

# Inletkeeper's Monitor News

ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009

## Mid-Winter on Kachemak Bay

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This being my first full winter down here in Homer, I've been amazed at the freeze-thaw-snow-freeze cycle that seems to be commonplace! From sunny 45F days to -10F and overcast, the weather here keeps one on their toes and does little to deter you all—Inletkeeper's dedicated year-round volunteers! Many thanks to Mary, Tom, Kyra, Neil, Frank, Will, Anne, Todd, Diana, Liz, Mike, Aviva, and Scott for their hard work sampling in December and January!



Kaya-the-dog and I have been skijoring out on the trails and enjoying the beach when it's warm. At work I've been busy getting trained through Level V and prepared for the spring training & recertification. On February 6 we had our annual CEMP Partnership meeting in Anchorage (see pg. 2 for more info on the Partnership). All in all, I'm looking forward to an exciting year!

Will Schlein sampling last January at Woodard Creek, behind the Pratt Museum

## Watershed Summaries



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During December and January, 7 sites were sampled by 13 volunteers. Reports from December were that it was \*cold\*. There were some broken DO bottles - replacements can always be checked out from the lab. Air temperatures ranged from -10F at Fritz Creek (KB-545) in December to +36F at Rice Creek (KB-556) in January! Dissolved oxygen was measured in three streams during Dec/Jan—Upper Beaver Creek, Woodard Creek, and Fritz Creek. The DO values ranged from 7.87 to 13.1. Cold water can hold more oxygen—so we would expect to see higher DO values in winter. Samples taken through holes cut in the ice, where the water under the ice doesn't mix with the air, helps us understand the lower DO values at Woodard and Beaver Creeks.

(continued on pg. 3)





The Dena'ina  
had arrived in  
the Cook Inlet  
region by A.D.  
500 to 1000  
([www.ciri.com](http://www.ciri.com))

## Field & Lab Notes

- Starting in February I will be shutting off the incubator except during sampling. It will take 24 hours to stabilize back to temperature, so please let me know if you will be plating bacteria samples outside of the official sampling window (2 days on either side of the last Sunday of the month).
- I would still like to encourage everyone to calibrate your Hanna meters often! At the CEMP Partnership recertification we found our Hanna meters working better and faster the more times we calibrated them over the course of 2 days.
- **Check your chemical expiration dates!** There are some lots that are going to be expired in the next few months—don't do your tests with expired reagents!!

## F.Y.I. The CEMP Partnership

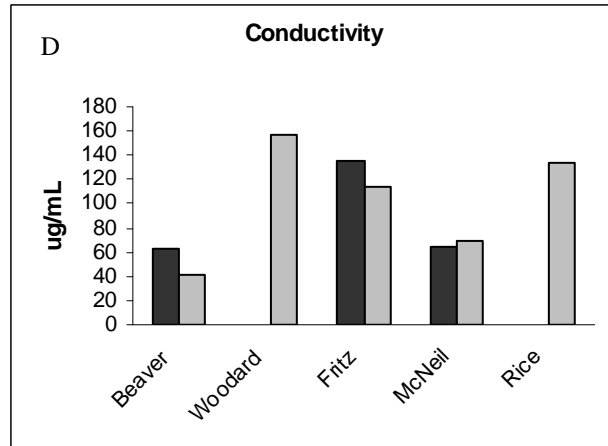
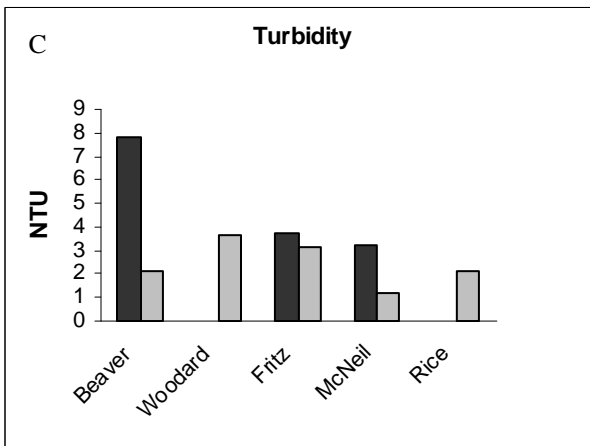
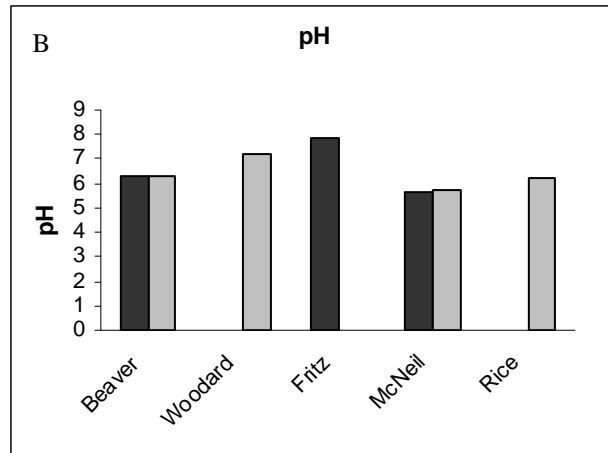
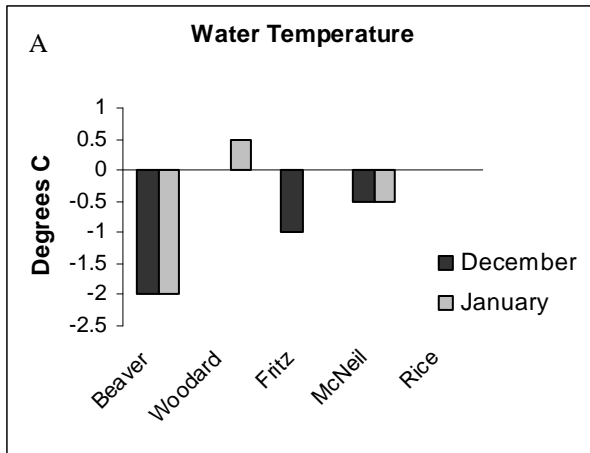
Alaska volunteer water quality monitoring began in 1996 with the formation of Cook Inletkeeper's Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP). Shortly afterwards, communities across the Cook Inlet Basin began monitoring their local watersheds, and looked to Cook Inletkeeper for guidance. Beginning in 1997, many of these organizations throughout Cook Inlet forged a partnership to train citizens uniformly in credible and effective data collection methods. The Partnership has formally become the Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program Partnership (CEMP Partnership). Partnership objectives include maintaining vibrant groups of volunteers at each Partner organization, ensuring quality data collection, and coordinating outreach and educational events.

Current members of the CEMP Partnership are:

Cook Inletkeeper  
Anchorage Waterways Council  
Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District  
Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance  
Upper Susitna Soil & Water Conservation District  
Kenai Watershed Forum  
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District



# Watershed Summaries (cont. from page 1)



There were no bacteria exceedences at any sites in December or January. For all of the graphs above, the black bars show December data and gray bars show January. Two sites, KB-210 and KB-1150, were frozen during either one or both of the sampling events. Graph A shows water temperatures fairly stable at the two sites that had readings in both Dec. and Jan. pH values in Graph B fall roughly around the ideal range of 6.5—8.5, although KB-545 has consistently lower pH values, around 5.6 for this reporting period. AR-1090 had one higher turbidity reading in December (Graph C), but it was back down in January. Conductivity is one of the best indicators we have of urbanization around streams. Graph D shows conductivity results and we see that Woodard Creek, one of our most urban streams, had the highest conductivity reading during this period.

## Dates to remember:

### February 22nd is a sampling day!

Annual recertification will happen in early April (official dates TBA). There will also be a training for folks who want to get certified. More on this soon, tell your friends...

The Kachemak Bay Science Conference will be held on March 6-7  
[www.kachemakbayscience.org](http://www.kachemakbayscience.org)

There will be a Homer Volunteering Fair held on March 24th, location TBA

