Project: "Cook Inlet Safety of Navigation Forum" Workshop

PI:
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$12,000

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Read Report

Scope of Work:
The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council plans to take a comprehensive look at the issue of safety of navigation in Cook Inlet and is sponsoring a forum in Homer in September 1999. The goal of this proposed forum is to identify concerns about navigational safety in Cook Inlet, identify prevention measures that are still needed, identify potential prevention measures, and determine how those measures can be implemented. The forum should be a catalyst for a structured, regular, and ongoing process to address the issues defined during the forum.

Objectives

1. Provide a forum where all interested and involved parties can discuss and propose oil spill prevention measures that will increase navigational safety in Cook Inlet. This list of interested and involved parties will include, at a minimum, native organizations and villages; citizens; fishing and environmental organizations; state and federal agencies; local, state, and federal officials; crude and non-crude shipping companies; marine pilots; and oil spill response organizations.

2. Identify existing prevention measures as a first step towards reducing risk of crude and non-crude oil spills in Cook Inlet.

3. Identify potential avenues and funding sources for implementing prevention new measures.

4. Provide forum proceedings as a guide for future discussions and regulatory planning.

The ultimate goal is to develop a regional plan based on identification of prevention measures that should be in place to reduce the chance of maritime accidents in Cook Inlet. This forum will bring together the public, agencies, researchers, and industry to develop a plan for increasing prevention measures in Cook Inlet and begin to identify potential methods to accomplish and fund the identified goals. A draft outline of the forum has been developed and includes panels that will address the concerns, solutions, and potential avenues for the funding of spill prevention measures that will increase navigational safety in Cook Inlet.