# **#OBSERVER**

# Report raises concerns about safety at the Valdez Marine Terminal

In April 2023, the Council released an assessment of risks and safety culture at the Valdez Marine Terminal. This report was initiated in June 2022, in response to safety concerns brought to Council staff by current and former Alyeska employees.

The Council worked with Billie Pirner Garde, a national expert on safety culture for work environments in energy industries. Garde previously worked as a consultant for both Alyeska and BP on numerous issues such as open work environments, safety cultures, and employee concerns programs.

Garde interviewed the concerned individuals, allowing them to remain anonymous. They reported inadequate staffing, equipment, and safety and reporting systems. Pressure to reduce budgets was a common theme.

One person quoted in the report noted, "we are as safe as the budget allows."

"Virtually every serious accident investigation confirms that the tension between cost on the one hand, and compliance and safety on the other hand, contributed to the event."

- Billie Pirner Garde

According to the interviews, the availability of resources, quality and audit functions, maintenance and system upgrades, and operational integrity and compliance have all suffered significantly under recent corporate management.

#### Alyeska employees

Garde notes in the report that the interviewees all cared deeply about the safe operation of the terminal, and the safety of their colleagues, the community, and Prince William Sound. She credits the integrity, knowledge, and skill of the Alyeska workforce for holding together an aging infrastructure.

# Regulatory oversight diminished

Government budget pressures have also contributed to the problems. Over the past several years, the Council has voiced concerns about cuts and reductions in staffing at oversight agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

"The consequences of reduced oversight have, generally, never been favorable for the Alaska public and its environment," Garde notes in the report.

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# **Board elects officers for upcoming year**

At its annual Board meeting in Valdez, on May 4-5, 2023, the Board elected officers who will serve from May 2023 to May 2024. All current officers were re-elected into the same positions they held for the previous year.

The executive committee is comprised of:

- President: Robert Archibald, representing the City of Homer
- Vice President: Amanda Bauer, representing the City of Valdez
- Treasurer: Wayne Donaldson, representing the City of Kodiak
- Secretary: Bob Shavelson, representing the Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition
- Three Members-at-Large:
  - Ben Cutrell, representing Chugach Alaska Corporation
  - Robert Beedle, representing the Cordova District Fishermen United
  - Angela Totemoff, representing the Community of Tatitlek

The Council is grateful to have the support of its many volunteers from all over the Exxon Valdez oil spill region. The new executive committee is an excellent representation of the Council.

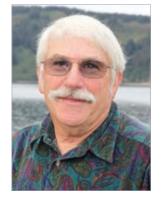
#### **New member joins Board of Directors**



new member. Mike Britain replaced Patrick Domitrovich as the representative of the City of Seward. Brittain has been a professional mariner for 40 years, with extensive experience in Alaska.

The Board seated a

Mike Brittain



Robert Archibald



Amanda Bauer



Wayne Donaldson



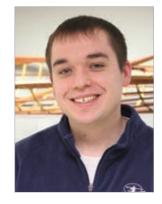
**Bob Shavelson** 



Robert Beedle



Angela Totemoff



Ben Cutrell

Meet the officers and our new member on our website: www.tinyurl.com/Elections2023PWSRCAC

# Drills and exercises getting back to normal

For the past few years, the COVID-19 pandemic affected many aspects of daily life. Oil spill drills and exercises were not exempt. Restrictions to protect the health and safety of responders limited these activities.

Not only were there fewer drills and exercises, they were harder to observe. Social distancing meant that Council staff could not board tugs and barges to see response operations up close. Council staff members Roy Robertson and Jeremy Robida, who have monitored drills and exercises in Prince William Sound for the past 18 and 13 years respectively, conducted some observations from a separate chartered

Fortunately, this year many of the restrictions were lifted.

#### New report summarizes 2022 drills

The Council's annual report on drills and exercises conducted in Prince William Sound in 2022 has been released. The report highlights some of the continuing effects from the pandemic, along with a few changes that are here to stay.

#### **Conducting business online**

Virtual conferencing has changed many workplaces, including oil spill response. These technologies have shown up in several ways.

Coordinating online: Many drills are now hybrid (in person with online participants).



The Council would like to see more exercises performed during low-visibility conditions. If a spill were to occur during winter or a foggy summer day, crews don't have as much practice in how to adjust tactics for these conditions. Photo by Jeremy Robida.

Meetings are broadcast on videoconferencing platforms. Documents and other data are shared through online collaboration tools. Robertson says there are still some glitches, but these are improving.

Live video streaming: During a drill in May, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation deployed a drone over some activities out on the water. They were able to stream live video to the Valdez command center and participants in Jacksonville, Florida. The video was also recorded and available for later review.

Online training options: Alveska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System conducts annual trainings for crews of local fishing vessels, who are contracted to respond in case of a spill. Before the pandemic, part of the training sessions were held in a classroom, part were hands-on experience with equipment on dry land, and finally, crews would practice deploying equipment on the water.

Since the pandemic, the classroom sessions have been held online. The dry-land portion that required closer physical interaction between participants had not been held since 2020, but returned in 2023. The on-water portion remains the same.

#### **Improvements at Valdez Duck Flats**

Pandemic restrictions particularly affected exercises to practice either diverting oil from shorelines or protecting locations that are particularly sensitive to oil contamination, such as hatcheries. These tactics are performed by

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#### **Tracking lessons over time**

Each year, the Council issues reports on drills from the previous year.

The information helps the Council track the history of spill preparedness and response in Prince William Sound. Full descriptions of the drills and exercises in this article, and others, are available on our website at:

www.tinyurl.com/DrillReport2022

#### From the President:

# The power of 'our': Overcoming challenges by owning responsibilities

Oh, how time flies. It has now been just over 34 years since the Exxon Valdez oil spill. So much time has passed, but I still believe there is something to learn every day. As is covered on page 1, the Council recently released a report detailing accounts of unacceptable safety risks at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

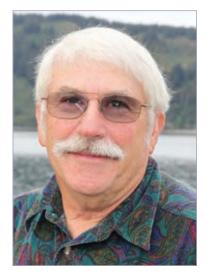
We hope this report provides an opportunity for the Council, industry, and regulators to work together to address any substantial safety issues at the terminal. With new oil development on the horizon, every effort must be made to ensure the integrity of systems and infrastructure within the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, including the Valdez Marine Terminal.

The issues and recommendations covered by the assessment and report will take some time to address. The Council stands ready to support Alyeska, and state and federal regulatory agencies. As we move forward, the Council plans to conduct outreach within our region to share opportunities, as they arise, to help ensure that the key findings and recommendations in the report are addressed. We must do everything we can to protect our people, communities, economies, and our environment from another major oil spill. Thinking about the Council's duties and

responsibilities during these challenging times brought to mind comments I heard at a recent Homer community meeting on defining moments. A long-time resident stood up and proceeded to give her thoughts about an endemic problem with modern society. It is the use of the word "the." instead of the word "our." lust sit back and think how the word "the" is used today. The problem, the government, the city, the laws, the regulations, the schools, the responsibility, the resources... I could go on, but you get the point. Consider instead if more people made a conscious choice to use "our" instead. Taking ownership of challenges instills a more dynamic participation in our modern problems.

A small shift with giant results.

The Council was born out of a lack of responsibility on OUR part: industry, government, and public. In 1989, our government and industry were unprepared. While some concerned citizens were trying to raise alarms about the risks of a spill, many folks in our communities were unaware of the danger. The Council was formed to combat



Robert **Archibald President** 

the complacency that unfortunately led to the Exxon spill and inform the public about issues that impact the safe transportation of oil through our region, with the goal preventing future spills. We must ensure that the successes we have helped achieve since our formation continue to move forward. This can be extremely challenging in our current environment of budget cuts and staffing reductions within industry and regulatory agencies.

Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final." The legacy of those that lived through the Exxon spill and fought to form this citizens council carries on in our work today. Their work - now our work - must continue as long as oil flows through the pipeline.

The Council is a voice for the people, communities, and interest groups in the region oiled by the Exxon spill. Those with the most to lose from oil pollution must have a voice in the decisions that can put their livelihoods and communities at risk. Our common goal with industry and regulators is to help maintain and

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**From Alyeska:** 

# John Kurz named President and CEO of Alyeska **Pipeline Service Company**

John Kurz became the next President and CEO of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company on April 10, 2023. Kurz follows Interim President Betsy Haines who led the company during the executive search conducted by the Trans Alaska Pipeline System Owners.

Kurz brings over three decades of experience in the oil and gas industry. This includes serving as Senior Operations Manager for Greater Prudhoe Bay in Alaska in addition to multiple executive positions around the world. In his most recent role, Kurz was Chief Operating Officer for Santos and Oil Search in Papua New Guinea. Career highlights include overseeing operations in oil and gas fields, terminals, and pipelines. Kurz has a track record of improving safety and environmental performance and cultivating the next generation of leaders.

"Alyeska is a great company with a rich and proud history and an exciting future," Kurz said. "Its employees are critical to the State of Alaska, the communities, the upstream and downstream customers we serve, and employees and families who rely on the oil and gas industry for work. Leading an organization and team of this significance is a tremendous responsibility and honor, and I intend to help Alyeska achieve even higher levels of performance."

Kurz met his spouse in Anchorage, all three of his children were born here, and he holds a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Alaska. "We have strong connections here," John said. "It is an incredible opportunity to return home and serve as Alyeska President and CEO." In addition to his Prudhoe Bay experience, Kurz served as the executive responsible for operations in Baku, Azerbaijan for the Sangachal Terminal and in Basra, Iraq for the giant Rumaila Field. Kurz previously held other roles in oil and gas in Egypt, Indonesia, and

"In all my leadership roles, I have worked to inspire the Team to deliver greater performance and results across the board in safety, production, cost, and other business measures, while also leaving an enduring legacy of improvement," Kurz said.

Including Haines, Kurz is the 13<sup>th</sup> president to lead Alyeska since its formation in 1970. Haines, who retired from Alyeska in

2021 after 30 years of service, plans to resume her retirement plans



John Kurz **President** of Alyeska

after assisting with the transition to Kurz. "It has been a privilege to lead this organization as Interim President," Haines said. "Certainly, when I retired, I didn't imagine this opportunity, and it was a surprising and wonderful way to end my career. I look forward to bringing John on board as he takes on this new challenge. We're all looking forward to this next chapter for Alyeska."

#### **Upcoming Council meetings**

The next meetings of the Council's Board of Directors will be held:

- September 21-22, 2023 in Homer
- January 25-26, 2024 in Anchorage
- May 2-3, 2024 in Valdez

Board meetings are open to the public and an opportunity for public comments is provided at the beginning of each meeting.

Council meetings available online Meetings of the Council's Board of Directors are streamed online and available to the public.

www.pwsrcac.org

#### **Community Corner:**

# Valdez community tours oil spill response training

#### By Maia Draper-Reich, Outreach Coordinator

On May 3, the Council sponsored a tour for Valdez community members to observe the annual oil spill response training for fishing vessels. The annual tour rotates through communities in the region.

The Valdez community was invited to join the Council on a Stan Stephens Cruise to observe tactics for both open water and nearshore clean up. Staff from the Council and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's Ship Escort Response Vessel System, or SERVS narrated.

The 119 passengers included Council volunteers, staff, partners, local reporters, and community members. Students from Gilson Middle School. Valdez High School, and Prince William Sound College joined as well.

"We need to know how to prevent [oil spills], but when they do happen, it's very important to know how to clean them up," said Valdez High School student Izzy Kizer. "Some of these things, they work on a way larger scale than we're aware of and seeing that helps broaden your perspective."

The local fishermen participating in the training are contracted by SERVS to respond in the event of an oil spill from a Prince William Sound tanker or the Valdez Marine Terminal.

SERVS, Alyeska's oil spill removal organization, coordinates annual spill response exercises in multiple Southcentral Alaska communities, including Valdez.

This tour helps keep communities informed on the oil spill prevention and response measures that are in place in Prince William Sound and downstream communities, especially those involving their local fishermen. Valdez residents learned about oil spill response technology, tactics, and how this program helps Alyeska operate safely in Prince William Sound.

The tour in Valdez offered opportunities to observe and learn beyond the fishing vessel training. Narrators shared about local Geographic Response Strategies and a brand new purpose-built response barge at the dock. The tour also cruised just outside the security zone of the Valdez Marine Terminal to learn

about the facilities, and got a closer look at the Alaskan Navigator tanker as it was preparing to depart the terminal.

Alyeska's contracted fishing fleet is the backbone of their oil spill response system. It is essential to the system's design and part of what makes the Prince William Sound system world-class. These contracted vessels and their crews help ensure the most comprehensive response measures are in place. A major lesson of the Exxon Valdez spill was that incorporating local mariners into the spill response system helps ensure a quick and effective response.

The Council has been highly supportive of local fishermen and mariners being trained annually with the best available technology to prepare for oil spills. Valdez mariners have the most intimate knowledge of, and connection to, the waters in and around Valdez. Their involvement would help protect the most sensitive areas, such as hatcheries and spawning streams, from spilled oil.

"It takes a lot of coordination and cooperation from so many different entities in the community and that's really fun for the students to see," said Gilson Middle School teacher Ann Norris.

This sentiment was echoed by Mo Radotich, one of several representatives from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation on board the tour. "I think it's good for us all to get together - from regulatory, industry, RCAC, community members that are here. I think it's important to see us working together and keep developing those relationships."



Valdez residents observe fishing vessels practice pulling oil spill boom in formation. Photo by David Janka.

### Analysis of genes increases understanding of oil's effects

New techniques in the field of genetic analysis are improving our understanding of the effects of oil spills.

Since 1993, the Council has gathered data on the presence of hydrocarbons in sediments and blue mussels in the region. Samples of sediments and mussels are collected and analyzed for the presence of oil or other pollutants that originate from the Valdez Marine Terminal and tankers that ship oil from there.

In 2019, the Council began looking at new methods to measure the impacts of oil on the environment. In April 2020, a spill from the terminal leaked approximately 1,400 gallons of oil into Port Valdez. This unfortunate incident presented a unique opportunity to learn. The new research analyzes the genes of blue mussels using a technique known as "transcriptomics." Transcriptomics involves measuring how particular genes are expressed in an organism. This expression can be affected by conditions in the environment.

The research began in 2019 with a pilot study. The early research looked at 14 specific genes. More recent work expanded the study to over 7,000 genes, and is summarized in a new report sponsored by the Council.

The researchers compared samples of mussels

taken from sites near the terminal, near the Valdez harbor, and a third control site. They found some interesting results.

#### **Effects of oil on genes lingers**

After the April 2020 spill, the levels of oil in the mussels had declined by August, however the mussel's genes showed evidence of lingering effects.

#### Different pollutants have different effects

More recently, researchers tried to identify how the effects differed according to different contaminants. The crude oil-contaminated samples were compared to samples from the Valdez harbor, which were contaminated with pollutants such as diesel fuel or vessel exhaust, and the control site.

Genes such as those associated with stress, neurotransmitters, and the immune system were among those that varied between the three sites.

#### Results expected to have far-reaching implications

The information in these studies will help improve the Council's monitoring program in the future. The researchers noted in the report that the findings are not just applicable to Alaska but could potentially improve monitoring in marine environments around the world.



The Council collects samples from blue mussels like these (left) to better understand the effects of oil spills. Photo by Lisa Matlock.

Read more about this work on our website: www.tinyurl.com/CrudeOilEffects

## **Alaska North Slope oil trending lighter since 2010**

Crude oil is often referred to as a "fossil fuel" because it is made up of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago. Over time, these remains were exposed to heat and pressure inside the Earth's crust, forming crude oil.

This process is full of variables. The organic materials that make up one pocket of oil can differ from another, or the deposit could have been exposed to different pressures or temperatures during formation. These variables mean oils have different properties such as density, viscosity (thickness), or tendency to form an emulsion.

The oil pumped through the Trans Alaska Pipeline System is a mixture from different fields. That mixture changes over time. The properties of oil can change as the field ages, and new fields are brought into production.

These variations mean the oil behaves differently. It can flow faster or slower, or evaporate more readily.

These, and other variations, influence the techniques used to clean up a spill.

Approximately every five years, the Council obtains a sample of crude oil from the Trans Alaska Pipeline System for analysis. Researchers look at properties such as weight, evaporation, and emulsification. A new report summarizes the latest findings.

#### Weight

A "heavy" oil is denser than a "light" oil, which flows more easily. Heavy oils are more useful for asphalt and plastics, while lighter oils are processed into gasoline and jet fuel.

When the pipeline first started transporting oil, the oil was considered "heavy." In 2010, a sample analyzed by the Council found that the oil had lightened considerably. The trend continued in 2015 and again with this recent sample, although the shift has not been as dramatic since 2010. The most recent analysis categorizes the oil as a "medium" viscosity.

These properties may affect response tactics. For instance, if spilled, lighter oils may be easier to pump, however lighter oils could spread more rapidly, covering a larger area.

#### **Evaporation**

Lighter weight oils are made up of substances that evaporate more easily. A fuel such as gasoline can evaporate completely at temperatures above freezing. In crude oil, however, evaporation of lighter molecules leaves behind heavier components of the oil. The heavier oil components emulsify more readily.

#### **Emulsification**

Emulsification is the process by which one liquid is dispersed into another one in the form of small droplets. Mayonnaise is an example of an emulsion: oil, water, and egg yolks are whisked together to form a thick paste, with the egg serving as the emulsifier to keep the oil and water from separating. In a similar fashion, ocean waves and wind can mix water droplets into spilled oil.

Some emulsified oils break down and separate back into oil and water over time, however in heavier oils, this mixture can stabilize, becoming permanently emulsified.

Emulsified oil is much more difficult to clean up. The volume can triple in size and become almost solid. If the emulsion stabilizes, it is difficult or impossible to recover with a skimmer.

Oil samples analyzed by the Council prior to 2001 formed stable emulsions when weathered. Tests performed on the recent sample found that the newer oil will emulsify, but does not stabilize into a permanent emulsion.

#### Report available online

The tests on the sample were conducted by Environment and Climate Change Canada. Dr. Merv Fingas interpreted the lab results, which are summarized in the new report. Find more details on our website:

www.tinyurl.com/xxx

# Terminal operations lead moves on; new project manager joins team

Austin Love, who has managed the Council's projects related to the operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal is moving on. Love has been working part-time since December to support the Council's projects until a replacement could be found.

Love worked with both the Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee on a variety of projects. Love has been praised by coworkers and volunteers alike for his skill at communicating technical content to general audiences. During his time with the Council, he co-authored several research papers for



Above: Love collects devices deployed to collect information about presence of hydrocarbons in Prince William Sound. Photo by Josh Miller.

### **Archibald: The power of 'our'**

#### Continued from page 4

improve safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and associated tankers.

We hope that, years from now, we can look back at actions taken as result of this report release and see that they created another great success in the history of the safe operation of the Valdez Marine Terminal and our spill prevention and response system. We hope this will be another example of citizens, industry, and regulators working together to prevent future oil spills.

After all, we are ALL in this together – to protect our livelihoods, our communities, and our environment.

Let's do it right.

projects such as the recent transcriptomics analysis, part of the Council's Long-Term Environmental Monitoring Program. See page 7 for more about this report.

Love's replacement, Mercedes "Sadie" Blancaflor, joined staff in May of this year. Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Blancaflor holds a Master



Mercedes Blancaflor

of Science in Earth Systems from Stanford University, and she previously taught Environmental Law as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"Austin was a fast learner and focused advocate for the environment in his role at the Council, and he will be greatly missed," said Executive Director Donna Schantz. "I am pleased that Mercedes has joined the team and look forward to working with her in her new role."

#### **Drills and exercises getting** back to normal

#### Continued from page 3

fishing vessels which have little room for social distancing. The return to in-person exercises is important for these activities.

Robertson noted in the report that responders spent more time this year practicing tactics to protect the Valdez Duck Flats, a highly productive biological area that provides critical habitat for a variety of waterfowl, small mammals, and marine mammals. This area is particularly sensitive to oil contamination. This was time well spent, he says. Robertson said that the responders have become more proficient at these tactics.

#### **Photo credits:**

Cover: Cordova fishing vessels train every year to help respond in case of an oil spill. Photo by Jeremy Robida. Page 1: Prince William Sound. Photo by Austin Love. Page 11: Starfish in tidepool. Photo by Danielle Verna.

## Report raises concerns about safety at terminal

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#### **Report recommendations**

At a special meeting of the Council's Board of Directors in April, the Council endorsed all recommendations in the report, including that Congress initiate a Government Accountability Office audit to determine the adequacy of the present regulatory oversight of terminal operations by federal and state agencies.

Other recommendations include:

- The State of Alaska initiate an assessment. or audit, of the present regulatory oversight of terminal operations by state agencies;
- The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration conduct or commission a full independent audit of applicable terminal systems for compliance with Process Safety Management;
- Alyeska and the Trans Alaska Pipeline System owners commission an independent full assessment of the company's safety management systems and determine a specific timeline for actual completion of the necessary changes to ensure safe operations; that they commission an immediate independent audit to be conducted of all deferred maintenance at the terminal; and provide mandatory training for all supervisory and management personnel on their duty to promote a strong safety culture, uphold a compliance culture, and not tolerate harassment, intimidation, retaliation, or discrimination.

#### **Response from Alyeska**

The Council has been encouraged by Alyeska's response.

John Kurz, the new president of Alyeska (see page 5), joined the Council's Board of Directors at the May meeting. He told the Board that he and Alyeska's executive team are taking the report seriously. He noted that they have formed a team to look into issues identified to determine what is going well, what areas they may be falling short, and what actions they are going to take to address them.

#### **Key finding:**

After reviewing all information available through the assessment, the report's author concluded that there is currently an unacceptable safety risk to the terminal, and consequently no reasonable assurance that the terminal is operating safely and in compliance with its regulatory requirements.

"There is nothing more important than life and family," Kurz said, when explaining his views on safety in the workplace. "Because I care about everyone that works for us, I also want everyone to experience everything life has to offer, and therefore we will be injury free." Schantz says she knows that the staff at Alyeska and the regulatory agencies are dedicated to operating as safely as possible with the resources they are given. "The Council agrees with the sentiment expressed by Alyeska executives that this report provides an opportunity for improvement," she said. "We stand ready to support Alyeska, and state and federal regulatory agencies, in our role as an advisor."

"The greatest successes result from citizens, industry, and regulators working together to maintain and improve safeguards to prevent and prepare for future oil spills," Schantz added.

The full report, including more detail on the resulting recommendations, is available on the Council's website:

www.tinyurl.com/GardeSafetyReport

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# PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL



# Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers

#### Who we are

The Council is an independent, nonprofit corporation formed after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill to minimize the environmental impacts of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System's terminal and tanker fleet.

The Council is a voice for the people, communities, and interest groups in the region oiled by the Exxon Valdez spill.

Those with the most to lose from oil pollution must have a voice in the decisions that can put their livelihoods and communities at risk.

#### The Council's role

We combat the complacency that led to the 1989 spill by fostering partnerships among the oil industry, government, and local communities in addressing environmental concerns.

#### **Board of Directors**

The Council's member entities are communities and interest groups affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill:

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Community of Chenega
Chugach Alaska Corporation • City of Cordova
City of Homer • City of Kodiak • City of Seldovia
City of Seward • City of Valdez • City of Whittier
Community of Tatitlek
Cordova District Fishermen United
Kenai Peninsula Borough • Kodiak Island Borough
Kodiak Village Mayors Association
Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition
Port Graham Corp.
Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.
Temporary Recreation Seat

#### **Advisory Committees**

Much of the Council's work is done through permanent volunteer committees made up of Board members, technical experts, and local citizens with an interest in making oil transportation safer in Alaska.

Our committees provide an avenue for public participation in the Council's work.

**Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring (TOEM):** TOEM identifies actual and potential sources of episodic and chronic pollution at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

# Port Operations and Vessel Traffic Systems (POVTS):

POVTS monitors port and tanker operations in Prince William Sound. The committee identifies and recommends improvements in the vessel traffic navigation systems and monitors the vessel escort system.

#### **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC):**

SAC sponsors independent scientific research and provides scientific assistance and advice to the other council committees on technical reports, scientific methodology, data interpretation, and position papers.

#### Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR):

OSPR works to minimize the risk and impacts associated with oil transportation through research, advice, and recommendations for strong and effective spill prevention and response measures, contingency planning, and regulations.

#### Information and Education Committee (IEC):

IEC supports the Council's mission by fostering public awareness, responsibility, and participation in the Council's activities through information and education.

#### THE OBSERVER

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Alaska State Chamber of Commerce - Chenega - Chugach Alaska Corp - Cordova Cordova District Fishermen United - Homer - Kenai Peninsula Borough - Kodiak - Kodiak Island Borough Kodiak Village Mayors Association - Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition - Port Graham Corp Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp - Seldovia - Seward - Tatitlek - Valdez - Whittier