

“Our mission is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet.”



The Formation and Activities of the
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

SECTION 5002, OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990 (OPA 90)

TERMINAL AND TANKER OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING

(2) FINDINGS- The Congress finds that--

(A) the March 24, 1989, grounding and rupture of the fully loaded oil tanker, the EXXON VALDEZ, spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil in Prince William Sound, an environmentally sensitive area;

(B) many people believe that complacency on the part of the industry and government personnel responsible for monitoring the operation of the Valdez terminal and vessel traffic in Prince William Sound was one of the contributing factors to the EXXON VALDEZ oil spill;

(C) one way to combat this complacency is to involve local citizens in the process of preparing, adopting, and revising oil spill contingency plans;

(D) a mechanism should be established which fosters the long-term partnership of industry, government, and local communities in overseeing compliance with environmental concerns in the operation of crude oil terminals;

(G) the present system of regulation and oversight of crude oil terminals in the United States has degenerated into a process of continual mistrust and confrontation;

(H) only when local citizens are involved in the process will the trust develop that is necessary to change the present system from confrontation to consensus;

(I) a pilot program patterned after Sullom Voe should be established in Alaska to further refine the concepts and relationships involved; and

(J) similar programs should eventually be established in other major crude oil terminals in the United States because the recent oil spills in Texas, Delaware, and Rhode Island indicate that the safe transportation of crude oil is a national problem.

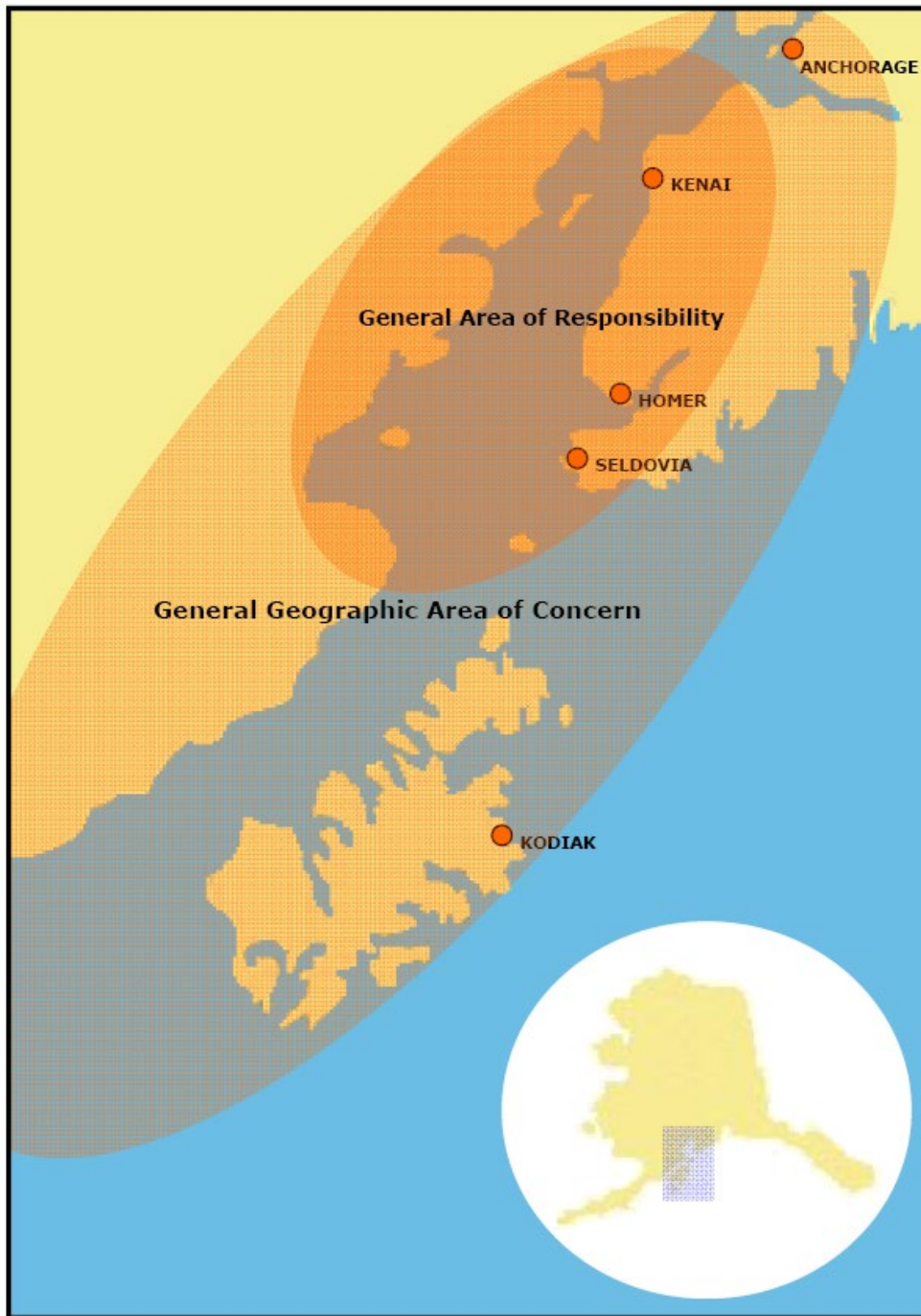
SECTION 5002, OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990 (OPA 90)
TERMINAL AND TANKER OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING

(O) ALTERNATIVE VOLUNTARY ADVISORY GROUP IN LIEU OF COUNCIL

The requirements of subsections (c) through (l), as such subsections apply respectively to the Prince William Sound Program and the Cook Inlet Program, are deemed to have been satisfied so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND- With respect to the Prince William Sound Program, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company or any of its owner companies enters into a contract for the duration of the operation of

(2) COOK INLET- With respect to the Cook Inlet Program, the terminal facilities, offshore facilities, or crude oil tanker owners and operators enter into a contract with a voluntary advisory organization to fund that organization on an annual basis and the President annually certifies that the organization fosters the general goals and purposes of this section and is broadly representative of the communities and interests in the vicinity of the terminal facilities and Cook Inlet.



•Geographic

The geographic area of concern is Cook Inlet and areas potentially impacted by oil industry activities that take place within our OPA 90-defined area of responsibility.

• Programmatic

At the program level, we pursue any project that helps meet the goals of programs developed for meeting OPA 90 mandates.

Cook Inlet RCAC Representation

State Appointee

- Alaska Chamber of Commerce



Borough Appointees

- Kenai Peninsula
- Kodiak

Municipal Appointees

- Anchorage
- Kenai
- Homer
- Seldovia
- Kodiak

Special Interests

- Alaska Native Organizations
- Environmental Groups
- Recreational Groups
- Commercial Fishing Groups
- Aquaculture Associations



Cook Inlet RCAC Structure



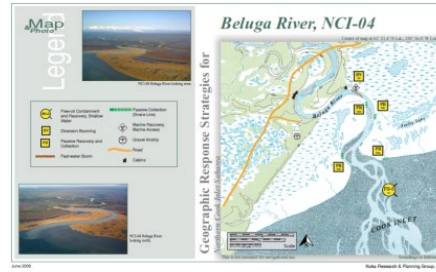
PROGRAMS THAT SATISFY DUTIES SET OUT IN OPA 90

Cook Inlet RCAC Programs

- Contingency Plan Review
- Prevention and Response
- Geographic Response Strategies
- Risk Assessment
- Biological and Chemical Environmental Monitoring
- Coastal Habitat Mapping
- Physical Oceanography
- Oil Fates and Effects
- Technical Review
- Public Outreach

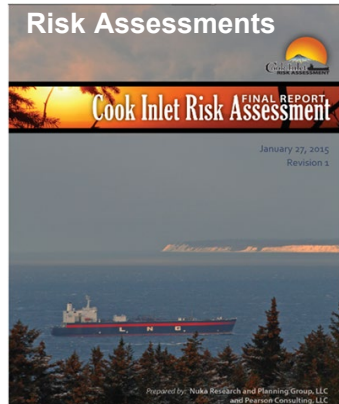
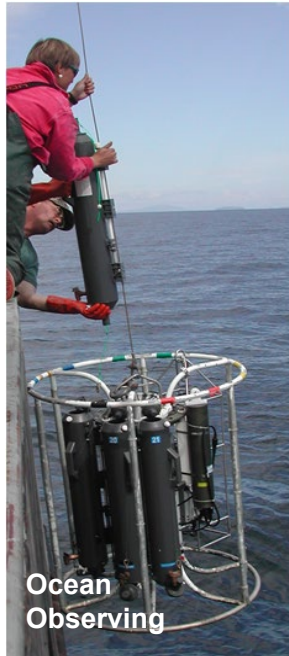


CIRCAC Projects to meet OPA 90 Mandates:



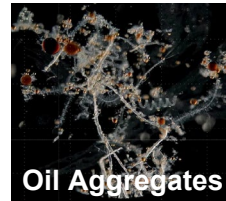
Geographic Response Strategies

Oil Spill C-plan Reviews



Nearshore Assessments

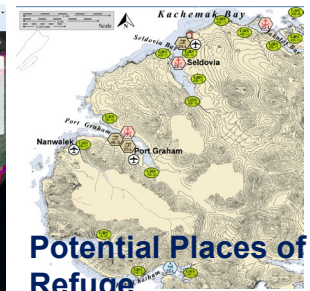
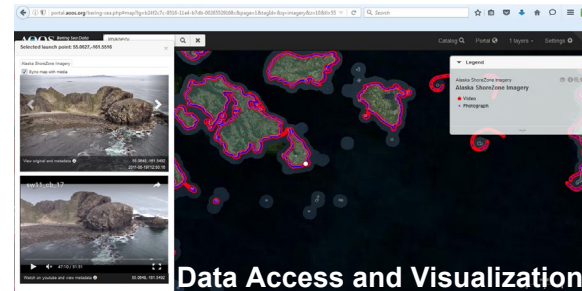
Ocean Observing



Habitat Mapping

Dispersant Research and Reviews

Oil Aggregates



Contaminant Assessments and Monitoring

Marine Firefighting

Data Access and Visualization

Potential Places of Refuge

Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans (C-plans)

An aerial photograph of a large oil tanker ship, likely the Exxon Valdez, navigating through a dense field of sea ice. The ship is white with a red hull and has "NO SMOKING SAFETY FIRST" written on its side. The ice consists of numerous small, broken floes. In the background, a dark, forested coastline is visible under a clear sky.

- OPA 90 stated that one way to combat the complacency that led to the Exxon Valdez oil spill “...is to involve local citizens in the process of preparing, adopting, and revising oil spill contingency plans.”
- These plans are required of oil industry and describe oil spill prevention and response measures for oil terminal facilities, vessels, exploration and production facilities, and pipelines.
- In addition to the industry plans, Cook Inlet RCAC also reviews Regional and Area plans that streamline the planning, preparedness, and response efforts of federal, state, and local agencies and commissions.

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM

Cook Inlet Response Tool

The Cook Inlet Response Tool (CIRT) is a data integration & visualization product designed to assist responders in the event of an oil spill or other event. This interactive web-based tool combines:

- GIS spatial data layers
- Real time observations
- Model nowcast/forecasts for winds, waves, and ocean circulation,
- ShoreZone video and imagery
- The tool was developed in collaboration with the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC), the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



Cook Inlet was selected for the demonstration project because many of the needed datasets are mature, and the area is tractable. The application is scalable so that other areas in Alaska and the nation will benefit.

Data Layer Catalog

The Data Layer Catalog has a library of data layers that include meteorological models (e.g., wind, waves and currents), habitat and species information from field-based mapping projects, real-time sensors, ShoreZone Imagery and more. Users can browse data sets by category or keyword and search through metadata, or click to access brief project descriptions with links to original source data. Individual datasets can be stacked for viewing in the CIRT Tool.

[Q Go to search](#)[Watch video tutorial](#)

Interactive Ocean Portal

This interactive map displays data in and around the Cook Inlet. Users can graphically explore individual data sets such as temperature, currents or precipitation, and drag and drop a "virtual sensor" to extract a time series at specific map locations. High-definition ShoreZone video and images can be streamed alongside multiple layers. If you have questions please use the feedback tab on the left side of the screen.

[Launch Ocean Portal](#)[Watch video tutorial](#)

www.aoots.org

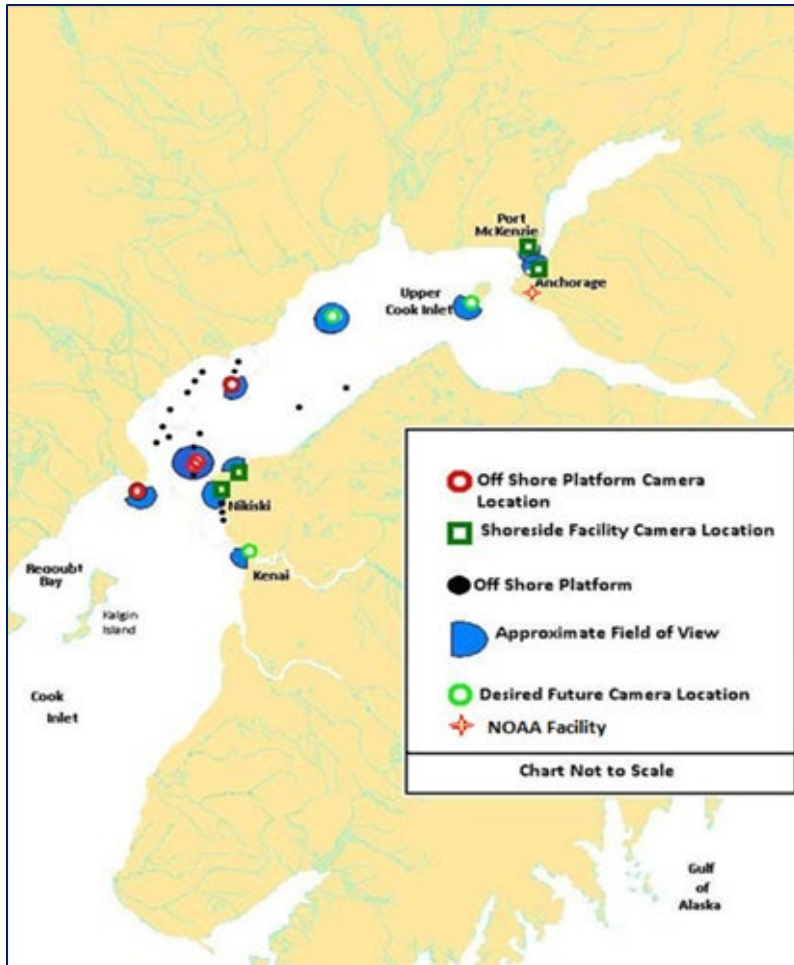
Some Risk Assessment Program projects:
Navigation Risk Assessment
Tanker Self Arrest
Pipeline Infrastructure Risk Assessment
Ice Monitoring Network

Vessel Traffic Study

This Project is part of the Risk Assessment Program and is an ongoing project to track vessel traffic trends through Cook Inlet.



600' *Seabulk Nevada* in
Cook Inlet ice



Cook Inlet Ice Camera Network

Standardized mapping within shore “units” characterizes physical and biological habitat both along-shore and across-shore



wave exposure



geomorphology



sediment texture



intertidal/subtidal biota

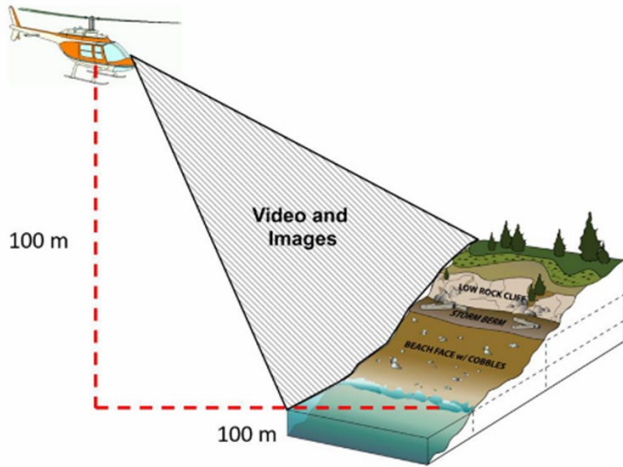


supratidal biota



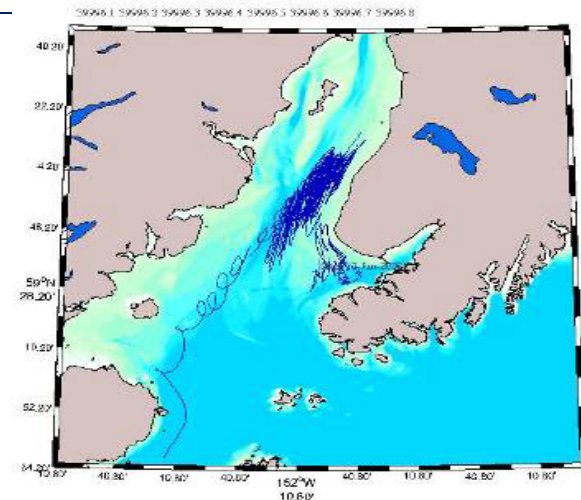
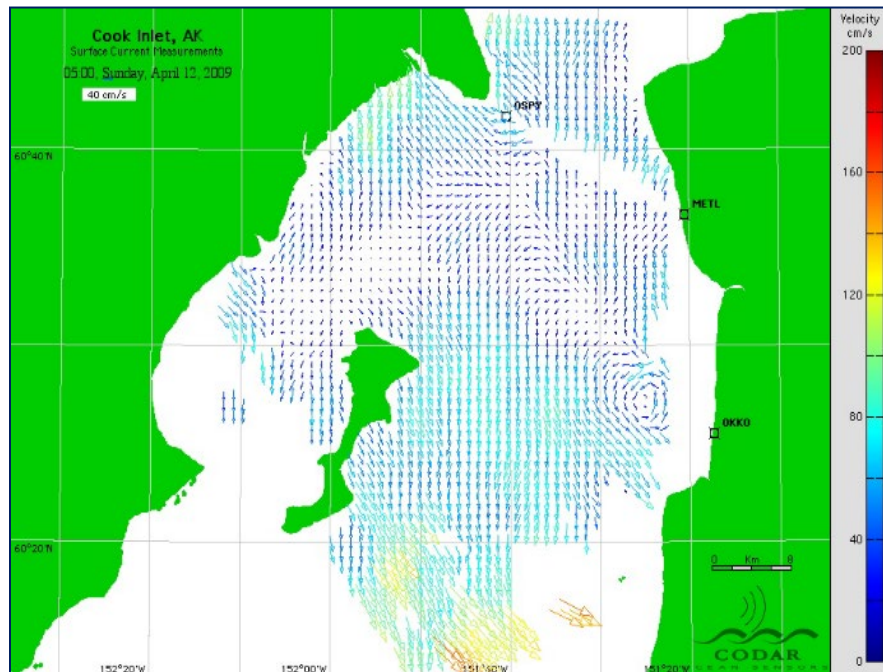
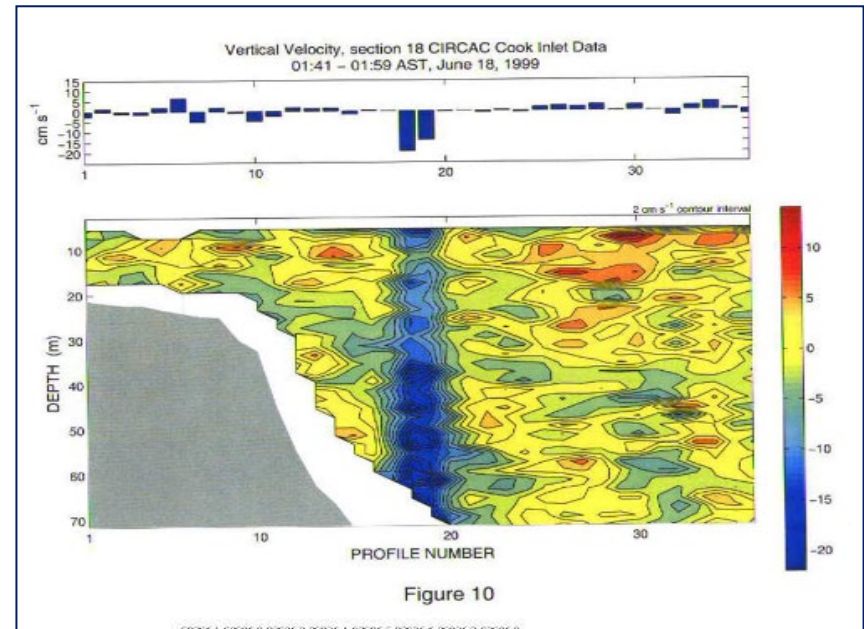
man-made features

ShoreZone Imaging and Mapping



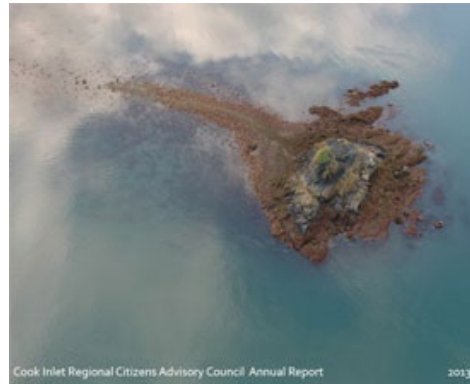
What is ShoreZone:

- Along-shore and across-shore imagery and data recorded in homogenous units
- High resolution, LOW TIDE digital video and photographs
- Mapped morphology, substrate, wave exposure, features (including man-made), oil residence index, coastal vulnerability, biological habitat

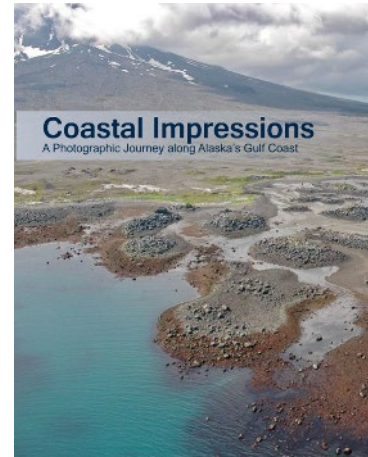


Measurements of Cook Inlet's complex and dynamic oceanography

Public Outreach



Annual Reports



Special Publications



Presentations



Exhibits



Hosting Special Symposia



Event Booths

www.circac.org

Developing Partnerships and Trust



Lead to opportunities and increased access to industry and agency information, all of which benefit our efforts to understand and protect Cook Inlet and areas nearby.

For More information about Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

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or

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or

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