

Meet Rob Lindsey, representing the City of Kodiak



Rob Lindsey was born in Kodiak and is the son of a fisherman. His father, Louis “Burnie” Lindsey, made sure fishing was a family affair. From the time Rob was 8, he and sometimes his sisters could be found fishing with their dad. Together, the Lindsey family went salmon and crab fishing on the Katmai Coast and west bays of Kodiak from a beautiful wooden seiner, *Sierra Seas*, which doubled as home. Rob credits the time he spent living and working on the water for giving him a strong ability to solve daily problems beyond his years, instilling in him a belief that a boat isn’t sunk until there’s no more air on top.

With the exception of stints in Seattle and Cape Cod, where he was a yacht launch driver, Rob has spent his entire life on Kodiak Island. He was there when the earthquake hit in 1964 and his dad’s old wooden boat, the *Quadra*, was lost to a tidal wave. He and his family were forced to move to an unfinished house when what had been nice bluff property became beachfront after the north end of Kodiak dropped 9 feet. Today, a seawall stands between the house and the North Pacific. Too young to remember very much about the wave, Rob still lives on the same property today.

Rob was also in Kodiak during the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill which is how he ultimately became aware of Alaska’s Regional Citizens Advisory Councils. After the spill, Rob was involved with a 10-year study in Prince William Sound to mitigate losses to wildlife, including assessing nine of the most heavily oiled bays. With the oil spill and his work in the Sound still fresh in his mind, Rob answered a recruitment ad in the local newspaper and threw his hat in the ring to represent the City of Kodiak on CIRCAC’s Board of Directors. Rob has been an active and engaged Board Member since 2000, going from “swimming in acronyms” to grappling with complex scientific studies. In addition to serving as a Director, Rob is on CIRCAC’s Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee, which reviews and assesses measures designed to prevent oil spills and the planning and preparedness for responding to, containing, cleaning up, and mitigating impacts of oil spills.

Rob believes that CIRCAC’s greatest strengths are sharing what it has learned with others and remaining effective through change.

“CIRCAC is tremendously effective with the resources we’ve been given,” he says, “which has triggered a legacy of projects. If there is another spill, we will bring a better understanding and better tools to the table, such as ShoreZone, Geographic Response Strategies, tidal and current studies, and better modeling. We have more than ten-fold doubled our effectiveness through collaboration with peers and leveraging funds for significant projects.”

In addition to commercial seine fishing on his own 43-foot boat, Rob has worked at Kodiak Electric for nearly 20 years. His most important priority is raising and guiding his precocious 19-month old grandson, Reef. When not working for Kodiak Electric, fishing, or watching over his grandson, Rob is also in the process of developing his own line of smoked salmon with the help of Kodiak’s Food Science and Technology Center. “They’ve been of enormous assistance. It’s a great organization,” he said. Here’s hoping we’ll get samples at a future board meeting.