

Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee Update

The National Harbor Safety Committee held its 16th Bi-Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon in September, and for the first time was joined by members of Alaska's first Harbor Safety Committee (HSC). Representing CIRCAC was Administrative Director Jerry Rombach, who serves as an alternate member on the committee. Captain Marc Bayer was there for Tesoro. More than 170 people representing upwards of 75 organizations and 13 states or territories gathered to discuss a broad array of topics, including national security, the Arctic, climate change and other environmental challenges, maritime training, cyberattacks and handling peaceful (or not so peaceful) protestors. Of particular interest to Cook Inlet were aging infrastructure, channel and harbor depths, virtual versus visual aids to navigation, navigation safety with offshore development, and how to manage the rights of waterways users.

The conference drew high ranking officials with federal and state agencies, including speakers Admiral Paul Zukunft, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Rear Admiral Shepard Smith, Director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey; Bill Wyatt, Director of the Port of Portland; and Rear Admiral Mark Butt, Commander 13th Coast Guard District. The Port of Houston will host the 2018 National Conference.



Jerry Rombach and Rear Admiral Mark Butt

Closer to home, the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee met on October 28 and adopted the [Harbor Safety Plan](#) to address operational and environmental issues unique to Cook Inlet. The plan includes general information and standards of care applicable to Cook Inlet's challenging environment. An automatic annual review of the plan, which is the direct outcome of the Cook Inlet Navigational Risk Assessment, has already begun.