



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADVISORY PANEL SELECTED FOR NAVIGATION STUDY

September 19, 2011

The Cook Inlet Risk Assessment (CIRA) Management Team has selected the majority of primary and alternate members of its Advisory Panel from a candidate pool of almost fifty (50) applicants representing a dozen Cook Inlet stakeholder groups. The Advisory Panel members and alternates, listed by stakeholder group, are:

- Fishing Industry: Jim Butler, Primary; Sarah Melton, Alternate
- Land/Resources: Catherine Berg, Primary; Marie Steele, Alternate
- Mariner – Tug & Barge: Greg Pavellas, Primary; Louis Audette, Alternate
- Mariner – Marine Pilot: Jeffrey Pierce, Primary
- Mariner – Freight Ships: George Lowery, Primary; John “Jack” Rasmussen, Alternate
- Mariner – Tank Vessel: Jack Jensen, Primary; Christina Waterfield, Alternate
- Mariner – Other: Richard Wilson, Primary; Owen Boyle, Alternate
- Native Alaskan/Subsistence: Michael Opheim, Primary
- Non-Governmental Organization: Ron Long, Primary; Bob Pawloski, Alternate
- Oil Platform/Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit: Gregory Duggin, Primary
- Port & Harbor: Stephen Ribuffo, Primary
Marc Von Dongen, Primary
Bryan Hawkins, Primary
- Marine Salvor: David Devilbiss, Primary; Paul Hankins, Alternate
- Subject Matter Expert: John “Jack” Harrald

Bios of Advisory Panel members are posted to the CIRA website, as are other documents, reports, research and meeting notices. The site is: www.cookinletriskassessment.com.

“All of our applicants possess an extraordinary level of qualifications and expertise. We are confident this group will provide the dedication, knowledge and hands-on experience to lead the risk assessment process to its conclusion,” said Mike Munger, Executive Director of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). CIRCAC is a member of the CIRA Management Team, along with the U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Nuka Research serves as Project Manager.

The Advisory Panel will hold its initial meeting in Anchorage in late October. At that time the group will accept its Charter, receive a detailed briefing, review the presentation and findings of the Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Analysis, and establish its work plan and schedule of activities through project completion.

For more information about the Cook Inlet Risk Assessment, contact Tim Robertson, Nuka Research (907-234-7821) or Jerry Rombach, CIRCAC (907-283-7222).