

We've been busy

In addition to publishing our 2013 Annual Report, March and April have been busy months for Cook Inlet RCAC staff, board and committee members.

- ◆ Both our Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) and Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee held productive meetings, with EMC hosting speakers who provided information on the Clean Water Act and the various roles and steps taken during the development of oil and gas discharge permits for Cook Inlet.
- ◆ Our Directors of Operations and Science attended the first Alaska Oil Spill Technology Symposium in Fairbanks, which provided a venue for researchers and oil spill responders and decision-makers to interact and better understand technologies and research available for oil spill response, as well as the roles and information needs to better manage oil spills.
- ◆ Our Science Director provided training to Tesoro, CISPRI, and Hilcorp Alaska during training sessions in Nikiski and Anchorage on how to use the Alaska ShoreZone website and the Cook Inlet Response Tool for oil spill drill planning and for actual incidents.
- ◆ We participated in several drills, including a three-day series of drills with Hilcorp Alaska where three separate scenarios were tested for oil releases throughout the Inlet.
- ◆ We've worked with partners at the Alaska Ocean Observing System and the City of Kenai to develop agreements for installing our 9th ice monitoring camera. This camera will be on city property and aimed at the mouth of the Kenai River to monitor freshwater ice forming there that poses a greater risk to mariners because of its density. When this freshwater ice is transported on a flood tide it can move as far north as the Nikiski docks, creating dangerous conditions for vessels during and after mooring.
- ◆ We had a terrific exhibit at ComFish Expo in Kodiak, where we interacted with hundreds of Kodiak residents and fishermen.
- ◆ During the week of the Kodiak Area Marine Science Symposium, we gave a presentation about using ShoreZone and the Cook Inlet Response Tool in the Kodiak area. We also provided a "mini-Coastal Impressions" exhibit with a series of photographs from the Kodiak ShoreZone surveys. This exhibit was very well received and was left with the local Sea Grant office so they could provide it at other local venues. Extra photographs were used as door prizes during the symposium. Finally, we worked with the Alaska ShoreZone Coordinator from the Nature Conservancy to provide a hands-on workshop at the University of Alaska's Kodiak Seafood and Marine Science Center.
- ◆ We presented the results of our Cook Inlet beluga whale winter prey study at the National Marine Fisheries Service Beluga Whale Symposium.
- ◆ We prepared our recertification package to be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard. Every third year they require an expanded submission (the "long form") and this was that year. Recertification is a good way to remind us of how well we've work together and how much we accomplish in one year, and to evaluate our progress against our Oil Pollution Act of 1990 mandates.



Senator Begich and his staff assistant, Bob King, paid our booth a visit at ComFish in Kodiak.

We've left some things out, including Audit, Protocol, Credentials, and Executive committee meetings; numerous meetings with partnering organizations in moving our projects and programs forward, planning for field surveys, and managing our many contracts and grants. In May, many of us will be attending the International Oil Spill Conference in Georgia. We'll continue to share our progress with you as the months ahead will only get busier.