



Inletkeeper's Monitor News

ISSUE 8

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A Year of Many Successes!

I can't believe it's been nearly a year since last the last Monitor News! We've been busy since last September: we've completed the baseline reports for Beaver Creek and Bidarka Creek (which is in draft form, to be published this winter), and finished the baseline water quality datasets for Rice Creek, Upper Fritz Creek, and most recently Upper Diamond Creek. Many thanks go out to the volunteers



who have made these incredible datasets possible. On September 25, Lee and Jenny (pictured above with their granddaughter Quinn and Inletkeeper intern Eric) completed an eleven year dataset, and sampled at Lower Diamond Creek for the last time. They wrote this poem that I wanted to share with you all. Enjoy!



Ode to KB-1140

**We've tested you during spring's snowy melt
 We've tested you when summer's rain is felt
 We've tested you under fall's frosty nip
 We've tested you under winter's icy grip
 Our work is done, it is time to go
 Good luck Diamond Creek, Adieu!**

Remember that although water quality datasets are complete and we work to wrap up our regularly-scheduled monitoring, we do continue to keep an eye on all of our creeks. Always keep your eyes, nose, and ears on alert—it takes all of us working together to ensure clean water!

As I write, the sun is shining after a frosty fall morning and we're heading towards another winter of sampling at nine creeks around Homer. Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing you around the lab and in December at our annual Wine & Cheese appreciation event.

~Rachel



Field & Lab Notes

Alaska DEC Water Quality Standards for Freshwater, Aquatic Life

Temperature	DO	pH	Bacteria	Turbidity
May not exceed 20° C. May not exceed where applicable: Fish migration routes: 15°C Fish spawning areas: 13°C Fish rearing areas: 15°C Egg & fry incubation: 13°C	DO must be > or = 7.0 mg/l. The concentration of DO may not exceed 110% of saturation in any samples collected	May not be < 6.5 or > 8.5	Not applicable (for contact recreation: In a 30-day period, the geometric mean may not exceed 100 FC/100 ml, and not more than one sample, or more than 10% of the samples if there are more than 10 samples, may exceed 200 FC/100 ml)	Not to exceed 25 NTU above natural conditions



Inletkeeper's CEMP, started in 1995, was the first citizen-based water quality monitoring program in Alaska!

F.Y.I. Project Reports

BEACH * In July and August this year we sampled at Bishop's Beach and Whiskey Gulch, just north of Anchor Point. See our table at the Homer Rotary Health Fair for BEACH results on Nov. 12. Starting in April we'll sample at the mouth of the Anchor River, as well as at Bishop's Beach. Volunteers are always needed to help out!

Bugs * This summer we collected the second year of macroinvertebrate data at No Name, Lower Diamond, Bridge, Upper Woodard, and Upper Miller Creeks in June and again in August. Thanks to those who helped out! Check out the results on the Inletkeeper website: www.inletkeeper.org

Safe Drinking Water * Inletkeeper will be hosting a table again at the Homer Rotary Health Fair on November 12th. We'll be holding another well water testing class and group testing opportunity in late-November. Tell your friends and neighbors and take advantage of this great opportunity to ensure your water is safe for you and your family! More information is available on our website, or by giving me a call.

Alaska Clean Harbors * We've worked hard over the past 2 years to spearhead the development of this voluntary program around the state. Harbors participate by implementing practices that reduce pollution into the marine environment. This fall, Homer Harbor will be certified as the first Clean Harbor in the state! We've also been working with boaters and marinas on Big Lake, north of Anchorage. If you want to help out with clean boating efforts around the area, let me know.



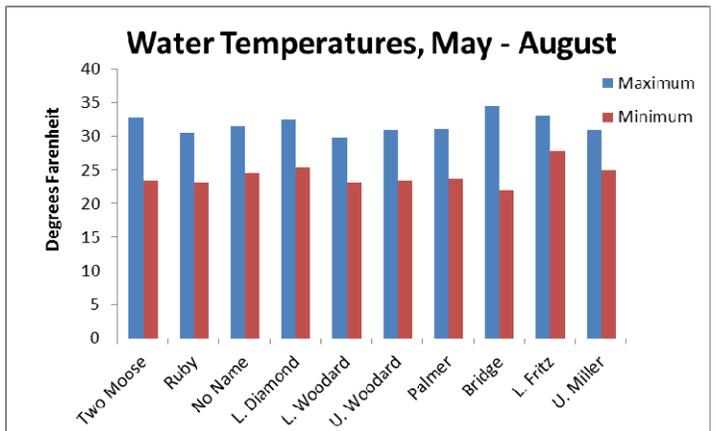
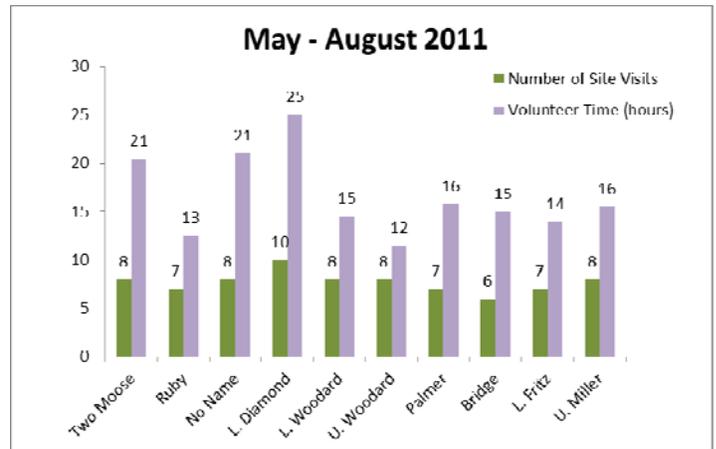
Summer Water Quality Wrap-Up

From May through August, volunteers monitored 10 local streams a total of 77 times. Just over 165 hours were spent taking water quality samples at these sites. This total doesn't include the efforts spent by over 10 volunteers in June and August for bug sampling at a subset of our sites (see F.Y.I. Project Reports on page 2). This represents a tremendous effort during a busy time of the year—thank you!

Air temperatures ranged from the low-mid 40's in early-May at most of our sites up to a high of 66°F at Bridge Creek at the end of July. The average air temperature during this time was 56.4°F. The water temperature ranged from a low of 2C (about 36°F) in May to 13°C (55°F) at Palmer Creek in July and August.

Bacteria levels exceeded water quality standards for contact recreation at Two Moose Creek on June 12 (433CFU/100mL). Follow-up sampling at Two Moose indicated levels of *E. coli* below the water quality standards (66CFU/100mL), and for the remainder of the summer *E. coli* levels ranged from 0 to 50CFU/100mL. These were the most consistent hits of bacteria from all of our streams. No *E. coli* colonies were seen during summer sampling at Upper Miller Creek or Bridge Creek, and only one sampling event had low levels of *E. coli* at Ruby Creek (16CFU/100mL on Aug. 28) and at Lower Diamond Creek (16CFU/100mL on May 7).

Turbidity was high at Ruby Creek this August (22.85 NTU on Aug. 2 and 65 NTU on Aug. 16). We are keeping an eye on upstream activities at this site to try and figure out where the added sediments may be coming from. The stream cleared up within a day following the late-August sampling, but these higher levels of turbidity aren't good for salmon in the system if they persist.



Top: Number of site visits (green) and the number of hours of volunteer time (purple) spent at each site from May through August. Bottom: Maximum (blue) and minimum (red) water temperatures (Fahrenheit) at each CEMP site during the summer of 2011.

Thanks to everyone for collecting data throughout the busy summer season. We're getting closer to complete baseline water quality datasets for our streams, and we couldn't do it without your help!



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

Loran Eisely

Dates to Remember:

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| October 30 | CEMP Sampling & Creek Clean-Up Contest! |
| November 12 | Homer Rotary Health Fair
Safe Drinking Water & BEACH presented by Cook
Inletkeeper |
| November 27 | CEMP Sampling |
| December TBA | CEMP Volunteer Wine & Cheese Appreciation! |

Fall Creek Clean-Up Contest!



We have all seen trash at our CEMP sites. I know that many of you pick up trash when you're able to, but often we don't have trash bags or take the time to do a full clean-up. Fall is a great time to do a clean-up, with the vegetation dying back and snow on the way. This Sunday sampling, pick up as much trash as you can around your site! Everyone who picks up trash will be entered to WIN! Two lucky winners will each receive a \$10 gift card to Two Sisters. Please take a picture of you with your trash bags if at all possible. If you share a site, and this month isn't your turn, pick another creek location that interests you and pick up the trash there. Include the name of the site, or some description, in your submission!

To enter, email Rachel where you picked up trash, how many bags or pounds you collected (estimates are fine), and pictures if you have them! Entries must be submitted between October 28 and November 1!

Winners will be announced on November 4th!

