded to the Board for final action at the Council’s Annual Meeting. Interim appointments to fill vacated seats are made on an “as needed” basis by the Council, at regularly scheduled meetings. Director appointments to committees and public member committee selections are made each year at the Council’s Annual Meeting.

During this period, the Council has been fortunate to have recruited and seated two new public members to EMC; incumbent public members on PROPS and EMC were retained:

PROPS: Prevention, Response, Operations & Safety Committee	
Committee Member	Affiliation
Deric Marcorelle	Council – Environmental Group
Walt Sonen	Council – City of Seldovia
Bob Flint – Chair	Council – Recreational Group
Carla Stanley (alternate)	Council – City of Homer
Michael Opheim (alternate)	Council – Alaska Natives Group
Rob Lindsey (alternate)	Council – City of Kodiak
Jan Hansen	Public
Scott Hamann	Public

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Capt. Bob Pawlowski	Public
Ted Moore	Public
John Bauer	Public
Steve Lufkin	Public
Robert Reges	Public
Jim McHale – Vice Chair	Public

These members have been part of this committee throughout the application period. The incumbents for seats expiring in 2020 have indicated their interest in continuing to serve; no new nominations were received. Members of the PROPS committee re-elected Jim McHale and John Bauer to full 3-year terms. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, new PROPS Committee assignments for director seats will be made.

EMC: Environmental Monitoring Committee <i>(new member in italics)</i>	
Committee Member	Affiliation
Kyle Crow	Council – Kodiak Island Borough
Carla Stanley	Council – City of Homer
Bob Flint	Council – Recreational Group
Michael Opheim	Council – Alaska Natives
Molly McCammon – Chair	Council – Municipality of Anchorage
Deric Marcorelle	Council – Environmental Group
<i>Arpad Bruce Magyar</i>	<i>Public</i>
Dan Urban	Public
Rick Frederic	Public
Richard Prentki, PhD – Vice Chair	Public
Ginny Litchfield	Public
Eric Klein – Vice Chair (2017, 2018)	Public
Robert Reges	Public
<i>John Morton, PhD</i>	<i>Public</i>

Most of these committee members have been part of this committee throughout the application period. There is one seat expiring in 2020, and the incumbent has indicated his desire to be considered for a new term. In addition, we recruited a candidate for the vacant seat via newspaper advertising. The committee voted on each nominee during its March meeting, re-electing Dan Urban and electing Dr. John Morton to full 3-year terms. At the 2020 Annual Meeting, new EMC Committee assignments will be made.

(1b) Opportunities provided for interest groups to participate.

Council staff and Directors regularly engage with organized stakeholder interest groups, community organizations and the general public to engage, inform and seek active participation. Stakeholder representatives to CIRCAC routinely attend these events as well. The Council continually provides information and updates on all of our activities. Below are some examples of outreach activities conducted or planned by the Director of

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Public Outreach, board and committee members, and staff during this current recertification period; note – detailed specifics are provided here for those activities which have taken place since the previous application was submitted:

- Alaska Marine Science Symposium – January 2018, '19 and '20, Anchorage: CIRCAC co-sponsored and exhibited. Jesse Ross presented his research on marine snow (see details below). Staff was co-author on several posters. Staff and EMC public members attended.
- Alaska Forum on the Environment – February 2019, Anchorage: staff attended, presented, and participated in panel discussions.
- Kachemak Bay Science Conference – March 2019, Homer: Science Director attended and presented.
- International Oil Spill Conference – May 2020, New Orleans: CIRCAC was registered to exhibit and send multiple staff and volunteers to attend. Out of an abundance of caution, the global coronavirus outbreak had led CIRCAC to cancel our participation. Event organizers have now cancelled the event.
- Clean Gulf Conference – November 2018 and 2019, New Orleans: Directors, public members and staff have attended the conference in recent years. Reports have been shared with the Board and committees.
- Kodiak ComFish – March, Kodiak: CIRCAC has supported this regional event as an exhibitor for many years, and was registered to exhibit and send multiple staff and volunteers to attend in 2020. Out of an abundance of caution, the global coronavirus outbreak has led CIRCAC to restrict staff travel to this event, and indeed the event has now been rescheduled for September 2020.
- Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference – May, Anchorage: staff regularly attends this annual meeting which brings together industry, regulators, stakeholder organizations and elected officials.
- Clean Pacific Conference – June 2019, Vancouver: Executive Director and staff, directors and public members attended this conference and expo. A similar contingent of volunteers attended in 2018 in Portland. Subject to the virus status, plans to attend the 2020 conference in Seattle in June are underway.
- Kenai Peninsula Fair – August, Ninilchik: we have been an exhibitor at this regional event throughout this period. A unique coastal community, Ninilchik in particular has a rich Native heritage, deep roots in subsistence and charter fishing and recreation. The event attracts thousands of residents over three days.
- Kenai Industry Appreciation Day – August, Kenai: we never fail to participate in this annual event which shines a spotlight on the three key industries on the Peninsula – oil and gas, commercial fishing and tourism.
- Pacific Marine Expo – November, Seattle: we continue to support this important annual event. We exhibit in the highly visible, special Alaska section of the exhibit hall, partnering the last several years with the Prince William Sound RCAC. Members of our board and committees regularly attend with staff. CIRCAC staff frequently presents, for example recently regarding our Pipeline Risk Assessment project.

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- Kenai Peninsula Economic Forecast Conference – CIRCAC frequently attends, has occasionally exhibited and once addressed the crowd at this annual event that rotates Kenai, Homer and Seward.
- *Coastal Impressions* - Our popular gallery exhibit of stunning ShoreZone photos has been placed on hiatus after highly acclaimed and well-attended public showings in Anchorage, Juneau, Homer, Seward and Kenai. PROPS, EMC and Public Outreach have been collaborating to publish a hard cover book of *Coastal Impressions* images to be provided to government, schools, libraries and others.
- Annual Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner in Kodiak – provide a gift item awarded to a Guard member at the Coast Guard Foundation/Kodiak Chamber function
- Scholarship Fairs/Job Fairs – staff has attended occasionally in Kenai, Soldotna, Anchorage and Kodiak to support our scholarship offerings.
 - Memberships – CIRCAC supports the Chambers of Commerce in Kodiak, Kenai, Homer and Soldotna through membership.
- Miscellaneous
 - During the period covered by this application CIRCAC staff and Directors regularly attended meetings of local organizations, including Borough Assemblies and Municipal Councils, chambers of commerce, the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, Kenai Peninsula Local Emergency Planning Committee, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, and others.

As part of our public outreach, at many of these events, we routinely provide items we believe will either inform or engage our audiences. Our most versatile, if not important tool, could be our “ship stick”, a flash drive in the shape of an oil tanker which contains two separate drives: one provides a 10 minute narrated slide show presenting an overview of CIRCAC, while the second contains some 270 images, most taken from the Cook Inlet and Kodiak Island ShoreZone photos. There is also 7GB of storage capacity on this drive. We are in our 3rd ‘printing’ of this popular item. We also distribute our Annual Report and *Coastal Impressions* catalog, as well as a variety of give-away items – caps, tote bags, buckets, pens, calendars and more just to enhance our brand and put our name, logo and website in front of the public.

Community Visits & Presentations

CIRCAC staff provides formal and informal presentations to numerous local governments and stakeholder organizations every year to support our outreach, encourage participation, and share perspectives on key matters pertaining to regulatory matters or incidents. During this period, staff met with:

- Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
- Kenai Chamber of Commerce
- Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
- Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau (now Visit Anchorage)
- Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council
- Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
- The Alaska Center
- Cook Inletkeeper

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- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Kenai Watershed Forum
- Kenai Rotary
- Soldotna Rotary

In addition, CIRCAC actively recruits non-member organizations for the Board of Director’s interest group seats on an annual basis – to generally coincide with the expiration of each seat’s three-year term – with certification at that time being a condition of voting eligibility. However, applications may be accepted, reviewed and acted upon by the Credentials Committee at any time.

Each year we send a letter to organizations from an extensive list of non-member interest groups, introducing CIRCAC and requesting they consider becoming, and actively participating as a Certified member. Responding organizations are then authenticated as to meeting the criteria outlined in Council Policy #3, and if approved by the Credentials Committee are added as a Certified member organization. They are then allowed to participate in our election process by nominating and voting for their respective Interest Group representative.

(i) Local commercial fishing industry organizations whose members depend on the fisheries resource of the waters in the vicinity of the terminal facilities:

Certified Commercial Fishing Organizations (7)	
Name	Office Location
Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association	Kodiak
Alaska Groundfish Data Bank	Kodiak
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen’s Association	Soldotna
North Pacific Fisheries Association	Homer
Northern District Setnetters Association	Anchorage
United Cook Inlet Drift Association	Soldotna
Alaska Salmon Alliance	Kenai

Non-Member Commercial Fishing Organizations Contacted (10)	
Name	Office Location
Cook Inlet Seiners Association	Homer
United Salmon Association – Kodiak	Kodiak
Alaska Draggers Association	Kodiak
Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation	Wrangell
North Pacific Marine Fishery Mgt. Council	Anchorage
Golden King Crab Coalition	Kodiak
Alaska Scallop Association	Lakewood, WA
Halibut Association of North America	Deming, WA

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Halibut Coalition	Juneau
South K-Beach Independent Fishermen's Assn.	Kenai

(ii) Aquaculture Associations in the vicinity of the terminal facilities:

Certified Aquaculture Associations (2)	
Name	Office Location
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association	Kenai
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association	Kodiak

(iii) Alaska Native Corporations and other Alaska Native organizations whose members reside in the vicinity of the terminal facilities:

Certified Alaska Native Organizations (12)	
Name	Office Location
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.	Anchorage
Kenai Natives Association, Inc.	Kenai
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	Kenai
Nanwalek IRA Council	Nanwalek
Natives of Kodiak, Inc.	Kodiak
Ninilchik Natives Association	Ninilchik
Port Graham Village Council	Port Graham
Port Graham Corporation	Port Graham
Seldovia Native Association	Seldovia
Seldovia Village Tribe	Seldovia
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak	Kodiak
Native Village of Eklutna	Chugiak

Non-Member Alaska Native Organizations Contacted (17)	
Name	Office Location
Afognak Native Corporation	Kodiak
Chugach Alaska Regional Corporation	Anchorage
Cook Inlet Tribal Council	Anchorage
Knik Tribal Council	Palmer
Koniag, Inc.	Kodiak
Native Village of Karluk	Karluk
Native Village of Larsen Bay	Larsen Bay
Ninilchik Traditional Council	Ninilchik
Old Harbor Native Corporation	Old Harbor
Old Harbor Tribal Council	Old Harbor

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Ouzinkie Tribal Council	Ouzinkie
Ouzinkie Native Corporation	Ouzinkie
Native Village of Port Lions	Port Lions
Salamatof Native Association	Kenai
Native Village of Tyonek	Tyonek
Tyonek Native Corporation	Tyonek
Native Village of Afognak	Kodiak

(iv) Environmental organizations whose members reside in the vicinity of Cook Inlet, Kodiak or the terminal facilities:

Certified Environmental Organizations (11)	
Name	Office Location
Kenai Watershed Forum	Soldotna
Kodiak Audubon Society	Kodiak
National Parks Conservation Association	Anchorage
ReGroup	Soldotna
The Alaska Center	Anchorage
Alaska Marine Conservation Council	Anchorage
Cook Inletkeeper	Homer
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies	Homer
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society	Homer
Great Land Trust	Anchorage
Anchorage Waterways Council	Anchorage

Non-Member Environmental Organizations Contacted (8)	
Name	Office Location
Alaska Community Action on Toxics	Anchorage
Anchorage Audubon Society	Anchorage
Audubon Alaska	Anchorage
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust	Homer
Sierra Club Alaska	Anchorage
The Wilderness Society	Anchorage
Nature Conservancy of Alaska	Anchorage
Trout Unlimited – Kenai Peninsula Chapter	Kenai

(v) Recreational organizations whose members reside in or use the vicinity of the terminal facilities:

Certified Recreational Organizations (4)	
Name	Office Location

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Alaska Charter Association	Homer
Alaska Sportfishing Association	Anchorage
Kenai River Sportfishing Association	Soldotna
Kenai River Professional Guide Association	Soldotna

Non-Member Recreational Organizations Contacted (3)	
Name	Office Location
Southcentral Alaska Dipnetters Association	Wasilla
Alaska Fly Fishers	Anchorage
Kenai Area Fishermen's Coalition	Kenai

(vi) **Tourism Organizations whose members reside in or use the vicinity of the terminal facilities:**

Certified Tourism Organizations (6) <i>(New members in italics)</i>	
Name	Office Location
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce	Anchorage/Juneau
<i>Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council</i>	<i>Soldotna</i>
<i>Kenai Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Kenai</i>
<i>Soldotna Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Soldotna</i>
<i>Homer Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Homer</i>
<i>Kodiak Area Chamber of Commerce</i>	<i>Kodiak</i>

Note: Visit Anchorage has submitted an application; it is pending at this writing.

Non-Member Tourism Organizations Contacted (16)	
Name	Office Location
Alaska Campground Owners Association	Anchorage
Alaska Cruise Lines Industry Association	Anchorage
Alaska Recreation & Parks Association	Anchorage
Alaska Travel Industry Association	Anchorage
Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association	Anchorage
Anchorage Bed & Breakfast Association	Anchorage
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce	Anchorage
Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce	Anchor Point
Bed & Breakfast Association of Alaska	c/o Homer
Girdwood Bed & Breakfast Association	Girdwood
Girdwood Chamber of Commerce	Girdwood
Homer Bed & Breakfast Association	Homer

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Kenai Peninsula Bed & Breakfast Assn.	Kenai
Kodiak Island Convention & Tourism Bureau	Kodiak
Ninilchik Chamber of Commerce	Ninilchik
Seldovia Chamber of Commerce	Seldovia

(1c) The extent to which meetings are publicized in the media and are accessible to members of the general public.

CIRCAC publicizes board and program committee (PROPS and EMC) meetings through press releases, public service announcements submitted to local newspapers in the region, and via direct e-mail notifications to encourage attendance from all regional citizens and the media. In addition, we utilize our monthly e-newsletter the *Cook Inlet Navigator*, our website www.circac.org, and social media outlets to not only promote our meetings but to also provide links to meeting documents and presentations received. All meetings are open to the public. All visitors – including industry, government, designated stakeholder groups, the media or the general public – are welcome to attend, and are provided an opportunity to comment at these meetings.

Typically, three meetings of the Board of Directors are held each year – one in Kenai, one in Anchorage, and the third rotated among the more outlying communities in CIRCAC’s Area of Concern. We feel this enhances participation from all stakeholders and board members and heightens the Council’s visibility. By way of illustration, below are our actual and planned Board meeting schedules for this application period:

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule	
Year	Locations
2017	Kenai, Homer, Anchorage
2018	Kenai, Kodiak, Anchorage
2019	Kenai, Homer*, Anchorage
2020 (Projected)	Kenai**, Seldovia*, Anchorage

*Note that we flipped the Homer/Seldovia meetings due to a severe water shortage in the small community of Seldovia in 2019. We will return there in 2020, and resume the rotating schedule.

**Note 2 – this meeting, like so many others, has been planned as a teleconference meeting. We have maintained avenues for public participation.

As we start 2020, the world is in the midst of a global virus pandemic. For this reason, council travel has been restricted and all meetings as of this writing – and for the foreseeable future – are scheduled to be teleconference and web-conference based.

SECTION 2. Communication: Establishing communications with industry and government.

We place a high value on our relationships with industry, regulatory agencies and elected officials, based on honesty, integrity, and consistency. The outreach tools created and presented to interest groups and the general public are essential to our communications to those with whom we partner. These are previously discussed in Section 1, but are touched on again in this section.

CIRCAC maintains open, cooperative communications with government and industry to promote safer oil transportation and facility operations in our area. The Council has been very successful using a workgroup approach, whereby all interested parties come to the table to address issues and determine a cooperative plan for attaining goals.

In an effort to both set our course and better communicate our programs to funding sources, research partners, industry and government, the Council developed a Strategic Plan, adopted in 2009 and updated in 2012, 2014, 2018 and 2019 (**Exhibit 2** <https://www.circac.org/?s=strategic+plan>). By Council directive at its December 2020 board meeting, the Strategic Plan will be fully reviewed again in 2020; the version provided here will be substantially updated, with new formatting and graphic revisions likely. The Plan allows CIRCAC to better coordinate its OPA 90 mandates, research efforts, and partnerships, as the document lays out specific program purposes, goals, strategies, and outcomes for all to study.

(2a) How CIRCAC works with industry and government to establish and employ communications protocols for reviewing policies, projects and release of information relating to the operation and maintenance of the oil terminal facilities and crude oil tankers which affect or may affect the environment in the vicinity of the respective terminals.

The Council regularly provides industry, government agencies and elected officials with new information and updates on all Council activities, programs and projects in a variety of ways. In this way we share available data, gain valuable insight and avoid redundancy. Below are some examples of outreach, conferences, media and activities conducted or planned by the Council staff and volunteers during the period of this triennial recertification:

- Personal Visits – The Council’s President and Executive Director frequently visit our Congressional delegation in Washington, DC, and during their visits home. Similarly, staff and Directors meet with state legislators, aides, and agency staff on a wide array of topics both formally and informally.
- Ex Officio Directors – As previously mentioned, ten agencies – state and federal – are represented on our Council’s Board as non-voting Directors.
- Protocol Control Committee – CIRCAC’s standing committee reviews staff-developed comments on proposed regulatory changes, C-Plan reviews, industry

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- planned ‘incidental takings’ activities, and more. See Sec. 5 for details of comments delivered during this period.
- Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) – CIRCAC’s Executive Director serves on the management board, and we hold primary and alternate positions on the committee. Among other initiatives, the HSC has developed and updated a Harbor Safety Plan; released a study and plan for handling derelict vessels; and has assumed development and management of the annual winter ice guidelines.
 - Meetings, Work Groups and Conferences – Staff and volunteers regularly attend and participate actively in multi-agency, scientific and industry meetings, work groups, conferences and expos to learn, share and promote. We encourage volunteers serving on our Board or committees to consider attending such conferences, and they have increasingly done so. We are frequently invited to present the findings of our research activities or innovative projects, and participate as a vendor in many of the associated expos. For example, during this application period, among such key events we attended are (some duplications from pp. 8 and 9 above):
 - ARRT and Subarea Planning Meetings
 - Drill Planning – Staff is frequently invited to participate and contribute in individual firms’ drill planning meetings.
 - Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) Business Meeting – May 2020 Oklahoma City; Sept. 2018 Coeur d’Alene
 - Interagency Working Group – Ocean and Coastal Mapping –Alaska Coastal Mapping Summit
 - Arctic and Western Alaska GRS Subcommittee, Administration Subcommittee and Communications Subcommittee – Jan. 2019, Anchorage
 - Marine Oil Snow Sedimentation and Flocculent Accumulation (MOSSFA) Planning Work Group Meeting
 - Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill Ecosystem Science (GOMOSES) – Feb. 2019, New Orleans; poster presented on marine oil snow at Feb. 2020 conference in Tampa
 - American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) Skimmer Test – Anchorage
 - Lower Cook Inlet Data Meeting; Team Meeting; NPS Retreat – Juneau, Anchorage, Homer respectively
 - Pacific Fisheries Technology Symposium – February 2018, Girdwood: Council Director attended this regionally rotating science conference.
 - ShoreZone Annual Meeting – July 2019, Portland: Staff attended and presented at the annual meeting of federal, state, and non-profit partners. Shore/Zone Partners Meeting –presented “*Introduction to ShoreZone Imaging, Mapping and Shore Stations*”, and led several work sessions. We continue to provide ShoreZone training to targeted interested parties. During this period, we conducted training to Alaska DEC staff; a presentation to Chugach K-12 educators at Kasitsna Bay Lab retreat

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tailored to lessons in art, history, science, natural history, anthropology and current events; and to industry representatives.

- Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium – April 2020, Fairbanks: CIRCAC's EMC and PROPS again co-sponsors this event, produced by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. CIRCAC has attended past conferences, and our Operations Director serves on the Planning Committee. At the time of this writing, it appears event producers will cancel or modify this event to a webinar due to ongoing global health concerns.
- Pacific States/BC Oil Spill – Nov. 2019, Bellingham
- Arctic and Marine Oil Spill Program – June 2019, Halifax NS, CA, and Sept. 2018, Vancouver, BC, CA
- Alaska Process Industry Careers Consortium – Nov., Anchorage: APICC (now Alaska Safety Alliance) allows CIRCAC to promote our scholarship offerings at the organization's Annual Meeting. Staff participated in the career expo in person in 2017.
- Alaska Support Industry Alliance monthly regional meetings
- West Coast Harbor Safety Committee – Sept. 2019 and 2020, Long Beach – staff now regularly attends this annual meeting of industry, and local, state and federal agencies.
- National Harbor Safety Committee – staff attended this bi-annual conference in Portland in 2016, but failed to make the follow-up Houston meeting. Plans are to likely attend the next in the series.
- Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS), January, Anchorage – CIRCAC co-sponsors and exhibits; staff and volunteers attend; Science Director presented EMC work session on Lower Cook Inlet habitat study and a poster on the project.
- Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE), January, Anchorage – staff participated on panel on *ExxonValdez* Oil Spill lessons learned in 2019, and attended in 2020
- International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) - Note that at this writing, the Council has elected to refrain from sending staff and operating an exhibit space, and has cautioned volunteers hoping to attend regarding the dangers during this global virus crisis. It is not clear at this time if any will attend the conference.
- Oil Spill Recovery Institute – staff attended winter meeting and the work plan meeting, as well as the Advisory Board meetings. At the Feb. 2020 teleconferenced meeting, Ms. Saupe was re-seated for two years and elected Secretary.
- Alaska Research Consortium – our science director was seated as a new board member in 2018 and has attended several meetings of this organization.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s open house at Kasitsna Bay research facility; a research update was provided for EMC members by a variety of facility scientists/project leaders.

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- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) National Academies Work Session – At a February 13, 2020 meeting in Anchorage, the Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment (COSA) – a standing committee overseen by the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies – invited CIRCAC to provide perspective on the role of the science conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and others in the Cook Inlet region. Specifically, we were asked to share information about the Council and our relevant scientific work; how CIRCAC engages with BOEM, including in the production or use of science; and other topics related to BOEM's work in the region. Our presentation highlighted several CIRCAC projects that aid in the preparation of BOEM's Environmental Impact Statements and Oil Spill Risk Assessments in our areas of concern – including our coastal habitat mapping, physical oceanography, and contaminant monitoring and assessment projects. The overall goal of COSA is to provide guidance to BOEM on matters related to the science they conduct or rely on to manage the nation's offshore resources. The Anchorage meeting was for the committee to meet with staff from their Alaska Region Office and learn about the production and use of science by their environmental studies program.
- Kachemak Bay Science Conference – March 2019, Homer: staff presented data and conducted a workshop on data portals with research partners at AOOS.
- International Oil Spill Conference – May 2020, New Orleans: CIRCAC was registered to exhibit and send multiple staff and volunteers to attend. Out of an abundance of caution, the global coronavirus outbreak has led CIRCAC to restrict staff travel to this event. Volunteers may still attend. We will review feedback from attendees, and monitor the presentations and exhibitors for valuable information.
- Clean Gulf Conference – November 2018 and 2019, New Orleans: Directors, public members and staff have attended this conference in recent years. Reports have been shared with the Board and committees.
- Alaska Oil and Gas Association Conference – May, Anchorage: staff regularly attends this annual meeting which brings together industry, regulators, stakeholder organizations and elected officials.
- Clean Pacific Conference – June 2019, Vancouver: Executive Director and staff, directors and public members attended this conference and expo. Mr. Catalano delivered a presentation and paper on the Cook Inlet Pipeline Risk Assessment. A similar contingent of volunteers attended in 2018 in Portland. Subject to the virus status, plans to attend the 2020 conference in Seattle in June are underway.
- Annual Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner in Kodiak – CIRCAC provides gift items awarded to a Guard member at the annual Coast Guard Foundation/Kodiak Chamber function held in February.

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- Website – we use our website to inform viewers of our research and our positions on matters of significance to our mandates in Cook Inlet; to post comments for C-plan review, regulation development and legislative matters, and to provide updates on our projects, meetings and much more.
- Annual Reports <https://www.circac.org/outreach/annual-reports/> (Exhibit 3)
- Newsletters <https://www.circac.org/cook-inlet-navigator-e-news-3/> (Exhibit 4)
- Meeting Notifications – We maintain distribution groups of industry, agency, media and stakeholder contacts to notify of board and committee meetings.
- Target lists – We maintain distribution groups to share publications, notifications, newsletters and other published materials we receive.
- Scholarships – In 2015 we established a scholarship program to call attention to our 25th anniversary by emphasizing our mandates of safe transportation of oil and environmental monitoring. Now in its sixth year, we have to date awarded 10 scholarships totaling \$25,000, to students from Kodiak, Homer, Kenai, Soldotna, Anchorage, Anchor Point and Nikiski who are entering environmental science or maritime studies programs throughout the country. Our process is currently underway for our 2020 offerings. The Council also helped launch – with Marathon and AVTEC – an annual \$2,500 scholarship (recipient chosen by AVTEC instructors); their first award came in December 2019.

CIRCAC invites all of our industry and regulatory partners to our Board and key committee meetings where we provide updates of existing projects and plans for future projects, and invite updates and feedback. This ensures that those partners are informed of our activities and can provide input and recommendations for improved actions.

A key component of participating in policy reviews and related projects is to ensure that the Council is informed of these activities in a timely fashion. This is especially important for issues that are time-sensitive and have limited review or comment periods. First and foremost is our longstanding relationship with the key industry and agency personnel. Additionally, we actively seek to ensure we are on notification lists and are provided the pertinent information to participate in the process. This is accomplished by participation on various “list serve” groups and workgroups; receipt and review of newsletters and public notices; and daily review of Federal Register, Coast Guard, and Alaska Legislature notices. We also turn to scientists, regulators, industry experts, and sources of traditional knowledge to inform our Directors and public members regarding any number of matters before the Council, particularly those affecting proposed projects or policy and regulatory issues. Examples include:

- Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) – CIRCAC staff developed and delivers training sessions for industry staff on the use of CIRT, which itself is a collaborative product of dozens of partners. Staff advocates for the use of CIRT at

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each drill attended, and receives positive feedback. In addition, CIRCAC has initiated discussions with programming contractors to allow CIRT to integrate with the NOAA Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) program.

- Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) – as a high priority recommendation made by the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment Advisory Panel, the HSC has been stood up and represents a true panel of experts. CIRCAC staff serves on the Management Board, and hold primary and alternate positions on the Committee. An early accomplishment emerging from the Harbor Safety Plan Work Group – chaired by Vinnie Catalano – was the adoption of an annual Harbor Safety Plan. Other work groups established currently include: Navigation Safety, Marine Salvage and Marine Firefighting. Visit: www.cookinletharborsafetycommittee.org.
- Self-Arrest Study - CIRCAC funded a vessel self-arrest study using the vessel simulator and local masters at AVTEC in Seward. Contractors ran vessel simulations to test the feasibility of self-arrest for laden and un-laden tankers in various sea and weather conditions encountered in Cook Inlet. The final report has been delivered, concluding “Using properly trained and capable local pilots, self-arrest has a high probability of success.” This issue was initially examined during the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment process; local subject matter experts believed that study was flawed, prompting CIRCAC to undertake this additional research. The technique is now included in the Marathon training program mentioned below.
- AVTEC Marine Training – The Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC) operates and maintains three ship simulators on their Seward campus. Andeavor Maritime (now Marathon) invited operators working in Cook Inlet – consisting of tug boat and tanker vessel operators, members of the Southwest Alaska Pilots Association (SWAPA), Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the US Coast Guard to participate in two days of simulator training, which incorporates the self-arrest technique identified in “Self-Arrest Study” section just above. These focused on a variety of scenarios, conditions, vessel types and injects. Note – this training experience has in part led to the company’s annual contribution to the institution, and to the creation of a maritime scholarship, co-funded by Marathon and CIRCAC.
- Industry Operations – CIRCAC solicits presentations from industry to address the PROPS Committee, EMC and Council about exploration, production, and marine operations in Cook Inlet (see Sec. 2c, iii)
- Ice camera network - While images are currently transmitted directly to the NOAA Ice Forecaster, plans are underway to also make them available to Cook Inlet marine pilots, and a laptop computer has been purchased and set to allow

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access and control of the system to Incident Commanders. That connectivity is on hold pending resolution of an operating system issue. Our Kenai River camera has become very beneficial to the host City of Kenai for management of its summer personal use dip net fishery, and the ‘public view’ capability is proving to be very popular. Six cameras were approved for purchase as additional and replacement cameras, and to establish a new site on the Hilcorp-owned Tyonek platform. The Tyonek platform camera has been installed and data connectivity is awaiting host company completion. Camera replacement has been accomplished on two cameras at the Middle Ground Shoals platform A and one on the Granite Point platform. Camera replacement is presently under evaluation for the Port of Alaska.

- Permit and Regulation Reviews – CIRCAC receives pre-notifications prior to release of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permits. Though we comment with the rest of the public, we receive notifications by email and phone calls prior to when a pertinent draft Cook Inlet permit is being released for review. We are also on multiple distribution lists so that we receive notification from agencies directly, or through the Federal Register of upcoming or proposed changes to policies, permits and site-specific regulations within CIRCAC’s purview.

Website (www.circac.org)

The Council launched a new website in January 2014, and it continues to be expanded, updated and made more comprehensive and user-friendly. In 2016, we completed a companion site to recognize and reflect the full depth and breadth of our activities as we celebrated 25 years of helping protect Cook Inlet. It remains a platform to add coverage of future milestones, like our upcoming 30-year anniversary. We encourage you to access this site at <https://milestones.circac.org/>. We developed an interactive map of exploration facilities, infrastructure and platforms in Cook Inlet to give users a better picture of Cook Inlet industrial activities, and we continue to expand our archive of research studies and reports.

Directors Update

We compile this report after each Board meeting to provide directors with a summary of key information and actions coming out of the meetings. These are designed to be shared directly with their constituent Interest Groups (**Exhibit 5**).

Electronic Newsletter: *The Cook Inlet Navigator*

CIRCAC staff publishes an electronic newsletter – *The Cook Inlet Navigator* – generally distributed monthly to several hundred recipients, including stakeholders, federal and state legislators, local officials, agency personnel, industry contacts, teachers, students and many others. The newsletter is often a source of stories for media, and has served to heighten the visibility of the organization and the work we’re doing in the community. We have profiled most of our Directors and public members. The “open rate” has been a consistent 20 percent, higher than average for non-profit newsletters, with a “click

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through” rate of over 16 percent. We continue to get new subscribers each month. The number of subscribers grows considerably year over year.

Annual Report

The Council’s Annual Report summarizes the activities and projects undertaken, ongoing or completed by the Council and its Committees during the prior year. CIRCAC distributes the report widely through direct mail, as well as at meetings and public outreach events. A link to an electronic version of the report is also emailed and posted on our website for download. The Annual Reports are distributed to relevant government agencies and companies that are involved in CIRCAC issues, as well as state and national legislators, mayors and village leaders within the Cook Inlet region, local chambers, libraries, school districts, and many other entities and interested citizens. The 2018 Annual Report is provided here with the hard copy of this submittal only; visit www.circac.org for our on-line editions. The 2019 Annual Report is being finalized as this application is prepared, and will be included if available at delivery.

Social Media

Social media tools allow us to communicate more quickly and effectively with our stakeholders. In the event of a major oil spill incident they will be crucial to our staying ahead of the published news and to engaging concerned citizens who could be impacted, or who may have important information to share with us to aid in the response. Facebook and Instagram ads and blog postings have helped us promote our scholarship offerings, breaking news, calls for action, public events and opportunities, as well as publicize vacancies for public committee member seats and for the Harbor Safety Committee.

Earned Media

CIRCAC garners valuable earned media mentions for its many projects, reports and activities. During this application period, there were 8 such reports in late 2017 into 2018, and 10 in the 2018/19 timeframe. The most impactful stories chronicled some notable accomplishments: our receipt of the United States Coast Guard Meritorious Service Award; our annual Recertification; completion of the Cook Inlet Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment; Hilcorp’s completion of a cross-Inlet pipeline, eliminating tanker transport of oil; and the decommissioning and removal of the Drift River Oil Terminal and Christy Lee Platform on the west side of Cook Inlet.

Since our last application, covering 2019 and into this year only, we’ve seen considerable media coverage, specifically:

- 02.2020 President Williams records commentary piece for KBBI public radio on ADEC public scoping process on contingency plan regulations; print version appeared in newspapers throughout the region.
- 01.2020 President Williams and staff were interviewed by KDLL public radio for a one hour program on our history, broad mission, programs and projects.
- 11.11.19 State oil spill regulation review won’t gut environmental

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- 11.01.19 protections, Anchorage Daily News
- 10.30.19 Imaging Alaska Coast to Coast, Alaska Business Monthly
- 10.30.19 State initiative puts Alaska coastal communities at risk, Anchorage Daily News
- 10.29.19 CIRCAC disagrees with ADEC Proposal to Overhaul the State Oil Spill Prevention and Response Regs, KSRM Radio
- 09.29.19 Hilcorp Updates CIRCAC on Seismic Testing in Cook Inlet, KSRM Radio
- 08.11.19 Coast Guard Recertifies CIRCAC for a Year
- 05.26.19 Critics say state attempts to expand drilling waste that can be released into Cook Inlet, Anchorage Daily News
- 05.22.19 State agencies at odds over new law to address “orphan” oil wells, Alaska Public Media
- 04.08.19 Public asked to comment on pipeline infrastructure efforts, Peninsula Clarion
- 03.20.19 Cook Inlet oil infrastructure review moves into second phase, Alaska Journal of Commerce

Advertisements

To further our branding strategy, we have purchased print ads in the Alaska Business Monthly's *49ers Special Edition* and its special oil spill and response edition; the *Pilot House Guide*; the Kenai, Soldotna and Homer Chambers of Commerce *Visitor Guides*; the *National Fisherman*, as well as the *Alaska Visitors Guide* published by the Anchorage Daily News. These local publications enjoy wide distribution throughout our area of responsibility, and help with positive branding. And in 2018 we secured a poster ad in the Kenai Airport. This year we have redesigned the ad to go digital. We anticipate this to be up and running by April.

Social media posts increase and support our brand recognition and promote our activities. Ads support our scholarship offerings, calls for volunteer participation in CIRCAC and the Harbor Safety Committee, and calls for public comment on our recertification applications and regulatory matters.

In addition, our broadly placed radio ad campaign promoting our work and encouraging public engagement continued throughout this application period, with rotating messages and new information being incorporated regularly. These ads are posted on our website under our “Media” tab (<https://www.circac.org/media-kit/>). New ads in 2020 encourage public participation in the DEC regulatory review process referenced earlier.

Finally, as mentioned previously we utilize paid ads in local newspapers (Kodiak, Homer, Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage) to inform the public about our elections and membership outreach, available committee seats, the review of our recertification application and availability of a public comment period, and other vital announcements.

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(2b) The extent to which Cook Inlet RCAC participates in discussions with industry and government concerning permits, plans and site-specific regulations governing the activities and actions of the facilities which affect or may affect the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and of crude oil tankers calling at those facilities.

By ensuring open communication with our industry and government partners we also ensure that we are available to provide additional detail on specific projects, plans, reviews and other activities. CIRCAC staff members are in constant contact with industry and agency personnel on various issues related to their expertise. Thus, when timely issues do come up, those contacts are in place.

For example, during 2016 and 2017 we began working with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to navigate staff changes and restructuring to ensure long-established communication protocols do not disappear. Those conversations, though seemingly productive at the time, continue and intensify today as the agency has begun a process to – in our view – dismantle effective contingency planning and response capabilities within the agency and industry in Alaska. Agency funding of the Spill Prevention and Response Division, staff training and competence, and consistency remain significant concerns.

By continually engaging and participating with industry and government personnel on a range of issues and platforms, we promote discussions about all of our activities and concerns. Examples where we participate or coordinate our activities with our partners include:

- Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) Meetings and Cook Inlet/Kodiak Sub-Area Contingency Plan Workgroups - Staff attended all of the ARRT and sub-area workgroup meetings to observe and monitor agency activities. Great progress is being made, and the project and operations updates are vital. We participate as a member of the Science and Technology workgroup. CIRCAC has been primarily focused on the Dispersants Use Plan and the establishment of Regional and Area plans to align with the National Contingency Plan. Other matters discussed include assessing risk to subsistence harvesting from oil spills, the Harvest Cross-Inlet Pipeline, and more. Staff attended the inaugural Alaska Inland and Arctic and Western Alaska Area Plan Committee meeting, hosted by the Coast Guard and EPA, and participates in several Area plan sub-committees.
- Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) – CIRCAC Science Director attended via teleconference the fall 2019 and winter 2020 meetings held in Cordova and Anchorage respectively. Funding priorities were recommended to the Advisory Board and for its partnership with the North Pacific Research Board for funding oil spill related research projects. Ms. Saupe serves as a member of the OSRI Advisory Board and their Workplan Committee, which develop the project plans each year.

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- Staff participated in an EPA land-based Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) workshop. The focus was on coordinating focus on the Sterling and Kenai Spur Highway corridors on the central Kenai Peninsula, including nine selected rivers and lakes as a starting point. These roadways have seen a substantial increase in the transportation of crude oil from the Cosmopolitan unit near Anchor Point to the Marathon Refinery in Nikiski. Discussions of water body characteristics progressed to response processes and tactics. Staff has continued to work with a local OSRO, industry and State regulators to develop GRSs for stream crossings.
- Staff continues to work with industry to obtain Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for integration into our DMR database project.
- We work with agency personnel at EPA and ADEC to remain up-to-date on issues related to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permitting activities for oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities in state and federal waters of Cook Inlet. Our Protocol Control Committee submitted comments on the latest renewals.
- Staff attends the annual Cook Inlet Winter Navigation Safety Guidelines meeting to collaborate on recommended safety measures and provide updates on the ice network. It is notable that in 2018 the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee was granted the responsibility of developing and gaining support for these annual guidelines.
- Cook Inlet RCAC continues to work with database developers to provide access to our hydrocarbon data, such as the hundreds of samples analyzed during a project led by our Director of Science and Research for an Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (ICIEMAP). These data were integrated by industry contractors for their NPDES permit-required study on hydrocarbon fate and transport in Cook Inlet and will soon be provided on-line in a map-based data portal in partnership with AOOS.
- Cook Inlet RCAC continues its long term partnership in research specific to the recovery of the Inlet population of the endangered beluga whale.
- Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium – Staff has attended the Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium held in Fairbanks and Anchorage, and our PROPS and EMC have committed to co-sponsor the 2020 event. The symposium was sponsored by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the University of Alaska – Fairbanks. In addition to presentations and posters by speakers from the research community, the regulatory and response communities in attendance also described their information needs and decision processes. The event provides an opportunity to learn about emerging research, agency initiatives, developing technologies, incident management and policy

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development. At this writing, the 2020 Symposium scheduled for April has been postponed due to global virus concerns.

- Two Council Directors and one staff person sit on the ASTM F20, F25 and E50 Committees
- Contingency Plan reviews – see Section 5, part a
- Volunteer pipeline reports – see Section 4, part a
- Reports on tanker operations at docks – see Section 5, part f

(2c) The extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC works to build cooperation rather than confrontation with industry and government, by:

By ongoing dialogue and staying aware of each other's activities, CIRCAC, industry and government representatives are better able to find consensus on difficult issues and opportunities for innovation. Below are a few examples:

- Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) Meetings – Staff attended all of the ARRT meetings to observe and monitor agency activities, and participates as a member of the Science and Technology workgroup. See prior reference.
- Spill Drills and Training (see Section 4, part b for details).
- Marine Firefighting Training – CIRCAC supported the Prince William Sound RCAC to sponsor an intensive marine firefighting and emergency response training symposium in Homer on the Kenai Peninsula.
- Our close working relationships with the U. S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage and the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment in Homer provide a conduit for exchange of information and documents related to specific issues about the environmentally safe operation of the facilities and tankers in Cook Inlet.
- Elected officials, representatives from local, state and federal governments and industry attend - and frequently are invited to participate in - board and committee meetings by making presentations and addressing questions. The Council provides materials such as agendas, meeting packets, work plans and background information by e-mail and website postings prior to those meetings.
- CIRCAC's Board includes Ex-Officio seats for ten state and federal government agencies, including the United States Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. All seats are currently filled. These are non-voting positions.

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- The Executive Director of CIRCAC and the Charter Funding Companies' representatives meet regularly to discuss programs, projects and working relations between the organizations.
- Staff attends the annual Winter Ice Navigation Guidelines meeting to collaborate on recommended safety measures and provide updates on the ice network.
- Harvest Alaska invited CIRCAC staff to a Tactical Review exercise at the Hilcorp Control Room. The purpose was to identify a basis for response scenarios of their contingency plan. The session came about as a condition of an enforcement action associated with the Drift River Oil Terminal facility unannounced drill conducted by the State.
- CIRCAC staff interacts regularly with officials of the production, refining, and shipping companies operating in Cook Inlet, and executives of these companies frequently visit the Council's Kenai office on an informal basis, and make presentations to the Board and committees.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – CIRCAC staff serves in both a primary and alternate capacity on the committee, which meets on a quarterly basis, and provides outreach opportunities and education for members.
- Coordinated Research and Monitoring – The Council works closely with industry partners when developing research and monitoring programs. During the period 2017-2020 our field programs were coordinated with multiple government agencies to conduct the research and for funding.
- Free Exchange of Tools and Data - CIRCAC has developed directly or in partnership with other organizations a wealth of research data, much of which has been integrated with other information to create useful tools for oil spill response. Projects such as our ice camera network, ShoreZone and others have enhanced field research to produce tools such as the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT). Shared data supports incident response.

(i) Working with industry and government to develop spill prevention and contingency plans, staff...:

CIRCAC staff and committees regularly review new or proposed changes to legislation, regulations, reporting requirements, planning and response documents, permitting and other related matters. Recommendations from staff and consultants are presented to the Council's Protocol Control Committee to review and authorize the submittal of Council comments, inquiries and recommendations.

Occupying much of the Council's agenda has been the 2019 announcement from ADEC that it was opening up the entirety of state contingency planning to a complete overhaul.

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CIRCAC – working with PWSRCAC and other organizations – launched a campaign to retain the current regulatory framework and only adjust portions of the C-plan regulations to provide consistency in regulatory coverage and consistency in ADEC training to further consistency in application and enforcement of the regulations. We have met with the Commissioner and staff; have consulted with stakeholders; and have worked to inform Alaskans of the risks and what’s at stake. At this writing, that initiative is ongoing, with the public scoping process having concluded on March 16, 2020.

Other examples are provided here:

- Participates in company drill planning meetings to ensure the exercises address pertinent factors
- Participates in industry drill exercises to provide advice and recommendations in various ICS sections
- Reviews and provides comment on industry contingency plans – see Section 5, parts a and b for a full listing – as well as new regulations and proposed amendments:
 - Staff reviews federal, state and individual applications as they come up. In early 2019, ADEC issued a Notice of Proposed Issuance of an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) General Permit to Discharge to Waters of the United States – Oil and Gas Exploration, Development and Production in State Waters in Cook Inlet. The permit would replace the expired 2007 General Permit. The draft Permit also included mixing zones for discharges from a previously ‘zero-discharge’ platform. Cook Inlet Energy thereafter applied for an Individual Permit, seeking a mixing zone for produced water discharges from the Osprey Platform. CIRCAC submitted formal comments on both the Notice and the application. At the time of this writing, ADEC has issued no decision on either permit.
 - NOAA Proposed Rule for Marine Mammal Taking in Cook Inlet - CIRCAC submitted comments to NOAA in response to notice of Hilcorp activities including 2D nearshore between Kasilof and Anchor Point, 3D offshore seismic surveys in their OCS lease bloc, geohazard surveys and exploratory wells in the lower and middle Inlet, well abandonment activities, exploration and development activities on the Iniskin Peninsula, facility abandonment activities at Drift River and terminal decommissioning at Christy Lee.
- Participates at the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) meetings and on the ARRT Science and Technology workgroup; staff provided comments and presented data and information to ARRT for review of draft Dispersant Use Guidelines.

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- Participates in the Area Committees and sub-committees/workgroups led by ADEC and USCG
- Works with the Kodiak Places of Refuge workgroup and the Geographic Response Strategies workgroup
- Attends all Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee and Management Board meetings, which has produced Winter Ice Guidelines, a resolution on derelict and abandoned vessels, and an annually-renewed Harbor Safety Plan (note – staff chairs the Harbor Safety Plan sub-committee)
- Provides training to industry and agency personnel for online ShoreZone data portals, the Cook Inlet Response Tool, and Geographic Resource Inventory Database (GRID)
- Participates in spill training exercises to observe the performance against C-Plans' provisions

(ii) To coordinate study projects, policies, and legislative or regulatory recommendations, staff...:

The Council regularly provides comments pertinent to proposed changes to legislation, regulations or policies which affect oil facility operations, spill prevention and response. During this application period, we submitted comments on the following:

Special Project - The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation opened a public scoping process in late 2019 that the Council believes threatens to weaken oil spill prevention and contingency plan regulations and statutes. CIRCAC has launched a communications campaign with Prince William Sound RCAC to heighten public awareness of the threat to roll back Alaska's protective oil spill prevention system of laws. Our President and Executive Director have each submitted Commentary articles. In addition, we've written letters, encouraged comments, drafted resolutions, contacted legislators and stakeholder organizations, posted vital information in our newsletters and on our website, and are crafting an advertising campaign.

(iii) Keep industry and government interests informed of plans, findings, and recommendations:

- Presentations and Public Comment – At both the Board and committee levels, CIRCAC routinely invites representatives of government and industry to participate in discussions and to make presentations regarding matters before the Council. The list below reflects our attempt to solicit and share expert presentations from state and federal agencies, stakeholders, the scientific community, the oil and gas and maritime industries, and spill response interests. One glaring omission is Admiral Matthew Bell, Commander Sector Anchorage,

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whose presentation was most rudely cancelled by the November 30, 2018 Anchorage earthquake. Regardless, here are those who shared their knowledge with our Directors, committees, and stakeholders:

- Captain Sean Mackenzie, Commander Sector Anchorage/Western Alaska, United States Coast Guard (multiple times) – along with Capt. Patrick Hilbert, D17 Chief of Prevention, and Lt. Edward “Kahi” Kaaua, MSD Homer, presented an overview of his Sector’s scope of service to Alaska – search and rescue, spill response and preparedness, vessel and facility inspections, national security, fisheries law enforcement, navigation safety, and permit reviews.
- LCDR Jonathon Dale, USCG D17 – delivered remarks on behalf of Admiral Bell, and spoke to the annual recertification process and the 2020/21 triennial application.
- The Honorable Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage – Port of Alaska renovation and funding update
- Jason Brune, Commissioner, AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Tim Robertson and Sierra Fletcher, Nuka Research (multiple times) – Cook Inlet Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment; PHMSA grant; ADEC contingency planning overhaul
- Graham Wood, Manager Prevention, Preparedness & Response, ADEC, and Jade Gamble, Deputy State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC – update on spill off Shuyuk Island
- Todd Paxton, General Manager, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response – general update on their activities and facilities
- Dr. Nancy Kinner, Director, Univ. of New Hampshire Coastal Response Research Center, and Director, Center for Spills in the Environment – Supporting the Science of Oil Spills and Response
- Dr. Lisa DiPinto, Chief Scientist, Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA - Supporting the Science of Oil Spills and Response
- The Honorable Ken Castner, Mayor, City of Homer – insights as mayor and former CIRCAC volunteer
- Denise Koch, Director of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR) Division, AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation – Administration’s plans to review public scoping and expected comprehensive revisions to regulations
- The Honorable Brian Gabriel, Mayor, City of Kenai
- Rich Novcaski and Lori Nelson, Harvest Alaska/Hilcorp – updates on the company’s work on the Cross-Inlet Pipeline construction and Drift River Oil Terminal/Christy Lee Platform dismantling and removal
- Stephanie Lambe Musgrove, Lambe, Tuter & Associates – provided an overview of the Council’s financial health, and the results of the recent financial audit (annually performed).
- The Honorable Dan Rohrer, Mayor, Kodiak Island Borough
- The Honorable Charles Davidson, Deputy Mayor, City of Kodiak

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- Sue Saupe, CIRCAC Science Director – presented to the Board specifics of our field research and partnerships, in particular on: marine snow aggregate research; the Cook Inlet Oil & Gas General APDES Permit Review; sampling conducted in response to a subsea gas leak at Platform A; and habitat assessment.
- Steve ‘Vinnie’ Catalano, CIRCAC Operations Director – presented to the Board the results of our ‘vessel self-arrest’ study commissioned by the Council and reviewed by a panel of experts.
- Captain John Schneider, Tesoro Maritime – presented the Board an overview of their growing relationship with AVTEC, including pilot training on the simulator, an annual contribution program and their interest in co-sponsoring an annual maritime scholarship offering with CIRCAC.
- Larry Burgess, BlueCrest Operating Alaska – provided an update on the company’s Cosmopolitan project near Anchor Point.
- Larry Hartig, Commissioner, ADEC – addressed the Hilcorp subsea gas pipeline leak, and the value of the Council’s role.
- Michael Opheim, Environmental Manager, Seldovia Village Tribe – presented highlights of marine research conducted by the SVT.
- Jesse Ross, Graduate Student University New Hampshire/CRCC – presented his Master’s Thesis on field work on marine snow aggregate research in lower Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay.
- Dana Nelson, Environmental Education Specialist, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve – presented an overview of the Reserve and the science conducted there to the EMC.
- Dr. Alex Ravelo, Faculty, Kachemak Bay Campus Kenai Peninsula College – Girls on Water
- Dr. Kris Holdereid, Director NOAA Kasitsna Bay Laboratory, Marine Spatial Ecology Div., National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science – presented collaborative science on Cook Inlet by NOAA and the Lab, and provided a tour of the facility.
- Dr. Eric Klein, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Geology, University of Alaska Anchorage – “Fire and Ice” – Research for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
- David Pascal, Vice President Operations and Robert Tindall, Pipeline Superintendent, Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy – provided the PROPS committee an overview of the company, its oil and gas assets and operations in Cook Inlet, and its application to discharge produced water into the Inlet.
- Kevin Kennedy, PPR Skimmers – provided an A/V presentation on the skimmer; a unit was on display.
- Mike Dunn, Beth Sharp and Steve Deetz, Hilcorp – provided a detailed presentation on the proposed seismic 3-D survey plans in Federal waters in lower Cook Inlet.
- Captain Jeff Pierce, Safeguard Marine – presented “Maritime Implications of Emergency Self-Arrest of a Tank Vessel in Lower Cook Inlet, Alaska”.

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- Steve Fink, AVTEC Marine – provided a demonstration of the school’s 4 ship simulators.

These presentations were promoted in advance, and available copies of slides, text and other presentation materials are made available online at www.circac.org.

Our meetings allow informal comment from attendees – including members of the general public - and we receive valuable input from many, notably:

- Shannon Miller, Ex Officio Director, ADEC
 - Jonathon Schick, Ex Officio Director, AK Dept. of Natural Resources
 - Kevin Reeve, Ex Officio Director, AK Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 - Lt. Bart Buesseler, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 - Robert Archibald, President, Prince William Sound RCAC
 - Linda Swiss, Staff, Prince William Sound RCAC
 - Sgt. Juan Restino, United States Army National Guard
 - Bob Shavelson, Cook Inletkeeper
- The Council invites researchers to address the Board or committees on relevant science, and includes government agencies and Cook Inlet oil industry operators on common issues.
 - Government agency representatives serve on the board as Ex Officio members and receive Board and committee meeting notifications, information packets (which include agendas, calendars, staff reports, and project reports) for each meeting, as well as quarterly e-newsletters and bulletins, as appropriate.
 - Industry affiliates are provided Board and committee meeting notifications, which include a link to our website for meeting information packets. Staff provides industry representatives an annual briefing.
 - Through training opportunities with programs such as CIRT and GRID, we regularly alert audiences of the introduction of new layers of data, greater accessibility, and more.
 - We strive to publish CIRCAC’s e-newsletter, *Cook Inlet Navigator*, on a monthly basis, sending to our subscribers including industry and government representatives, elected officials and key staff. The newsletter provides readers with a regular update on Council projects and links to additional information on our website or other resources.
 - Information is regularly updated on the Council’s website, www.circac.org. Updates, downloads and improvements occur routinely, including to the special *Milestones* page.

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- Staff regularly works with personnel from various agencies and industry during planning phases for field research to ensure coordination when possible and to reduce duplication.
- Staff regularly contacts personnel from various agencies and industry when compiling information during preparation of comments, or recommendations to obtain clarifications if needed, and to ensure that information released by CIRCAC is factual.
- The Council distributes reports and position papers as warranted.

SECTION 3. Scientific Work: The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC coordinates its independent scientific work with the scientific work performed by, or on behalf of, the terminal operators and operators of the crude oil tankers in an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to ensure that research and studies are relevant to issues that impact the environment in the vicinity of the terminal facilities, and of crude oil tankers calling at those facilities.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) mandates CIRCAC conduct a variety of tasks that require thoughtful scientific study. For example, one ongoing task is to conduct a monitoring program that explores the transport of oil in so-called ‘marine snow’, and to determine how that knowledge might inform oil spill response. This comprehensive and complex task, along with the numerous other mandates of OPA 90, requires rigorous scientific study designs.

This scientific work is carried out within a framework of programs, each with long-term goals designed to meet the intentions of OPA 90. Individual projects are developed to address one or more goals within a program, and priorities are worked out based on short-term data needs, annual budgets, and opportunistic funding and partnerships. Depending on the scientific and logistical needs of each scientific study, staff, independent contractors and/or partner organizations may conduct the work.

The Council ensures quality studies by requiring robust quality assurance/control for sampling, chemical analyses, data entry and analyses, and other study components. Despite the expenses associated with using some of the top contractors and laboratories, we believe that our ability to build partnerships is based on a certain trust others have demonstrated in the excellence of our body of work. The considerable efforts we put forth to coordinate our scientific work have produced a long list of partnerships and successful projects, several of which are now state-wide initiatives.

We are justifiably proud of our role in bringing to prominence such programs as Intertidal and Coastal Habitat Mapping, Chemical and Biological Monitoring, Alaska ShoreZone, the Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program (AK-MAP), a better understanding of Cook Inlet’s complex ocean circulation, and development of an online database of scientific presentations, reports and current actions pertaining to sediment and water column sampling.

These few examples demonstrate CIRCAC’s conviction that leveraged studies lead to a more comprehensive understanding of Cook Inlet and its complex environment, and that coordination reduces duplication and enhances comparability of data. This approach to research continues with current programs, projects and partnerships.

Funding for CIRCAC’s science, research, and monitoring efforts is only possible through a combination of industry contract funds, federal or state agency appropriations,

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competitive grants, and through leveraging of funds via various partnerships. Over the past 29 years, the majority of our science program has been funded outside of industry contract funds through successful competitive proposals that address the program needs identified in our Strategic Plan. Most of our funded projects are also leveraged significantly by partnering with other organizations with similar goals to minimize duplication and maximize the value of the research. The development process for new scientific studies consistently includes the solicitation of input by the various organizations identified as having interests or needs for the type of data to be collected. Some recent examples of this include:

Collaboration

- In 2017 – shortly after submittal of our previous triennial application – CIRCAC’s Science Director served as ‘subject matter expert’ in the State’s review of Hilcorp’s sampling plan and water quality sampling with respect to a subsea natural gas leak from a pipeline feeding Platform A. Additionally, she provided advice and information to contractors as the company developed their water quality sampling plans.
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for Safety of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - our comments generally supported the proposed changes, while advocating for stronger changes in two areas: onshore gathering and flow lines which are currently exempt; and expansion of the Integrity Management program requirements to apply to all pipeline segments, vs. only those with High Consequence Area designations.
- Special Project: Lower Cook Inlet Habitat Study – CIRCAC worked closely with partners at the National Park Service (NPS), University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and NOAA’s Auke Bay Laboratory to conduct field research and analyze nearshore habitat data to better understand areas at risk from lease sale activities in lower Cook Inlet. The research was funded by BOEM via NPS and CIRCAC took the lead for all field studies and logistics and specific data components. We worked with BOEM and other agencies to ensure the study design would fulfill data gaps for oil spill planning and response.
- Special Project: Oil-Related Marine Snow – CIRCAC worked with NOAA’s Kasitsna Bay Laboratory and the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) to develop study plans to fill data gaps on the potential for the formation of oil-mineral-organic aggregates as a mechanism to transport oil from surface Cook Inlet waters to benthic communities. CIRCAC co-sponsored this research and also participated on an advisory committee to develop meaningful research questions with representatives from NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration, ADEC’s Spill Prevention and Response Division, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s Alaska Environmental Studies Group.
- A scientific team from the Netherlands has reached out to a project team that includes CIRCAC to partner in conducting a pilot study using Benthic Mesocosms to learn if benthic oil can be taken up by the food web. Staff is developing a proposal to BOEM. This would be another example of cost sharing and development of partnerships.

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- Our Science Director met with representatives of the Sullom Voe Citizens Council in Scotland seeking to communicate and collaborate on environmental issues surrounding arctic and sub-arctic oil exploration and transport.
- Hilcorp sought data on contaminants in the Cook Inlet lease area. CIRCAC provided all of our EMAP and ICIEMAP data, and referred them to additional research and data available.
- CIRCAC worked directly with a team of scientists to provide passive acoustic sensors to the study team monitoring the Hilcorp's 2D and 3D seismic testing in lower Cook Inlet. Our role was to collaborate to aid in preparation for sampling associated with seismic surveys in the Outer Continental Shelf area of Cook Inlet. We assisted with sensors and the collection of zooplankton samples. To date the data have not been completely analyzed or released by the researchers.
- Ms. Saupe has joined the Board of the Alaska Research Consortium, to provide perspective of marine research in the Kodiak area to support their mission of sustainable fisheries and marine science in the North Pacific.
- CIRCAC partners with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to provide logistical support for their nearshore forage fish studies in Kachemak Bay.

When we develop research plans, we look first to available research and data, when available, and build projects around that. Our Science Director routinely shares the nature and intent of planned scientific research directly with industry and agencies to inform, to seek collaboration and comments, to fill in data gaps – and sometimes to leverage funds. Results are published and shared readily.

Below are descriptions of current, ongoing and recently concluded scientific studies and efforts to coordinate with industry, academia and agencies:

Biological and Chemical Monitoring Program

Intertidal Habitats

Now entering its seventh year, our relationship with the National Park Service (NPS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) – with funding by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) – continues to produce great science. With our partners, we recently submitted a final report to BOEM titled: *Evaluation of Nearshore Communities and Habitats: Ecological Processes in Lower Cook Inlet*, which they accepted in January 2020. CIRCAC staff was responsible for field planning and logistics. This study is providing quantitative and qualitative data about sensitive nearshore habitats that are near the federal lease sale area in lower Cook Inlet.

Utilizing field sampling along the Douglas Reef system and near Augustine Island and other locations, and aerial flights along the entire coast collecting high resolution data in select areas, including Tuxedni Bay, the team finalized the research. Data analyses and reports have been completed and submitted to BOEM. CIRCAC tasks completed following the final field work in 2018 include:

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- Completion of photo-quadrat interpretations for thousands of images through a contract with Archipelago Marine Research, Inc.
- A two day workshop with all principal investigators and many in-person meetings with specific Principal Investigators and contractors to complete the data analysis, interpretations and reporting for all components.
- Compilation of maps of study areas and sites, and presentation of geospatial intertidal data.
- Compilation and analysis of intertidal quadrat data describing temporal and spatial trends, and methods comparisons for field data of rocky reef habitats of Kamishak Bay.
- Training workshops for and utilization of PRIMER software to conduct nonmetric multi-dimensional scaling analyses of intertidal community assemblage data to evaluate differences within sites, between sites, and across time.
- Partners worked to address BOEM review comments and submitted the final report in December 2019.
- Continued development of the EMC's on-line contaminants database for our hydrocarbon, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals.

With partners, we finalized data and submitted the final report on Lower Cook Inlet Habitat Assessment Project to BOEM. We're closing out the grant agreement, but continue to explore ways for the partners to publish and integrate data with other Gulf of Alaska data.

We have held meetings to discuss a proposal for baseline surveys of Radium isotopes across Cook Inlet to assess the potential activity of Radium as a freshwater tracer and to estimate residence time for waters in Cook Inlet. Potential partners include the University of Hawai'i, the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve and UAF's Ocean Acidification Research Center.

Integrated Cook Inlet Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Project (ICIEMAP)

Although the field and analytical work was completed years ago, there are on-going components of the project that include using this project database to begin building a comprehensive database of Cook Inlet sediment and water column contaminants from previous – and future – studies. In addition, we are working with database developers to provide on-line access and data aggregating tools for hydrocarbon fingerprinting data for Cook Inlet.

The ICIEMAP study design and sampling program nests within the larger Gulf of Alaska component of the National Coastal Assessment and was developed to include both probabilistic sampling and targeted sampling to assess point source discharges. Project coordination with the EPA, NOAA, Chevron and XTO resulted in a sampling plan that was approved by each agency by integrating sampling programs that had originally been designed to meet specific needs. By incorporating the component required by industry's NPDES permit, and by careful analysis and interpretation of source, background and industry-targeted hydrocarbon samples, the thoughtful planning of this project prior to

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sampling ensured that the study design was relevant to issues associated with terminal facility and crude oil tanker operations in Cook Inlet.

Work on the ICIEMAP data now focuses on compiling the data into formats that will allow access and visualization on the web. We are currently working with consultants and with the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) to eventually provide ICIEMAP data through the Cook Inlet data portal in a way that will allow data access and query tools. In addition, Cook Inlet RCAC is working to compile historical data collected since our inception so that all contaminant data will also be accessible via the web. Recent events in Cook Inlet have highlighted this need for quick access to CIRCAC and other datasets. We provided data files from our oceanographic studies to our industry and agency partners (for their contractors) during the 2017 natural gas leak in upper Cook Inlet to improve assumptions made in modeling associated with the dissolved gas plume.

Belugas – Winter Prey Availability and Contaminants

We provided AOOS database managers with information from our beluga prey study so it could be incorporated into the revised Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Data Portal. We will be able to integrate any relevant beluga data portal layers into the Cook Inlet Response Tool.

Coastal Habitat Mapping Program

There are especially strong links among our Physical Oceanography, Oil Fates and Effects, and Coastal Habitat Mapping Programs. The interplay of prevailing ocean currents (tidal and density driven), ice, winds, waves, freshwater flux, and upwelling all influence short- and long-term transport, mixing and weathering of spilled oil. The persistence of oil in the nearshore environment is determined largely by habitat type, and thus it is important to understand the proximity of sensitive habitats to prevailing currents. The individual projects within our over-arching Programs often fulfill data needs for multiple Programs. And, our data for one Program is often interpreted in the contexts of projects from another Program. For example, our Coastal Habitat Mapping Program provides information critical to understanding the potential fate and effects of treated and untreated spilled oil.

Shore Station data has been integrated into the NOAA ShoreZone website and multiple AOOS data portals. We are working with NOAA and with contractors at Archipelago Marine Research (ARCHI) and Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc. (CORI) to transition all of our ShoreZone Shore Station data from Flash format to Javascript. These data, currently served by NOAA, will be mirrored on AOOS data portals to allow integration with dozens of other data sets.

NOAA has contracted for development of a *Human Impressions* exhibit and publication, based on our ShoreZone program's *Coastal Impressions* exhibit. We provided advice on human categories for the exhibit and are developing presentation formats.

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Geographic Resource Inventory Database (GRID)

For GRID, data was collected for several Cook Inlet communities, consisting of information like medical assets, first responders, media outlets, boat launches, support service industries, and more. Validated data was entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database associating it with a specific chart location. Upon test completion, more data will be collected to expand the Cook Inlet data set. The GRID tool will be linked into the Cook Inlet Response Tool. Staff and our contractor initially exercised the GRID at a recent Marathon Petroleum drill, which included a training program as well. GRID has been integrated into drills and exercises, including Hilcorp's drill scheduled for April 2020 (though cancelled due to virus restrictions). Linking the GRID tool into CIRT will occur when testing is complete.

Alaska ShoreZone Habitat Mapping

Since 2001, CIRCAC's coastal habitat mapping efforts have provided oil spill planning and response personnel from industry and agencies with access to high quality imagery, data and summary information to improve planning and response decisions. Subsequently, this program has expanded state-wide, is now administered by NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center, and is steered by a large partnership group representing agencies and other organizations, including CIRCAC. The partnership group meets frequently. References to ShoreZone and related activities are found throughout this document. As stated, the program's website is transitioning to javascript in 2020. Part of that transition includes updating data to include dozens of taxonomic changes that have taken place over the years, as well as redesigning the data and imagery interface for accessing the data and developing a data visualization layer to be served on the AOOS data portals.

We are currently working with Alaska ShoreZone partners to update the Alaska ShoreZone 5 year plan; and with NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration to review their Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) mapping program. ESI review meetings scheduled for March 2020 have been postponed until fall of 2020.

Macrocystis –

A recent sighting of a western range extension of *Macrocystis* kelps in the western Gulf of Alaska have led to discussions to collaborate on a new survey in the Kodiak area and Alaskan Peninsula to work on genetic comparisons. This kelp grows in thick beds very near shore and has implications for oil spill risk and oil retention, and is likely to respond to changes in sea surface temperature and circulation related to climate change. Staff is seeking an opportunity to bring Kodiak fishermen into collecting samples.

Physical Oceanography Program

CIRCAC has long supported oceanographic data collections and observing systems to improve oil spill trajectory modeling of Cook Inlet's complex hydrographic conditions. Thus, we've followed closely NOAA's efforts to produce a high resolution 3-D hydrographic model for Cook Inlet. Their Cook Inlet Operational Forecast System (CIOFS) circulation and hydrographic model transitioned from developmental to

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operational mode in July 2019. This model will predict water levels, three-dimensional currents, temperature, and salinity based on inputs of meteorological and hydrological conditions. Its scope includes Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait. The model can be used operationally by NOAA's Office of Restoration and Response for oil spill modeling in the event of a significant spill. In the process, it was moved from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services branch to its National Centers for Environmental Predictions – concluding a decade-long effort that started with the deployment of current meters and Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers throughout the Inlet.

While CIOFS is currently not available for web access or public use, we have strong interest in an oil spill trajectory model that would be available to users for oil spill planning and response. An early version was valuable, but proved technically unsuitable. New efforts will involve model tests against observational data; discussions with model developers, physical oceanographers and oil spill responders; summaries of existing Cook Inlet hydrodynamic models; and development of an on-line tool available to the wider planning and response community.

We continue to seek opportunities to conduct scientific work under those programs that will provide the tools and information necessary for many of the potential projects identified for an oil fates and effects program. In the meantime, staff continues to address oil fate and effects issues by participating on national, regional, and state and local initiatives to stay informed about current and planned research relating to the fate and effects of spilled oil and of the various oil spill response options.

The Council's Environmental Monitoring Committee and Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety Committee will partner to revisit oil spill trajectory models, reflecting the significant oceanographic research and observations on Cook Inlet's complex currents as well as the deployment of real-time sensors. CIRCAC continues to work with industry and their contractors, state and federal agencies, and research and modeling communities to improve observational data collections on the physical oceanography of Cook Inlet and nearby areas.

A new opportunity with the National Park Service has emerged to better understand Cook Inlet circulation in a very nearshore environment adjacent to Lake Clark National Park shorelines. This overlaps our interests in an oil spill trajectory model, and is being pursued.

Oil Fate and Effects Programs

CIRCAC funded two years of research looking at the potential for formation of oil-related marine snow in Cook Inlet and other waters in our areas of concern. In addition to summer sampling in 2018 and 2019 in Kachemak Bay, we supported a winter 2019 sampling component of the project *Potential Role of Marine Oil Snow Formation and Oil-Suspended Mineral Particle Aggregation in the Fate of Spilled Oil in Cook Inlet, Alaska*. In support of a Master of Science thesis project conducted by Jesse Ross of the

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University of New Hampshire – we worked with the Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) and NOAA’s Kasitsna Bay laboratory to provide planning and funding for vessel logistics, sampling costs and travel. The goal of winter sampling was to sample during low primary production.

With our partners, Jesse Ross’s 2019 work was expanded to include flux measurements at deeper depths, and extend sampling to include the phytoplankton production earlier in the season than in 2018. The work was further expanded to include a short-term sampling offshore of north Kodiak as a pilot project for ‘shallow water marine snow events’. This area overlaps with portions of the Alaska Dispersant Use Pre-authorization Zones of the ARRT, and CIRCAC had previously commented with the recommendation that there be seasonal considerations for pre-authorization. Sampling at these and related critical stations was successful.

Staff has worked with partners at NOAA, CRRC, and international scientists to submit a study plan idea for BOEM to conduct detailed background chemical analyses of sediments and marine snow, and design mesocosm experiments incorporating organisms representing a model Gulf of Alaska food-web (multiple trophic levels and feeding strategies). We continue to develop a full proposal for research on the potential for, and consequences of, shallow-water marine oil snow events in Alaska.

SECTION 4. Monitoring Program: The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC develops and carries out an effective monitoring program.

The Council uses a combination of staff and independent contractors to monitor drills, exercises and training events, and is routinely invited to participate in the planning of these events. CIRCAC is also an active part of the drill performance evaluation working with Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. (CISPRI), Incident Management professionals hired by plan holder/facility operators, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and Contingency Plan writers to improve response capabilities. We are fortunate and have worked hard to develop the relationships which ensure our access to vital information and a presence in drills, deployments and Incident Management.

CIRCAC's mandates pertain to crude oil on water, and our focus with drills, plan reviews, and response participation is clear in those areas. We are nevertheless closely in tune to other incidents, related factors and training opportunities – not involving crude oil on water – although the extent of our direct involvement and resources would be considerably less.

The Council's relationships and participation with other organizations ensures access to related data, studies and practices. For example, the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force released a final report on Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Blue Ribbon Program for Western States in January 2020, and an updated west coast (including Alaska) crude oil transport tracking project in December 2019.

(4a). Reviewing the operation and maintenance of terminals and tankers

Cook Inlet Pipeline Risk Assessment -CIRCAC staff worked in partnership with the ADEC to conduct the Cook Inlet Pipeline Integrity Assessment. The goal of the project was to ensure the continued safe operation of the Cook Inlet oil and gas pipeline infrastructure, and recommending and implementing risk reduction measures before further loss of integrity events occur. Industry partners participated following the scope of the project to identify pipelines and their operating parameters. As part of this project, an Expert panel was convened to recommend suitable risk mitigation measures. The study summary and recommendations by the expert panel are in development at the writing of this report.

Facility Tours – during this application period we've continued to pursue opportunities to bring our Directors, public members and staff to industry facilities. The following took place during this period:

- BlueCrest Energy tour of Cosmopolitan Unit near Anchor Point
- Harvest/Hilcorp tour of Beluga River Cross Inlet pipeline installation site
- Alaska Chadux facility in Anchorage

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- CISPRI facility in Nikiski
- Marathon Petroleum Refinery in Nikiski
- M/V Golden Ray, Brunswick, GA – staff visited the site of this grounding prior to dye-tracer studies to track the trajectory of contaminants released during recovery

Annual Voluntary Pipeline Report

The Council works with the Sub-sea pipeline operators to put together a standardized Annual Pipeline Activity Report on the status of pipelines in Cook Inlet. Each Cook Inlet pipeline operator provides a presentation to the PROPS Committee that includes:

- Summary of previous year's activities highlighting goals, accomplishments and improvements.
- A description, including location and age, of the facility(s).
- Pipeline design description or Inventory List (Pipe size, length, material, operating pressures, etc.).
- Identify most recent DOT audits and the date each was conducted with a brief summary of the audit.
- Description of Integrity Management Program listing general PM protocols, recent maintenance accomplishments, etc.
- List risks or known issues and how each is addressed.
- List of reportable leaks from sub-sea pipelines and how each was resolved.
- Describe Spill Prevention Program, listing activities conducted during the previous year (Drills or actual spill response etc.).
- Any physical changes in facility or procedural changes as a result of activities conduct in the previous year.

(4b). Monitoring cleanup drills and actual spill cleanups

During drill events, Council staff observes the Unified Command and the Incident Management Team and makes recommendations regarding opportunities for improvement. In a typical drill or training exercise, staff is assigned to work within the Operations Section, Truth, Joint Information Center, and Environmental Unit, offering CIRCAC's expertise in these areas, access to stakeholders, and programs such as CIRT and GRID.

Staff is notified of incidents and works to keep stakeholders informed of causes, consequences, response activities, costs, outcomes and lessons learned. We track the performance of the responsible party and participating agencies. Incidents in Cook Inlet we have tracked since the last triennial application are numerous, and have been covered in detail in prior applications. They included follow-up inquiries after two major earthquakes on November 30, 2018, and hundreds of aftershocks. We pursued 2 crude and 4 non-crude incidents in 2018/19, and 3 and 5 respectively in 2017/18.

The following crude oil spills or other discharges or incidents occurred since the last recertification application was submitted in 2019:

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- 01.20.20 BlueCrest Energy – 30 gals. of glycol and water mix released to pad at Cosmopolitan unit. Discharge removed.
- 10.20.19 Trading Bay Production Facility – 1bbl crude discharged to the floor inside the building; collected and disposed of.
- 10.02.19 OSK Dock – partial dock collapse; oil and hazardous materials were ordered removed, and there was no discharge. Immediate impacts were mitigated by CISPRI.
- 09.06.19 Marathon Petroleum – ‘stripping line’ dripping into Cook Inlet at KPL dock; .33 to 1.25 gallons of diesel discharged; CISPRI responded to recover and assess.
- 04.27.19 Harvest – 1bbl. During decommissioning of Drift River Oil Terminal, along piping between tanks 6 and 7; cleaned up. Remediation part of larger DR&R plan.
- 04.27.19 Hilcorp Platform A – a small sub-sea gas leak found during inspection related to anomaly. Clamped temporarily and shut in, then new clamp fixed.
- 04.27.19 Kodiak – sheen reported on grounded, derelict barge
- 04.15.19 Hilcorp Middle Ground Shoal – 3 to 5 bbls crude from pig trap sump drain line within culvert beneath roadway; discharge above ground

CIRCAC obtains current, approved information at the command center and distributes it to Council members for dissemination to respective communities and interest groups. Staff also brings the concerns of the Council and Committees to Command Center personnel. This process also enables us to test our own internal communications process with our board members and committees.

CIRCAC is invited to participate in drills called by agencies or planned by industry, serving generally in the roles described above. Frequently, we are invited to become engaged in planning sessions as well, for example:

- Staff is participating in Hilcorp’s joint field exercise planned for late April (now since cancelled due to virus protocols), managing injects. The scenario is a sinkhole rupture impact to the Swanson river oil field flowline; focus will be on safety of personnel and wildlife, Public Information and Liaison sections.
- Marathon invited staff to participate in the drill planning for their annual drill, along with the Coast Guard and ADEC to help design the drill objectives, goals and parameters for a two-part exercise. The drill was designed to meet the National Preparedness Response Exercise Program (NPREP) criteria.
- BlueCrest Energy – staff provided planners with “Truth” injects used to guide the Operations and JIC/PIO sections during their upcoming drill.
- Hilcorp/Harvest invited staff to assist in planning for Drift River Oil Terminal exercise prior to closing the facility.

CIRCAC staff attends and continues to plan to attend drills throughout the year as called by industry or the state. Since our last application in the spring of 2019, CIRCAC staff have participated in the following drills/deployments:

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- BlueCrest Energy activated an Emergency Operations Center drill on 11/1/19. Transfer of the incident control to the Unified Command will take place in 2020 when this incident is the subject of a full IMT drill exercise.
- Marathon tanker grounded on Flat Island, discharging 8.82 million gallons (of 13.32). During this drill on 10/23-24/19, staff served in JIC; Admin staff and PROPS members were role playing as VIPs, exercising those protocols. 260 personnel involved in the response.
- Andeavor called a 2-day drill at the Port of Anchorage's Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants No. 1 dock, centering on a cargo release discharging 2800 bbls of refined product to Knik Arm. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) were deployed. Part 2 of the drill followed the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program protocols to address NPREP requirements and the Alaska Oil Spill Response Exercise Guidance requirement.
- Hilcorp and Harvest – the companies held sequential exercises in June 2018 centering on offshore spills to water from a ruptured pipe. Each exercise integrated UASs to determine their benefit to response activities.
- Glacier Oil & Gas/Cook Inlet Energy – A 2-day exercise included an equipment deployment a week following the table top. The focus was an onshore crude pipeline failure caused by vandalism (gunshot). Actual flight and weather issues added degrees of realism not written into the planning drill.
- Alaska CHADUX hosted an equipment deployment in Kachemak Bay, seeking to demonstrate the use of NOFI Ocean Buster 8, using contracted vessels of opportunity – the commercial fishing fleet – and a LAM 50 brush skimmer. A UAS was deployed to film the deployment.

In the full 3-year period of this application, the following additional drills are presented for reference only, as they've been included in greater detail in prior applications:

- Andeavor – jet fuel release at Port of Anchorage
- Andeavor – diesel fuel from pipeline into Cook Inlet
- Cook Inlet Pipeline/KPL – unannounced Coast Guard drill
- Hilcorp – Steelhead Pipeline rupture
- Hilcorp – sheen between platforms
- Andeavor – Bernice Flats oil spill
- BlueCrest Energy – uncontrolled release (blowout) at Cosmopolitan unit
- Hilcorp – Seaview Well discharge spraying crude oil on residential community near Anchor Point
- Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy – blowout at Osprey Platform

Discharge and Incident Monitoring

CIRCAC staff closely monitors industry activities in the region, reporting all significant events to the Council's Board for information purposes. Staff also monitors and reports other significant events such as vessel groundings or sinking, discharges that may impact surface or ground waters, and other incidents that may be a potential pollution threat. CIRCAC staff gathers information from all appropriate sources for regular notifications to the Council's Board and stakeholders, which are provided through to the completion of the response and any subsequent actions. Photos, schematics, site plans and other aids

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provided by the responsible party or agencies frequently accompany our reports. The Council provides background data from our studies and recommendations for response or potential impacts when requested by industry or agencies or when we believe our information can improve decisions.

(4c). Reviewing results of oil spill (incidents) in its region

Spill Notification and Review

Cook Inlet RCAC routinely receives spill notifications from industry, USCG and ADEC, and is identified in industry contingency plans for notification in the event of a spill. Staff at Cook Inlet RCAC works with ADEC and oil facility operators to review all aspects of the spill to minimize reoccurrence of the discharge. Spill notifications and updates are sent to all directors and committee members via email once all pertinent facts of the spill can be gathered. Staff routinely receives spill notifications for non-crude spills as well. When the quantity or location is significant, staff follows the same notification protocol for notifying Directors and Committee members as with a crude oil spill, as it is likely those members will receive questions from their constituents about the incident.

Cook Inlet Annual Spill Report

Cook Inlet RCAC annually compiles a spill report for review by our PROPS committee, using the ADEC spill database. The results from this compilation are presented to the Council and committees.

(4d). Reviewing government and company reports.

CIRCAC staff reviews reports, study plans and manuscripts that relate to our mandates under OPA 90. These often include studies done by state and federal agencies, the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, the Prince William Sound RCAC, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, universities, industry, and other organizations, including our stakeholder members. For example, CIRCAC staff has:

- Reviewed spill reports from industry and agencies (ADEC and USCG NRC).
- Staff and two Directors serve as members of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).
- Provided independent scientific peer review of proposals and reports for research entities such as the North Pacific Research Board, the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, and the Coastal Research and Response Center.
- Evaluated the ARRT Biennial Work Plan, RRT Charter Revision, Regulations on Stakeholder revisions to the Unified plan and a Tribal Engagement Workgroup, as well as USCG Non-Tank Vessel Oil Spill Response Alternative Planning Criteria compliance methods.
- Reviewed revision from Sub-area plan to Area plan
- Reviewed Cook Inlet Sub-area Plan and associated documents

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- Reviewed Alaska ShoreZone protocols and user manual documents for Alaska ShoreZone Partnership
- Reviewed manuscripts and reports related to NOAA's Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Recovery Plan, such as the 2018 paper "Anthropogenic Noise and the Endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whale, *Delphinapterus leucas*: Acoustic Considerations for Management".

(4e). Conduct or review necessary scientific studies with or by recognized experts in the field under study.

Most of Cook Inlet RCAC's scientific work is done through a process that brings together experts in the field. Cook Inlet RCAC often develops a team that includes expertise required for a particular study. Over the years, we've identified scientists with extensive experience and expertise in various fields of study, especially those with particular experience in Cook Inlet. During the past year, Cook Inlet RCAC has contracted or partnered with many recognized experts.

Individual scientific studies are described in other sections as well, and many appear in our website archives. Please refer to Section 3 which describes the scientific studies and efforts to coordinate research with recognized experts in the fields of study. Below are some examples:

- **Marine Oil Snow:** CIRCAC partnered with NOAA and CRRC to conduct research on natural marine snow flux rates in Cook Inlet and laboratory experiments that looked at potential formation of oil-related marine snow using natural seawater samples from Cook Inlet. We worked with a panel of scientific and oil response experts to design the studies that were conducted by a graduate research student, in conjunction with Research Professors at the University of New Hampshire and Florida Institute of Technology.
- **Lower Cook Inlet Habitat Assessments:** We worked with Principal Investigators at the National Park Service, NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratory, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to conduct four-years of field studies on invertebrate and seaweed species in at-risk habitats in lower Cook Inlet. Our co-PIs are recognized experts and the team included expert taxonomists, coastal ecologists, GIS mappers, oceanographers and statisticians. In addition, technical experts were required for some of the fieldwork and included specialists in Structure-from-Motion (SfM) data collections by airplane and drone, real-time kinematics, stable isotopes, and scientific diving,
- **ShoreZone Habitat Mapping on the Alaska Peninsula:** In 2018, we worked with our partners and contractors to complete a final report to BOEM on ShoreZone aerial and on-the-ground surveys we conducted along the Alaska Peninsula in 2016. This report relied on taxonomists, coastal ecologists, geomorphologists, computer programmers, and GIS mappers. These experts were found within

Section 4: Monitoring Program

CIRCAC and NOAA, as well as through contracts with Coastal and Ocean Sciences, Inc. and Archipelago Marine Research, Inc.

- In addition to conducting scientific studies, with and without partnering organizations, we've reviewed numerous submitted or final scientific manuscripts relating to contaminants research, physical oceanography, habitat mapping, and ballast water treatment technology, vectors for introductions of invasive species, ocean observing systems, dispersants fates & effects, invertebrate and algal taxonomy, and many other research categories. Our reviews may be formally requested and include editing or analysis recommendations prior to publication; or they may be just reviewing (reading) published information to ensure CIRCAC's work remains relevant in the context of related efforts. Examples include:
 - Reviewed numerous papers relating to potential ecosystem impacts of 2-D and 3-D seismic work, especially in the context of surveys conducted in lower Cook Inlet in 2019. This included manuscripts on sound propagation, methods for collecting passive acoustic data, and potential impacts of high pressure blasts on zooplankton, fish and marine mammals.
 - Reviewed scientific reports and manuscripts produced through funding by agencies, industry, and other entities that relate to our data needs on contaminants, habitats, oceanography, and ecosystems (e.g. – special publication of Deep Sea Journal for compilation of manuscripts from the Gulf Watch Alaska program of the EVOS Trustee Council).
 - Reviewed research reports and manuscripts related to oil spill chemistry and response options, especially for data relevant to cold-water environments. Staff paid particular attention to new research released by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, where many of the study results apply to northern regions. Also, to keep committees and Directors apprised of current information, staff reviewed a series of white papers released by CRRC for the State-of-the Science for Dispersant Use (DDO) in Arctic Waters Initiative and the 2019 National Academies of Science Report “The Use of Dispersants in Marine Oil Spill Response”.
 - Using specimens collected for Alaska Peninsula ShoreZone surveys, NOAA's Mandy Lindeberg of Auke Bay Labs and taxonomist Dr. Sandra Lindsrom compiled a collection catalog of seaweed specimens, which includes high resolution scans of pressed vouchers, as well as taxonomic tree and complete species list (<https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/Publications/AFSC-TM/NOAA-TM-AFSC-389.pdf>)

SECTION 5. Prevention and Response: Efforts to prevent oil spills and to plan for responding to, containing, cleaning up, and mitigating impacts of oil spills. The Coast Guard will review the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC...

CIRCAC's programs are designed to monitor actual and potential environmental impacts stemming from the operation of oil facilities in Cook Inlet, and to review operational and maintenance practices at the facility in the interest of mitigating those impacts. Science also guides our research into maritime issues, such as operating in pan ice, navigating where high tides and heavy currents prevail, or where tanker self-arrest may be a recourse option in case of loss of propulsion.

The Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee monitors and reviews port organization, operations, incidents, and vessel traffic. The Protocol Control Committee reviews and may provide comments as industry submits additions to their contingency plans, such as the addition of "time charter vessels," or revisions and amendments to contingency plans. In addition, Protocol reviews and provides comments on new or proposed changes to state and federal regulations.

(5a). Periodically reviews oil spill prevention and contingency plans for terminal facilities and crude oil tankers while in Cook Inlet in light of new technological developments and changed circumstances.

Oil spill prevention and response plans for tankers and for facilities are submitted to the State of Alaska under a five-year review cycle. The Council's Protocol Control Committee reviews contingency plans for new and existing operations within Cook Inlet, and proposed plan amendments. When these plans are reviewed, every section is completely and thoroughly scrutinized each time. This is done to ensure that each plan is in compliance with State and Federal regulations and to ensure Best Available Technology (BAT) and best management practices can be incorporated and are in use.

Further, Protocol reviews proposed changes to state and federal regulations pertaining to oil spill prevention and response, as well as water and air quality issues affected by industry operations in Cook Inlet and the Kodiak Island area.

The Protocol Control Committee provided comments – available for review at www.circac.org, on the following matters during this triennial period:

- Tesoro/KPL Pipeline Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan – Proposed consolidation of Tesoro/Andeavor/Marathon plans
- Arctic and Western Alaska Area Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (ODPCP)
- Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit
- Marathon Petroleum – Cook Inlet Vessel Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan

Section 5: Prevention and Response

- Taking of Marine Mammals for Hilcorp's proposed 3D seismic testing in lower Cook Inlet and the federal OCS lease sale area
- Osprey Platform – individual Permit under the APDES General Permit
- BlueCrest Energy – ODPCP major amendment for Cosmopolitan Unit
- Cook Inlet and Kodiak Marine Mammal Disaster Response Guidelines to the Arctic and Western Alaska Plan
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) – Offshore Facility and Response Plans in Cook Inlet
- Support for Sen. Dan Sullivan's Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund legislation
- Decommissioning Unified Plan and Sub-Area Plans to a Regional Contingency Plan with four Area Contingency Plans for the State of Alaska
- BSEE review of Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in Outer Continental Shelf blowout preventer systems and well control regulations
- Lease operations for Hilcorp's Cook Inlet Seaview Pad well drilling and testing
- Hilcorp Alaska's Cook Inlet Exploration Program ODPCP

(5b). Monitor periodic drills and testing of the oil spill contingency plans for terminal facilities and for crude oil tankers while in Cook Inlet.

The Council has long advocated for rigorously exercising contingency plans through drills, which provides an excellent opportunity to verify and improve planning assumptions. CIRCAC's role in drills is varied; in most cases, staff is integrated into the command structure – typically Truth, Operations, Joint Information Center (JIC), Environmental section - depending on the needs of the company being tested. Cook Inlet RCAC has a process for obtaining current information at the command center and distributing it to Council members for dissemination to respective communities and interest groups. Staff also brings the concerns of the Council and Committees to Command Center personnel. We are forthright in our assessment and recommendations of drills and exercises.

(5c). Wind and water currents and other environmental factors in the vicinity of the terminal facilities that may affect the ability to prevent, respond to, contain, and clean up oil spills.

Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT)

CIRCAC developed an on-line data integration portal and visualization tool in 2017 with the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS). This Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) is a project that links habitat data and imagery to oil spill planning and response needs so that the information can be provided in a timely fashion at Incident Command during oil spill planning, drills and response efforts. AOOS recently migrated CIRT to their Next Generation User Interface. CIRCAC's PROPS Committee is integrating the Geographic Resources Information Database (GRID) into this online access and visualization tool.

We are collaborating with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences' National Status and Trends, to expand a data portal to integrate contaminants data from

Section 5: Prevention and Response

our ICIEMAP into an on-line contaminants database. We will also incorporate results from the southcentral Alaska coastal bays and estuaries EMAP, CIRCAC's archived study results (1993-2002), and a depositional habitat study by MMS (now BOEM). Note – a portion of this data is one of the final deliverables to BOEM for our Lower Cook Inlet Habitat study report, focusing on hydrocarbons. We continue to update data layers, integrate additional resource and hydrocarbon data layers, expand the tool from Cook Inlet to our larger areas of concern (e.g. – Kodiak Island), and integrate additional oil response data layers. We will be working with ocean circulation modelers to potentially integrate oil spill trajectory modeling capabilities within CIRT.

We are providing recommendations for monitoring contaminants associated with Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activities in lower Cook Inlet that may impact nearshore subsistence species in lower Kachemak Bay near Port Graham and Nanwalek.

CIRCAC has demonstrated CIRT at various oil spill drills in our region, leading to numerous requests to provide detailed presentations and training on the use of CIRT and the Alaska ShoreZone website to industry, agencies, local oil spill responders and stakeholder groups. Staff continues to provide training sessions to industry and agency personnel, most recently to Marathon Petroleum and ADEC's Spill Prevention and Response division staff.

It is available as the "Cook Inlet Portal" on the AOOS website at www.aos.org.

Physical Oceanography

Please refer to Section 3, Physical Oceanography Program that describes efforts to better understand wind and water currents in Cook Inlet. Also review Section 3 Coastal Habitat Mapping Program which describes efforts to better understand nearshore habitat – an environmental factor that affects the ability to prevent, respond to, contain, and clean up oil spills.

(5d). Identifies highly sensitive areas which may require special protection in the event of a spill in Cook Inlet.

Habitat Mapping

We've long recognized that high resolution habitat maps are necessary for understanding where habitats of special concern for oil spill impacts are concentrated. To that end, CIRCAC has worked for almost two decades to collect high resolution shoreline habitat data and imagery; and ensure availability to oil spill planners and responders via on-line data portals. As well, we've conducted more detailed mapping in certain areas or habitats of concern – such as Cook Inlet salt marshes, Macrocystis kelp beds in Kodiak archipelago, and habitats at risk in Kamishak Bay. We've also recognized the need for response strategies for site-specific, highly sensitive areas throughout our entire areas of concern, and developed our Geographic Response Strategies Program where we continue to support access to these data and integration with other data layers through our Cook Inlet Response Tool.

Section 5: Prevention and Response

Geographic Response Strategies

This long-standing program, tailored to protect specific highly sensitive areas in Cook Inlet and Kodiak, can save time and resources during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response. They show responders where sensitive areas are located and where to place oil spill protection resources. Cook Inlet RCAC and its partners have steadily expanded the number of sites identified. Budgeted funds for this project have been retained in order to facilitate ground-truthing and site updates; we undertook some in 2016 with consultants. More information for the specific Kodiak Island GRS may be found online (<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/grs/ki/home.html>). In addition, CIRCAC staff is working with industry, ADEC and CISPRI to identify and develop GRSs for stream crossings on the truck route from a southern Kenai Peninsula crude oil production facility to the Marathon refinery. Note: GRSs are now also included in the Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT).

Harbor-Specific Geographic Response Strategies

An on-going program, Harbor Specific GRS utilizes a template of GRS and the ADEC/Cook Inlet RCAC-created Clean Harbors and Marinas initiative. This program follows the GRS template to prevent spilled oil from entering small boat harbor areas with the additional benefit of developing a spill response and prevention program to address any spills that may occur inside the harbor area. Cook Inlet RCAC worked with ADEC to develop a work plan and form the Harbor Specific GRS workgroup. The workgroup set up the basic groundwork for the first phase of the project:

- Gather the best management practices for Alaska Ports and Harbors
- Conduct a gap analysis of the pilot project harbors – Homer and Seldovia
- Develop a training, education and public incentive/outreach program to fill the gaps
- Form two subgroups to perform bullets 1 and 2, and a second to perform bullet 3

(5e). Periodically reviews port organization, operations, incidents and the adequacy and maintenance of vessel traffic service systems designed to assure safe transit of crude oil tankers.

Harbor Safety Committee

CIRCAC staff actively participates in the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, serving on the management team, and holds primary and alternate positions on the Committee. In addition, Vinnie Catalano serves as the Harbor Safety Plan workgroup Chair. The HSC has adopted a Harbor Safety Plan – reviewed annually; has researched and published a Resolution for addressing derelict and abandoned vessels; has assumed management of the annual winter ice guidelines for navigation and operations; and has established work groups for marine firefighting and salvage, dredging and other operations. See too the Harbor-Specific Geographic Response Strategies project above.

Section 5: Prevention and Response

Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment

The Council continues to rely on findings of the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment process to inform ongoing and future CIRCAC projects and programs, such as the recently completed Pipeline Risk Assessment study.

Cook Inlet Ice Monitoring Network (formerly Ice Forecasting Network)

In 2008, the network of ice cameras was introduced to augment the largely incidental visual reports provided to mariners. Using PROPS funds and grants, the network has grown to 11 cameras – on private and public facilities – with new generation cameras and operating systems replacing older models. The first public viewing capability was launched with the addition of a Kenai River camera. Images are now available beyond the NOAA Ice Forecaster to include the Incident Command and pilots navigating upper Cook Inlet.

Cook Inlet Winter Navigation Safety Guidelines

The Cook Inlet Winter Navigation Safety Guidelines – once the responsibility of the Coast Guard – is now implemented by the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee, a collaborative body of pilots, maritime operators, the oil and gas sector, harbor masters, CIRCAC, environmental groups and others.

(5f). Periodically reviews standards for tankers bound for, loading at, exiting from or otherwise using the terminal facilities.

Tanker Reports

Tanker traffic has been sharply reduced following the decommissioning of the Drift River Oil Terminal and Christy Lee Platform in 2019. CIRCAC continues to receive occasional KPL dock schedule updates with information regarding the mooring status of Tesoro/Andeavor/Marathon-chartered tankers in Cook Inlet. These tanker mooring reports and Spot Charter packages promote an open and earnest cooperation between industry and the citizens of Cook Inlet, and continue to build on the transparency mandated by OPA 90. Interaction such as this diminishes complacency, addressing a primary concern of OPA 90. In addition, we provide comments to the USCG on tanker loading when appropriate (e.g. – USCG Tank Vessel Oil Transfers – Docket #USCG-2013-0522).

(5g). Reports findings to local industry and responsible State and Federal officials.

CIRCAC supplies industry and agencies with Committee meeting packages which include copies of completed studies, staff reports on Council activities and upcoming studies, reports, and staff/committee activities. Position papers on matters of importance are also made available directly to affected parties, and are posted on our website. Please refer also to Sec. 2.

SECTION 6. Funding: The Coast Guard will determine whether the Cook Inlet RCAC has entered into a contract for funding in accordance with the requirements of 33 U.S.C 2732(o) and will review the Cook Inlet RCAC's expenditures of such funds.

CIRCAC's primary funding source is a long-term contract with the Charter Funding Companies operating in Cook Inlet. The contract provides a minimum funding level of \$1.4 Million per year with an annual Anchorage CPI adjustment. A copy of the funding agreement is provided (**Exhibit 6**). Efforts are currently underway to extend the contract.

The Companies which have provided funding to Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council throughout this recertification period are:

- Glacier Oil/Cook Inlet Energy
- Buccaneer (through bankruptcy resolution)
- BlueCrest Energy
- Marathon/Andeavor/Tesoro
- Hilcorp Alaska
- Furie Operating Alaska (through bankruptcy proceedings)

At the time of this application, all funding obligations are current. In fact, collection of funding – subject to any court restrictions – has never been an issue during this period.

As discussed above, the Council also secures funding from other sources in the course of conducting joint scientific and technical research and spill prevention activities, and occasionally contributes its own funds to research projects conducted by others. Below are current and recent sources of external funding:

- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- State of Alaska
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

(6a). Expenditures and controls are carried out in a manner consistent with sound business practices.

The annual audit of CIRCAC's financial statements, in the opinion of the independent auditor, was "... in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America". As previously mentioned, the auditor's FY2018 review letter is included (**Exhibit 1**).

Section 6: Funding

(6b). Expenditures are reasonably related to the prevention or response to oil spills from tanker or terminal operations, including environmental information, in the Cook Inlet RCAC area of responsibility.

The Council Board of Directors approves an annual operating budget that guides the expenditure of funds. Our progress against the budget is reviewed by the Executive Committee at its regular meetings, held nearly on a monthly schedule. They consider proposed revisions to the budget as presented by staff. These are reviewed for consistency with the Strategic Plan.

In addition, PROPS and EMC annually approve their program budgets and work plans, and consider revisions to the budgets as presented. These are reviewed for consistency with the Strategic Plan.

A copy of the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Operating and Program Budgets are attached **(Exhibit 7)**.

SECTION 7. Accessibility of Application: The Coast Guard’s review will include an examination of the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC provided notification to the public via local press releases that it has applied for certification and the extent to which the Cook Inlet RCAC has ensured that the application is accessible for public review.

Once a docket number is provided, CIRCAC will inform the public of its recertification application through paid advertisements and public service announcements in social media and newspapers of wide distribution in Kodiak, Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula. Press announcements will be sent to print, radio and television media outlets, and the weekly *What’s Up* bulletin, a widely-distributed publication of The Alaska Center. Copies of the application will be available at the Kenai office and online at www.circac.org. A story will be included in the April *Cook Inlet Navigator* e-newsletter, seen by hundreds of interested parties. The website, board and committee meeting agendas, and our Directors Updates will alert groups and individuals.

Advertisement/Press Release Example:

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 the environmental impacts of oil tanker and oil terminal operations in Cook Inlet.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) includes a provision calling for an annual review of CIRCAC’s activities by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The recertification process is designed to insure that CIRCAC is meeting the mandates spelled out in OPA 90 and is representing the interests of the communities within the vicinity of the terminal operations.

A copy of CIRCAC’s application to the USCG is available at our corporate office at 8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK, or online at www.circac.org. The deadline for public comment to the USCG is 07/27/2020. Comments should be submitted via the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

If unable to submit comments as above, contact Lt. McPhillips for alternates:

Attention: LT. Ian McPhillips
Department: Seventeenth Coast Guard District
Telephone: (907) 463–2809
Email: Ian.P.McPhillips@uscg.mil

Letters should reference Docket Number USCG-2020-0188. For more information, call CIRCAC at 907-398-6210, or via email at jerryrombach@circac.org.



LAMBE, TUTER & ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

August 6, 2019

To the Executive Committee
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Inc.

We have audited the financial statements of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2018, and we will issue a report thereon dated August 6, 2019. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated October 16, 2018. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Inc. are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. As described in Note 2, The Council adopted FASB Accounting Standard Update ASU 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958) for the year ending December 31, 2018. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management's estimate of the cost allocation to programs is based on the estimated costs of providing various programs and activities. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop cost allocations in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



Management's estimate of depreciation is based on expected useful lives of capital assets. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop depreciation expense in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimate of the allowance for doubtful accounts is based on management's estimates of collectability. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowance for doubtful accounts in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Council's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Audit Committee, Executive Committee, and management of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Inc. and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Lambe Tutor & Associates



“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.”

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Strategic Plan Updates – December 5, 2019

The Council’s 2014-2019 Strategic Plan has been the guiding document for the organization, and amendments have enabled us to remain focused. Successes during that timeframe – some during the current Triennial Recertification period – include the OPA 90 amendment that increased CIRCAC’s annual funding; completion of the Cook Inlet Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment; formation of the Harbor Safety Committee; detailed shoreline habitat data has been made accessible and incorporated into oil spill planning and response; contaminants data has been integrated into our Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) and GRID program.

New priorities were added in December 2018, including seeking additional funding for non-OPA 90 issues, and developing a sustained program to collect and integrate biological and chemical environmental data for Cook Inlet.

In 2019, Council staff developed a series of draft revisions to the Council’s Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and presented these proposed amendments to relevant CIRCAC committees: Executive Committee; Environmental Monitoring Committee; and the Protocol Control Committee.

With committee approval, these relatively few proposed amendments were presented to the Board of Directors at its December 5, 2019 meeting, and approved for inclusion:

- Host celebrations and activities focused on our accomplishments and lessons learned for the 30th Anniversary of OPA 90 and CIRCAC
- Partner with NOAA OR&R, AOOS, NPS and UAF to provide open access to an oil spill trajectory model incorporating complex oceanographic processes
- Provide leadership in the oversight and review of any actions potentially impacting State oil spill regulations

It was directed that the Strategic Plan will undergo a comprehensive review in 2020 to develop a new 5-year plan for the Council, 2021-2025.



COOK INLET Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Representing citizens in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet since 1990.



ADEC accepting comments on public scoping of Alaska's oil spill regulations and statutes

Alaskans have until March 16, 2020 to weigh in regarding the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC) public scoping of Alaska's oil spill prevention regulations and statutes. Specifically, ADEC wants to know whether we support the regulations and statutes as currently written.

It's important that ADEC hears from as many Alaskans as possible on

Pressures are mounting on Alaska's oil spill prevention and response system

After nearly 30 years without a significant oil spill in Alaska's waters, it's tempting to think that we can relax our vigilance. But we cannot. At no time since the *Exxon Valdez* has there been so many pressures on oil spill prevention and response.

In October, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) announced its intention to streamline oil spill contingency plan regulations and statutes to alleviate a perceived

this subject. Here's where to comment:

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CIRCAC welcomes new Director of Public Outreach

We're pleased to welcome Shaylon Cochran to the CIRCAC team!

Shaylon joined CIRCAC in February following a decade working in broadcast journalism, most recently at KDLL public radio in Kenai, where he reported extensively on Cook Inlet's oil and gas industry.

He has big shoes to fill. For the last eight years, Lynda Giguere has done an outstanding job telling our story and representing CIRCAC at functions all over the country. We will wish her the best in a well-deserved retirement. Cheers, Lynda!

burden to industry and show Alaska is open for business.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CIRCAC scholarship deadline

The deadline to apply for CIRCAC's two \$2,500 scholarships is approaching.

Our scholarship program, now in its sixth year, has given more than \$25,000 to area students pursuing post-secondary educations in marine and environmental safety and sciences.

Past recipients have gone on to study ocean science, environmental chemistry, sustainable technologies and more.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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COOK INLET
REGIONAL CITIZENS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONNECT
8195 Kenai Spur Highway
Kenai Alaska 99611
Phone: 907-283-7222
Free: 800-652-7222
Fax: 907-283-6102

CONTACT COOK INLET



Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council | 8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK 99611

[Unsubscribe jerryrombach@circac.org](mailto:jerryrombach@circac.org)

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Directors Update

From John Williams, President

Representing the City of Kenai

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council



The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) meets three times a year—in Kenai in April, Anchorage in November/December and, on a rotating basis, Kodiak, Homer or Seldovia in September. We were looking forward to holding this year's September 6th meeting in Seldovia. Regrettably, the community is facing a severe water shortage. We moved our meeting to Homer so as not to tax their already stressed supply. We wish the community the best as it contends with this emergency and will see our friends in Seldovia next September.

In Homer, we received a warm welcome from Mayor Ken Castner, also a former Chair of CIRCAC's PROPS Committee. On the agenda were presentations from Hilcorp Alaska, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Nuka Research. Hilcorp chose to submit their report in writing. Also joining us were Denise Koch, the Director of the Division of Spill Prevention and Response for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and members of the public.

Denise Koch informed us of the status of ADEC's review of C-Plan regulations. This review will entail a public scoping process beginning in the fall, and CIRCAC is participating in this review. Regarding personnel, ADEC has hired Crystal Smith as the new State On-Scene Coordinator to replace Geoff Merrell.

During the public comment portion of our meeting, Bob Shavelson, Advocacy Director for Cook Inletkeeper and Environmental Representative for Prince William Sound RCAC, and Jim Herbert, who serves on Prince William Sound RCAC's Oil Spill Prevention and Response committee, focused their comments on Hilcorp's seismic testing and acquisition of BP assets. Mr. Shavelson questioned Hilcorp's conclusions that seismic testing was not harmful to wildlife; noting the science and knowledge of seismic impacts are limited but growing. Mr. Herbert stated that Hilcorp's acquisition of BP assets raises many questions for Prince William Sound and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

U.S. Coast Guard Alaska Operations

Captain Sean MacKenzie, Commander Sector Anchorage; Captain Patrick Hilbert, District 17 Chief of Prevention (photo below right); and Lt. Edward "Kahi" Kaaua, Supervisor of the Homer Marine Safety Detachment provided a broad but detailed overview of the U.S. Coast Guard's operations in Alaska, including mission, search and rescue, current and future assets, and jurisdictional responsibilities. Congress has approved six USCG national security cutters to increase America's presence in the Polar region, the Bering Sea and the Arctic to 365 days a year. Captain MacKenzie, while speaking about CIRCAC's work and progress within Cook Inlet commended the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee for taking ownership of the Ice Guidelines formerly managed by the USCG. All the Directors appreciated their presentations.



Nuka Research, Pipeline Project Update

Tim Robertson of Nuka Research reported steady progress with the Cook Inlet Pipeline Study, having completed Phases 1 and 2 (regulatory framework and a validated inventory). Phase 3— Panel of Experts review and recommendations—is ongoing. Under the charter, the Expert Panel is to recommend measures to reduce risks of failures that could threaten structural integrity. The Panel has met once in person and multiple times by teleconference. They have developed 230 scenarios associated with the potential loss of integrity and are scoring them by likelihood and consequences—environmental, social, and economic impacts. The Panel will review their differences and then meet September 31/October 1 in Anchorage to develop recommendations. We expect a report to be forthcoming by year's end.

With a grant to CIRCAC from the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Nuka developed a [website](#) with background information on Cook Inlet pipelines, and conducted a survey, public webinar, and public meeting. Questions from the participants pertained to emergency response, information/data, infrastructure, Inspection/Maintenance, Other/General. Nuka's presentation is posted on CIRCAC's web page, [here](#).

Reports from the Executive Committee and Executive Director

President John Williams reported the organization's finances are sound. The auditor Lambe, Tuter, and Associates found no financial discrepancies during this year's audit.

Executive Director Mike Munger confirmed that the U.S. Coast Guard recertified CIRCAC without qualification for the 28th consecutive year. He spoke in detail about the history of the pipeline assessment, which is nearing completion and noted that Hilcorp was very transparent in sharing pipeline information. Mr. Munger met with Alaska's Congressional Delegation regarding legislation to extend the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. We are working very closely with PWSRCAC to garner support throughout Congress to get this bill passed. Mr. Munger also spoke in detail regarding the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing by Furie Operating Alaska LLC, one of CIRCAC's funding companies. AVTEC will begin administering the new \$2500 joint CIRCAC/Marathon scholarship immediately.

Hilcorp asked Mr. Munger to point out that Hilcorp has set up a hotline number for subsistence users to share information on seismic activity. He said the company is working diligently to decommission Drift River Oil Terminal and that the facility's pipes and storage containers are now oil-free. The oil in the ground is a long-term ADEC remediation clean-up project. CIRCAC was instrumental in advancing the subsea pipeline and Drift River Oil Terminal removal.



Status of Programs and Projects

Detailed Staff reports are [online](#). Here are some highlights:

Environmental Monitoring Committee (Sue Saupe, Director of Science and Research)

Ms. Saupe is providing training in the Cook Inlet Response Tool and ShoreZone for ADEC and Marathon this month. She is also in discussion with coastal educators about classroom training. NOAA Coastal and Oceans Resources Center is developing a "Human Impressions" exhibit modeled after the Coastal Impressions ShoreZone Exhibits. There are new reports of range extensions for *Macrocystis kelp* on the other side of Cook Inlet caused by warming temperatures. These beds are very dense and could retain oil during a spill, which could hamper clean-up efforts. The kelp is an essential habitat for forage fish and otters in heavy weather. CIRCAC continues its support of [marine snow research](#) which continued this summer with the addition of sampling on Albatross and Portlock banks off of Kodiak.

Staff worked with contractors and the Protocol Committee to submit reviews for several permits, including the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Marine Mammal Take Permit for Hilcorp activities over the next five years, as well as the seismic work which will begin in a few days. Staff still has concerns that were not resolved by the NMFS. Chief among them, the permit should contain, but does not, a requirement for additional passive acoustic monitoring in Cook Inlet. The permit also proposes, without discussion, a quarter-mile causeway in Chinitna Bay. CIRCAC's technical review found a shocking lack of information on which to base these decisions. CIRCAC's comments are at www.circac.org/wp-content/uploads/Taking-of-marine-mammals.pdf

CIRCAC is also not satisfied with the APDES General Oil and Gas Permit for Cook Inlet and the Individual Permit for the Osprey Platform which we believe are oversimplified and contain misinformation. The permits would also increase the sources and total contaminant loadings to Cook Inlet. We are awaiting comments to our concerns from ADEC.

PROPS Committee (Steve "Vinnie" Catalano, Director of Operations)

The Harbor Safety Committee workgroup's annual review of the Harbor Safety Plan is complete. The Ice Monitoring System of Cameras is improved with the installation of two new cameras—one on A Platform and one on Granite Point Platform. Another new camera is in the works for the Tyonek Platform. We are testing the GRID program during a drill on October 26 with Marathon. Mr. Catalano is working with Logistics and the Public Outreach Director in the Joint Information Center. Staff is developing new Geographic Response Strategies for stream crossings along the truck route used by tank trucks carrying crude oil from the BlueCrest Cosmopolitan Facility.

Administration (Jerry Rombach, Director of Administration)

Board seats with expiring terms in 2020 are Environmental, Alaska Native, Kodiak Island Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough. The elections process will begin in mid-November. Special interest groups are elected and the Borough seats are appointed.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

September 19, 2019 – Western States Harbor Safety Committee, Long Beach, CA

November 13, 2019 - [Pacific States/BC Task Force](#), Bellingham, WA

November 14, 2019 - [Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum](#), Bellingham, WA

November 21-23 - [Pacific Marine Expo](#), Seattle, WA

December 5 and 6, 2019 – CIRCAC Board of Directors Meeting, Anchorage



Photo by Cindy Sanguinetti

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council Board of Directors Regular & Annual Meeting Friday, April 5, 2019 Kenai, Alaska



Update from John Williams Representing the City of Kenai

CIRCAC held its Regular and Annual Board of Directors meeting in Kenai on April 5. In attendance were representatives from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Hilcorp Alaska, LLC, Nuka Research, Marathon Petroleum Corporation, CIRCAC's Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC), State Pipeline Coordinator's Ex Officio, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), City of Kenai Mayor's Office, Crowley Alaska Tankers, Peninsula Clarion, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Ex Officio, Cook Inletkeeper and CISPRI. Mayor Brian Gabriel welcomed the Board to Kenai and thanked the organization for its work.



Denise Koch (right) addresses the Board.

DEC SPAR (Spill Prevention and Response) Director, Denise Koch, introduced herself and her experience with the department and background in environmental consulting. She addressed Commissioner Brune's remarks regarding regulation review and efficiencies, in particular a review of C-Plan regulations "with an eye toward maintaining stringent environmental protections." She assured the Council that DEC would be talking with the RCACs during that process, and thanked CIRCAC for its productive partnership. Ms. Koch spoke to the Governor's proposed budget for SPAR. DEC budget reductions include an economist and dairy program in Environmental Health Division and the Ocean Ranger program. On questioning from the Board, she addressed the impetus to remove the Ocean Ranger program, which is supported by passenger fees, saying that the scrutiny of the industry was disproportionate to that applied to other industries. Of concern to CIRCAC is the C-Plan regulation review, whether there are enough DEC staff in house to conduct such a review and what it would entail.

Public Comments

Mr. Bob Shavelson with Cook Inletkeeper spoke to the Clean Water Act and the increase in effluent discharges in Cook Inlet.

Special Presentations

The Board of Directors honored Hilcorp Alaska for the construction of the Cross Inlet pipeline and safe operations.

Service Awards and Special Recognition

Jim McHale, 5 Years on PROPS

John Williams, 10 Years as City of Kenai Representative

Molly McCammon, 15 Years as Municipality of Anchorage Representative

Dr. Richard Prentki, EMC and Ex Officio, 25 years

Robert Peterkin, Volunteer of the Year (for second consecutive year)

The Executive Committee honored Michael Munger with a Special Recognition and Bonus for his tireless work and many contributions on behalf of the Council



John Williams (left) honors Dr. Richard Prentki for 25 years of service to CIRCAC.

PRESENTATIONS

Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment

Tim Robertson with Nuka Research spoke of significant progress being made with the pipeline risk assessment project, including the nearly completed pipeline inventory and selection of the Expert Panel. He also introduced a separate public outreach campaign to engage stakeholders and the general public in developing strategies for pipeline safety.

Hilcorp/Harvest Projects Update

Rich Novcaski, Harvest Alaska, provided an update on the Cross Inlet Pipeline and Drift River Oil Terminal. Harvest has recently received RCA (Regulatory Commission of Alaska) approval to begin decommissioning Drift River and will work with ADEC to devise a contaminants cleanup plan.



Rich Novcaski (right) accepts commendation award on behalf of Hilcorp

Environmental Field Research

CIRCAC Director of Science and Research, Susan Saupe, provided an in-depth review of CIRCAC's 2018 field research, including the fourth year of sampling for the Lower Cook Inlet Habitat Assessment and Ecosystem Modeling project funded mainly by BOEM, with contributions by CIRCAC, NPS, UAF, and NOAA. CIRCAC organized the field program for the project which was initiated in 2015 to provide information in areas at risk from future activities associated with BOEM's lease sales in lower Cook Inlet. BOEM is interested in understanding baselines and trends, as well as recommendations for future monitoring in the Inlet.

Ms. Saupe also described CIRCAC's interest in and support of a study of water column particulate organic matter (marine snow) and its potential role in the fate and transport of dispersed oil. Recent research has shown that marine snow can be a mechanism for oil to reach the seafloor. Our role in the research grew out of concerns for shallow shelf areas that overlapped with proposed preauthorization zones for dispersant use in the western Gulf of Alaska. In 2019, CIRCAC will continue to support a graduate student's field work in Kachemak Bay, as well as a small pilot project on the shallow "banks" northeast of Kodiak. For more on the Marine Snow research project, see our [September 2018 e-Newsletter](#) and [2018 Annual Report](#).

Seismic Surveys

In light of Hilcorp's proposal and subsequent decision to postpone 3-D seismic surveys in Lower Cook Inlet until after fishing season, the board made a motion to add the topic to the agenda to discuss concerns about the potential negative impacts on Cook Inlet marine life.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director is meeting with Alaska's congressional delegation and senior US Coast Guard personnel in Washington to advocate for CIRCAC issues and for passage of Senator Sullivan's Spill Response and Prevention Surety Act.

Mr. Munger announced Maddie Jamora's transition to full-time staff and welcomed the appointment of Denise Koch as SPAR Director, but described Commissioner Brune's plans to revise ADEC's contingency plan regulations because they are "burdensome," as very concerning. C-Plan review and comment is CIRCAC's strongest avenue to influence how industry does their business and conducts their operations. C-Plans have gone through numerous revisions and CIRCAC supports clarification of existing regulations and additional regulations if they result in safer operations and environmental protection; however, CIRCAC will reject efforts to diminish what Mr. Munger considers some of the most robust oil spill contingency plan regulations in the United States.



CIRCAC Executive Director Michael Munger is recognized for his considerable contributions.

Finally, CIRCAC is putting the finishing touches on a scholarship program with Marathon Petroleum and AVTEC to address a shortage of professional licensed mariners.

The Council announced the following Appointments and Reappointments, election of officers, and seats on committees:

Bob Flint (reelected for 3 years by Recreation Interest groups)

Robert Peterkin, II (reelected for 3 years by Tourism interest groups)

Molly McCammon (reappointed for 3 years by the Municipality of Anchorage)

Walt Sonen (reappointed for 3 years by the City of Seldovia)

Election of Officers

President: John Williams

V. President: Robert Peterkin, II

Secretary Treasurer: Gary Fandrei

Executive Committee

John Williams, Robert Peterkin, II, Gary Fandrei, Deric Marcorelle and Bob Flint

Audit Committee

Gary Fandrei, Molly McCammon, Grace Merkes, and Robert Peterkin as alternate

Credentials Committee

Robert Peterkin, II, Grace Merkes, Gary Fandrei and Michael Opheim as alternate

Protocol Control Committee

Robert Peterkin, Bob Flint, Deric Marcorelle, Paul Shadura,, Rob Lindsey and Gary Fandrei as alternate

PROPS Committee

Rob Lindsey, Deric Marcorelle, Bob Flint, Michael Opheim, Carla Stanley and Walt Sonen

Public Members Reappointed for 3 years: Robert Reges, Scott Hamann, and Ted Moore

Environmental Monitoring Committee

Michael Opheim, Molly McCammon, Carla Stanley, Deric Marcorelle

Appointed: Kyle Crow

Public Members Reappointed for 3 years: Robert Reges, Rick Frederic and Bruce Magyar

The Council holds its next meeting on September 6, 2019, in Seldovia. To download board packets and presentations from this or any previous board meeting, visit: <https://www.circac.org/who-we-are/council-meetings-minutes/>



8195 Kenai Spur Highway, Kenai, AK 99611

907.283.7222

AGREEMENT FOR COOK INLET RCAC FUNDING

The companies listed on Attachment A ("Charter Funding Companies") are required by the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) to provide annual funding to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council ("Cook Inlet RCAC"). The Charter Funding Companies agree to provide such funding subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. This Agreement is signed in counterparts, with each individual Charter Funding Company signing this Agreement separately. Each counterpart shall constitute a duplicate original; all counterparts together shall constitute a single agreement.

2. Each individual Charter Funding Company shall pay its share of Cook Inlet RCAC's funding in the amount described in Attachment A. Cook Inlet RCAC will submit an invoice to each Charter Funding Company for the amount due from that company thirty (30) days prior to the due date; provided, however, that failure to send or receive such invoice does not relieve the company from its obligation to timely pay each payment due. Each Charter Funding Company's share is due and payable in full directly to Cook Inlet RCAC by no later than January 1 of each year during the term of this Agreement. A company's annual share may be paid in two installments: the first installment of fifty percent (50%) of the annual payment shall be paid by no later than January 1 each year, and the second installment of fifty percent (50%) of the annual payment shall be paid by no later than June 30 each year. If an installment is not received by Cook Inlet RCAC on or before the due date, the entire annual share becomes due and payable in full.

3. Cook Inlet RCAC's funding under this Agreement will be adjusted annually, as of January 1 of each year, using the following formula:

2016- 1,422,400.00, plus an increase equal to the 2015 Anchorage CPI;
2017 - Total funding for 2016, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2016 multiplied by the 2016 Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI);
2018 - Total funding for 2017, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2017 multiplied by the 2017 Anchorage CPI;
2019- Total funding for 2018, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2018 multiplied by the 2018 Anchorage CPI;
2020- Total funding for 2019, plus an increase equal to total funding for 2019 multiplied by the 2019 Anchorage CPI.

4. The term of this Agreement is from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020. Funding adjustments in paragraph 3 are effective December 1 for the following year.

5. It is understood that the share of funding provided by individual Charter Funding Companies may vary from year to year, and that companies may be added to or deleted from Attachment A depending upon industry activity in Cook Inlet. Attachment A may be modified by the Charter Funding Companies to reflect such additions, deletions or changes in activities, and such modification shall be forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC by no later than December 1 each year; provided, however, that any such modification is not effective until the next funding year. CISPRI will confirm the accuracy and provide documentation of the annual amounts for the individual companies based on the volumes reported to them by the Charter Funding Companies

before Attachment A is forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC, and such documentation shall accompany the updated Attachment A forwarded to Cook Inlet RCAC.

6. It is also understood that if additional production or transportation sources are developed by the Charter Funding Companies or other new companies operating in Cook Inlet that will require additional filing of oil spill contingency plans, monitoring or oversight by Cook Inlet RCAC, funding shall be increased to cover this increased activity and the parties shall in good faith negotiate said increase.

7. Cook Inlet RCAC will provide the Charter Funding Companies with a copy of its annual report and financial statement. The Charter Funding Companies may jointly audit Cook Inlet RCAC accounts once per year, at the companies' expense. Cook Inlet RCAC will also provide the Charter Funding Companies at no charge with copies of the minutes of all Council and Committee meetings, along with any reports, recommendations or position papers which are prepared by the Council or its Committees, if requested by the Charter Funding Companies.

8. Funds provided to Cook Inlet RCAC by the Charter Funding Companies pursuant to this Agreement are to be used for the purpose stated in OPA 90, Alaska State Law, the Bylaws of Cook Inlet RCAC and its Strategic Plan, as applicable.

9. A Charter Funding Company or the Companies shall not be released from the obligation to provide funding as described above as long as: 1) Cook Inlet RCAC retains OPA 90 certification during the term of this Agreement; 2) a Company operates oil facilities in the Cook Inlet area.

10. Each individual Charter Funding Company agrees to provide written notice to Cook Inlet RCAC if such company intends to cease operating in Cook Inlet, at least ninety (90) days in advance of said cessation, and agrees further to cover all of its funding obligations to Cook Inlet RCAC until the end of the calendar year in which such company ceases operating in Cook Inlet.

11. If a Charter Funding Company fails to pay any installment due under Paragraph 2, above, within sixty (60) days of the date it is due, Cook Inlet RCAC may notify all Charter Funding Companies of such default. Within forty-five (45) days of such notice, the remaining Charter Funding Companies will provide to Cook Inlet RCAC payment in full of any installment payment due from the defaulting company.

12. In the event that a Charter Funding Company files for bankruptcy and Cook Inlet RCAC is required to defend against any claim for refund of any payment made by such Company under this Agreement, or is ordered by the bankruptcy court to refund such payment, Cook Inlet RCAC may notify all remaining Charter Funding Companies of such claim or order, and the remaining Charter Funding Companies will cover Cook Inlet RCAC's reasonable defense costs or reasonable costs of compliance with such order.

13. If the Charter Funding Companies fail to make up a funding default as provided in paragraph 11, or fail to cover Cook Inlet RCAC's bankruptcy costs as provided in paragraph 12, Cook Inlet RCAC may terminate this Agreement upon no less than thirty (30) days written notice to all the Charter Funding Companies, and may pursue any legal or political remedies available.

14. This Agreement cannot be amended, modified or supplemented in any respect except by a subsequent written agreement entered into by the affected parties.

END OF AGREEMENT

CHARTER FUNDING COMPANY: _____
(Name)

DATE: January 7, 2016

BY: _____
(print name)

TITLE: HSE Manager

COOK INLET CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

DATE: 1/13/14


BY: John Williams
(print name)

TITLE: President