

## Message from the Executive Director, Michael Munger

We have a number of success stories in 2014, but one of Cook Inlet RCAC's most important milestones this year was the completion of the Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment (CIRA). The long-sought after assessment has been at the forefront of priorities for Cook Inlet RCAC since our first Safety of Navigation Forum held in Homer in 1999. Because we knew that we needed a risk assessment before new regulations pertaining to navigational safety would be considered, Cook Inlet RCAC devoted 15 years advocating for a federally mandated assessment and raising funds for its completion. Through our efforts and the partnerships we've built along the way, we now have the navigational risk assessment completed. Without a doubt, the Council has many more steps to climb to continue our work on navigation safety in Cook Inlet. The risk assessment is a key component of that work.



Michael Munger

Among the steps we are already taking is assisting with the formation of an area-wide Harbor Safety Committee, a risk reduction option that the CIRA Advisory Panel recommended for immediate implementation because it will be of the most benefit to Cook Inlet. I am excited that Cook Inlet RCAC is at the forefront of this endeavor and believe a Harbor Safety Committee is an excellent forum to bring the maritime community together to discuss issues, including navigational safety. We are looking forward to working with the U.S. Coast Guard on the Committee's formation, and will provide updates, including calls for public participation, as that project progresses.

Another risk reduction option of interest to the Council is the CIRA's recommendation for the installation of a subsea pipeline from the Drift River Oil Terminal facility to the refining facilities on the eastern shore of Cook Inlet. This recommendation solidifies the position that Cook Inlet RCAC took in 2012 when we encouraged a subsea pipeline be installed within five years after the resumption of normal operations at the refinery.

Implementing these and other risk reduction options will require us to work together and I anticipate many opportunities for interested citizens to participate in future efforts to improve navigational safety in Cook Inlet.

Next year, Cook Inlet RCAC celebrates 25 years as an organization devoted to involving citizens in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in the Inlet. As we head into our 25th year, we are dealing with new industry partners and oil activity that has never been busier in Cook Inlet since our organization got its start under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. These factors add up to a continuing challenge, which will require diligence from all of us. As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary in 2015, we will share our successes, current activities and plans for the future with you. We invite and welcome your comments, suggestions and feedback along the way as we work together to increase safety in, and protect the waters of Cook Inlet.