

INLETKEEPER®

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

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Winter 2010-2011



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Oil Group Ousts Inletkeeper for Speaking Out *CIRCAC stifles dissent, free speech, in industry oversight*

For more than six years, Inletkeeper Bob Shavelson represented conservation groups on the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC). Congress created CIRCAC under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to provide better citizen oversight on oil industry operations in the wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Since its inception, however, CIRCAC has operated with an inherent conflict of interest: it must negotiate for its funding from the very industry it's meant to oversee. Shavelson worked to promote reforms from within the system, rising to Vice President of CIRCAC and receiving its Volunteer of the Year Award. Over time, he witnessed a pattern of collusion and complacency that required him to speak out. In return, the CIRCAC Board dismissed Shavelson at a closed-door

Continued on page 3



Alaskans formed Cook Inletkeeper because they knew CIRCAC's secrecy and close ties to industry could not provide effective oversight to protect Cook Inlet.

Inletkeeper leads the way with Clean Harbors in Alaska *Certifications will dramatically reduce marine pollution*



Rachel Lord and the West Coast Connections high school group at the 2nd Annual Kachemak Bay Marine Debris Clean-up at the Seldovia Harbor. Similar clean-up events occurred over the summer in Homer, Port Graham and Nanwalek.

Alaska Clean Harbors is a new statewide program designed to reduce pollution in the marine environment from routine boating and harbor activities. Inletkeeper spearheaded the creation of the program beginning in 2009, following the publication of the *Alaska Clean Harbors Guidebook*. This book, developed by a work group in 2007-08 and published by Alaska Sea Grant, provides best management practices for harbor masters and harbor users to reduce their environmental impacts during routine activities such as fueling, boat cleaning and disposing of common hazardous materials (such as antifreeze and used oil). By participating in the Alaska Clean Harbors program, harbors around the state will get help implementing these practices and have the opportunity to certify as a "Clean Harbor." Becoming a Clean Harbor can reduce costs, increase regulatory compliance and improve communication with and services for harbor users. Inletkeeper piloted the certification process in the Homer Harbor, and the City of Homer signed a Clean Harbor Pledge in the summer of 2010. The harbor will continue

Continued on page 3

A Letter from YOUR Cook Inletkeeper

No issue has captured Cook Inletkeeper's attention more than toxic oil and gas dumping in our magnificent fisheries. For decades, Cook Inlet has stood out as the only coastal water body in the nation where large multinational oil companies can legally maximize their profits by using our publicly-owned fisheries as their private dumping grounds. This toxic loophole was a driving reason why a group of concerned Alaskans came together to form Cook Inletkeeper. They knew the oversight body established after the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill—the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC)—was a toothless industry lapdog, conflicted by its need to negotiate for its operating budget from the very industry it was meant to oversee. So they created Cook Inletkeeper in 1995, and 15 years later, we're still fighting to hold CIRCAC, Chevron and their partners accountable.

In 2005, the EPA proposed a permit that virtually tripled the amount of toxic pollution—to nearly two billion gallons a year—industry could legally dump. When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, it envisioned a system where each permit would be stricter than the last, to ratchet down pollution in a move toward zero discharge. But the EPA permit turned this common sense notion on its head. In response, Inletkeeper joined with the Native Villages of Nanwalek and Port Graham, the Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund and the United Cook Inlet Drift Association to sue EPA for the weaker permit. In October 2010, the court finally



ruled—and despite recognizing major flaws in the state's permitting process—it let the permit and the toxic dumping stand, and simply pushed it back to EPA to correct the deficiencies.

While the case will play an important role in improving pollution permits in the future, the fact the court continued to allow the oil industry to dump toxics into our fisheries is a telling reflection of the vast corporate influence over our laws and the people enforcing them. Next time you see your elected official, ask why Chevron can dump in Cook Inlet when the technology to properly treat its wastes is used throughout the world.

Yours for Cook Inlet –

Bob Shavelson
Cook Inletkeeper &
Executive Director



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Inletkeeper Joins Effort to Reveal Toxic Effects of Oil Spill Dispersants

Oil spill dispersants became household words this summer after BP used hundreds of millions of gallons of dispersants during the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster. Oil corporations like dispersants because they drive the oil "out of sight, out of mind" and into the water column. Industry refuses to reveal the ingredients, or "toxic constituents" of dispersants, which can harm valuable fisheries. This is an ongoing problem in Cook Inlet and throughout Alaska. In response, Inletkeeper has joined with Earthjustice and other groups to petition and possibly sue EPA to reveal the toxic constituents of dispersants and to define how, when and where they may be used.



Aerial spraying drives a toxic mix of dispersants and oil into the water column.



ENERGY/ADVOCACY

Cook Inlet Faces Gas Shortages

New drilling proposed & underway, but time running short

Cook Inlet faces a major energy crisis, with rolling brown outs predicted for 2014 and possibly earlier if new energy sources are not brought online. Industry foot-dragging has frustrated promises of a North Slope gas line, renewable energy projects face high start-up hurdles, utilities are burdened with massive debt and new drilling in Cook Inlet has yielded few discoveries. Cook Inlet will need to import LNG in the very near future to meet its energy demands. To date, however, the state lacks a coordinated energy plan, and instead relies on corporations and utilities to make decisions in the public interest. For example, last year the legislature passed tax credits that will pay the first new deep-well driller in Cook Inlet a 100% subsidy—up to \$25 million; if the field produces, the driller only pays the state back half and, if no production, the driller owes nothing. Now, an Australian corporation wants a

loan from the state to rent a drill rig—which it could pay back with the state subsidy! On a separate front, Armstrong drilling moves ahead with a series of gas wells on the Lower Kenai Peninsula, off the North Fork Road and immediately adjacent to the salmon-bearing waters of the Anchor River. Aside from the noise, lights, trucks and dust brought on in this newly industrialized area, nearby residents fear the use of toxic “fracking fluids” that may be used to split apart the formations to yield more gas. These fracking fluids have tainted drinking water supplies in the Lower 48. These impacts to local residents and resources are often framed as the cost of doing business, but they are, quite simply, subsidies, because they push the cost of production from the producer to the public. Inletkeeper does not oppose energy subsidies, but fossil fuels are finite, so it makes little sense to repeat past mistakes and hope



photo by Kathy Hatch

A North Fork resident describes a nearby gas well: “it sounded like a blow torch and lit up the east side of our house. I had to wear ear plugs to bed.”

we can drill our way to energy security. Instead, we must subsidize the wealth of renewable energy resources surrounding us—such as geothermal, tidal, and wind power—and embrace the clean energy and sustainable jobs and economies they will produce.

**Ousted** (cont from page 1)

meeting on Sept. 1, 2010, after providing him with 30 minutes to review the charges against him. CIRCAC's primary reasons for dismissing Shavelson centered around his public statements criticizing CIRCAC over negligent handling of the Drift River Terminal Incident in 2009, where Chevron left six million gallons of oil perched in tanks at the base of the erupting Mt. Redoubt volcano—and above Cook Inlet fisheries—with little or no capacity to clean it up. CIRCAC had long refused to answer basic questions about the fundamental breakdowns in spill prevention and response during the Incident. Conservation groups have told CIRCAC they will boycott council participation until significant reforms occur. Inletkeeper strongly supports the concept of Regional Citizens Advisory Groups and, if properly structured and funded, they can play an invaluable role, much like the Prince William Sound RCAC. As efforts move forward to install RCACs on the North Slope and in the Gulf of Mexico, it's essential to learn from the mistakes borne out by the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council.

**Shavelson Honored**

The Alaska Conservation Foundation awarded its 2010 Olaus Murie Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions to Inletkeeper Bob Shavelson in October. ACF selects and honors dedicated individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Alaska conservation movement, and for 15 years, Bob Shavelson has represented thousands of Alaskans concerned about water quality and healthy fish habitat. Bob has become a statewide and national leader - teaming with tribes, fishermen and businesses - to play a leading role on coal, oil, endangered species, and salmon habitat in a changing climate.

Clean Harbors (cont from page 1)

to work toward full certification in the coming year.

In October, Inletkeeper's Outreach & Monitoring Coordinator Rachel Lord introduced the Alaska Clean Harbors program to the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators at their annual conference in Wrangell. The AAHPA signed a resolution of support for the program in 2009, and in 2010 they appointed a board member (Bryan Hawkins, Homer Harbormaster) as the AAHPA representative to sit on the Advisory Committee that will help oversee the program in the coming years. Harbors around the state, including Seward, Valdez, and Juneau, are interested in participating and becoming certified Clean Harbors. To find out more about this exciting new statewide program, contact Rachel at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x29, and check out the program website at www.alaskacleanharbors.org.



Chuitna Coal Strip Mine: the Definition of Irresponsible Development

Why would we trade one resource for another?

The proposed Chuitna coal strip mine on the west side of Cook Inlet—45 miles from Anchorage—would be the first large mine in state history permitted to mine through 11 miles of salmon spawning and rearing habitat, completely removing the streambed from bank to bank to a depth of 350 feet. These plans are clearly laid out in many documents including PacRim's Fish Protection Plan: "... most impacts are anticipated as direct; approximately 17.4 km of total stream-channel habitat will be removed during the mining operations..."



The proposed Chuitna coal strip mine poses a direct threat to commercial and sport fishing in Cook Inlet.

Post-mining reclamation is required by law; however fisheries biologists and restoration experts agree that after this level of subsurface destruction proposed by PacRim Coal, restoring the hydrological function required for salmon streams will be impossible. Middle Creek, a primary tributary to the Chuit River—and recognized as important to salmon by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game—will be destroyed. Salmon from this stream will be lost forever.

A recent study in the journal *Nature* proved that diversity is vital to the future survival of salmon. According to the report, systems without a wide array of distinctive salmon populations are more prone to failure. Removing distinct genetic populations of salmon from the Chuit River places the health of Cook Inlet salmon fisheries in jeopardy. Responsible development recognizes and protects the collective interest of Alaskans as enshrined in our State Constitution; it does not plunder a valuable, renewable resource like salmon. PacRim's proposed Chuitna coal strip mine is the definition of irresponsible development. Governor Parnell has stated on many occasions that he will not trade one resource for



another. So before the state wastes more time, resources, or money reviewing this irresponsible development proposal, the Governor should demand PacRim put forward a responsible mining proposal that does not destroy salmon habitat.

To support healthy salmon fisheries and our local economies go to www.obviouslaw.org and sign letters to our elected officials letting them know "There Oughta Be A Law Against Mining Through A Salmon Stream." To learn more, go to www.chuitna.org, or contact Dennis Gann, Inletkeeper Coal Organizer, at dennis@inletkeeper.org or 907.929.9371.



Wild Alaska Salmon and Dirty Coal Don't Mix

Mercury is bad for our fish, our health and our economy

The proposed Chuitna coal strip mine's plan to remove salmon streams is an obvious example of salmon and coal's incompatibility. Just as problematic is the combustion of coal. Coal combustion is the single highest manmade contributor of mercury contamination. It's through bioaccumulation that mercury ends up in the food chain—and in the fish and seafood that Alaskans depend upon.

In 2007, when Governor Palin announced the first-ever fish consumption advisory in Alaska due to mercury contamination, she noted it came from distant sources. Indeed, 20% of the mercury in Alaska can be directly traced to Asian coal-fired power plants. It is important to note that all coal from the proposed Chuitna strip mine is destined for export, with Asian markets being the likely target.

20% of the mercury in Alaska can be directly traced to Asian coal-fired power plants.

Mercury contamination should not be a concern for Alaskans seeking the positive health benefits of consuming fish and seafood. However, if we continue to produce and market coal to Asian coal-fired power plants, then we will increase

the mercury pollution in our seafood and damage the marketability of our largest export. Seafood makes up half of Alaska's exports, totaling some \$1.6 billion annually. The end result is that we will effectively trade wild, healthy Alaska seafood—our largest and most sustainable export commodity—for finite, nonrenewable coal exports.

So, support Cook Inletkeeper in our efforts to keep Alaska's coal in the ground, moving away from fossil fuels and toward a renewable energy future that stabilizes the cost of energy in our communities, and protects clean water and wild salmon habitat.

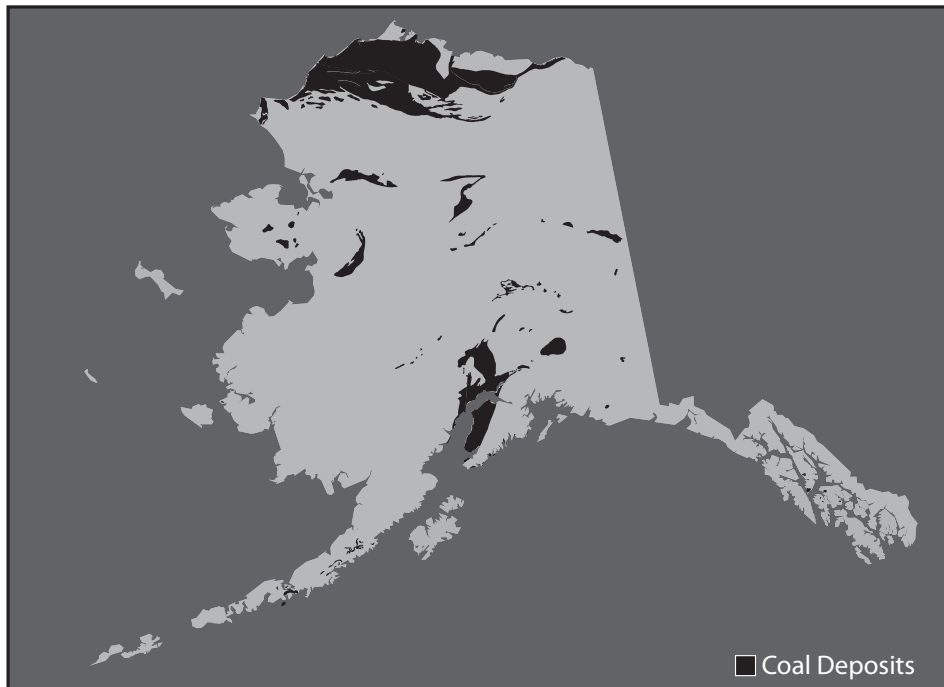


Alaska's Coal: Why it Matters on a Global Scale

Alaska possesses 1/8th of the world's known coal deposits. The western Arctic alone contains enough coal to power the entire United States for the next 4,000 years! Such potential generates a lot of interest in new mines. Currently only one relatively small coal mine exists in Alaska—the Usibelli mine near Healy.

Alaska stands at a crossroad. As global demand for energy increases, Alaskans must decide how to apply our capital resources effectively. Do we invest billions of dollars in infrastructure dependent upon economically volatile and finite resources like coal, or do we pursue renewable energy sources that are immune to the boom-bust cycle of fossil fuels?

Emissions from coal combustion are a significant source of harmful CO₂, mercury and other heavy metals that poison Alaska fish. The Chuitna coal strip mine will export everything to Asia (a little more than half of Alaska's extracted coal is burned in Alaska; the rest is exported) for combustion. More CO₂ and mercury in the atmosphere will further contaminate Alaskan fish and advance the effects of global climate change, directly harming consumers and undermining Alaska's vibrant commercial fishing industries and the communities that depend on them. In 2007, then-Governor Palin warned against consuming certain Alaska



Coal distribution in Alaska, courtesy of www.groundtruthtrekking.org

species due to mercury contamination. The Governor's staff conceded that coal-fired power plants and related industry activities are the likely source of mercury in Alaska fish.

Alaska is rich in options for renewable energy, which some claim are just too expensive. But we heard these same arguments before the construction of the Bradley Lake hydroelectric project.

Twenty-five years later, Bradley Lake provides some the least expensive power on the grid—without a significant carbon footprint. Modern projects like CIRI's Fire Island Wind could power over 17,000 Alaskan homes by 2012. We must build on these successes and work to establish infrastructure that will endure long past that of a limited amount of poisonous coal.



Alaska's Myth of Rigorous Permitting Exposed

Commissioners selling projects before citizens weigh in

This summer, ADNR Commissioner Tom Irwin, ADEC Commissioner Larry Hartig and ADNR OPMP Director Ed Fogels traveled to Tokyo, offering the Japan Oil, Gas & Minerals National Corporation a presentation on Alaska's resources. The seminar addressed mine permitting and "a look ahead to operations likely to come on line in the near future."

More than half of an "Alaska Resource Overview" slideshow was dedicated to Alaska's coal resources, including these

bullet points on the proposed Chuitna coal strip mine:

- Permitting expected to be completed in 2011
- Production anticipated in 2014.

The State of Alaska has spent considerable time and resources attempting to convince the public about the alleged rigors of Alaska's permitting system, particularly that the permitting process "doesn't guarantee a 'yes'." Yet in Japan, the commissioners gave the clear


and obvious implication that the Chuitna coal strip mine has a predetermined outcome, and that production—regardless of public input, the rule of law, or scientific data—will commence.

Our trade relationship with Japan is important to Alaska's economy. But it should not come at the cost of undermining Alaskans' confidence in those government officials charged with protecting the public interest.




WATERSHED WATCH

State Declares 'War' on Federal Government, Sues to Overturn Beluga Whale Protections

In his State of the State address earlier this year, Governor Parnell famously declared "war" on the federal government, due in large part to efforts to protect important natural resources like the Cook Inlet beluga whale. Inletkeeper has fought to protect the beluga for over a decade, because the whale is a keystone species whose well-being reflects the overall health of the entire Cook Inlet watershed. After successfully pressing for an Endangered Species Act listing after the whale's numbers plummeted from roughly 1,300 animals to a mere 340 or so, Inletkeeper is now working with other stakeholders to define the critical habitat the whale needs to recover. But the Parnell Administration—with the backing of oil, gas and other corporations—recently sued to overturn the ESA listing. In response, Inletkeeper is working with Trustees for Alaska and other groups to intervene in that litigation to give the Cook Inlet beluga whale a fighting chance. 

State Retracts Effort to Protect Salmon from Irresponsible Uses

A funny thing happened when the Alaska Department of Fish & Game proposed new rules to clamp down on ATV violations in salmon streams this fall: the state retracted the rule when ATV user groups complained. Inletkeeper has a long history working with ATV riders, helping to pioneer a novel beetle-killed boardwalk solution to wetlands and salmon stream crossings on the Lower Kenai Peninsula. But responsible ATV use is one thing, driving through salmon streams and fish habitat is quite another. That's why Inletkeeper joined dozens of groups across the state to support efforts to tighten enforcement on ATV violations in salmon streams. Despite hundreds of comments supporting increased protections, ADFG apparently took its marching orders from a small but powerful cadre of motorized users, and proceeded to trash

the proposed rule with no explanation. In its 15 years, Inletkeeper has never seen a resource protection agency so completely fold to the whims of a minority voice. But we'll keep pressing ADFG to resurrect the rule, and eventually we'll find out the truth behind ADFG's mysterious reversal on salmon stream protections. 

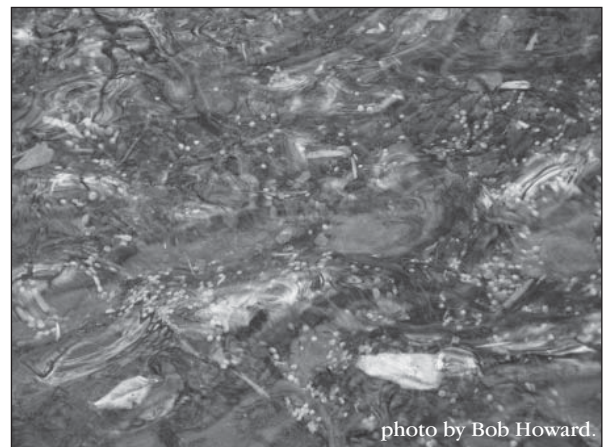



photo by Bob Howard.

The State of Alaska has turned a blind eye to ATV impacts to salmon streams in the Knik Area Public Use Area north of Anchorage. This picture shows ATV tracks stirring up salmon eggs (roe).

Inletkeeper Urges Special Use Protections for Kasilof River

The Kasilof River is a spectacular system on the Kenai Peninsula that supports king, sockeye, silver and other important fisheries. Increased personal-use dip netting, however, is taking a toll on water quality and habitat, and presenting vexing issues over public access and sanitary waste disposal. In response, Inletkeeper joined the Kenai Watershed Forum and more than a dozen other stakeholders in a February 2010 letter to Governor Parnell, requesting some common-sense solutions to the problem. In fall 2010, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources proposed a "Special Use Area" for the mouth of the Kasilof, and Inletkeeper and others worked to solicit support for the heightened protections such a designation would bring. Inletkeeper does not favor one fishery over another; instead, it focuses on protecting water quality and healthy fish habitat so all fisheries remain sustainable. A decision on the special-use area from DNR is expected in early 2011. 



The Kasilof personal-use fishery is important and popular for countless Alaskans, but without sensible controls, users risk loving the resource to death.

WATERSHED WATCH

Citizens Environmental Monitoring Project Update

CEMP volunteers currently visit 13 sites around Homer 16 times per year to collect important baseline water quality data and keep an eye on the health of our streams. Concerns raised at McNeil Canyon prompted Inletkeeper staff to contact the Borough to address trash from the transfer facility making its way into the canyon and stream. New this year, Inletkeeper is developing comprehensive, site-specific baseline reports that will include water-quality data along with habitat, GIS and invasive-species assessments. The first sites to have these reports will be Beaver Creek and Bidarka Creek. We're working with volunteers over the next five years to develop complete baseline data sets for all of our CEMP sites. Contact Rachel at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x29 to find out how you can help!



Inletkeeper Working to Protect Local Drinking Water Sources

Inletkeeper's Safe Drinking Water Program helps families protect their private drinking water through testing and understanding potential contaminants and concerns. Private drinking water is not protected under the Safe Drinking Water Act and no monitoring is required to ensure that it's safe to drink. Consumers are left to fend for themselves. Inletkeeper's program assists the community to increase awareness about drinking water concerns and solutions. Common contaminants on the Kenai Peninsula include arsenic, bacteria and nitrates. Inletkeeper staffs a table at the Homer Rotary Health Fair every November, providing the community with information on how to test their drinking water and what the results mean. We work with a state-certified lab in Anchorage and get a discounted rate through group testing. Since 2009, we've helped nearly 60 families test their water! In 2011, we plan to expand this much-needed program to the Kenai/Soldotna area. Contact Rachel at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x29 to find out more.



Volunteer Spotlight




In March 2010, Tom Collopy and Mary Frische handed in their water monitoring kits after eight years of dedicated volunteering for Inletkeeper's Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program. Weather-be-darned they trekked down to Diamond Creek at the Homestead Bridge to take water samples and pictures year round. Well known for their incredible photography, Tom and Mary needed time this year away from sampling to focus their energies taking pictures for their photo exhibit celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. Tom and Mary have provided us at Inletkeeper with their wit and expertise for many years. Thankfully, we know they'll come back to visit because of their love of Spinner, Bob's faithful canine companion. If you see them around town, selling at the Farmer's Market, or in the Bush taking pictures, thank them for their invaluable contributions to protecting water quality around Alaska.



Every summer the community gathers for food and fun to thank our incredible volunteers. Inletkeeper held its 13th Splash Bash on July 28th. Karen West is our 2010 Volunteer of the Year and Anne Wieland received the "Golden Meter Award," for 10 years of volunteering with CEMP!

The Board and Staff at Cook Inletkeeper sincerely thank all of those businesses and individuals, our volunteers and our members for making our collective mission of "Clean Water, Healthy Salmon" possible. Splash Bash donations from The Grog Shop, Boardwalk Fish & Chips, Fat Olives, Maura's Café & Catering, the Sourdough Express and Steller Air truly made the party a community celebration.

Finding Ways for Salmon to Cope with Climate Change *Using Thermal Infrared Imagery to Find Colder Water*

Inletkeeper contracted with Watershed Sciences, Inc., to provide airborne thermal infrared imagery for 34 miles of the south fork of the Anchor River. This exciting technology is an effective method for mapping spatial temperature patterns in streams. A helicopter was used to fly the river on June 30th and, even in the cool summer of 2010, we see the location and thermal influence of point sources, tributaries and surface springs with this imagery. We can use these data to establish baseline conditions, direct future in-stream monitoring and protect and restore critical salmon habitat. See the completed report at www.inletkeeper.org/resources/overview.htm. 




Bell Jet Ranger equipped with a thermal infrared radiometer and high resolution digital camera mapped the Anchor River for cold "safe havens" for salmon.

Climate Change Impacts on Mining Reclamation Potential

Inletkeeper is working with The Wilderness Society and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to understand how climate change may influence our ability to perform reclamation after mining activities. We will use existing data


and climate models to summarize and predict future climate change impacts by integrating various scenarios with hydrologic and temperature data. This information will be used to conduct an initial assessment of climate change on

surface waters, wetlands and vegetation within the Chuitna River watershed and to assess effects on reclamation potential related to the proposed Chuitna Coal Project. Stay tuned for results from this collaborative project. 

Thank You Marcella, Annie and Iris!

Inletkeeper had the great pleasure of hosting three excellent interns this year. Marcella Dent, a born and raised Alaskan, was our 2010 Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) intern. After a busy summer of running our BEACH monitoring project and developing a stream habitat assessment guidebook, Marcella has returned to UAA to continue

working on her major in Environment & Society. Iris Fletcher grew up in Homer and was supported through a generous grant from the Homer Foundation. Iris helped us accomplish many projects with great enthusiasm for being out in the field. She is back up in Fairbanks now at UAF. Annie Capell was with us just a short time but was invaluable in helping us finish up

our field work in October. Annie, from San Francisco, came to us through the Patagonia employee internship program. Thank you Marcella, Iris and Annie! We couldn't have gotten through the summer without you. For more information about a 2011 internship with Inletkeeper, visit alaskaconservation.org/internships. 



Interns Marcella Dent, Annie Capell and Iris Fletcher helped make this a fun and productive summer.

Salmon Stream Temperature Monitoring Network Update

Future climate conditions for the Cook Inlet watershed



Stream temperatures on the Deshka River topped out at 24.5C (76F) in 2009 when the average July air temperature was 16C (61F). By 2090-2099, average July air temperatures in the Susitna River valley are predicted to be over 19C (66F).

As part of the Stream Temperature Monitoring Network, Cook Inletkeeper worked with Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning (SNAP) to illustrate future scenarios of air temperature and precipitation conditions. We've generated maps that show average values from projections for the mid-range scenario (A1B) from five global climate models used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The A1B scenario assumes a world of very rapid economic growth, a global population that peaks in mid-century and then levels out, rapid introduction of more efficient technologies and a balance between fossil fuels and other energy sources. Based on this scenario, decadal averages of July air temperature show a strong upward trend throughout the entire Cook Inlet watershed. Air temperatures should continue to be warmer in the Mat-Su basin than on the southern Kenai Peninsula. By 2090-2099, average July air temperatures in the Susitna River valley are predicted to be

over 19oC, which would be a 5oC (9oF) increase from 2008-2009. Increases in air temperature are predicted for all seasons, but the most dramatic change will likely be in the winter. By 2090-2099, average winter temperatures on the lower Kenai Peninsula and the west side of Cook Inlet

***By 2090-2099,
average winter
temperatures on
the lower Kenai
Peninsula and
the west side of
Cook Inlet may be
above freezing.***

may be above freezing, which could result in significant reductions in snow accumulation. Generally, precipitation should increase during all seasons of the year with the greatest increase occurring in autumn and the smallest increase in spring. Seasonal increases will be relatively small (less than 5 cm). Based on our current understanding of the relationship between air and water temperature in Cook Inlet salmon streams, these climate conditions will likely result in increased stream temperatures in non-glacial systems. To see color maps of future climate conditions in Cook Inlet, check out www.inletkeeper.org or contact Science Director Sue Mauger at sue@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x24 to find out more.



Boardmember Cautions Chevron



Inletkeeper Boardmember Tom Evans joined other indigenous people in Houston this year for the Chevron Shareholders meeting, to tell the corporation to stop toxic dumping in Cook Inlet and around the world.

BEACH Bacteria Sampling Update

Since 2008 Inletkeeper has monitored for bacteria at Land's End and Mariner Park on the Homer Spit. Beginning in July, we began monitoring at Bishop's Beach as well as the Homer Spit locations. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation funds this monitoring effort. The goal of the BEACH program is to protect public health at our recreational beaches by monitoring for potentially harmful fecal bacteria. Surfing, kite surfing, tide pooling, shore-based fishing and kayaking are all activities that get people in the water in Homer. Volunteers collect water samples every Tuesday. Samples are sent to a state-certified laboratory in Anchorage and results are communicated to ADEC and the City of Homer. Contact Rachel (rachel@inletkeeper.org) to find out more, including how you can help!



EVENTS



Former Development Director Mike Allen and summer intern Marcella Dent work the Inletkeeper Booth at the REAP Fair in Anchorage supporting our vision of moving beyond fossil fuels toward a renewable energy future that protects the environment, stabilizes the cost of energy and protects clean water and wild salmon habitat.



Inletkeeper celebrated its 15th Anniversary this past Memorial Day weekend with a highly successful bash at the Kachemak Bay Shellfish Growers Building on the Homer Spit. Over 1000 supporters joined Inletkeeper for great local seafood, wonderful live music and some pretty fortuitous weather. The event was so successful we're doing it again on Memorial Day this year, so save the date, and come out to support clean water and healthy salmon!

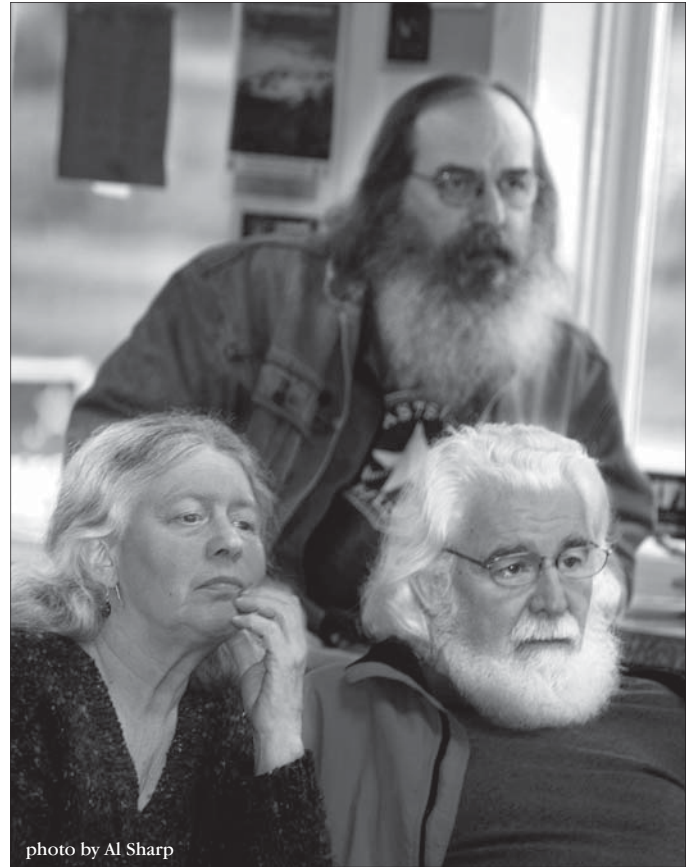


photo by Al Sharp

Guests participate in a discussion at the first Inletkeeper Community Forum on October 14th at Captain's Coffee in Homer. Kenai and Anchorage events will follow. Inletkeeper staff has begun hosting casual meet-and-greet gatherings in communities around the watershed. Watch for a Community Forum in your community and bring a friend. It's an opportunity to meet staff, discuss issues, raise questions, share ideas and connect with others who share in our mission to protect the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains.



photo by John Wathen. Hurricane Creekkeeper


In June, Inletkeeper Director of Strategic Communications Michael Sharp attended the Annual Waterkeeper Alliance conference in La Paz, Mexico. One of the most powerful experiences of the conference was hearing Gulf (of Mexico) Waterkeepers relate their stories of the unfolding BP oil disaster. For more information visit www.saveourgulf.org. Here, more than 100 Waterkeepers from across the globe converge on Balandra Beach for a day of clean up and advocacy.

ORGANIZATION


Get Involved! Make Sure We Have Your Email!

Inletkeeper can send you Action Alerts with critical information about issues that affect the watershed, and instructions with links on how to comment and where to direct concerns. If you don't want to miss these opportunities to voice your concerns, please make sure we have your email address. We can also send electronic renewal reminders, event updates and your Inletkeeper newsletter—all without incurring paper and printing costs. Just let us know! Email your contact information

www.inletkeeper.org

to Development Director Susanna Sharp at susanna@inletkeeper.org. As we improve Inletkeeper's online presence in the coming months, members will see an updated website and have the ability to do more. The shift allows Inletkeeper to reduce costs and divert the savings to important programs. Members, please consider renewing online or opting for recurring payments to spread your much-needed support over the year! 

Meet the Challenge!

Earth Friends Conservation Fund has generously offered a cash match to every donation Cook Inletkeeper receives in an 18-month period. The Challenge is underway with an emphasis on increasing support through monthly and quarterly recurring memberships. Meeting the Earth Friends Challenge makes your dollars do more for the watershed! 




EARTH FRIENDS
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SUPPORT
OUR CHALLENGE

Pick.Click.Give to Inletkeeper when you file for your PFD!


Support the cause you care about! Pick.Click.Give. is a safe and secure way to make a donation to Cook Inletkeeper when you file online for your 2011 Permanent Fund Dividend. Now in its third year, Pick.Click.Give. allows you to contribute anywhere from \$25 to the full amount of your dividend.

**Pick.
Click.
Give.**

Just file for your PFD and, when prompted, select Cook Inletkeeper from the provided list of nonprofit organizations. Your tax-deductible donation will come straight to us. Inletkeeper will receive payment and notice of your support in the fall. If you wish, you may remain anonymous. Either way, your support provides us with valuable unrestricted funding toward our critical efforts to protect the Cook Inlet watershed. If you do not file on-line, please consider making a direct contribution to Inletkeeper. 

Technology Update

During our 15th anniversary, Inletkeeper embarked on a technology upgrade to carry us into the future. We're revamping our website to make it more dynamic and easier for you to use as a tool in your environmental stewardship. At the same time, we're moving

our membership database to a new platform available to nonprofits. This upgrade will enable us to keep in better touch with you, and to customize communications to your needs. Look for these changes coming online early 2011. 

Thanks to Cook Inletkeeper's Members & Supporters!

Cook Inletkeeper knows we cannot pursue our ambitious mission without the generous assistance of our members, major donors, business supporters, private foundations and public agencies. With over a thousand regular members, we list everyone individually in our summer newsletter. But for now, you know who you are, and in the meantime, we'd also like to thank our institutional funders:

Alaska Conservation Foundation
Brainerd Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Earth Friends Conservation Fund
Endurance Fund
Fund for Wild Nature
Harder Foundation
Homer Foundation and City of Homer
Leighty Foundation
Mead Foundation
New-Land Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Ocean Foundation
Sea Change Foundation
State of Alaska ADF&G
State of Alaska DEC
True North Foundation
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Walker Foundation
Wolfensohn Family Foundation



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WE NEED YOUR EYES & EARS ON COOK INLET!
JOIN COOK INLETKEEPER & HELP PROTECT WATER QUALITY!

YES! I want to support Cook Inletkeeper's work to protect the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student/Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Sedna's Court |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$365 Dollar-A-Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

☐ I want to be a Keeper!

I would like to give: ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly
☐ \$25 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$5 ☐ other _____

Recurring donations help Inletkeeper save on administrative costs—so that each dollar goes even further to support our critical efforts to protect the watershed.

I authorize Inletkeeper to make my gift a recurring payment that I may cancel or change at any time.

Charge my ☐



☐



☐ My check to Cook Inletkeeper is enclosed.

☐ please automatically renew my annual membership until I cancel.

card # _____ exp _____

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Donor Name(s) _____

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All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ I prefer to receive my newsletter via email.

This is a gift: ☐ in honor of ☐ in memory of _____

Please notify honoree at this mail/email address: _____

Please contact me about:

- ☐ gifts of stock
☐ gifts of real or personal property
☐ including Inletkeeper in my will.

Thank you for your support!

I'd like to occasionally volunteer my time for:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mailings/Flyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach/Advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |