*** ACTION ALERT ***

TAKE 5 MINUTES TO STOP THE INDISCRIMINATE USE OF TOXIC DISPERSANTS IN ALASKAN WATERS

COMMENTS DUE FRIDAY, FEB. 14, 2014

BACKGROUND: The Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) is a group of state and federal agencies charged with developing oil spill response plans in Alaskan waters. The ARRT is currently considering whether to “pre-authorize” the use of dispersants in the Gulf of Alaska and surrounding waters. Dispersants break-down oil so it sinks or assimilates in the water column; while it may keep oil off the coastline, a growing body of evidence shows dispersants can greatly increase the toxicity of oil.

THE PROBLEM: The current ARRT proposal will fast-track the use of dispersants in Alaskan waters, which will erode investments in less-toxic mechanical clean-up trainings, planning and equipment.

TAKE ACTION: Submit comments by 5 PM Alaska time on Feb. 14, 2014 to:

Rear Admiral Thomas Ostebo, Commander
17th Coast Guard District
PO Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802
Email: james.d.nunez@uscg.mil

TALKING POINTS:

- Dispersant effectiveness is unproven in Alaska’s cold and seasonably low salinity waters
- Any benefits from dispersants use are outweighed by short and long term toxic impacts to important Alaskan marine life and habitat
- “Pre-authorization” will result in a “shoot first and ask questions later” oil spill response strategy which will hurt local communities around Alaska that depend on healthy fisheries
- The unprecedented use of dispersants in the BP Gulf Disaster highlights industry’s ultimate desire to keep oil spills “out of sight, out of mind,” regardless of the ecological consequences.
- The ARRT needs a more transparent, deliberate process before allowing the use of dispersants

MORE INFO:


Or contact Inletkeeper at 907.299.3277 or keeper@inletkeeper.org.