

Inletkeeper's Monitor News

ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER 2009

Winter freeze around the corner...

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I can't believe it's already November! I've heard that same sentiment from a number of folks—it seems the beautiful summer and fall weather we had really helped the time fly by. I hope you've all enjoyed the sunshine and that the seasonal changes have been gentle. Since the last newsletter (July! These may become seasonal, as well!) we've trained 3 new monitors (Welcome to Mike Haines, Kristen Kuehl, and Marcus York). I was terribly delinquent in picture taking during the fall training—my apologies to all. However, I have had all of the CEMP disposable cameras floating around (18 of them!) developed last week. **If anyone is interested in helping to label and upload pictures into our Flickr account online, please let me know!** This year's Solstice Wine & Cheese Appreciation (where we get a chance to thank you) will be on December 1st at 6PM. The plan is to unveil the 2007-2008 CEMP Report at the event, and also to hear feedback from you all about your experiences with CEMP so far. Who knows—there may also be some games and prizes! There will definitely be wine, sparkling cider, cheese, and crackers, so please put it on your calendars and bring your family! Also, on December 5th we will be having our annual Mukrakers Ball in Anchorage, this year honoring Jeanne Devon from the Mudflats blog. Go to www.inletkeeper.org for more information.



Watershed Summaries

Thanks to everyone for working hard to sample sites within the prescribed sampling time, from 1PM to 5PM. I know it's been a change for some of you—just remember that the time of day *does* influence several of our parameters. Sampling at a consistent time of day throughout the year is an important part of collecting long-term data in our watersheds.

(continued on pg. 3)





2010 will be
Inletkeeper's
15th
Anniversary!

CEMP was
started just a
year later, as
Alaska's first
agency-approved
citizen-based
water quality
monitoring

Field & Lab Notes

- **Dissolved oxygen saturation**—I'll be putting a table of DO Saturation levels in the lab. Remember, DO Saturation is a measure of how much oxygen is in the water *relative* to how much it COULD hold at that specific temperature (remembering, also, that colder water can hold more oxygen). So, for example, if the water temperature is 5°C, the water would be 100% saturated if it had between 12.8 mg/L of dissolved oxygen. If you titrated your samples and found there was 10 mg/L of oxygen in water fixed at 5°C it would be 78% saturated.

F.Y.I. Project Reports

BEACH * We finished BEACH monitoring at the end of August. This summer we sampled for bacteria at two sites on the Homer Spit for 17 weeks. No levels of bacteria were reported that exceeded the federal and state health standards. We will continue BEACH monitoring in April 2010—let me know if you or someone you know would be interested in being a BEACH Monitor!

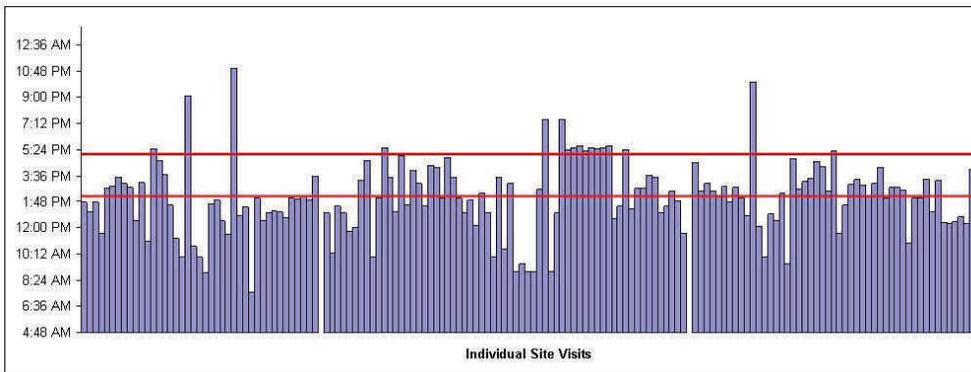
Bugs * 10 volunteers worked to sample, identify, and count bugs at 5 CEMP Sites (Two Moose Creek, Ruby Creek, Diamond Creek, Woodard Creek, and Beaver Creek) in June and in August. We had a lot of fun (who knew those little caddisflies would be so incredibly neat!?) and I'll be working on getting the data out to you all this winter.

Kachemak Bay Clean Harbors Day * Through funding from the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Inletkeeper organized marine debris clean-ups in the harbors around Kachemak Bay: Homer, Seldovia, Nanwalek, and Port Graham. We're looking forward to continuing to do this event in the summertime and could certainly use your help!

Clean Harbors Alaska * I mentioned earlier this fall that I was off to Seattle and shortly after to Kodiak as part of the Clean Harbors Alaska Program development project we're working on. Clean Harbors Alaska will offer certifications to ports and harbors implementing best management practices to minimize their non-point source pollution. Check out the project website for more info: <http://www.nukaresearch.com/projects/cleanharbor/index.shtml>

Safe Drinking Water * We were at the Health Fair on Nov. 14th offering opportunities to get well water tested. 28 families took advantage of discounted prices and free shipping. Find out more at our website: <http://www.inletkeeper.org/sdw/overview.htm>

Watershed Summaries (cont. from page 1)



60% of site visits in 2009 have occurred within the prescribed time frame (marked with red lines in the graph to the right).

As you are aware, a primary goal of CEMP is to collect baseline water quality data. To do this, we are working towards getting 5 year data-

sets for each site. During each year, there are 16 CEMP sampling events. To be counted as a “full year” of data, we look for sites to have at least 12 visits during the year—75% of the total possible visits. For 2009 it’s looking like we will have 9 sites with 12 or more site visits each: Beaver Creek, Diamond Creek above and below the landfill, Woodard Creek @ the Pratt, Bidarka Creek, Palmer Creek, Miller Creek, Fritz Creek @ East End Rd., and Rice Creek. Good job and many thanks to Neil and Kyra, Lee, Jenny, Mary, Tom, Will, Frank, Karen, Bob, Judi, Diana, Anne, and Todd! In looking at creating long-term base-

line data, we are working towards at least 80 site visits over all years. The table on the right lists all of the currently monitored sites, plus some older sites that are not currently monitored (KB-539, KB-120, KB-970). The first column shows the number of site visits in the past 5 years. The next column shows how many years that site has been sampled, and the final column is how many site visits have been completed to each site over all years.

	2005-2009 # Site Visits	All Years # Years Sampled	# Site Visits
Beaver Creek, AR-1090	68	8	107
Bidarka Creek, KB-210	66	10	112
Fritz Creek @ East End, KB-535	63	13	140
Palmer Creek, KB-356	58	6	59
Woodard @ Pratt, KB-150	54	12	103
Miller Creek below East End, KB-951	53	8	88
Miller Creek above East End, KB-952	52	5	55
Diamond Creek above Landfill, KB-1150	51	11	114
Rice Creek, KB-556	51	11	98
McNeil Creek, KB-545	41	13	89
Anchor Tributary, AR-1040	36	8	65
Rice Creek, KB-550	34	10	77
Diamond Creek below Landfill, KB-1140	32	10	82
Bridge Creek @ Easy St, KB-470	26	10	61
Two Moose Creek, AR-1015	24	7	40
Ruby Creek, AR-1034	19	13	74
Waterman Creek, KB-970	18	4	18
Fritz Creek, Upper, KB-539	16	6	36
Woodard Creek, Upper, KB-180	14	9	68
Mariner Creek, KB-370	14	4	16
Woodard Creek @ Jenny Way, KB-120	11	11	59
Fritz Creek, Lower, KB-533	9	2	9
Mariner Creek @ Homer High, KB-380	1	1	1
Outflow to Mud Bay, KB-911	0	5	33



“
If there is
magic in this
world, it is
contained in
water.
”

Loran Eisely

Dates to Remember:

- November 29 CEMP Sampling
- December 2 December Volunteer Gathering (see below)
- December 5 Inletkeeper's Annual Muckraker's Ball in Anchorage
- December 21 Winter Solstice—celebrate the return of the sun!
- December 27 CEMP Sampling

December Volunteer Gathering!

