

THE KEEPER

... PROTECTING THE COOK INLET WATERSHED & THE LIFE IT SUSTAINS

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Summer 2005



10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION 1995-2005: 10 YEARS PROTECTING ALASKA'S COOK INLET WATERSHED & THE LIFE IT SUSTAINS

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The year 2005 marks Cook Inlet Keeper's 10th anniversary as a community-based nonprofit organization. Over the past ten years, Keeper has become a leading voice throughout the region and state for responsible development. This timeline provides a snapshot of some of Keeper's more significant achievements:



1998: Cook Inlet Keeper holds christening event with guest speakers Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Chief Elenore McMullen.

1994: A group of Alaskan fishermen, scientists, Native Alaskans and concerned citizens met aboard the M/V Greenpeace in Homer to learn more about the rapid ecological changes occurring throughout the Cook Inlet watershed. The group held workshops on environmental law, science and policy, and set the wheels in motion to pursue a Waterkeeper program for Cook Inlet.

1995: Citizen groups (Alaska Center for the Environment, Greenpeace and Trustees for Alaska) - joined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - sued Cook Inlet oil and gas producers (Unocal, Shell-Western & Marathon) for over 4,200 Clean Water Act violations. The oil and gas companies settled the lawsuit rather than face hefty penalties in court, and directed 3 years of start-up funding to Cook Inlet Keeper. Keeper's Board of Directors formally incorporated as a nonprofit organization in April 1995, and hired its first paid staff.

1996: Keeper established Alaska's first agency-approved citizen-based water quality monitoring program. Since then, Keeper and its numerous partner organizations have trained more than 500 citizens to collect scientifically defensible data to guide better resource management decisions. Keeper also organized more than 500 people to meet with Alaska Governor Tony Knowles, which

led to the reduction of a proposed 2 million acre offshore oil and gas lease sale to actual leasing of just over 2,000 acres. Finally, Keeper spearheaded a water quality enforcement action against a road builder near Homer that installed pollution prevention training for state employees and added additional acreage to the Kachemak Bay State Park system.

1997: Keeper released the first-ever "State of the Inlet" report, detailing the status of pollution, fisheries, wildlife and habitat throughout the watershed, and held a series of watershed workshops in Anchorage and Kenai to explore watershed-based management alternatives for Cook Inlet.

(Continued on page 8)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cook Inlet Keeper 10th
Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, July 16 – Anchorage

Sunday, July 17 – Homer

Featuring Special Guest Speaker

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Come join us for food, fun and celebration!

See www.inletkeeper.org for more details.



A Message from the Keeper

A Message from the Keeper

Dear friends of Cook Inlet,

“Free markets are a wonderful thing – we should try them sometime.” That anonymous quote has taken on special meaning around Cook Inlet recently, as state officials vie to see who can shovel the most pork to private corporations in the name of economic development. But for every dollar of corporate welfare our politicians dole out, that’s a dollar less we have to support the needs of families and communities throughout Cook Inlet. Take for example the proposed Pebble Mine on the west side of Cook Inlet. Despite the fact that mining royalties and corporate income tax receipts are calculated on net returns – thus allowing corporations to write-off most “business expenses” against their gross revenues, show no or little profit, and therefore pay relatively few or no royalties or taxes to the state – Governor Murkowski wants to spend anywhere between \$50-200 million of public money to finance the road to the mine. Similarly, the Murkowski Administration wants to spend \$6 million in public funds to pay for a jack up rig to come into Cook Inlet to help private oil and gas companies explore for more resources. And finally, Senator Tom Wagner is pushing legislation that will give even greater tax breaks to private companies looking for oil and gas in Cook Inlet. Reasonable incentives are one thing – selling the store is quite another. At a time when Senator Ben Stevens has proposed tapping into our Permanent Fund yet again, it’s time to rethink our funding priorities. Let’s start by putting our kids and seniors first, by funding education, health care and a living wage. And let’s create a truly level playing field for any corporation that wants to make a private profit off Alaska’s remarkable public resources. Oil and gas corporations are seeing record profits lately, and prices at the pump are astronomical. Alaska is a good, profitable place to do business, and it’s time we all paid our fair share. Because we have an obligation not only to current Alaskans, but also to future generations, to ensure we all can enjoy the splendor of this magnificent place.

Yours for Cook Inlet,
Bob Shavelson, Executive Director & Cook Inlet Keeper

P.S. To all our members and supporters over the past ten years, I want to extend a heartfelt “thank you.” I feel extremely privileged to have served as your Cook Inlet Keeper for the past decade, and I hope you will continue to support the Keeper staff and Board as we work to tackle the toughest social and economic problems facing Cook Inlet communities.

Recycle Your Old Cell Phone & Support Cook Inlet Keeper!
Recycle Your Old Cell Phone & Support Cook Inlet Keeper!

Cell phones typically contain lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic and other potentially harmful metals that can leach into our land, air and water when crushed and put into landfills. The EPA estimates there are more than 500 million used cell phones in the U.S., but less than 2% are being recycled today. To help keep cell phone waste out of local landfills – and so we can re-use metals instead of digging for more – Cook Inlet Keeper has partnered with the non-profit group Earthworks to offer free cell

phone recycling. You will receive a donation statement for the value of your cell phone for tax purposes, and Keeper will receive \$1 per recycled phone. There is no cost to you, and you’ll know you did your part to keep toxic metals out of our land, air and water. To recycle your cell phone, just drop your phone(s) by our office at 3734 Ben Walters Lane in Homer or 308 G Street, Suite 219 in Anchorage. Feel free to call for more information: 235-4068 (Homer); 929-9371 (Anchorage).



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WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

Keeper Staff & Board Look Back, Plan Ahead

Keeper Staff & Board Look Back, Plan Ahead

Keeper's Board of Directors and staff met during the first week of April across Kachemak Bay in Seldovia, to review past successes and challenges, and to chart the organization's direction for future work. Facilitated by Anchorage consultant Catherine Woods, the first day of the planning session coincided with the date the founding Keeper Board members signed the by-laws that established the organization. In light of the significant changes to the sociopolitical landscape over the past decade, Keeper staff and Board focused considerable attention critiquing old paradigms, and identifying new directions for social change around Cook Inlet. Toward this end, all participants read "Don't think of an Elephant," by cognitive linguist George Lakoff, and "The Death of Environmentalism" by consultants Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus (see www.grist.org/news/maindish/2005/01/13/doe-reprint/). Participants also incorporated feedback from Keeper's recent member survey. The readings and survey results helped Keeper focus on the most pressing issues facing Cook Inlet families, communities and resources over the next 5-10 years, and will help shape the strategic plan that will flow from the planning session. To round out the event, Keeper hosted a meet and greet reception with Seldovia residents to learn more about local issues. Staff and Board also toured the new Seldovia Landfill (which has raised numerous concerns about fish habitat impacts) and the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) marine laboratory at Kasitsna Bay. Keeper staff and Board enjoyed spectacular weather on the south side of Kachemak Bay, and we truly appreciated the incredible hospitality we experienced in Seldovia. Special thanks to the Seldovia Native Association for the incredible accommodations.



Keeper Board member Nancy Wainwright with Seldovia resident Walter McGuinness and Seldovia Mayor Dick Wyland at a community reception.



Clockwise from Bottom Left: Liz Villarreal, Lois Epstein, Edan Badajos, Joel Cooper, Nancy Wainwright, Sue Mauger, Bob Shavelson, Susan Mumma, Mako Haggerty, Robin McLean, Benjamin Jackinsky, Mike O'Meara, Will Schlein, Rob Ernst, and Marla McPherson.

Keeper 10th Anniversary Celebration Planned for Homer & Anchorage!!

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SAVE THE DATES!
JULY 16 & 17!
SAVE THE DATES!
JULY 16 & 17!

It seems like only yesterday that a group of concerned Alaskans gathered in Homer to start Cook Inlet Keeper.



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. will join Cook Inlet Keeper for its 10-year Anniversary Celebration on July 16 and 17.

Now, ten years later, Keeper is ready to celebrate a decade of successes with special events in Anchorage and Homer July 16 & 17. Special guest Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., will keynote both events. Kennedy is President of the Waterkeeper Alliance, the umbrella group for over 130 Waterkeeper programs nationwide, including Cook Inlet Keeper. Live music, Alaska Native dancers, great food and a ton of fun are just part of the agenda! That same weekend will include a kick-off for the new Prince William Soundkeeper program, as well as the annual Alaska Oceans Festival sponsored by the Alaska Oceans Network. Check Keeper's website for details on all events at www.inletkeeper.org or call Marla at 907.235.4068 ext 21.



Governor Continues Work to Increase Salmon Stream Pollution

In 2004, the Murkowski Administration proposed new rules that would lift current prohibitions on pollution in Alaska fish streams. The proposed rule would allow "mixing zones" to be used when issuing pollution discharge permits to industries and municipalities. A mixing zone is an area in a receiving water where pollutant levels exceed water quality standards designed to protect people and fish. This regulatory loophole is premised on the outdated notion that dilution is the solution to pollution, and despite Administration assertions to the contrary, the proposal marks a huge step backward in Alaskan efforts to maintain healthy, wholesome, wild fish stocks. The response to the Governor's mixing zone proposal was remarkable: hundreds of comments poured in from

around the state, with over 97% of the comments in opposition to the proposed rollback. The main special interest favoring more pollution in salmon streams is the mining industry, which experiences difficulties complying with water quality rules around fish streams. Undeterred by the massive public outcry, agency officials say the mixing zone proposal is on track for release later this year – presumably after the legislature adjourns so lawmakers cannot pass bills to undo the Governor's work. Keeper will continue to work with Native, fishing and fish marketing groups to protect Alaska's fish streams. For more information, contact Bob at 235.4068 ext 22 or bob@inletkeeper.org.



Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet Adds Oil and Gas Coordinator

Keeper Urges MMS

to Cancel Lease

Keeper Urges MMS

Cook Inlet Lease

Sale for Lower

Cook Inlet –

AGAIN!

As part of the Bush/Cheney Administration's national energy plan, the Minerals Management Service is trying once again to lease 2.5 million acres of rich and productive waters in Lower Cook Inlet for oil and gas development. This lease sale follows an identical sale in May 2004 that garnered strong public opposition and attracted no industry bidders. Lease Sale 199, tentatively scheduled for May 2006, contains even greater financial incentives than the previous sale to encourage companies to bid.

According to the MMS, the failed 2004 lease sale cost taxpayers more than \$1 million dollars, and in light of low/no industry interest in the area, Cook Inlet Keeper believes that MMS should cancel Lease Sale 199. Instead, the federal government should redirect taxpayer dollars to more-needed priorities (such as education), and halt the never-ending steamroller of perpetual lease sales that take an unrelenting toll on coastal citizens and communities. Keeper submitted detailed comments on the next sale to MMS in February. The decision on whether or not to cancel the lease sale lies with Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton in DC. For more information on offshore leasing in Cook Inlet, contact Bob at 907.235.4068 ext 22 or bob@inletkeeper.org.



Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet Adds Oil and Gas Coordinator

In 2002, Cook Inlet Keeper helped secure funding to bring together Cook Inlet Tribes to unify and amplify the Tribal voice on oil and gas issues. With grant funding from the Public Welfare Foundation, the Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet hired a full-time Tribal Oil and Gas Coordinator, Liz Villarreal who is now working out of the Kachemak Bay Conservation Center in Homer. Prior to her work at Keeper, Liz worked with the Cook Inlet Native villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek on a tribal-based subsistence food ecology project, after working as an environmental educator at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies. Her experiences range from working to fight environmental racism with West County Toxics Coalition in East Richmond, California, to analyzing marine management policy to ensure sustainable livelihoods for fishermen with Speaker Pro Tem of the California State Assembly Fred Keeley. Liz brings her passion for environmental justice to her work at Keeper, where she works to support the Tribes around Cook Inlet on the issues arising between oil and gas activities and traditional organizing and cultural resources.



Tribes Hold Two-Day Organizing Workshop

Mission: The Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet is an alliance of Tribes united to sustain and enhance Tribal values and practices throughout the Cook Inlet watershed, and to empower our communities to effectively address oil and gas impacts on traditional lifeways.

Following efforts that began in 2002, Alaska Native Tribes of the Cook Inlet watershed came together in early April for a two-day planning and organizing workshop in Anchorage. Tribal representatives, along with Keeper staff and the newly hired Tribal Oil and Gas Coordinator, worked together to identify a mission, goals, and plans to enhance the Tribal voice. Additionally, Tribes focused heavily on developing a governing process that embraces the traditional consensus approach favored in Tribal decisionmaking. Over the course of two days, each Tribal representative shared issues and concerns from their respective Native Villages, and in the process, helped all attendees understand the cultural challenges inherent in organizing such unique and diverse people and groups.



Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet, including representatives from Eklutna, Chickaloon, Kenaitze, Niniilchik, Nanwalek, Seldovia and Port Graham Native Villages.

The Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet will continue to refine its planning and decision-making efforts, to promote a more united and amplified Tribal voice on oil and gas issues that impact traditional Native practices around the watershed. Cook Inlet Keeper will play a support role to this new and exciting Coalition, to assist the Tribes in any way possible to achieve their important goals. For more information on the Tribal Coalition for Cook Inlet, contact Liz at 907.235.4068 ext. 35.



Keeper & OGAP Hold Citizen Coalbed Methane Workshops throughout Alaska

In 2002, Cook Inlet Keeper took an industry-sponsored tour of coalbed methane (CBM) prospects in Southcentral Alaska, and shortly thereafter, became Alaska's "Paul Revere of CBM" by sounding the alarm to people and groups unaware of massive leasing proposals

throughout the region. The public outcry sparked by CBM leasing in populated areas led to raucous public meetings, demonstrations in Juneau, Wasilla & Homer, the resignation of State Senator Scott Ogan on conflict of inter-

(Continued on page 5)

Keeper & OGAP Hold Citizen Coalbed Methane Workshops (Cont. Page 4)

Keeper & OGAP Hold Citizen Coalbed Methane Workshops (Cont. Page 4)

est charges, and a 10-point “Bill of Rights” to protect property owners from CBM development. Unlike traditional deep-well oil and gas development, coalbed methane – or shallow gas – typically requires large numbers of wells, lots of groundwater pumping, and pipelines and compressors around private property. After moderate success with the industry-friendly Alaska Legislature, and better success with the typically-conservative Mat Su Borough, activists wanted to close the door on remaining CBM leases in Southcentral Alaska. To help property owners understand their rights and options when the oil and gas landman comes knocking, Cook Inlet Keeper organized and partnered with local and regional organizations to conduct a series of four evening workshops in Homer, Wasilla, Healy, and Fairbanks from March 1-4.

These workshops, co-sponsored by Cook Inlet Keeper and the Kachemak Bay Property Owners Alliance, Friends of Mat-Su, Denali Citizens Council, and the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council, featured Oil and Gas Accountability Project’s Gwen Lachelt from Colorado and Powder River Basin Resource Council’s Jill Morrison from Wyoming, who each have years of experience helping communities organize and address the negative impacts of coalbed methane development. In addition to presentations by Lachelt and Morrison and a special emphasis on OGAP’s new publication, “Oil and Gas at Your Door? A Landowner’s Guide to Oil and Gas Development,” the workshops included local presenters



discussing local issues. In Healy, for example, an upcoming comment deadline on the state’s first Best Interest Finding for coalbed methane development provided a local theme for the workshop.

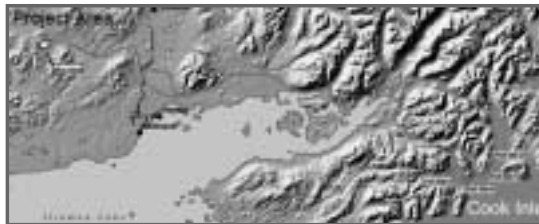
At the two workshops within the Cook Inlet watershed – Homer and Wasilla – participants focused on the next steps needed now that some of the most immediate CBM development threats have been mitigated with passage of local and state coalbed methane regulations. Since the workshops, in April 2005 Pioneer Natural Resources further distanced itself from Mat-Su Valley coalbed methane development, saying it would shut down all its existing oil and gas wells in the Valley. For more information on coalbed methane in Alaska, contact Lois at 907.929.9371 or lois@inletkeeper.org.



The Proposed Pebble Mine: Boondoggle or Benefit?

The Proposed Pebble Mine: Boondoggle or Benefit?

For the past two years, anticipation has swirled around the prospect of a massive open pit mine across Cook Inlet, near the Village of Iliamna and Lake Iliamna. The project proponent – Canadian-based Northern Dynasty - is a junior mining company with no experience operating a working mine. Keeper met with Northern Dynasty CEO Bruce Jenkins and his staff last year, and while Keeper awaits a detailed project plan before deciding on a position on the mine, several issues have sparked serious concern. Specifically, Keeper needs to better understand the implications for the Cook Inlet watershed. Various proposals for the mine include a road and/or slurry line running to tidewater in Cook Inlet, with a new port constructed to ship materials for additional processing. Additionally, regardless of the final site plan for the mine, it will require a massive infusion of power – roughly twice the power needed to fuel the entire Kenai Peninsula - that is not now available from existing sources. While Keeper would support the use of alternative power sources such as tidal energy, the scenario most frequently discussed entails coal combustion, which would create mercury emissions leading to fish consumption advi-



sories. Aside from the fact Northern Dynasty remains suspiciously quiet about project details, Keeper is concerned about certain tactics the Canadian corporation has used or allegedly used to promote the project. For example, shortly after meeting with Keeper Bob Shavelson at the Keeper offices in Homer last year, company officials falsely accused Shavelson of secretly taping the meeting to Homer’s Mayor and Homer’s City Manager. Furthermore, while in

Dillingham recently, Shavelson heard from three Native Alaskans that company officials were threatening to deny mining jobs to anyone in a Native village that opposed the mine. Northern Dynasty CEO Jenkins has denied the allegations, but local citizens say they know what they heard. As a result,

Keeper will continue to ask tough questions about the potential quality of life, socioeconomic, water quality and fish habitat implications from the proposed mine, and will wade into the discussion further when project permitting commences. For more information, contact Bob at 235.4068 ext 22 or bob@inletkeeper.org.



ACMP Update: Governor Maintains Attack on Coastal Communities & Local Control

ACMP Update: Governor Maintains Attack on Coastal Communities & Local Control

The Alaska Coastal Management Program has provided a balanced framework for coastal development over the past 20 years. But when Governor Murkowski took office in 2002, his Administration swiftly moved to unravel programs designed to protect coastal communities and fisheries. Murkowski's Chief of Staff, Jim Clark, played a leading role dismantling these programs, after spending many years as a corporate lawyer for large logging and mining special interests. After the Governor signed sweeping legislative changes to the state's coastal program in 2003, coastal communities responded by forming the Alaska Coastal District Association. Keeper met with the new Association, and worked hard to make sure coastal communities had a seat at the table for local coastal project decisions. As the state stumbled through the process of re-writing the rules needed to implement the new coastal management law, it became clear the Governor's office had no desire to have local communities involved meaningfully in local decisionmaking. As a result, coastal districts across the state opposed the Governor's proposed revisions. The issue came to a head in early 2005, when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) refused to approve the state's revisions, and the Governor threatened to pull Alaska out of the federal Coastal Zone Management Program. Keeper called the Governor's bluff in a letter circulated to media and coastal communities around the state, noting that a federally-approved coastal management program actually grants the state rights it would not otherwise have on decisions in federal waters 3-200 miles offshore (such as with offshore fish farming). Keeper also pointed out the downsides of toss-



Cook Inlet Keeper Bob Shavelson rode a ConocoPhillips Liquid Natural Gas tanker from Nikiski to Homer in April, to better understand shipping safety issues in Cook Inlet. Special thanks to ConocoPhillips and the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council for making the trip possible.

ing away millions of dollars of federal support annually to coastal communities when small municipalities are suffering under recent cuts to state revenue sharing. The Governor's office then reversed course, and called a closed-door meeting with coastal districts to find common ground. As a result, in April 2005, the state received preliminary approval from NOAA to move forward with its changes to the coastal management program. Keeper worked hard to ensure Alaska retains a coastal management program. But the fact remains the new program will contain few of the public participation and habitat protection safeguards found in the original program. Local coastal districts are currently rewriting their plans to comply with the state's new rules. For more information on the planning process in your area, visit www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us.

State Not Ready for Wastewater Discharge Permitting

Because of the potentially significant, adverse implications for water quality and tribal rights in the Cook Inlet watershed, Cook Inlet Keeper has taken a lead role exposing problems with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC) plan to allow the state – rather than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – to issue wastewater discharge permits. Keeper finds the plan, supported by Governor Murkowski and requiring state legislative and EPA approval, unacceptable because the state does not expect to provide sufficient personnel and funding, nor to establish needed tribal and public involvement procedures, to ensure the plan's success. Without such serious flaws, Keeper would normally support efforts to bring wastewater permitting closer to Alaskans.

To develop the legislation (HB 153 and SB 110), ADEC established a work-group that included only industry and municipal wastewater treatment plant representatives. Tribes and citizens' groups were barred from shaping the legislation. The bills' problems include: 1) 16% fewer employees writing and enforcing waste-

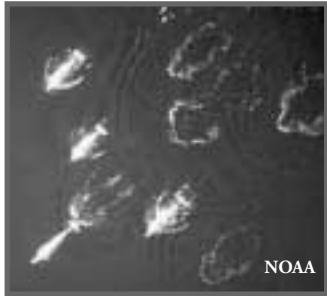
water discharge permits, at an increased cost to the state of \$1.5 million dollars annually (this eliminates free EPA staff from the permitting program, replacing them with eight fewer employees - all new DEC staff positions paid for by the state); 2) the elimination of formal government-to-government consultations between federally-recognized Native Tribes and permit decisionmakers, as now exists between Tribes and EPA; 3) the removal of various public and governmental expert reviews required by federal statutes that protect, among other things, essential fish habitat.

Cook Inlet Keeper's Senior Engineer Lois Epstein testified before the state legislature on these bills, and worked with legislators on proposed amendments. At press time, the House version of the bill contains several beneficial amendments sponsored by Rep. Paul Seaton (R-Homer), though the bill still has significant deficiencies. The corresponding Senate bill passed through the Resources and Finance committees without amendments. Neither the full House nor the full Senate has passed the permitting bills as of April 18.

Feds Release Long Awaited Cook Inlet Beluga Plan Port of Anchorage Expansion Ignores Fish & Whales

Feds Release Long Awaited Cook Inlet Beluga Plan

The Cook Inlet beluga whale is a geographically isolated, genetically unique population whose numbers have dropped over 50% in the past decade. In March 2005, the National Marine Fisheries Service released the long-awaited conserva-



tion plan for the beleaguered Cook Inlet beluga whale. The plan is required because the beluga is listed as a depleted species under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Although Native subsistence hunting had been targeted as the primary reason leading to the whale's decline, the voluntary cessation of hunting in 1999 has not produced the population rebound expected by agency scientists. As a result, Keeper and other groups concerned with the whale's survival hoped the conservation plan would contain sufficient "teeth" to support population growth. Unfortunately, the plan makes only modest recommendations for additional research, and contains no definitive action steps to protect the whale and its habitat from encroaching development. For example, recent surveys have shown the whales increasingly rely on the Upper Inlet, yet the plan contains no tools to address the potential impacts in that area from the proposed Knik Arm bridge, the 40 million gallons a day of sewage flowing from the Point Woronzoff sewage treatment plant, or the effects of filling 135 acres of tideland habitat as part of the Port of Anchorage expansion project. As a result, Keeper is spearheading an effort to improve the conservation plan, so it contains action steps to protect the whale and its habitat, and to obtain additional research funding, so scientists, Tribes and citizens can better understand the complex behaviors and needs of this Cook Inlet icon. For more information about the beluga whale and the conservation plan, see <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protect-dresources/whales/beluga.htm>.

Call for Help with Beluga Watch Project
Call for Help with Beluga Watch Project

Cook Inlet Keeper is looking for people who are on or around the waters of Cook Inlet, including pilots, boaters, charter captains, and others, who can help report beluga sightings to Cook Inlet Keeper and the National Marine Fisheries Services. For more information on Beluga Watch and how to get involved, see www.inletkeeper.org or contact Bob at 907.235.4068 ext. 22 or bob@inletkeeper.org.

Port of Anchorage Expansion Ignores Fish & Whales

In Summer 2004, Keeper met with Port of Anchorage staff to discuss proposed expansion efforts that would fill 135 acres of tidelands located in prime beluga whale habitat. At that meeting and in subsequent written comments, Keeper urged the Port to take a hard look at all the potential consequences of the proposed expansion. The Port of Anchorage plays a vital role in Alaskan commerce, and Keeper supports an expansion that meets the growing needs of urban and rural communities alike. The project design, however, currently fails to minimize harm to important fish and whale habitat in the area. For example, the Port has proposed to use a sheet pile design method that will directly fill the tidelands. Regular steel pilings – without the fill – would have far less impact on area. The environmental assessment for the project largely failed to account for the harm likely to flow from the sheet pile construction method, and according to federal agency experts, did not adequately describe the unique fisheries biology present in the project area. Additionally, the environmental review largely failed to account for increased sedimentation loads from accelerated warming in the region – an issue that will likely hasten the need for expanded dredging operations. In response, Keeper is now spearheading an effort to mitigate the harm from the proposed expansion, to ensure, whales, fish and

The Proposed Knik Arm Bridge: What Could We Do With \$2 billion?

In his continued drive toward legacy building, Congressman Don Young has made a bridge across Knik Arm – between Anchorage and the Mat Su Borough's Point MacKenzie – a top priority. Legislation sponsored by Young and currently pending before Congress would direct \$200 million toward the early phases of bridge research and design. While project proponents assert the bridge will cost roughly \$600 million total, earlier costs estimates and testimony from experts in the field suggest the total cost could exceed \$2 billion. Amazingly, Congressman Young and the authority set up to build and oversee the bridge – the Knik Arm Bridge and Transit Authority – have focused only on building the actual bridge, and they have not factored in impacts or costs related to permitting and building the causeways and/or tunnels needed to connect the bridge to existing roadways. Recent studies from engineering experts show Alaska cannot even meet the road maintenance needs of current infrastructure. Furthermore, at a time when education, health care and support for seniors are all suffering under financial strain, does it make sense to toss so much public money into a project for which there is no demonstrated need? Keeper feels the proposed Knik Arm Bridge represents the wrong priorities at the wrong time, and we're committed to working with a diverse array of groups who think Alaskans deserve more foresight, better planning and smarter spending from their public officials. Planning is now underway for the proposed bridge and public comments are being taken on the environmental impacts of the project. See <http://www.knikarmbridge.com/index.html> for more information.



COOK INLET KEEPER: 10 Year In Review (Cont. Page 1)

COOK INLET KEEPER: 10 Year In Review (Cont. Page 1)



1998: The Nanwalek Native Dancers perform at Cook Inlet Keeper's christening event.

1998: Keeper teamed with Tribal plaintiffs in litigation that led the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct the first-ever studies on toxic pollutants in traditional Native subsistence foods in Cook Inlet. Keeper also released the GIS Atlas of Cook Inlet, containing over 120 layers of digital maps and information on pollution, land use and habitat, and traveled to communities and public schools throughout the watershed to present GIS information. Finally, Keeper joined with the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District to begin monitoring water quality data on the four lower Kenai Peninsula salmon streams: Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, Stariski Creek and Anchor River.



1996: Citizens protest State areawide oil and gas leasing in upper Cook Inlet.

1999: Keeper prevailed in litigation that deleted over 650,000 acres of sensitive beluga whale habitat from the State's annual 4.2 million acre areawide oil and gas lease sale.

2000: Keeper helped organize a successful grassroots effort to restrict jetskis in the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area – an important Native subsistence area and now the world's largest jetski-free zone.

2001: Cook Inlet Keeper opened an Anchorage office and moved into the new Kachemak Bay Conservation Center in Homer. Keeper worked with Tribal partners to host two-day Clean Water Act training, and launched its Clean Boating Project to address boat-based pollution throughout Cook Inlet.

2002: Keeper successfully litigated to stop the newest offshore oil platform in Cook Inlet from discharging toxic exploratory drilling wastes into important fisheries. Keeper also released a oil and gas pipeline report that has played an important role making industry and government more accountable. Cook Inlet has witnessed a steady decline in pipeline spills since the report's release.



2003: Keeper worked with Native Villages around Cook Inlet to help form the Tribal Coalition for Cook

1998: Cook Inlet Keeper joins with Homer Soil and Water Conservation District to monitoring lower Kenai Peninsula salmon streams.



1999: Keeper board, staff and members participate in a kayak-a-thon fundraiser, kayaking from Homer to Seldovia.



Inlet – an alliance of Cook Inlet Tribes focused on oil and gas impacts to subsistence and cultural resources. Keeper also helped enact a model watershed protection ordinance for the Bridge Creek Watershed, the City of Homer’s sole drinking water source. And Keeper joined with the Oil and Gas Accountability Project to launch the Alaska Coalbed Methane Project and held the Alaska Coal Bed Methane Summit in Wasilla to provide landowners with the tools to defend their water quality and property rights. Finally, Keeper organized Native Tribes, fishing groups and others to support



1996: Cook Inlet Keeper launches Alaska’s first citizen-based water quality monitoring program.

healthy communities and fish habitat in the face of a 2.5 million acre offshore oil and gas lease sale, leading to no industry bids and a cancelled sale.

2004: Keeper launched the



2004: Cook Inlet Keeper holds 1st Annual Beluga Bash to raise awareness for Cook Inlet’s declining population of beluga whales.

cesses! July 16 & 17 Anniversary Events in Anchorage and Homer with Special Guest Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



2003: Keeper begins equipping the Cook Inlet Community-based Water Quality Laboratory.

Cook Inlet Community-based Water Quality Laboratory and partnered with state and federal agencies to analyze important water quality information. Keeper also worked with landowner groups to counter coal bed methane leasing, which lead to a return of 235,500 acres of leased land back to the state. Finally, Keeper helped generate hundreds of public comments and more than 1,200 petition signature opposed to the Governor’s proposed mixing zones in Alaska’s salmon streams.

2005: Cook Inlet Keeper’s 10th Anniversary! Keeper conducts member survey that informs Board and Staff during two-day planning session in Seldovia, to chart the next ten years of Keeper suc-

In the beginning.....

In the beginning.....

We don’t have space to list the many many people who played a role in the creation of Cook Inlet Keeper. But we feel compelled to at least recognize a core group of individuals – the Cook Inlet Keeper Steering Committee –whose dedication, hard work and inspiration made the Keeper vision a reality: John Bernitz, Marie Herdegen, Linda Feiler, Don Hallstead, Larry Smith, Mike O’Meara, Gail Parsons, Richard “Bumppo” Bremicker, Michael Neece, Ann Rothe, Tom Evans, and Melvin Malchoff. Early Board members instrumental in Keeper’s start-up include Daniel Zatz and Jim Hemming. Attorney Steve Koteff, then with Trustees for Alaska, litigated the Clean Water Act claims against the oil industry that resulted in start-up funds for Keeper, and drafted the settlement document that served as Keeper’s road map for its first three years of operation. And there would be no Cook Inlet Keeper were it not for one of the most incredible people we know, Pamela K. Miller, who helped organize an unruly bunch of diverse people and interests into a finely tuned research, education and advocacy machine!

Keeper dedicates this Special Edition 10th Anniversary Newsletter to Don “Toot” Hallstead, a life long Cook Inlet fishermen who’s local knowledge, passion for justice and easy going demeanor endeared him to everyone around him. We miss you, Toot.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Preliminary Findings of East End Road Project Study



Cook Inlet Keeper has released a report with preliminary findings for monitoring of the East End Road construction project during summer 2004. The report finds that temporary and long term best management practices (BMPs – such as silt fences, hay bails, etc.) appear to have been effective in reducing the amount of suspended sediment and dissolved solids leaving the construction site. Not surprisingly, the report also found that erosion control BMPs were not as effective during heavy rain events, which may have caused the failure of some temporary BMPs in late September and early October. As expected, discharge (i.e. flow) increased at downstream sites and during rain events. The latter result could have been caused by roadside ditches that intercepted and diverted storm water flow into the study streams. Notably, the road construction project did not produce any detectable changes in temperature or pH on most streams. The data collected during this project describes the effectiveness of BMPs in place, but does not attempt to identify which BMPs are most effective. To better understand the relative effectiveness of different BMPs, future projects could include a selection of study streams where each stream is fitted with a different type of BMP, and data from these streams are compared to determine which BMPs are most effective.

Keeper Continues to Monitor Road Construction Projects

During the summer of 2004, Cook Inlet Keeper contracted with the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and Quality Asphalt Paving to monitor streams along portions of the East End Road construction project in Homer, Alaska. Keeper will continue monitoring as construction continues this summer along East End Road from Palmer (Bear) Creek to Miller Creek. Additionally, the Homer SWCD, DOT and Zubeck, Inc. have contracted with Keeper to monitor Woodard Creek and the stormwater drainage system along the Bartlett Street construction project. In addition to the standard water quality parameters measured for East End Road, metals, hydrocarbons and solids will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the stormwater filter being installed in the Bartlett drainage system. This monitoring partnership stands as a model for how agencies and private contractors can work with citizen groups to monitor public waterways and promote best management practices that protect water quality in our local streams.



Keeper staff member, Edan Badajos, enters a man hole on Pioneer Avenue to monitor stormwater as part of the Bartlett Road Construction Project.



Keeper Releases Annual Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program Report

The intent of the Kachemak Bay Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP), established by Keeper in 1996, is to inventory baseline water quality in the Anchor River and Kachemak Bay watersheds, make comparisons to state standards when possible, and to plot data over time to show natural conditions and trends. Keeper's annual water quality report analyzes citizen-collected data for local watersheds (Anchor River, Mariner Creek, Woodard Creek, Diamond Creek, Fritz Creek, Miller Creek, and Rice Creek), estuary sites (Mud Bay, the Homer Harbor and Beluga Slough), and provides an overview of program components including biological monitoring, wetlands monitoring and the new Community-based Water Quality Laboratory. Data collected by Keeper volunteers have been utilized by the City of Homer, Kenai Peninsula Borough, State of Alaska, and the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Thanks to Keeper's dedicated volunteers for collecting this valuable information. The 2004 Kachemak Bay CEMP report is available at www.inletkeeper.org.



Volunteers sort macroinvertebrates as part of the biological monitoring program.

Next Steps: Going Beyond Baseline Monitoring in Cook Inlet Salmon Streams

Next Steps: Going Beyond Baseline Monitoring in Cook Inlet Salmon Streams

A primary goal for Keeper's monitoring work is to collect 5 years of baseline data at each monitoring site to determine natural variability over time for each water quality parameter we measure. For the salmon stream project we achieved that goal by the end of 2003 on 12 sites across the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Deep Creek, and Ninilchik River watersheds. Now the question becomes: what is the next step beyond baseline monitoring?

Cook Inlet Keeper and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, with assistance from the project's Technical Advisory Committee and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, reviewed the baseline datasets from 1998-2003, and identified water quality parameters of concern. These "parameters of concern" exceeded state water quality standards consistently, or showed substantial variability that suggested inadequate data to assess natural conditions. Based on this review, Keeper redesigned its salmon stream monitoring project in 2004 to address temperature, turbidity, and phosphorus concerns.

Some of the changes we've made are to increase the frequency and number of sites where we collect temperature and phosphorus data. For instance, Keeper will conduct intensive phosphorus and discharge (i.e. flow) sampling this summer from the headwaters to river mouth in the Anchor and Ninilchik Rivers during normal – or, baseflow conditions - when groundwater is the primary source of phosphorus, and again during a high flow event, when rain delivers more phosphorus bound to sediments into stream channels. Some of this effort will require helicopter access to remote sites to achieve project timelines.

Keeper is also updating existing information on land ownership, road miles, stream crossings, percent of land logged, wetland types and impervious cover in these watersheds. Through the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, Keeper will delineate sub-watersheds within each of the larger watersheds. New monitoring sites will be established within each sub-watershed to help identify which tributaries are contributing a disproportionate amount of warm water, phosphorus and turbidity. By comparing data from more developed areas to data from less developed areas, Keeper hopes to better understand the sources of stress to the region's salmon streams.

Keeper's monitoring efforts will continue to evolve as we learn more about what we need to do to protect these watersheds. To learn more about Keeper's salmon stream monitoring project, check out the Keeper's 2004 annual report at www.inletkeeper.org/monitoring.htm, or contact Stream Ecologist Sue Mauger at 907.235.4068 ext 24 or sue@inletkeeper.org.



Cook Inlet Keeper has increased sampling frequency in salmon streams by deploying temperature loggers (StowAway TidbiT3™ by Onset) which collect data at 15-minute intervals.

Laboratory Gears up for Busy Summer: Quality Assurance Ranks High with Other Laboratories across the Country.

Laboratory Gears up for Busy Summer: Quality Assurance Ranks High with Other Laboratories across the Country.

Keeper's Cook Inlet Community-Based Water Quality Laboratory heads into a busy summer season. Starting in April, samples are coming from several streams throughout the Cook Inlet Watershed, including the Anchor River, Ninilchik River, Happy Valley Creek, Crooked Creek, Kenai River, Russian River, Quartz Creek, Juneau Creek, Resurrection Creek, and Deshka River. Samples from the Buskin River on Kodiak Island and several streams within the Wenatchee National Forest in Washington will also be analyzed. These samples are all part of the coordinated Marine Derived Nutrient (MDN) studies being conducted by the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Kenai Watershed Forum, and Cook Inlet Keeper. The objective of these studies is to track and measure MDN effects in stream, riparian and near shore environments and examine the relationship between salmon escapement levels and stream nutrient levels, marine signals in biota, food web responses, and potential influences of watersheds receiving anadromous fishes on the nearshore environment.

Samples collected from the Keeper's salmon stream monitoring program and Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) will also be analyzed for the same suite of nutrient parameters (Total Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Nitrate, Nitrite, Ammonium, Dissolved Orthophosphorus). In addition, the laboratory will again

be contracting with the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District to monitor the East End Road and Bartlett Road construction projects (see related story p. 10).

The laboratory continues to fill its niche for providing training and recertification

for the Kachemak Bay CEMP and the Cook Inlet CEMP Partnership, a vital function in providing quality assurance and quality control for all the citizen-based monitoring programs. To provide an external measure of quality assurance, Keeper's laboratory is enrolled in USGS's Standard Reference Sample Project (Keeper's is the only lab in the state enrolled in this program!). This program provides inter-laboratory comparisons with federal, state, municipal, and university laboratories. Analysis of these samples provides the means to alert participating laboratories of possible deficiencies in their analytical operations, and also provides reference materials for in-house quality control programs. To learn more about the USGS program and to see results for Cook Inlet Keeper's laboratory (lab# 389) visit <http://bqs.usgs.gov/srs/>.



Sarah Masco (left), with Chickaloon Village is being trained to run Chickaloon's monitoring program. Oriana Badajos prepares reagents for nutrient analysis.

2005 Membership Survey Results

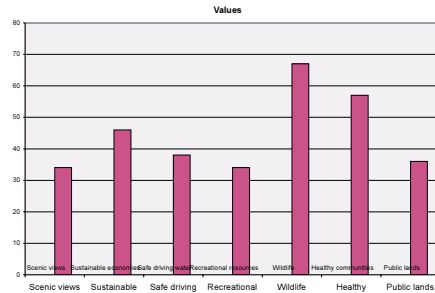
2005 Membership Survey Results

In February 2005, Cook Inlet Keeper mailed a 3-page survey to our members. The purposes of the survey were: 1) to gather feedback from our members on Keeper's work to help with our April strategic planning retreat; and 2) to learn more about Keeper's members to help improve our membership program and build a better base of membership support.

Cook Inlet Keeper received 130 surveys, which is a very high response, with 24% of the responses from Anchorage area members, 45% from the Kachemak Bay area, 15% from other parts of the Cook Inlet watershed and Alaska, and 16% response from the lower 48. Here is a summary of the results.

1. How long have you been a member of Cook Inlet Keeper? 6% have been members for less than one year; 21% for 1-2 years; 36% for 3-5 years; and 37% for more than 5 years.
2. How did you first hear about Cook Inlet Keeper? The majority first heard of Cook Inlet Keeper from a friend or peer.
3. Please circle all the reasons that describe why you are a member of Cook Inlet Keeper. The most common reasons, in order, are: 1) belief in the organization's mission, 2) to stay informed, 3) no other group is doing the same work; and 4) community contribution and civic duty.
4. What do you value most about Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed? Please circle your top 3 values. The most common values, in order, are: 1) wildlife; 2) healthy communities; 3) sustainable economies; and 4) safe drinking water. All values were ranked in the top 3 by at least some of Keeper's member.
5. Please rank below how effective you think Cook Inlet Keeper has been at meeting its mission: to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. 36% answered very effective, 51% answered effective, and 10% answered somewhat effective.
6. While all of Keeper's projects are important, we would like to know which of Keeper's programs you think are most effective. Please select 3 programs that you think are most effective. The 3 programs that Keeper's members perceive to be most effective, in order, are: 1) Watershed Watch, 2) Citizens Environmental Monitoring Program, and 3) Stop Toxic Oil Pollution (STOP) program. The community-based water quality laboratory and salmon stream monitoring program were a close 4th. All programs were ranked in the top 3 by at least some of Keeper's members.
7. While all issues affecting the Cook Inlet watershed are important, we would like to know which issues most concern you. Please select 4 of the issues below that you are most concerned about. The top 4 issues of most concern, in order, are: 1) platform discharges tied with land-use development; 2) new offshore oil and gas development tied with enforcement issues; 3) onshore oil and gas development including coalbed methane, and 4) pebble mine. All issues ranked in the top 4 by at least some of Keeper's members.
8. Are there any issues that you think Cook Inlet Keeper should be addressing that we aren't currently addressing, or that you think we should put more time and resources toward addressing?

Several members listed other important issues, such as jet fuel dumping and other airport pollution, impacts of sewage, impacts of tourism, coastal erosion, etc. Others suggested that Keeper focus more on the economic benefits of environmental protection. Several members said that Keeper already has its hands full.



Top 7 Values as ranked by Cook Inlet Keeper members

9. What 3 tools do you think Cook Inlet Keeper should use more to be more effective in meeting its mission? The top 3 tools that members think Keeper should use more to be more effective, in order, are: 1) outreach to broader audience, 2) research and reporting, and 3) media and press attention. Grassroots organizing and citizen involvement was a close 4th.
10. Do you agree with the following statements, please circle your answer for each statement?
 - a. We all need clean water: 98% strongly agree, 2% agree
 - b. Cook Inlet Keeper should be a strong advocate for clean water in Cook Inlet: 93% strongly agree, 7% agree.
 - c. Cook Inlet Keeper should monitor and understand Cook Inlet's water resources: 85% strongly agree, 14% agree and 1% somewhat agree.
 - d. Cook Inlet Keeper should mediate between development and conservation values to reach a balance: 49% strongly agree, 30% agree, 11% somewhat agree and 11% disagree.
 - e. Cook Inlet Keeper should help empower citizens to take water quality protection into their own hands: 60% strongly agree, 27% agree, 8% somewhat agree and 2% disagree.
 - f. Citizens should take an active role in protecting the Cook Inlet watershed: 74% strongly agree, 23% agree, and 2% somewhat agree.
 - g. Government and industry should be accountable to protecting our public water resources: 94% strongly agree and 4% agree.
11. Please select all the ways that you have been involved with Cook Inlet Keeper in the past year? Members were most involved with Keeper through the following activities: reading the newsletter, sharing information with family and friends, responding to action alerts, visiting the web site, and donating beyond the annual membership.
12. If you currently receive emails as part of Keeper's email listserv, please rank the quality of information distributed through this email listserv. Please circle your answer. 42% very useful/informative, 48% useful/informative and 4% somewhat useful/informative.

Thank you to all our members who participated in the survey. Your feedback is invaluable, and we appreciate the time you took to complete the survey. More detailed survey results are available on Keeper's web site: www.inletkeeper.org.



Thanks to all of Cook Inlet Keeper's members who contributed in 2004

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Tina Adair, Steve Albert, Susan and Eric Aledort, Toby Allen, Lindsay Amsberry, David S. Anderson, Ole Andersson and Jinky Handy, Tracy Arensberg, Elizabeth Arky, Susan Arndt, Tom Atkinson, Gary and Barbara Ault, Edgar P. Bailey and Nina Faust, Nancy Bale, John Barnes, PJ and Adam Bauer, Rose Mary Beck and Claudia Ehli, Robert Begich, Joseph Belcastro, Edward Berg, Ken Bergman, Jill Berryman, Joe Beucler, Tom Bodett and Rita Ramirez, Dan Bogan and Luise Woelflein, Dale Bondurant, John Bowman, Nanci Bramson, Molly and Dave Brann, Josh Brann, Pam Brant, Elisabeth Brennand, Martha Briscoe, Pam Brodie, Kay Brown, James Byrnes, Diana Carbonell, Barbara and Michael Carlson, Catherine Cassidy and Erik Huebsch, Karen Cauble and Skyline B&B, Lora Chamberlain, Carroll Charbonnier, Steve Charles, Ryjil Christianson, Steve Cleary, Cheryl Lynn Cline, Calvin and Mary Cole, Dominique Collet, Tom Collopy and Mary Frische, Susanna Colloredo, John and Judy Cooper, Liz Copeland, Mary Core and John Tichotsky, Jack and Susan Cushing, Lynn Danaher, Bill De Vries, Kim Denesen, Sean Derry and Coreen Farris, Patricia Dicraiker, Dennis Dixon, Brenda and James Dolma, Melanie Duchin, Jane Dunn, Willy and Jules Dunne, Jennifer Edwards and David Stutzer, Thom Eley and Cherie Northon, Laurel and Doug Epps, Julie and Gwen Fallon, Ellen Feiler, Linda Feiler, Carmen and Conrad Field, Will Files and Martha Ellen Anderson, Kim Fine and Max Mitchell, Janet Fink, Kate Finn, James Fisher, Robert J. Fitting, Mike and Judy Flora, Anna Forcier, Dave Forman, Bo Forrest, Joan and Robbie Frankeovich, Dennis Gann and Valerie Connor, Greg Garcia, Christie Gates, Charlie Gibson and Deborah Poore, Sharon Gorman and Joseph Spaeder, Michael Gracz and Michele Stenger, Paul Gresia, Tim Griffith, William and Jill Grimes, Mary Grisco, Helmut Grunberg, Kathy and Steve Haber, Randy Hagenstein and Evie Witten, Mako Haggerty, Claudia Haines and Steve Glasman, Sandy Hargy, Dotti Harness, Fred Harnisch, Peggy Harris, Dixie Hart, Robert G. and Pat Hartley, Brenda Hays, Julia Herreid, Bruce Hess and Polly Prindle-Hess, James Heston, Roberta Highland and Robert Archibald, James and Lemom Hoban, Tom and Lyn Hodel, Winslow Hoffman, Claire Holland and John LeClair, Homer Family Theatre, Russell Hood, Kliff Hopson, Duane Howe and Lani Raymond, Mitchell Hrachiar, Betty Hunter, Benjamin Jackinsky, Bonnie Jason and David Schneider, Scott and Anne Jaspersen, John T. Jensen, Julie Jessen, Jane and Peter Johngren, Ancel Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Steve Johnson, Troy Johnson, Warren R. and Janet Jones, Bill and Suzanne Palmer Kabeiseman, Jason Karolja, Mary Bee and Steve Kaufman, Mary Lou Kelsey and William Bell, Mike Kempson, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Mary Richardson Kennedy, Arthur Kettle and Margi Blanding, Marilyn Kirkham, Charles and Frances Konigsberg, Bill and Susan Larned, Anothony Larson, Denise Lassaw, Marne Lastufka, Janette and Tom Latimer, Buck and Shelly Laukitis, Pat Lavin and Stacey Marz, Daniel and Patricia Lawn, Dorothy and Howard Lazar, Jonnie and William Lazarus, Wendy and Stan Lefton, Michael LeMay, Jack and Mary Lentfer, Nancy Levinson, Ken Lewandowski, Patty Lightcap, Michael Lippman, Nancy Lord and Kenneth Castner, Christopher Mann, Tim Mannen, Dave Manning, Kurt Marquardt and Asia Freeman, Milli Martin, Nancy Maryott, Lyn Maslow and Dave Lewis, Craig Matkin, George Matz, Michael Mauger, Sue Mauger, Mike and Cathy McCarthy, Elaine McCollum, Paul McCollum, Roxy McDonagh, Merrill McGahan, Brian McIntosh, Michael E. McKinney, Jim Meesis and Lynne Burt, John Meyer, Mitch Michaud and Jane Fuerstenau, Jane Middleton, Peter Mjos, John and Rika Mouw, Eileen Mullen, Frank Mullen, Russell and Gloria Mumm, Susan Mumma, Bree Murphy, Eric Myers, Eric Nelson, Elizabeth Neumann, Angie and Chris Newby, Mike O'Meara, Suzanne Oparil, Riki Ott, George Overpeck, Jeanne Parker and Shawn Hansen, Gale Parsons and Mike Swan, Bridget Paule, David and Patricia Peach, Roger and Marlene Thiel Pearson, Yvonne Prucha, Bob and Linda Rackleff, Peter and Bernadine Raiskums, David and Marga Raskin, Vaughn and Margaret Reale, Christopher Reeder, Joel Renyolds, George Rhyneer and Marilyn McKay, Cris Rideout, Joyce Robinette, Don and Trish Roderick, Libby Roderick, Donald and Arlene Ronda, David Roseneau, Art Sowls, Rob Rosenfeld, Robert and Tara Ruffner, Larry A. Rundquist, Priscilla Russell and Art Kruski, Beverly Ryan, Anne Salomon, Konrad Schaad and Gabriela Husmann, Michael and Lisa Schallock, Angela Schmidt and Chris Miller, Gary Scholz and Dorothy Sherwood, Wolfgang Scholz, Steve Schulz, Michelle Schwenn, Lee Seater, Paul and Tina Seaton, Tim Seaver and Jennifer Wagner, Ellet and Sandra Seavey, Pam Shavelson, Dr. Robert Shavelson, Roberta Sheldon, Mark and Pat Shields, Marilyn Sigman, Alessandra Silvestri, Scott Simmons, E. Ray Sinclair, Leslie Slater, George and Trina Smallwood, Richard Smeriglio and Ellen O'Brien, Hal Smith and Susan McLane, Michael and Linda Smith, Kenneth J. Smith, Kevin Smith, Richard Smith, Walt Sonen, Phil St. John, Joy Steward and Stuart Schmutzler, Bill and Molly Stockwell, Margaret Stroble, John Stroud, Taz Tally, Steve and Regina Tarola, Charles W. Tebbutt and Karen Murphy, Gordon and Kim Terpening, Jim Thiele and Sue Pope, Scott and Rebecca Downey Thomas, Peg and Jules Tileston, Amy Tomson, Richard "Toby" Tyler, Kathy Urffer, Ralph Van Dusseldrop, Koala Vandruuff, Olga von Ziegesar, Patricia Wade, Neil and Kyra Wagner, Nancy Wainwright and Jeffrey Jessee, Gary Walklin and Jacqueline Colson, Michelle Waneka, Emily and Bob Ward, Jack Way, Betsy and Davis Webb, Dylan Weiser, Michael and Susan Weiss, Darren J. Welsh, Sharon Whytal, Jane and Bill Wiebe, Anne Wieland, David Wilcove, Andy and Sally Wills, Elizabeth Wolfe and Philip Reeves, Gaye Wolfe and Sam Smith, Connie Wood, Kenneth and Sharon Wyberg, Ken and Chris Zafren, Bill Zeddies, Tom and Lori Zitzmann, Albert Zucker, Seldovia Native Association, Inc. and Michael Beal, EKPEAA, Vision and Don.

And thanks to all of our new and renewing members.



Thanks to Cook
Inlet Keeper's
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Alaska Center for the
Environment

Alaska Conservation
Foundation

Alaska Community Share

Alaska Oceans Program

Altria Corporate Services, Inc.

Brainerd Foundation

Bullitt Foundation

Combined Federal Campaign

Deer Creek Foundation

Environmental Protection
Agency

Environmental Support Center

Harder Foundation

Homer Foundation and City
of Homer

Homer Soil and Water
Conservation District

Mountaineers Foundation

Norcross Wildlife Foundation

Oak Foundation

Patagonia

Public Welfare Foundation

True North Foundation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

WestWind Foundation



Volunteer Spotlight: Norbert Neumann

Volunteer Spotlight: Norbert Neumann



Keeper would like to say farewell and thank you to Norbert Neumann, one of Keeper's most dedicated volunteer monitors, who has decided to retire from the Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP) this year after volunteering for more than 5 years. A retired biochemist, Norbert joined Keeper because of his interest in conservation and clean water. Due to his familiarity with water quality and water chemistry, Norbert has been one of our most dependable, knowledgeable and consistent monitors. Norbert is

a dedicated monitoring team that includes Mike Gracz and Dave Erikson. Together they have diligently monitored Fritz Creek at East End Road through wind and rain and sun and snow, and have helped compile one of the most complete data sets in the Kachemak Bay CEMP database. Norbert has been described as being "the glue that held the team together". Norbert enjoyed monitoring water quality with CEMP because it allowed him to become part of a team and because he loves being outdoors. We'll stay in touch, Norbert, and we thank you for your tireless dedi-

So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye...

It is with sadness that Keeper says "farewell" to founding board member, longtime activist and friend, Linda Feiler. Linda was involved in the initial brainstorming meetings that started Cook Inlet Keeper in 1995, and has served on the Board of Directors ever since. In the late 80s, Linda played an instrumental role raising concerns about elevated levels of benzene found in Anchor Point's drinking water. She organized her community in response to this water quality issue, and later helped establish the Anchor Point Community Rivers Planning Coalition. Linda has been spending more time exploring new career paths, and as a result, she felt the time was right to step down from Keeper's board. She will always be remembered for her vibrant energy, fiery presence, and activist spirit! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, Linda Feiler!!!



Long-time Board member Linda Feiler demonstrating a percussion gourd for an auction at Keeper's Cruise for Clean Water fundraiser.

Staff Update: Like the Tides, Keeper Staff Ebb & Flow

Keeper would like to recognize outgoing Development Director, Jaime Gable, for her hard work and dedication as Keeper's grant writer. After nearly two years with the organization, Jaime will be taking a seasonal summer position that will allow for more time to travel during the winter. Jaime was instrumental in helping Keeper increase grant and earned income funding following deep cuts in state grants in 2003. Long-time staff member, Marla McPherson (who served as Keeper's first Development Director in 1998 thanks to a grant from the True North Foundation) will be moving back into the Development Director position. Jaime will be contracting with Keeper through the summer as our Events Coordinator to help organize its 10-year anniversary celebration scheduled for July 17th, at which famed environmental lawyer and Waterkeeper Alliance President, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will be

Keeper's guest speaker.

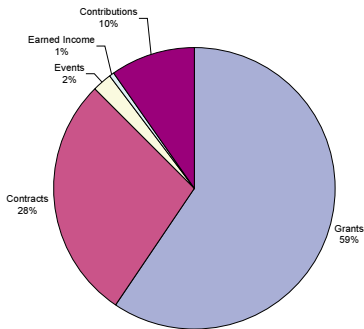
In addition, Oriana Badajos who has been working part-time as Keeper's laboratory technician, has accepted a full-time job with the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve studying harbor seals. Edan Badajos will be taking on more lab analysis responsibilities to help meet an increasing demand for Keeper's laboratory service, and Keeper has hired Ingrid Harrald as the new Volunteer Coordinator to coordinate the Kachemak Bay Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program. Ingrid's background includes coordinating citizen science and stewardship programs with the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary and the National Park Service, and seabird monitoring and research with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Best wishes to Jaime and Ori, and welcome Ingrid!



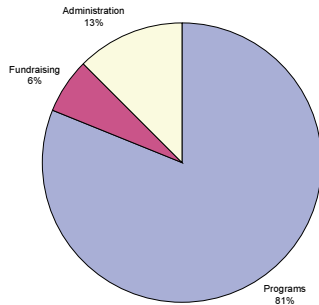
A Snapshot of Cook Inlet Keeper's 2004 Finances

A Snapshot of Cook Inlet Keeper's 2004 Finances

In 2004, Cook Inlet Keeper raised \$433,717 from the following sources:



In 2004, Cook Inlet Keeper's expenses were \$430,483 for the following activities:



*based on Cook Inlet Keeper's un-audited 2004 revenue and cost figures

Cook Inlet Keeper 10-year Commemorative Calendar - To be Released May 2005



In collaboration with Williwaw Publishing, Cook Inlet Keeper is releasing a 10-year commemorative version of the 2006 Alaska Weather Calendar, featuring a cover photo by local photographer Bill Scott. The Alaska Weather Calendar is one of Alaska's most popular calendars, featuring more than 40 spectacular photos, historical Alaska weather and earth science events, monthly climate maps of Alaska averages and extremes, extreme tides and other astronomical events, and daylight hours and amount of change at a glance. Cook Inlet Keeper's 10-year commemorative calendar is \$15.00 and proceeds go to benefit Keeper's advocacy and monitoring programs. You can buy your 2006 calendar by calling 907.235.4068, emailing marla@inletkeeper.org, or go to www.inletkeeper.org.

The Top "10" Ways to Help Cook Inlet Keeper During its 10th Anniversary

1. Attend our 10th Anniversary Party on Sunday, July 17th at 5:00 p.m. the Homer Elks Lodge, featuring Bobby Kennedy, Jr.
2. Upgrade your membership contribution by \$10.
3. Ask 10 friends to join you in supporting Cook Inlet Keeper as a member.
4. Write letters to decisionmakers or newspapers on 10 issues affecting the Cook Inlet watershed.
5. Join Cook Inlet Keeper's volunteer water quality monitoring program, or consider spending 10 days a year in the field assisting Keeper's stream ecologist.
6. Buy a gift membership for your friends of family and we'll send them a 10-year commemorative Alaska Weather Calendar.
7. Visit Cook Inlet Keeper's booth at one of the upcoming fairs, see calendar of events on the back page.
8. Make a special contribution to Cook Inlet Keeper this year through a gift of appreciated stock.
9. Ask your financial adviser about planned giving to Cook Inlet Keeper .
10. Take 10 minutes a day to think why it's important to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains!

Other New Merchandise



Other new merchandise at Cook Inlet Keeper includes: baseball caps and safari hats - \$15.00; new Cook Inlet Keeper t-shirts, 100% organic cotton in men's and women's styles - \$15.00 for short sleeve and

\$20.00 for long sleeve; and beautiful pottery mugs by local artist Marie Herdegen - \$15.00. Visit www.inletkeeper.org/support.htm to see and buy Keeper's new line of merchandise.



Cook Inlet Keeper
P.O. Box 3269
Homer, Alaska 99603

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Check out Cook Inlet Keeper at www.inletkeeper.org



UPCOMING EVENTS UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7: Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival Arts and Education Fair, Homer High School Commons, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., www.homer.alaska.org/shorebird.htm. Stop by Cook Inlet Keeper's Booth.

MAY 11: Best Management Practices workshop for building contractors. For more information, contact the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District at (907) 235-8177, ext. 5.

MAY 26 – JUNE 3: Kachemak Bay Kayak Festival, kachemakkayakfest.com.

JUNE 11-12: Kenai River Festival at the Green Strip in Kenai, www.kenaiwatershedforum.org. Visit Cook Inlet Keeper's Booth.

JULY 6-7: 25th Anniversary Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act Celebration, featuring President Jimmy Carter. Anchorage Hilton Hotel, www.akcf.org/ANILCA.htm.

JULY 16: Alaska Ocean's Festival at the Anchorage Park Strip, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m, featuring keynote speaker Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., www.alaskaocceansfestival.org. Visit Cook Inlet Keeper's Booth!

JULY 16: Homer Council on the Arts Street Fair, Homer High School Parking Lot, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Visit Cook Inlet Keeper's Booth!

JULY 17: Cook Inlet Keeper's 10-year Anniversary Party, Homer Elks Lodge, 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. Featuring guest speaker Robert F. Kennedy, Jr, Native dancers, fresh fish, oysters & more!

SUMMER 2005: Cook Inlet Keeper's 8th Annual Splash Bash Volunteer Appreciation Party, date and location to be announced. See www.inletkeeper.org.

