

INLETKEEPER®

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

www.inletkeeper.org Homer: (907) 235-4068 Anchorage: (907) 929-9371

Spring 2011



Wild Alaskan Salmon or Dirty Coal to Power China? Alaskans Speak Out *Stripmines and salmon streams are incompatible*

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PacRim Coal, a Delaware corporation owned by Texans Dick Bass (owner of Snowbird Resort in Utah) and William Herbert Hunt, is proposing Alaska's largest strip mine to extract low-grade coal for export to Asia. PacRim's plans include the wholesale removal of 11 miles of Middle Creek, a major tributary of the Chuit River on the west side of upper Cook Inlet near the communities of Tyonek and Beluga. The State recognizes the Chuit River as a "river of statewide significance" for its extensive and diverse fish populations.

The Chuitna Watershed supports a healthy population of wild Alaska salmon and is widely known for its king and silver runs, rainbow trout and Dolly Varden. Fisheries biologists and restoration experts agree PacRim's proposed plan—the bank-to-bank removal of 11 miles of Middle Creek and the underlying strata to a depth of over 350 feet—will make reclamation functionally impossible. According to Dr. Margret Palmer, one of the nation's foremost authorities



Helen Jadak testifies in Kenai. Jadak has lived on the Chuit River for more than 50 years.

on watershed science and stream restoration, PacRim's plans will "completely destroy" Middle Creek.

In response to the direct threat PacRim's mining plan poses to wild Alaskan salmon, Cook Inletkeeper and the Chuitna Citizens' Coalition filed a petition with the State of Alaska asking the State to deem the riparian areas around the Chuit

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Inletkeeper Launches New Website

In May 2011, Cook Inletkeeper introduced a redesigned website geared to keep members, watershed residents and others connected to what's going on with Cook Inletkeeper, Cook Inlet and the surrounding watershed. At the new site you can stay updated on how Inletkeeper staff works to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet and the life it sustains, and discover ways you can get involved.

A favorite function of the new site is its one-stop page for your local weather, tides and other relevant information for people headed out on the water or into the mountains. Have a smartphone? It's mobile-enabled, too. Bookmark it at inletkeeper.org/wx. You can also read about Inletkeeper programs, renew your membership, make a donation and order Cook Inletkeeper merchandise, like handmade mugs and super-soft organic cotton and recycled-poly hoodies.

www.inletkeeper.org

The new web site is the culmination of a comprehensive technology upgrade. We have also updated our data management tools and infrastructure, which we expect will meet our computer hardware needs well into this decade. We lengthened our computer lifecycle by approximately 50% and outfitted new equipment with the latest energy-efficient hardware and software to reduce Inletkeeper's footprint. Old computers will

be reused and recycled. Among other things, this upgrade will provide the backbone to keep current our new, dynamic, enhanced electronic presence, enabling the use of video and images for our web and social media outlets. Streamlined grant and membership tracking will allow us to spend an even greater amount of time and effort on the things that matter most. Visit www.inletkeeper.org and see what's new!



A Letter from YOUR Cook Inletkeeper

When the exploding Unocal platform oiled California beaches in 1969, our government responded with sweeping reforms, passing the Clean Water Act and a host of other laws. When the Exxon Valdez fouled Prince William Sound and beyond in 1989, Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which has increased oil transportation safety considerably.

Yet as gasoline prices creep toward \$5 a gallon, the ongoing devastation of the BP Gulf Oil Disaster has been quashed by cries for more offshore drilling. Congress—and the general public—can't muster the collective will to invoke much-needed reforms.

Our state and our nation continue to ignore common-sense energy policies, pressed by corporate interests to instead stay mired in the same failed reliance on increasingly costly fossil fuels. The devastating implications of climate change continue to unfold rapidly, yet you wouldn't know it based on the troubling silence of our media and politicians. We're pouring trillions of dollars into wars to protect our oil interests and, to pay for it, we're going to slash our nation's already meager safety net: health care, family planning, retirement security and other essential services.

And nowhere has the pressure to "drill more, drill now," been more pervasive than Alaska, where captured politicians, captains of industry and brow-beaten regulators are tripping over themselves to subsidize and rationalize drilling in Cook Inlet and the



Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, despite the fact that we can't clean up the inevitable oil spills in the icy, dark and remote waters of offshore Alaska.

Cook Inlet is blessed with world-class renewable energy sources, including geothermal energy from our volcanoes and some of the largest tides in the world. If we can send a man to the moon, certainly we can tap these flat-cost energy supplies and chart an energy future that elevates our families and our communities above the narrow focus of corporate interests.

Yours for Cook Inlet —

Bob Shavelson
Cook Inletkeeper &
Executive Director



Beluga Whale Gets Much-Needed Protections

In April, the National Marine Fisheries Service finalized rules under the Endangered Species Act to protect over 3000 square miles of Cook Inlet as critical habitat for the Cook Inlet beluga whale. With the whale's population teetering around 350 individuals, these safeguards are much-needed. Hysterical claims from industry that additional protections will curtail development are misplaced, because responsible development and whale protection can and must go hand in hand.



Stop by the Cook Inletkeeper office in Homer to pick up a full-color 11x17 beluga whale poster.



INLETKEEPER is published biannually by Cook Inletkeeper, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. Subscriptions are mailed free to members and are available to others upon request. To become a member, or for more information, contact:

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HEALTHY HABITAT

Stream Temperature Monitoring Network Update and Looking Forward

Inletkeeper and its partners are now in the fourth year of collecting temperature data in 48 salmon streams in the Cook Inlet watershed. With the challenges of protocol development, site selection, partnership building and logistics sorted out, Inletkeeper looks forward to what happens after we reach our five-year data collection goal. As the need for long-term data grows throughout Alaska, how do we sustain our monitoring in Cook Inlet and how can we help other regions get started?

This winter, Inletkeeper focused on spreading the word about our successful Cook Inlet network. We talked to researchers and community-based organizations about developing temperature monitoring networks in other watersheds, including Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska. Interest is high and Inletkeeper is an important resource as other agencies and organizations start ramping up their effort to understand climate change impact on salmon streams.

Here in Cook Inlet, we are looking to upgrade our technology and get water temperature data streaming online for key watersheds. Real-time data delivery will allow fisheries managers to track fish movements and behaviors in relation to

temperature patterns and give fishing enthusiasts some hints about when the fish are biting. For more on the temperature network, contact Sue at sue@inletkeeper.org.



Inletkeeper crew heads into the field to collect temperature data in the Cook Inlet watershed.

How Much Water is Under the Ice?

Juvenile salmon spend a number of years in our rivers before heading out to the ocean, which means they must hang out under the ice all winter. Inletkeeper is learning how much water is under the ice by collecting year-round stream flow data on Stariski Creek. Using an auger to drill holes through the stream ice and lowering our flow meter down each hole, we can measure how much water is there and how fast it is moving.

Based on three years of data, we see that winter flows are lower than the lowest summer flows, when the river is fed by groundwater and adjacent wetland contributions. In the winter, when ice covers the surface and adjacent soils are frozen, groundwater is the only source of stream water. Keeping groundwater connections to our streams intact is clearly vital for our juvenile salmon to survive under the ice.



Volunteers Kevin Walker and Sarah O'Neal auger holes through 2.5-foot thick ice on lower Kenai Peninsula's Stariski Creek in March 2011.

New Report Shows Value in Intact Ecosystems

The modern regulatory arena has forced us to debate things like cost-benefit analyses, risk assessments and environmental impacts statements. We're no longer able to argue an intact salmon stream has inherent value; instead, we have to prove it. And while we don't like to play this illusory game, Inletkeeper has waded into the debate to protect a vital salmon-bearing watershed in Upper Cook Inlet from the ravages of coal strip mining.

Teaming up with the natural resources economists at the Center for Sustainable Economy, Inletkeeper has produced an important new report, entitled *Net Public Benefits of the Chuitna Coal Project*.

Inletkeeper sought the report in response to claims by Chuitna coal mine proponents that the few short-term job and revenues generated by the mine would provide a better payback to Alaskans than protecting the long-term

benefits of the salmon streams the coal mine will destroy. The report shows it's not even a close case: protecting salmon streams can feed families and local economies forever if we manage them properly; coal mining produces the same boom and bust cycles that have impoverished Appalachia and everywhere coal has gotten a foothold. To see the full report, go to www.inletkeeper.org.



New Drilling Coming to Cook Inlet

Two jack-up drilling rigs are soon slated to commence the first new exploratory drilling in Cook Inlet in almost 20 years, in a race to obtain massive corporate subsidies (tax credits up to \$25 million) the Alaska Legislature implemented to spur new drilling.

Escopeta Oil is a Houston-based corporation bringing the Spartan 151 drill rig to drill its leases off Nikiski this summer; the rig was designed for work in the Gulf of Mexico and is ill-equipped to handle the harsh conditions in Cook Inlet. When Alaska state officials inspected the rig prior to its transport to Alaska, it lacked vital equipment—including a blow-out preventer. Furthermore,

“...the rig is ill-equipped to handle the harsh conditions in Cook Inlet.”

Escopeta apparently has failed to obtain a waiver from the Jones Act to transport its rig; the Jones Act is designed to protect US mariners by requiring US vessels and

crew for all transport between US ports.

Buccaneer is an Australian oil corporation that has managed to convince the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) to invest up to \$30 million in public dollars in a second jack-up rig which, according to the Petroleum News, is the Transocean Adriatic XI rig. Transocean has been targeted for its role in the BP Gulf Disaster.

There have been three well blow outs in Cook Inlet over the past 40 years, and while none has resulted in a substantial spill, proposals to drill new formations with unknown reservoir pressures makes blow-out prevention a top priority. Yet starting

under the Knowles Administration, the state began to roll back requirements for secondary relief wells—which require a second drilling rig to drill a new well to

relieve the pressure from the blow out. Relief wells are the only true way to stop a blow out.

“State-of-the-art” spill response picks up 10% of spilled oil. In Cook Inlet’s ferocious tides, the number is almost certainly lower. Toxic dispersants are the preferred response from government and industry. But oil and toxic dispersants do not bode well for our fisheries, or for our efforts to market our fish to buyers or tourists.

As a result, oil spill prevention must remain the highest priority. Capable drilling rigs, tested and maintained blow-out preventers, and rigorous government and citizen oversight are essential. If we’re going to reward corporations from Houston and Australia with huge tax breaks, why don’t we provide similar incentives to the Mt. Spur geothermal project, or the Cook Inlet tidal project, or Fire Island wind—so Alaskans can start to turn the corner on ever-increasing fuel costs.



CLEAN WATER

Clean Boating on Big Lake

In 2006, the state listed Big Lake as impaired for petroleum hydrocarbons that exceeded state water quality standards. Monitoring by the state in 2009 confirmed high levels of hydrocarbons in Big Lake, primarily during high-use holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day weekends), and in the vicinity of high-use areas (private marinas and public boat launches). Big Lake is a Mat-Su Valley recreational hotspot, and the recreational boating opportunities provide economic growth for the area, resulting in a vibrant community deeply connected to Big Lake. During 2010 and early 2011, local community members and other stakeholders of Big Lake developed an Action Plan for reducing pollution in Big Lake through targeted outreach and education.

With funding from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and using the Big Lake Action Plan as a guide, Inletkeeper is working with the community to develop a comprehensive educational clean boating campaign for Big Lake boaters. Clean Boating kits will be distributed to boaters to encourage cleaning oil and fuel from bilge water, and staff will work with Burkesboro Marina, a Big Lake marina with over 150 boat slips, to implement best management practices to reduce pollution through the Alaska Clean Harbors program.



Beach Sampling in 2011

Inletkeeper started monitoring Homer’s beaches for bacteria in 2008. The BEACH monitoring program is part of a national effort by the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure public health at recreational beaches. With funding from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Inletkeeper staff and volunteers in 2010 collected weekly water samples from Land’s End, Mariner Park and Bishop’s Beach.

Inletkeeper ships samples to an Anchorage lab, which tests for fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria (both can indicate fecal contamination), and receives results within 36 hours. In 2010 there was one exceedence of state water quality standards at Bishop’s Beach on August 10. Follow-up sampling indicated that levels had dropped and that there were no violations for water quality standards. BEACH sampling began in April for the 2011 season, and will continue through August. Volunteers are always needed! Contact Rachel at 235-4068 x29 or rachel@inletkeeper.org to help out.



Clean Harbors Spotlight: Homer Harbor

In July 2010 the City of Homer passed Resolution 10-61, authorizing the Homer Harbor to pursue certification as Alaska's first "Clean Harbor" through the Alaska Clean Harbors program. Harbor staff is busy implementing pollution prevention practices, with recommendations and support from Inletkeeper. Last year the harbor received a new recycling satellite (located by the Harbormaster's office) and new signs on all dumpsters. New signage developed by harbor staff is at all ramps and details harbor environmental policies. The harbor aims to fulfill the program requirements and be certified by October 2011, when the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators holds its annual meeting in Homer.



CEMP Volunteer Spotlight

Holly Aderhold was born and raised in Homer, graduating from Homer High in 2004 and returning to town with her fiancé Paul in 2008. In April 2010 Holly trained to be a CEMP volunteer saying, "I just couldn't believe volunteers were allowed to do something so cool! I thoroughly enjoy being in the field and in the lab doing this volunteer job for Cook Inletkeeper." Holly works with Will Schlein, another CEMP monitor, to collect water quality data at Lower Woodard Creek, behind the Pratt Museum. Holly works at the Homer Public Library and for the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club, and she enjoys hiking, skiing and cooking anything and everything.



CEMP Baseline Reports



The highlighted Beaver Creek watershed is part of the larger Anchor River watershed (outlined in black). Sampled from 2002-2010, the baseline water quality report for this site will be released this year.

Inletkeeper's Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program trains volunteers to collect baseline water quality data. These data help us to better understand our current environment in a changing world. By collecting baseline data, we can track those changes over time and make better decisions to protect water quality for future generations. Starting in 2011, Inletkeeper will release baseline reports on a site-by-site basis as datasets are completed. These comprehensive reports will include GIS analysis for each watershed, all CEMP water quality data, a habitat assessment and photos. The first round of reports will be released in 2011, starting Upper Beaver Creek, which was monitored by Neil & Kyra Wagner from 2002-2010.

Inletkeeper defines a baseline dataset with the following guidelines:

- 5+ years of data with at least 80 site visits;
- At least 40 site visits during summer months;
- At least 5 site visits during every month of the year;
- 3 years of continuous temperature monitoring at select sites);
- 6 bioassessment sampling events over at least 3 years at select sites).

For more information about these guidelines, see the CEMP Effectiveness Report available online at inletkeeper.org.



Holly Aderhold has been a CEMP Volunteer since 2010. A native of Homer she says, "I take pride in helping to protect this little area of the world."

Wild Alaskan Salmon or Dirty Coal to Power China? Alaskans Speak Out

Stripmines and salmon streams are incompatible

Continued from page 1

River and its tributaries as unsuitable for coal strip mining.

On January 19th, 2011 more than 150 Alaskans traveled to Kenai during a blizzard to express their support for the petition to protect salmon in Cook Inlet, and to voice opposition to PacRim's plans to mine through a wild Alaskan salmon stream. Many who testified before the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) expressed their concern over the dangerous precedent PacRim's plan will set—if the State allows mining through one salmon stream, then every salmon stream is at risk.

Alaska law requires PacRim Coal to return impacted streams to pre-mining productivity. In this case, after completely removing Middle Creek, PacRim Coal will have to create a salmon stream from scratch and miraculously return viable salmon populations. The evening's sentiments are best summed up in the words of Jim Reardon, long-time Alaska resident and

outdoorsman: "Only God would be capable of reproducing a viable 11 miles of salmon stream and all its fixings, and it might even take Him some time."

In all, over 55 commercial and sports fishermen, local tribal members, land owners, scientists and others from across the state testified to the importance of wild salmon in their lives and their local economies, often pointing out that PacRim has never provided one example of successful salmon stream reclamation after such deep and long-term impacts. Throughout the evening, only PacRim's Project Manager Dan

Graham testified in favor of the proposed mine, urging the State to reject the petition to protect the Chuit River from coal strip mining.

The blizzard that night stranded residents of Tyonek at home, preventing them from participating in a process that could very well change their rural lifestyle. At Cook Inletkeeper's insistence, the State held a second hearing in Tyonek on February

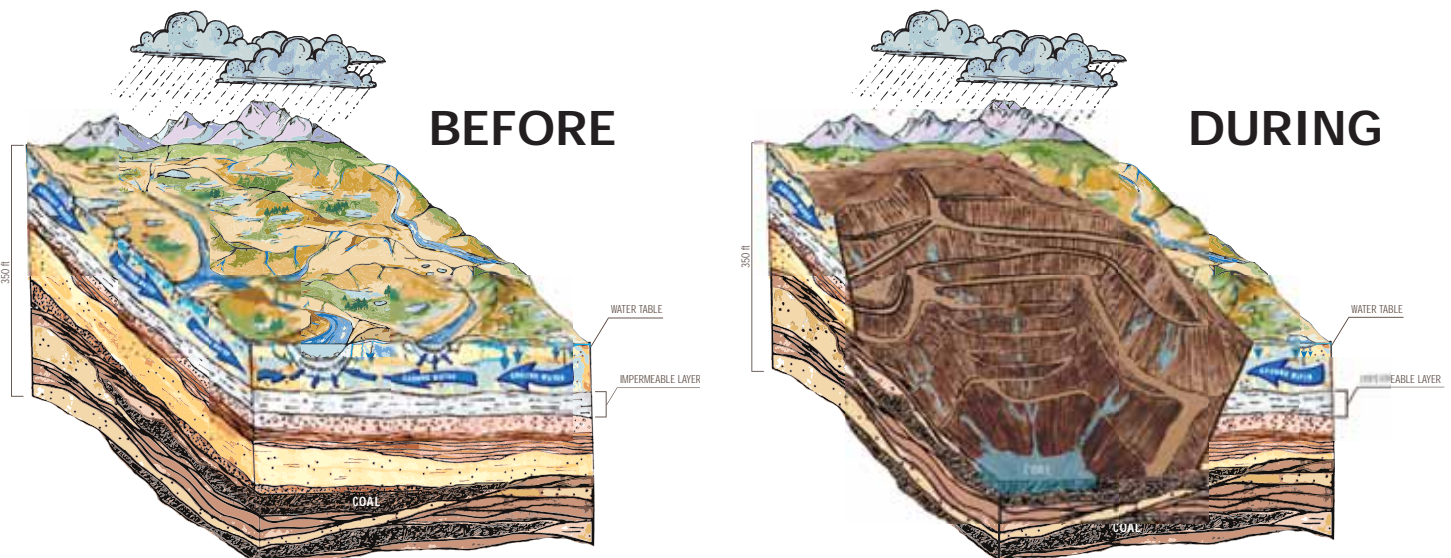
19th, 2011.

Yet again, state representatives faced a room full of Alaskans who depend upon wild Alaskan salmon for their livelihood and way of life. Tyonek resident and Tribal Member Chad Chickalusion summed up the feelings of those in attendance with his

Alaskans should never trade wild salmon for dirty coal to power Asian economies.

Every year biologists, the public, and sport, commercial and subsistence fishermen determine the best way to allocate salmon returns that Alaskans depend on. If Governor Parnell allows PacRim to destroy Middle Creek, he is giving a permanent allocation of all future salmon from this Cook Inlet stream to an Outside corporation only interested in profit removal of 11 miles of Middle Creek, a major tributary of the Chuit River on the west side of upper Cook Inlet near the communities of Tyonek and Beluga. The State recognizes the Chuit River as a "river of statewide significance" for its extensive and diverse fish populations.

Impacts of Strip Mining Through a Natural Habitat



impassioned comments to state representatives:

"What am I going to eat? I can't eat money, I can't eat coal. I eat moose meat. I eat fish. I live off this land. My grandfather showed me how to do that ... he passed it down through generations: how to take care of this land and what to do about it. I knew him, and what he said ... I lived off that land, I lived off that fish. I drank that water. I didn't go over there and buy it from California. I went over there and I chopped that water hole, I drank that water, and I packed that water for my grandma. That water came from that river right there, and it still comes from there. And you're going to pollute it!"

Since the hearings, Alaskans continue to voice their opposition to the Chuitna coal strip mine. More than 450 individuals submitted to the DNR their comments supporting Cook Inletkeeper's petition. Others submitted more than a thousand postcards, letters and emails to Governor Parnell, who has promised to never trade one

resource for another.

Despite the overwhelming support to protect salmon demonstrated by the citizens of Alaska, the Native Village of Tyonek and groups like the United Fishermen of Alaska and Upper Cook Inlet Drift Association, Governor Parnell's administration failed to meet the deadline to return a decision on the suitability of mining through Cook Inlet salmon streams. In failing to meet the legally required deadline, the DNR cites "unanticipated departmental workloads and schedules," yet they continue to find the time to issue water-use permits and exploration permits to PacRim.

The only question remaining is what will the Governor do? Will he protect Alaska's wild salmon or trade them to an Outside corporation to power Asian economies? For the latest developments with the proposed Chuitna Coal Strip Mine, visit www.chuitna.org or www.inletkeeper.org



What Experts Say

Dr. Mark Wipfli, associate professor with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks conducting research in aquatic-riparian interactions, freshwater foodwebs, and understanding how riparian forests affect aquatic productivity:

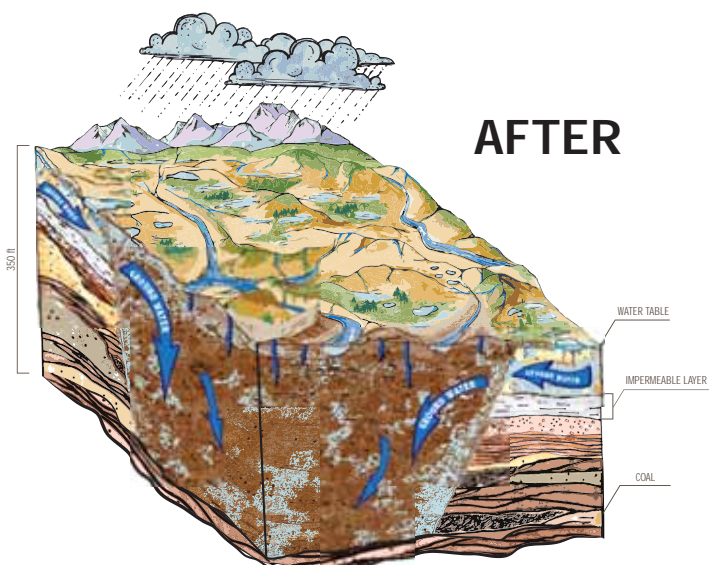
"Re-creating the complex three-dimensional diversity of interconnected underground sediments in salmon habitat, such as Middle Creek, would be impossible."

Lance Trasky, Former ADF&G Fisheries and Habitat Biologist with over 30 years experience in fisheries research:

"An extensive search of scientific literature, and discussions with stream restoration and in-stream flow experts did not yield a single documented example of strip-mined salmon habitat being successfully restored."

Dr. Margaret Palmer, Professor of Entomology and Biology at the University of Maryland with over 25 years experience in stream ecology and restoration:

"PacRim's reclamation plan is based on digging a 'new stream' to replicate the physical appearance of the original. There is no evidence that simply restoring the shape of a channel will bring back salmon runs, riparian corridors or other essential biological functions. Past stream restoration projects involving channel modifications with much less damage have been unsuccessful, making PacRim's plans a grand experiment with a stream that produces a significant portion of Chuitna's salmon."



ORGANIZATION

Inletkeeper Seeks Support as it Prepares for First State Fair

Cook Inletkeeper debuts at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer this summer—and we sure could use a hand! We're excited about the opportunity to reach some of the 300,000+ fairgoers, many of whom live in the heart of the Cook Inlet watershed. We'll have information available to let people know what we've been up to for the last 15 years, and what we're doing now and for the future. We hope this will be the first of many successful State Fairs that will allow us to share our concerns about threats to the watershed and hopes for how we can do more to protect it.

Our small, dedicated band of staff and board members will be there to make it happen—but it will be the added help of volunteers, borrowed equipment and more that truly make it possible. Until we can assess our ability to sustain a successful presence at the Fair year after year, Inletkeeper staff, board and volunteers will have a booth

in Raven Hall. We'll be there every day from Thursday, August 25 to Labor Day, September 5. See the box at right for ways you can help.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Before the fair:

We're working hard to update our display materials to maximize our ability to share information in a 10x10 space. Do you have retired displays that we can repurpose? Portable exhibit walls? A rug for the floor? Design skills? A large-format printer? A burning desire to help set it all up on August 24th? The possibilities are endless!

During the fair:

Get into the fair for free! We need friendly faces to help at the Cook Inletkeeper booth in Raven Hall. We have multiple 5.5 hour shifts available every day of the 10-day fair, and we'd love to have you there! Call and we'll consult our calendars together.

Have space you're willing to share? We seek options to house our coordinator and one or two additional rotating staff for the duration of the fair. All we need is a quiet place to sleep or do a little work away from the chaos.

After the fair:

We have great hopes for the State Fair! We dream it will be such a great opportunity to inform people about what we do, that we will in the future have an attractive, eye-catching outdoor booth that will draw even more people to talk at our tables. If you have ideas about how we can make this happen next year, please give us a call.

Call Susanna at (907) 235-4068 x27

Community Events


Whenver possible, Inletkeeper holds casual meet-and-greet gatherings in communities around the watershed. Over the winter, we held Community Forums, co-hosted documentary movie screenings and invited concerned citizens to public discussion of specific issues. With summer upon us, we hope to see you at fairs and festivals. We welcome these opportunities to meet you, 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. Stay tuned in to these and other events at www.inletkeeper.org.



Members and supporters attend an Anchorage Community Forum at the Historic Anchorage Hotel on March 25.


Celebrating the Anchor River through Stories and Science

On April 30th in Anchor Point, scientists, storytellers, fishing fanatics and interested locals came together to celebrate the Anchor River. Storytellers Dan Pascucci and Lynn Whitmore carried the crowd along on a journey through the salmon life cycle, while local researchers offered Anchor River-specific research findings to shore up the salmon story.

Inletkeeper's Sue Mauger shared her understanding of how stream temperatures are likely to warm in the coming years and how cool water areas can be important places for salmon to recover from high summer temperatures. The event was a fun and innovative collaboration weaving stories and science together. 


Big Changes in Play for Inletkeeper Management

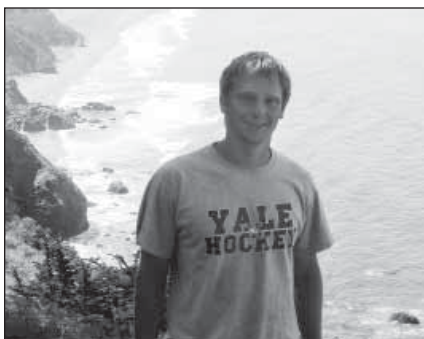
In 2011, Inletkeeper will undertake an ambitious Executive Leadership Transition process, where the current Executive Director/Inletkeeper position currently held by Bob Shavelson will be carved into two positions: an Executive Director slot, which will oversee management and fundraising functions, and a new Inletkeeper position, which will direct all advocacy activities. The

Inletkeeper Board and staff have engaged a professional consultant to assist with this effort, and will hire the new Executive Director later this year. Shavelson will then move over to the Inletkeeper position to focus solely on advocacy issues sometime in 2012. If you have an interest in the new Inletkeeper ED position, or know someone who might, please visit www.inletkeeper.org. 

Thank you ACF and Colorado College!

In May, Eric Grazia joins Inletkeeper's monitoring staff as our 2011 Alaska Conservation Foundation intern. Eric just graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Geography. And in June, with support from Colorado College's Transition Fund, Homer native Kira Olson will return with a Bachelor of

Arts in Geology and give us a hand. We look forward to providing both interns with an exciting and interesting summer of water quality sampling, temperature monitoring, stream invertebrate and habitat assessments, and opportunities to spread the word about the importance of clean water. Welcome Eric and Kira! 




Eric Grazia and Kira Olsen, Inletkeeper's summer interns.

Electronics Recycling – Homer and Beyond!



On the landing craft, Mako Haggerty, Cheryl and Pierre Ostor, Rachel Lord, Ben Gibson, Marcia Lynn, and George Overpeck picked up 1,451 pounds of electronics for recycling—all collected by the communities of Nanwalek, Port Graham, and Seldovia.

On April 16, Inletkeeper staff and volunteers loaded totes and scales onto a landing craft provided by Mako Haggerty for electronics recycling at communities around Kachemak Bay. In Seldovia, we left volunteers with Tracie Merrill from the Seldovia Village Tribe. We continued on to Nanwalek and dropped off a volunteer with Tim Greene from the Village IRA. In Port Graham, we met Sherry Glahn and Violet Yeaton from the Village Council, and Chief Pat Norman used the loader to deliver electronics from the community. These communities gathered 1,451 lbs. of electronics for recycling: 1,132 from Nanwalek, 256 from Port Graham, and 54 from Seldovia. 

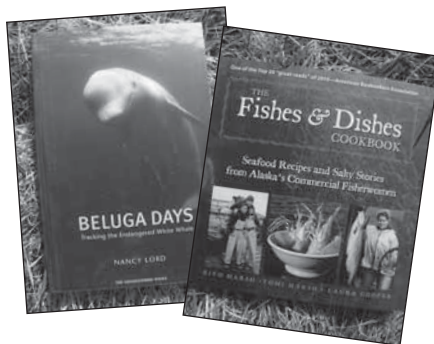


130 households and 22 businesses and organizations came out on Saturday, April 23 to recycle their electronics in Homer. Nina Faust chaired the electronics recycling committee for its 6th year, and we couldn't pull off such a great event without the help of our sponsors and fantastic volunteers. Shown are Homer's Pete Wedin and Gary Smith from Total Reclaim, the recycling company, getting a pallet of old monitors ready for loading.

Inletkeeper Merchandise for Sale

With our new web site comes new and improved ways to support Inletkeeper, not just by making an online donation, but also by purchasing some pretty great stuff. Sedna the mermaid makes an appearance on most of it. Our hardy organic cotton tees come in unique sunwashed colors. Check out our supersoft organic/recycled hoody with the really roomy hood, or the beautiful

handmade mugs crafted by Marie Herdegen at Morning Wind Pottery. We have Inletkeeper caps, a selection of books—including the new Fishes & Dishes cookbook—and a set of pretty notecards with images from around the watershed. If you live near Homer, stop in and take your pick. Otherwise, visit the shop at www.inletkeeper.org.



Show Your Pride



Cook Inletkeeper now has its Sedna mermaid logo on a really slick blue and white oval bumpersticker. Show your love for Clean Water and Healthy Salmon. Give us a call and we'll send you one for free. Even better: Fill out the back page and BECOME A MEMBER if you aren't already!

Help us Save Paper

We're pretty excited about our new website and some of the behind-the-scenes technology that helps us to work smarter. One of the many improvements is the ability to move to more electronic communication for those members and supporters who prefer it. This helps us save on paper and postage. Go electronic and we'll limit our paper mailing to one per year. We'll include you on occasional Action Alerts with critical information about issues that affect the watershed, electronic renewal reminders, event announcements and the Inletkeeper newsletter—all without paper. To update your membership record, send complete contact information to susanna@inletkeeper.org.



Inletkeeper Tidebooks Available!

Look for the bright yellow 2011 Cook Inletkeeper tidebook with its 32-page Healthy Fisheries and Clean Boating Guide, available for free at Inletkeeper offices and supporting businesses. A special thanks to NOAA in partnership with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies for helping to make it all possible. If you'd like to be a 2012 tidebook sponsor, call us today at (907) 235-4068, x27.



2011 Tide Tables Cook Inlet & Southcentral Alaska

Cook Inletkeeper is a member-supported non-profit organization that works to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in Alaska's Cook Inlet Watershed

www.inletkeeper.org

Healthy Fisheries & Clean Boating Guide

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Purchase anything on this page today at www.inletkeeper.org!

Welcome Cheryl



In early 2011, Inletkeeper welcomed new Finance & Office Manager Cheryl Ostor. We look forward to working with Cheryl as Inletkeeper embraces a new database and other improvements to move our organization closer to its ambitious goal to protect the Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. We bid a warm farewell to Joan Stempniak, who provided much-appreciated support, humor and local savvy. Good luck Joan—and welcome Cheryl!

Give for Conservation

How much is clean water worth to you? Only two percent of charitable giving in the United States goes for conservation efforts. The Earth Friends Conservation Fund works to change that by helping organizations like Cook Inletkeeper to spread the word. The Earth Friends Challenge is underway with an emphasis on increasing support through monthly and quarterly recurring memberships. Meet the Earth Friends Challenge and make your dollars do more for the watershed!



Thanks to Cook Inletkeeper's Supporters!

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Thanks to Cook Inletkeeper's Members & Supporters!

We at Cook Inletkeeper know we cannot pursue our ambitious mission without the generous assistance of our members, major donors, business supporters, private foundations and public agencies. Due to space constraints, we are not including our member list this time around. You know who you are, and we deeply appreciate your unflagging generosity over these 15+ years. We couldn't do it without you!

We'd also like to thank those of you who back us with your business support in the form of business memberships, cash donations, discounts, labor, supplies, event assistance, tidebook sponsorships and more.

A-Carpenter, Advantage Benefit Plan, A Fisherman's Resort, Ageya Homestead Properties, Advantage Benefit Plan, AHQ Alaska Health Quest, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Alaska Northern Lights, Alaska Personal Journeys, Alaska Retreat, Alaska Wildland Adventures, Alaskan Flower Essence Project, Already Read, Anchorage Guest House, Anchorage Your Extended Stay, Bald Mountain Air Service, Best Western Bidarka Inn, Blackwater Bend Espresso, Brant General Contracting, Captain Pete's Alaskan Experience, Coal Point Trading Company, Cosmic Kitchen, Country Liquor, Denali Trekking Company, Drew George & Partners, Doctors Longevity Formula, Driftwood Inn & Fishing Charters, Duggan's, Earth & Plant, Fat Olives, Fellows Fisheries, Forget-Me-Not, Free Spirit, Fresh Sourdough Express, Friends of Mat-Su, Fritz Creek General Store, Good Karma Inn, Gwartney Rentals, Haas & Spigelmyer, Habco Marketing Corporation, Homer Air, Homer Boat Yard, Homer Electric Association, Homer Fish Processing, Homer Veterinary Clinic, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge, Kennedy Associates, Latitude 59, Law Office of Joseph Raymond Skrha, Loopy Lupine Distribution, Magic Fish Company, Mako's Water Taxi, Marine Services of Alaska, Masteller Enterprises, Maura's Café, Morning Wind Pottery, NEMA, Nomar, Nuka Research & Planning Group, Odyssey Images, Patty Wagon, Pediatric Neurology Clinic of Alaska, Pioneers of Alaska, Redden Marine, Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance, Ring of Fire Meadery, Robert Walsh Graphic Design, Sadie Cove Lodge, Seater & Company, Silver Salmon Creek Lodge, Skyline Bed & Breakfast, Summer Song Honey Co., Susitna Wild Seafoods, Tech Connect, Synergy Systems, The Boatyard Café, The Brew Shop, The Grog Shop, The Peterson Bay Company, Tom Hughes Graphic Design, Total Reclaim, Two Sisters Bakery, Ulmer's Drug & Hardware, United Cook Inlet Drift Association, Wild North Photography, Wind Puffin Designs.



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

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

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