

INLETKEEPER®

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

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

Winter 2013-2014



Court: State Violating Alaskans' Rights to Protect Salmon *Parnell Administration Refused to Process Applications to Reserve Water for Salmon*

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The State of Alaska violated Alaskans' constitutional rights by refusing to process a four-year-old application to reserve water in the Chuitna River watershed for wild salmon, according to an Anchorage Superior Court in a precedent-setting ruling on October 15.

"This ruling is a victory for every Alaskan who wants to protect wild salmon and the Alaskan way of life," said Ron Burnett, a fisherman, hunter and founding member of the Chuitna Citizens Coalition. "Time and again, the state of Alaska has put the interests of Outside mining interests ahead of the rights of Alaskan residents. This decision should help restore the balance."

In August 2009, the Chuitna Citizens Coalition filed applications for instream flow



Photo: USFWS

reservations (IFR's) with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The purpose of the applications is to ensure adequate water flows for wild salmon in a tributary of the Chuitna River threatened by the Chuitna coal strip mine. The court found DNR's refusal to process the IFR applications amounted to "unreasonable delay," and also violated Alaskans' constitutional due

process rights. The court also noted how DNR issued water use permits to the coal company while ignoring the requests to keep water in the stream for wild salmon.

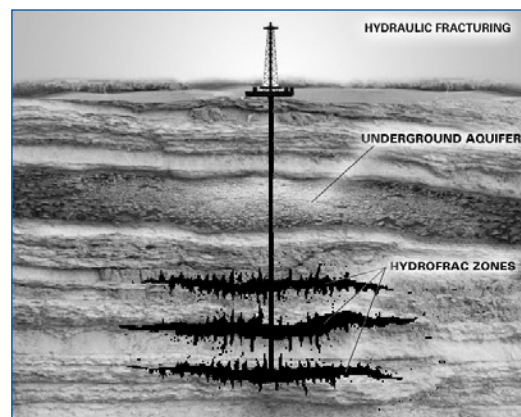
PacRim Coal's proposed Chuitna coal strip mine on the west side of Cook Inlet would be the first project in state history to mine directly through a wild salmon stream. The court

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Alaska Fracking Rules Could Be Some of the Nation's Strongest *But Industry pressure looking to water down basic safeguards*

In October 2013, Inletkeeper helped over 150 Alaskans press for stronger fracking rules before the Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission. Fracking fluids are used to enhance oil and gas recovery; they are injected under pressure in oil and gas reservoirs, and they work by separating the spaces in the source rock to allow oil and gas to flow more easily. Fracking fluids often contain diesel fuel and other toxic chemicals, yet the precise constituents of fracking fluids are often concealed as "trade secrets." In the Lower 48, the use of fracking fluids in shallow formations has been linked to drinking water and ground water contamination. The State of Alaska has

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Fracking operations have been found to contaminate Lower 48 drinking water supplies



A Message from YOUR Cook Inletkeeper

Dear Friends of Cook Inlet—

I first met Judy and Larry Heilman in the summer of 2007 when we stood side-by-side to announce the Chuitna River as one of America's Most Endangered Rivers. Larry had worked for years at the Chugach Power Plant in Beluga on the west side of Cook Inlet, and somehow he managed to rope Judy into a beautiful little homestead with chickens, cattle dogs and mosquitos the size of soup cans. Judy and Larry came from a different time and place than me, and our politics were different too. But our interests overlapped in one important area: wild, Alaskan salmon. A company called PacRim Coal had dusted off plans to build an enormous coal strip mine in the Chuitna watershed, and it wanted to be the first company in state history to mine through a wild salmon stream. So we started to work with Judy and Larry and other local residents who wanted to protect their salmon and their Alaskan way of life. At one meeting in the Heilman's garage—which doubles for the Beluga Town Hall—someone asked "why can't we just keep the water in the stream instead of giving it to the coal company?" That led to an application to the state to reserve enough water in Middle Creek—the stream to be mined—to support salmon. Despite the fact the Heilmans and their group of residents with the Chuitna Citizens Coalition paid \$4500 to the state to reserve the water, the state refused to act for more than 4 years. In the meantime, the state issued permits allowing the coal company to use water



from the same stream. For the Heilmans and the Chuitna Citizens Coalition, enough was enough; they filed a complaint in state court, and in October, they won. But the Parnell Administration doesn't like the fact everyday Alaskans can reserve water in their salmon streams, and it's pushing House Bill 77 to strip away that basic right. So this January, when HB 77 comes up in the Alaska legislature, I hope you will think of your favorite salmon stream, put yourself in Judy and Larry's place, and make your voice heard.

Yours for Cook Inlet,

Bob Shavelson
Inletkeeper



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Properly disposing **electronic waste** helps protect water quality and healthy fisheries in Cook Inlet.
Please save your unwanted electronics for recycling events.

THE NEXT ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT WILL BE:

SAVE THE DATE: April 26, 2014

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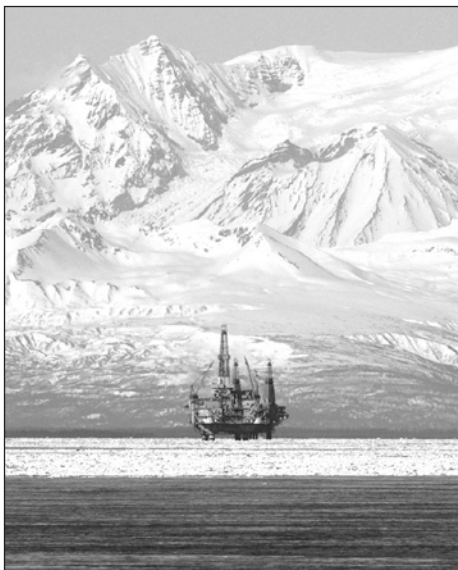


WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

CLEAN ENERGY


Inletkeeper (Still) Fighting to End Toxic Oil & Gas Loophole

In October, Inletkeeper joined the Native Villages of Port Graham and Nanwalek, and the commercial fishermen at the United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA), in a detailed request to EPA to end the Clean Water Act loophole that makes Cook Inlet the only coastal waterbody in the nation where the oil and gas industry may legally dump billions of gallons of toxic waste each year. Cook Inlet fisheries support more than \$1 billion a year in economic activity, and the technology to re-inject wastes is well-established. This has been a long fight, and the oil industry knows it's cheaper to pay lawyers and dump toxics into our fisheries than to properly treat its wastes. But changing technology and economics are now making "zero discharge" much more likely.



Alaska Fracking Rules

Continued from page 1

now proposed new rules that can help shed light on the constituents in fracking fluids, and where, when and in what volumes they would be used. The new rules would cover the following areas: notification of landowners within one-quarter mile of the wellbore trajectory; pre- and post-hydraulic fracturing water well water sampling and analysis; disclosure of the chemical makeup of hydraulic fracturing fluids; wellbore integrity & containment of hydraulic fracturing fluids; and disclosure of the intent to use hydraulic fracturing on applications to drill. AOGCC should release its final rules in the next few months, and info will be available at: <http://doa.alaska.gov/ogc/frac/fracindex.html> 


Violating Alaskans' Rights to Protect Salmon

Continued from page 1

ruling comes as Gov. Parnell pushes to deny Alaskans the right to file instream flow reservations to protect salmon, and to remove Alaskans' voice from many natural resource permitting decisions—through House Bill 77.


"The Parnell Administration knew it was breaking the law when it denied our efforts to keep water in our fish streams, and now it wants to change the law with

HB 77 rather than allow Alaskans to protect our salmon," explains Burnett. "This is part of a steady and deliberate effort to silence Alaskans in basic decisions governing our natural resources."

Cook Inletkeeper played a significant role throughout this case. Attorney Valerie Brown with the public interest law firm Trustees for Alaska argued the case for the local residents. 

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Thank You
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Sharing the love
for Alaska's Cook Inlet

We received our list of Pick.Click.Give donors in October and we are deeply grateful to you all. Your steady commitment to Cook Inletkeeper gives us both the means and the motivation to keep on keeping! We're also launching our annual appeal and folks are making their non-profit gift plans for the end of the year. Share our materials with your friends, or if you know anyone that would like a copy of our newsletter give us a call and we'll send you extras to pass around. Spreading the word is another powerful way you can help us out. And support us again through Pick.Click.Give starting January 2014! 

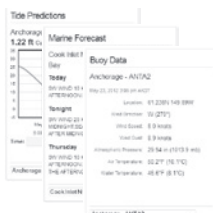
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CASE STUDIES

Parnell Administration Aggressively Rolling Back Enforcement, Habitat Protections

For the past 18 years, Cook Inletkeeper has had a front row seat to the repeated efforts to rollback commonsense habitat and water quality protections across the state. While things took a serious turn for the worse under Frank Murkowski, the Parnell Administration is setting a whole new standard for erasing the basic practices that once gave Alaska some of the best fish and game management in the world. For example, DNR Commissioner Joe Balash played a leading role unraveling the Alaska Coastal Management Program, which was the ONLY law on the books that gave Alaskans a meaningful seat at the table for federal decisions. ADEC Commissioner Larry Hartig quietly and with no public notice or input killed the Alaska Climate Change Sub-Cabinet. And recent news accounts reveal ADFG Habitat Division Director Randy Bates is working to undermine protections on some of our most important state lands—our game refuges and critical habitat areas. In the Cook Inlet watershed, there are countless examples of these rollbacks. Here are but a few:



Unregulated activities in the Knik River Watershed continue to destroy vital Mat Su Valley salmon habitat



Case Study:

Knik River Watershed, Mat Su Valley, Upper Cook Inlet

By Robert Howard, Guest Columnist, Knik River Watershed Group

In 2006, the Alaska Legislature passed House Bill 307 to create the Knik River Public Use Area (KRP UA) and protect important fish and game habitat while promoting public access and use. Unfortunately, state land and resource managers have failed to protect this extremely rich and unique area, which is witnessing ongoing and increasing damage to sensitive fish and wetland habitats.

While there are suitable laws on the books to protect the KRP UA, state land managers have consistently refused to enforce basic laws and rules. In fact, little has changed with regard to management of the area since DNR's Bob Loeffler admitted in 2005 "...the Knik has been sacrificially managed for decades."

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been active documenting the vital fish and wetland values in the Knik

watershed, and both the USFWS and biologists at the Alaska Department of Fish & Game recognize there are many conflicts between public uses of the area, and habitat protection.

A major stumbling block for responsible management rests with DNR's refusal to control motorized access along Rippy Trail, which connects to the sensitive Jim-Swan Wetlands complex. As a result, there is significant degradation of important wetlands and aquatic habitats which support wild salmon in the Mat Su Valley.

The Knik River Watershed Group is working hard to ensure responsible use and management for the Knik River area. Find more information at: knikriver.org



Discharge from an adjacent gravel pit has polluted Two Moose Creek for over a year with no action from the state despite a wealth of data showing violations provided by Cook Inletkeeper.

Case Study:

Two Moose Creek, Anchor River Watershed, Lower Kenai Peninsula

In 2004, local sport fisherman complained about "chocolate water" flowing into Two Moose Creek, a tributary to the Anchor River located between Homer and Anchor Point which provides important habitat to Kings, Silvers, Dolly Varden and Steelhead. Inletkeeper provided photographic and water quality evidence showing numerous violations of the Clean Water Act, and, four years later, the federal EPA settled an enforcement case that required a gravel pit owner to stop polluting the Anchor River.

Fast forward to Spring 2012. Inletkeeper volunteers identified new and recurring water quality violations at Two Moose Creek. Apparently the same gravel pit experienced catastrophic failure of a dam adjacent to Two Moose Creek, sending a wave of sediment downstream, resulting in riparian damage and conditions that continue to dump dirt into Two Moose salmon habitat. This time, however, overwhelming evidence of

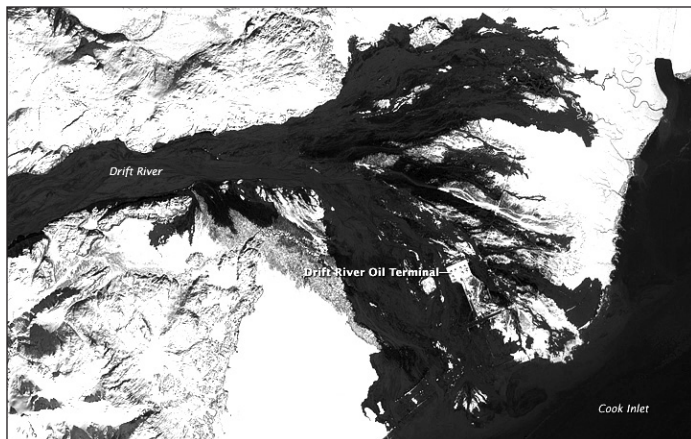
water quality and habitat violations have fallen on deaf ears, as EPA, ADFG and ADEC continue to sit on their hands as the destruction of important salmon habitat unfolds. As of November 2013, Inletkeeper has seen no serious effort to remediate the ongoing violations.

At a time when Cook Inlet King salmon fisheries—and the countless families they support—are struggling, it's hard to believe our state and federal agencies cannot or will not take the most basic steps to ensure healthy King salmon habitat.

Case Study:

Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area, West Side Cook Inlet

After Mt. Redoubt erupted in 2009, Inletkeeper pushed Chevron to remove most of the oil stored at the Drift River Oil Terminal, located at the base of the erupting volcano. It was a nasty fight, and Inletkeeper Bob Shavelson got ousted from the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (CIRCAC) because CIRCAC did not like criticism aimed at one of its funding companies. In 2012, Chevron's successor—Hilcorp—sought permits from ADFG to mine boulders in the Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area and to fill in portions of a salmon stream so it could reinforce the revetments surrounding the oil terminal (volcanic lahars over-topped the berms around the facility in 2009). Inletkeeper submitted comments noting the critical habitat plan for the area prohibited mining, and that there was a clear alternative—i.e.



Drift River Oil Terminal, 2009. ADFG violated its own rules to resume oil storage at facility.

barge-in boulders from outside the critical habitat area. But ADFG Commissioner Cora Campbell turned a blind eye to ADFG's own rules and statutes, and issued the desired permits to the oil company. To compound matters, when Inletkeeper sought to appeal the decision, ADFG ruled Inletkeeper had no right to appeal—and that only the oil company could appeal the decision! In other words, in ADFG's view, Alaskans cannot appeal illegal habitat decisions, but permit applicants—such as Texas oil companies—can. 🐉

CLEAN WATER

Clean Boating in the Valley

What You Can Do to Help Big Lake & the Little Su



Inletkeeper contractor Catherine Inman (Mat-Su Conservation Services) handing out clean boating kits at the Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show as part of our Clean Boating on Big Lake and the Little Susitna River project.

If you're a boater living near the Mat-Su Valley, you've likely enjoyed time on one of the many lakes or rivers during the summer. Blue skies draw crowds to enjoy clear water and good fishing; unfortunately crowds of boaters can also lead to pollution on popular waterbodies.

Big Lake and the Little Susitna River are two examples that are suffering from boat-based pollution during the summer. Cook Inletkeeper has been working since 2011 with funding from the AK Department of Environmental Conservation to provide tools and resources for boaters to help reduce pollution while enjoying their time boating on Big Lake and the Little Su. A few tips: minimize idling, pull your plug away from the ramp, always use oil absorbents, and

upgrade to a four-stroke or direct-inject two-stroke engine. For more, see our website and look for volunteers handing out free clean boating kits next summer at Big Lake and the Little Su! 🐉

AIRS

A good mnemonic for the Cook Inlet volcanoes from south to north is:

A — Augustine
I — Iliamna
R — Redoubt
S — Spurr

An Update from Alaska Clean Harbors




The Alaska Clean Harbors Advisory Committee certified the Haines Small Boat Harbor as the third certified Clean Harbor in Alaska.

Alaska's vast coastline and rich marine systems attract hundreds of thousands of recreational and commercial boaters each year, and these magnificent resources generate significant revenues for local communities and small businesses. But Alaska's harbors pose some of the most vexing pollution and environmental protection issues facing the state. Boat-based

lubricants, batteries and plastics can pollute local waters, contaminate fish and shellfish, and entangle marine life. In its third year, the Alaska Clean Harbors program continues to gain traction around the state. Through this program, led by Cook Inletkeeper, we work with harbor facilities around the state to adopt best management practices to reduce pollution and improve waste management and services for boaters. ACH is a completely voluntary and free program, and in offering our services we have developed great relationships with a number of municipalities with common goals to protect Alaska's marine environment. As of October 2013, ACH has certified the Homer, Seward, and Haines Small Boat Harbors. We are also working with harbors in Cordova, Sitka, Valdez, Kodiak, Bethel and Nome.

Building off of the success of House Bill 131 this past legislative session, through ACH we are also working with stakeholders to bring together an Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Task Force. This Task Force will look at our current statutes and agency involvement in ADV issues and develop recommendations for developing a statewide ADV program.

If you would like to learn more about Cook Inletkeeper's clean boating project, or about the Alaska Clean Harbors program, visit our websites: <http://inletkeeper.org/clean-water/clean-boating> or <http://www.alaskacleanharbors.org>. 

Got Drugs? Pharmaceuticals Disposal

Lurking in medicine cabinets and jumbled drawers, unused and expired pharmaceuticals are common in today's households. Pharmaceuticals include prescription and over-the-counter drugs, veterinary medicines, personal care products, fragrances and vitamins. While beneficial to humans when used properly, accumulations of pharmaceutical waste and improper disposal methods raise valid concerns for the safety of our loved ones and the environment.

Over 6 million Americans use prescription drugs, producing a growing supply of unused and expired medications. If flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink, these chemical compounds travel freely through our septic systems and waste water treatment plants into our waterways, leading to potentially dangerous and undetected consumption.


The EPA does not regulate many of these chemicals in our drinking water, and water treatment plants are rarely set up to detect—much less remove—pharmaceuticals before they



are discharged into our environment at large. In 2010, in order to determine the effect of these “emerging parameters of concern” on the Cook Inlet beluga whale population, the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility conducted sampling of their influent (wastewater entering the treatment plant) and effluent (wastewater exiting the treatment plant). Over 160 separate pharmaceutical compounds

were identified, with over 100 of those characterized as having potential for bioaccumulation in aquatic species.

One of the easiest methods for proper handling of pharmaceutical waste is by finding a disposal receptacle specifically made for pharmaceuticals. Currently, law enforcement agencies in Anchorage, Soldotna and Homer stand by to provide pharmaceutical disposal services year-round.

Check out Cook Inletkeeper's new webpage dedicated to pharmaceutical disposal to find out where you can take your unused and expired pharmaceuticals. <http://inletkeeper.org/clean-water/pharmaceutical-disposal> 

Don't Let Electronic Gifts become Electronic Waste


Re-use or Re-Cycle to Save Resources and Prevent Pollution

Desktop computers are replaced every two years. Cell phones only last an average of 22 months before being replaced. MP3s and iPods usually go a few years before being upgraded. Are any of these items on your holiday wish list, to give or receive?

The average American spends \$1,400 per year on electronics, and with the new coming in, the old must go out. But where exactly does it go? Unfortunately, much of this e-waste is discarded into landfills, with only a small percentage being recycled.

As the holiday season gets underway, reduce the environmental impact of your electronics purchases:

1. Purchase durable electronics that will last a long time, and take care of them to extend their useful life.
2. Donate unwanted, but usable, electronics to charities, churches or schools, or hand me down to a friend or neighbor.
3. Recycle, never dump, broken or obsolete electronics through a certified company that has committed to worker safety and environmentally sound processes.

Cook Inletkeeper's *Electronic Recycling Program* works to promote e-cycling instead of e-dumping by education and by hosting an annual electronics recycling event. Since our events began in 2006, over 130,000 pounds of e-waste has been collected for recycling in Homer. We are proud to work with Total Reclaim, a recycler based out of Anchorage that is certified as an e-Steward through the Basel Action Network, the industry's most stringent and respected third party auditor of electronics recycling companies worldwide. 

Save the Date: April 26, 2014


Homer's 9th Annual Electronics Recycling Event

With the support of our underwriters at Total Reclaim, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, SBS, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we are happy to announce the 9th annual Homer Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, April 26, 2014, from 10am to 3pm at Spenard Builder's Supply.

This is a great opportunity to ensure that your broken or used electronics are properly dismantled and recycled. Just as importantly, this ensures that they do NOT end up in a landfill where the potentially valuable resources remain unclaimed and where they have the potential to leach toxins into our air and water.



In our continuing efforts to encourage citizens to participate in this event, we have again created 'save the date' magnets to serve as a reminder throughout the fall and winter, and this year will be installing permanent signs at the new Homer Transfer Facility and local businesses which will be updated each year to list the date of the next e-cycling event. We would like to thank Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) for providing funding for our continued outreach of this program.


Swing by the Inletkeeper office in Homer to pick up some convenient reminder magnets, and join us in looking forward to another successful event in 2014. 

Citizen Monitoring Update



Cook Inletkeeper celebrated sixteen years of citizen-based water quality monitoring with volunteers and members at our Annual Splash Bash party at Bishop's Beach in Homer this past July. Sixteen years of monitoring water quality is certainly something to celebrate! This winter we have volunteers Scott, Karen and Holly monitoring 3 CEMP sites, moving closer to completing baseline water quality datasets for all of our CEMP streams. In addition to getting folks into the streams and aware of water quality issues, a primary goal of the CEMP is to collect these baseline data.


By taking time to learn about our streams now, we can track future changes and be informed as a community when we make decisions about development and conservation. Baseline datasets are collected over a period of at least 5 years. To be considered a "complete" baseline dataset, a series of criteria must be met for each CEMP site. These criteria ensure that we're capturing the natural variation at each of our sites, both within a year and between years. We then summarize the data in a reader-friendly way, including 'bug sampling' data, continuous temperature data, and information taken with photographs and observations over the years of sampling.

By looking at all of this together, we develop an overall picture of water quality and habitat quality at our streams and provide suggestions for future monitoring. At the end of 2013 we will have completed 16 baseline water quality datasets, with one more that will conclude at the end of summer 2014. Writing up all of the data will take some time, so stay tuned as we continue to roll-out baseline water quality reports! 

Safe Drinking Water: *What you should know before you buy a property with a well*

Many homes throughout Cook Inlet rely on private wells for drinking water. Unlike public water supplies, there are no regulations to ensure private drinking water is safe. As a homebuyer, you should make it a priority to find out as much as possible about the drinking water source at any home you consider purchasing. Some things to ask about include:

- A recent drinking water test that includes arsenic, nitrates and bacteria. These are primary health concerns for drinking water in our area. Also ask about prior water test results, if they exist.
- A well log, or any information that may exist on the well's location, age and condition. If the current owner doesn't have a well log, you may be able to find it online. Well drillers are required to file a well log with the state. See if yours is listed in the Alaska Well Log Tracking System: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/welwts/>
- What is surrounding the well, especially upslope? Look for possible sources of contamination, including septic systems and livestock yards.
- Maintenance and inspection records for the well, if they exist.
- Any current water treatment systems, including maintenance records.
- If there are water rights secured for the property. Water rights are transferable with the property, and are recorded online: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/map-guide/wr_intro.cfm

For more information about private drinking water, visit Cook Inletkeeper's Safe Drinking Water program website: <http://inletkeeper.org/clean-water/safe-drinking-water>. 


www.inletkeeper.org

HEALTHY HABITAT

Rallying around Salmon Habitat Conservation




Science Director, Sue Mauger sharing our cold-water-stepping-stones approach to habitat protection at the Land Trust Rally.

better engage land owners in considering options for protecting salmon runs for future generations. We were able to teach what we have learned about using thermal infrared imagery, while reinforcing our organization's core climate change focus and commitment to mitigate climate change and develop adaptive management strategies that will protect people, water quality, and fish and wildlife. In addition, the Land Trust Alliance featured our work in *Saving Land*—the nation's leading magazine written by and for land conservationists. By sharing our work with a national audience, we hope others will follow our lead of translating salmon science into concrete habitat protection benefits. 

It wasn't ALL beignets and café au lait when Cook Inletkeeper went to New Orleans in October. We were working hard at the Land Trust Rally sharing our "cold-water stepping stones" approach to protecting Alaska salmon from the harshest impacts of climate change. Along with our local partner Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, we presented a workshop on our cold water refugia work for a broad national audience of land conservationists. This was our first Land Trust Rally and we hope not our last as the meeting was a great place to learn from experts about new ways to present our science and craft our story to

Stream Temperature Monitoring Network *Synthesis Report Available!*

Cook Inletkeeper has been collecting water and air temperature data in 48 salmon streams in the Cook Inlet watershed for 5 years. We just completed an initial synthesis of this work and are ready to share our findings! Our results indicate that large-sized watersheds with low average elevation and low slope are inclined to have the warmest temperature profiles and are the most sensitive to increasing air temperature. This describes a stream like the Dëshka, on the west side of the Susitna River valley, where we recorded our highest water temperature of 24.5 degrees Celsius (76.1 degrees Fahrenheit) in 2009. We found that summer water temperatures vary greatly across non-glacial salmon streams in the Cook Inlet watershed. In fact, maximum stream temperatures varied by as much as 12 degrees Celsius between sites; nonetheless, the vast majority of streams exceeded Alaska's water temperature criteria set for the protection of fish.

Based on our assessment of current stream temperature profiles and relationship to air temperature in Cook Inlet streams, average July water temperature in 27% of the streams will increase by at least 2 degrees Celsius and may result in a greater incidence of disease, poor egg and fry incubation survival, low juvenile growth rates, and more pre-spawning mortality for salmon by 2099. Thermal impacts will be more moderate in 23% of the streams, with no significant impacts to salmon health for 50% of the streams. Cook Inletkeeper's Stream Temperature Monitoring Network has proven to be a successful collaborative regional monitoring effort, which is now being used as a template for coordination, data management and analysis to facilitate expanded water temperature monitoring throughout Alaska. To read our full synthesis report, please go to: <http://inletkeeper.org/resources/contents/stream-temperature-synthesis-report> or contact Sue Mauger at sue@inletkeeper.org. 

Live from the Deshka and Anchor Rivers!

Real-time Stream Temperature Data to Understand Salmon and Climate Issues


In our modern world of technology, people expect information to be available immediately and continuously. We just took a huge step towards providing stream temperature data—just the way you like it—in real time. We are collaborating with BeadedStream LLC in Anchorage to create a real-time, online interface for paired air and water temperature sensors powered with micro-solar recharging capabilities and using Iridium satellite technology!

On September 7th we installed the first station on the Anchor River at the Old Sterling Highway Bridge. And we had great field support from members of the Kenai Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which is a good sign that anglers on the Kenai Peninsula have an interest in this type of information. On September 9th, we set up a station on the Deshka River with support from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We take this as another good sign that fisheries managers are interested in the temperature data and understanding how temperature affects fish movement through the Deshka weir and onto spawning grounds.

By the time the rivers are ice free again in 2014, Cook Inletkeeper will be your source of real-time data to enhance your fishing experience on two of Cook Inlet's most valued king salmon systems. With this important next step in technology and data accessibility, we hope to continue to engage decision-makers and local Alaskans on the risks of warming salmon streams and the implication of climate



Science Director Sue Mauger with the new monitoring equipment on the Anchor River.

change on our freshwater salmon habitat. Subscribe to our Keeper News online and we'll let you know as soon as this resource is up and available to the public: <http://www.inletkeeper.org/subscribe/>. 

HB 77— The Silencing Alaskans Act


The Most Anti-Salmon, Anti-Alaskan Legislation in State History?



Every single Alaskan needs to know about House Bill 77, introduced this year by the Parnell Administration and generally referred to as the “Silencing Alaskans Act.” With oil taxes dominating attention in the Legislature last session, HB 77 raced through the House with little consideration. In the Senate, Alaskans finally had a chance to ask a few questions, and the legislation stalled. But it's ready to come back up for consideration when the Senate reconvenes in

January 2014. So, what's so bad about HB 77? First, it concentrates power in the DNR Commissioner—granting him/her new “super powers” to bypass existing laws and to ignore Alaskan voices when issuing permits. It also makes it extremely hard to challenge illegal state decisions, and allows the state to give away public lands to private corporations under dangerously vague standards. If that's not bad enough, it strips away the rights of everyday Alaskans to keep water in our salmon streams, and gives corporations expanded rights to take out massive amounts of water indefinitely from those same salmon streams.

These are just some of the worst provisions, but HB 77 is a Christmas tree of goodies for Outside mining companies

who prefer not to be pestered by things like salmon habitat and water quality. So, whether you're a Tea Party conservative or a tree-hugging lefty, there's something in HB 77 that will undermine the rights of every Alaskan! Get more info at www.stand-forsalmon.org and make your voice heard while we still have wild salmon! 

***“So, whether you're a
Tea Party Conservative
or a tree-hugging lefty,
there's something
in HB77 that will
undermine the rights
of every Alaskan!”***

EVENTS

Splash Bash 2013



We celebrated our volunteers and members under blue skies at Inletkeeper's 16th Annual Splash Bash at Bishop's Beach in Homer. Holly Brennan was our 2013 Volunteer of the Year. And a special Cook Inletkeeper Citizen of the Year trophy was awarded to Bill Smith.

Kenai Cannery Party



Bob Shavelson addresses supporters at the Kenai Cannery Party, where we celebrated the Cook Inlet watershed and updated locals on the issues that threaten it. Local fishermen donated enough salmon to feed a crowd of 100 and everyone got a chance to call or speak to their legislators. Senator Micciche joined us so people were able to talk to him directly about their concerns. Follow us on Facebook, or subscribe to our Keeper News email updates for announcements about these events, and join us for the next watershed discussion.

ORGANIZATION

Mako Haggerty Explains
Why I'm a Board Member

CIK: *Why did you become involved in Cook Inletkeeper?*

MH: My parents were astute, politically aware, articulate and skeptical. And through a time of civil unrest, I emerged a skeptic and an activist. For me Inletkeeper was a perfect fit. It's an organization that is skeptical of the information and misinformation regarding resource development and water quality. And it is honest in its approach, building a scientific basis for its actions in advocating for clean water and healthy salmon. It's easy to say you are pro-environment, but entirely different to put those beliefs into action.

CIK: *Was there a watershed moment that made you committed to support Inletkeeper?*

MH: There was not a single moment but a slow building outrage. When I found out there was an exemption in Cook Inlet that allowed drilling rigs to dump, an exemption that nobody else in the US had, I was outraged that it existed. I was involved in the Exxon Valdez cleanup, it was deadly and permanent, and barely a year later when Redoubt erupted I learned that the drift river oil terminal at its base, contained more oil than the Exxon Valdez, and that realization of an imminent danger here in our own Inlet appalled me. The lower Cook Inlet has a living sea bottom with so many users and stakeholders; it's outrageous that it all gets handed to a few large corporations and private enterprises.

CIK: *When have you been proudest to be a Cook Inletkeeper board member?*


MH: I'm proudest when folks who have no other recourse, who may not consider themselves environmentalists, get assistance from Inletkeeper. When government agencies have turned their backs on citizen concerns, Inletkeeper has



Mako Haggerty's connections to the watershed run almost as deep as the network of streams and rivers that shape it.

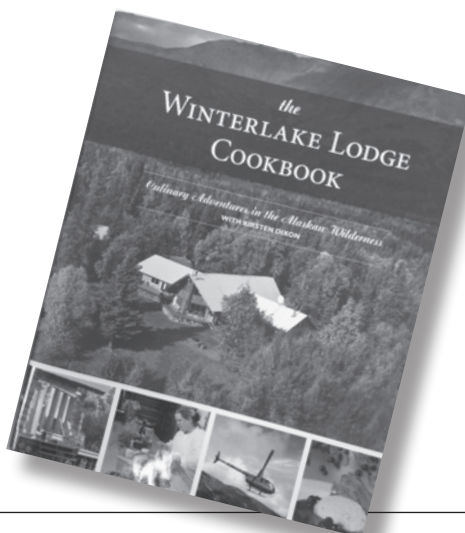
helped them get organized and helped them find a voice. Inletkeeper doesn't just advocate for Cook Inlet, but sows the seeds for others to become water advocates as well.

CIK: *If you had a magic wand what is the one thing you'd change about the watershed?*

MH: I'd plant a state of the art tidal generator. Cook Inlet has an incredible number of renewable resources that are not being harnessed: tidal, geothermal, wind. For a small fraction of what is spent on drilling and mining subsidies, we could fund a new wave of renewable energy sources. Our oceans, our fishing industries, our local economies will falter without a switch from fossil fuels to renewables. 

The Winterlake Lodge Cookbook *Local Cookbook Added to our Online Store*

We're very excited to add another cookbook to our online offerings. Longtime supporters, Kirsten and Carl Dixon run two lodges in the Cook Inlet Watershed Tutka Bay Lodge and Winterlake Lodge, and their Daughter Mandy Dixon has just opened a new café, *La Baleine*, out on the spit. If you can't wait till next summer to try their delicious Salmon Burgers they've agreed to share the recipe here. They were a big hit at last year's Salmonstock. Buy the book for some amazing variations on this recipe. If you're in a hurry for a holiday gift stop by our office in Homer to pick one up.



Alaska Salmon Burgers: Variation #2

- 1 pound boneless, skinless Alaska sockeye salmon
- 2 tablespoons minced cilantro
- 2 tablespoons thinly sliced green onion
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and finely minced
- Juice of half a lime
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- ½ teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 pinch smoked paprika
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Dice half of the salmon into ⅛-inch cubes. Purée the other half in a food processor. Combine both the salmons together in a medium bowl. Combine together the cilantro, green onion, garlic, lime juice, soy sauce, sesame oil, and smoked paprika. Add this mixture into the salmon, stirring to gently combine. Season the salmon with salt and pepper to taste. Shape the salmon into 4 patties and chill until ready to grill or sauté.

Makes 4 burgers 

A Special Thanks to Cook Inletkeeper's Institutional Funders:

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