

# \*\*\* ACTION ALERT \*\*\*

## TAKE 5 MINUTES TO STOP THE INDISCRMINATE 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  
17<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District  
PO Box 25517  
Juneau, AK 99802  
Email: [james.d.nunez@uscg.mil](mailto: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:

<http://alaskarrt.org/files/Stakeholder%20Letter%20FINAL%20signed.pdf>

Or contact Inletkeeper at 907.299.3277 or [keeper@inletkeeper.org](mailto:keeper@inletkeeper.org).

