

# INLETKEEPER®

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

www.inletkeeper.org Headquarters: 907.235.4068

Summer Quarter 2015



**August 31 is the Last Chance for 2015 Pick.Click.Give. Donations**

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If you did not get a chance to Pick.Click.Give. when you filed your PFD, or if you needed to wait for summer income to roll in before deciding how much to donate, there is still time!

The deadline to add a charitable donation through Pick.Click.Give. is August 31.

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**...because you love Cook Inlet**

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## Kenai Borough Retains Salmon Habitat Buffers

In 2011, Inletkeeper worked with numerous allies to secure 50 foot habitat buffers along more than 2,300 miles of salmon-bearing lakes and streams in the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Unfortunately, a loud minority of property owners from the Northern Peninsula – backed by national and state-level real estate agents - objected to what they called infringements on their property rights. An ordinance to rollback these common-sense safeguards failed in 2013, but, undeterred, the same anti-habitat forces came back with a similar ordinance earlier this summer. Once again a strong and vocal majority of Alaskans stood up for salmon habitat protection, and beat back the offending proposal. Inletkeeper thanks the many people and groups who spoke out for



*Standing room only crowds in 2013 beat back a similar ordinance. Thanks to all who spoke out in 2015, and to all who stand ready for any future attacks on salmon habitat protections.*


our salmon, and hopes the Kenai Borough Assembly does not waste any more time and money trying to undermine the habitat protections our fish need to thrive. 

## Salmon & Climate: Sharing What We've Learned

One of the best things about the work we do at Cook Inletkeeper is getting to collaborate with engaged Alaskans around the watershed and increasingly around the state. Because of our experience monitoring stream temperatures in Cook Inlet salmon streams, we've had great opportunities recently to share our knowledge with other Alaskans interested in their local rivers and concerned about a changing climate. In just the last three months, we've assisted folks over in Kodiak as they start up their own water temperature monitoring network in local streams and lakes. Then it was off to work with Bristol Bay communities to establish new monitoring sites on tributaries to the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers. The latest field trip was over to the west side of Cook Inlet to work with the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District to install temperature data loggers in the Chuitna River. No matter where we are, the local concern about changing rivers and how



*Delores Larson with the New Koliganek Village Council selecting a new temperature monitoring site on a tributary to the Nushagak River in the Bristol Bay region.*

salmon will persist into the future is the same across Alaska. We are fortunate to work with all these great partners in the field and to share and learn from each other as we collect data to help us understand what the future holds for coastal communities. 

## Navy Bombing & Sonar Training in Gulf Raises Big Questions



The Navy turned a deaf ear to protests in many coastal communities.

This past June, the Navy commenced training exercises in the Gulf of Alaska and citizens in Homer, Cordova and Kodiak spoke out with concerns about impacts to fisheries and whales. These exercises (called “Northern Edge”) included hundreds of highly percussive artillery explosions, the discharge of thousands of pounds of toxic and conventional pollutants, and the use of varying frequencies of sonar – all of which pose heightened risks to fish and whales in the marine environment. Although the Navy insisted its activities would not harm our marine resources, a federal district court ruled in April the Navy violated the Marine Mammal Protection Act and other laws with similar exercises off Hawaii and California. Inletkeeper recognizes the incredible importance of Gulf of Alaska fisheries, and will be working over the next year to press the Navy to move further offshore and to conduct less intrusive exercises outside the summer months when fish and whales are most prevalent.



## Where Does Your Boat Sewage Go?

Did you know that the Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of raw sewage from a vessel within 3 nautical miles of the U.S. coast? As the summer boating season peaks and more boats are utilizing coastal harbors, it is important to keep your sewage management strategy in mind. Where do you dump your sewage if your boat has a marine head? Do the harbors you visit offer pumpout facilities? Cook Inletkeeper, alongside Alaska Clean Harbors, is working with harbormasters and boaters across the State to understand sewage management needs. Not only is raw sewage floating in a harbor unsightly, but sewage can negatively impact our environment and poses human health risks. Sewage contaminated water can spread diseases and fecal coliform bacteria such as E. coli. Decomposing sewage acts like a fertilizer and causes algae and bacteria to grow, decreasing the amount of light and oxygen in the water available to other aquatic life. Shellfish, such as oysters, mussels, and scallops filter the water, including contaminants and bacteria, which can then infect people who consume them. Closures of shellfish harvest areas impacted by sewage can cause economic losses for local

economies. There are some things that boaters can do to protect our marine environment and ensure your sewage waste is properly disposed of: use on-shore restrooms, know how to use harbor pump outs and where they are located at your harbor, and keep your marine head in good working order. If your harbor does not have a pumpout, request that they get one! Clean water benefits everyone. Manage your sewage waste stream to ensure the coastal waters you love are safe for you and the environment!



Take advantage of the pump out stations available in your harbor.



## Find Out What's Happening in the Watershed



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## New Trade Pact Will Give Corporations the Power to Define our Laws



Bob Shavelson speaks out about the about the far reaching impacts of the TPP.

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**Cook Inletkeeper  
HEADQUARTERS**  
3734 Ben Walters Ln, Homer, AK 99603

ph: (907) 235-4068  
fx: (907) 235-4069

www.inletkeeper.org  
keeper@inletkeeper.org

**STAFF**

- Bob Shavelson  
*Executive Director & Inletkeeper*
- Eric Booton  
*Alaska Coal Organizer*
- Kaitlyn Vadla  
*Alaska Coal Organizer*
- Sue Mauger  
*Science Director*
- Rachel Lord  
*Clean Water Program Director*
- Heather Leba  
*Clean Boating Coordinator*
- Margo Revel  
*Development & Office Coordinator*
- Will Schlein  
*Information Technology Specialist*

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WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

An obscure and controversial trade bill negotiated by the Obama Administration and pending in Congress poses a direct threat to our democracy and to Alaska's sovereignty. Unfortunately, our two Senators – Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan – recently voted to “fast track” the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) before anyone knows what's in it.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a multinational trade agreement between a dozen countries around the Pacific Basin that would account for more than 40% of the world's trade. It expands the provisions of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the U.S, Canada and Mexico, which have resulted in massive trade deficits and countless out-sourced manufacturing jobs from the United States. Since 1993, for example, America's trade deficit with its North American trading partners (exports minus imports) has ballooned from \$16 billion to \$82 billion annually. The TPP, however, would do much, much more.

International trade is complicated stuff. In early years of trade agreements, the focus was on transboundary tariffs, with a goal to “level the playing field” so goods and services could more easily flow between trading partners. Today's trade agreements are wholly different beasts, and instead of tariffs, they increasingly seek to reduce so-called “non-tariff” trade barriers. These non-tariff trade

barriers can be any law, rule or subsidy that may have the effect of limiting trade or reducing corporate profits, and they include such basic safeguards as drinking water protections and fair labor laws.

The reason trade agreements focus on nontariff barriers, of course, is so corporations can produce the cheapest widget at the greatest profit by shifting production to nations with low-cost labor and lax environmental rules. This is the phenomenon - commonly referred to as the “regulatory race to the bottom” – where different states and countries vie for capital and manufacturing jobs by competing to see who can have the lowest standards. So, for example, we pollute the rivers and exploit the workers in China so we can maximize corporate profits and provide the cheap, disposable goods we get from Walmart and Home Depot.

To compound the problem, we know from Wikileaks the TPP has what are known as “investor-state” provisions, which allow any corporation that believes its profits have been hampered by a country's laws or rules to challenge the offending provision in a secret tribunal presided over by corporate lawyers. These provisions extend extraordinary new rights and privileges to corporations that allow them to bypass our court systems in the United States and Alaska, and undermine our sovereign right to govern ourselves.

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## Your Recurring Donations Keep us Stable

Only 3% of all charitable giving in the U.S. goes toward the environment/animals according to research by *Giving USA*. We are honored that 100% of our members care enough about our environment to support our work to protect Cook Inlet. If you have been contributing to Inletkeeper for awhile, consider making a recurring donation. These monthly, quarterly or annual donations help us plan ahead, and allow us to focus on the work at hand. When you setup your recurring donation with us online, you can now



Members are hands down our biggest inspiration!

make changes directly to the amounts or frequency as needed. Sign up online at: [www.inletkeeper.org/donate](http://www.inletkeeper.org/donate)



## TPP Impacts will be Local

Continued from page 3

Importantly, the “fast track” bill Senators Murkowski and Sullivan recently supported means Congress will be prohibited from amending the TPP, and will be forced to vote it up or down within a short timeframe and limited debate. This hasty process is all the more disturbing when we consider the TPP was negotiated in secret by teams of corporate lawyers working closely with the United States Trade Representative. Everyday citizens and groups were barred from participating, and today, the Obama Administration still refuses to make the TPP a public document.

At the most basic level, the TPP will continue the path of empowerment for large multinational corporations at the expense of ordinary people. Through a carefully tailored agenda started in the early 1970’s, corporations now have the same constitutional rights as living, breathing, natural people. The U.S. Supreme Court took this illogical notion to the extreme in 2010 when it invented new law in Citizens United and ruled that money is speech, and corporate “persons” have a first amendment right to spend unlimited sums to influence our local, state and federal elections. Today, we see powerful corporations openly, freely – and legally - buying elections



across our nation, and challenging any pesky laws that limit their right to “corporate speech.”

Now, the TPP – which was negotiated in secret and remains a secret document today – will give Monsanto, Chevron, Nestle, Exxon-Mobil and other massive multinational corporations even more power, including the right to challenge our

laws and rules in secret tribunals beyond our courts, and to secure huge monetary awards from U.S. taxpayers if their claims prevail.

In Alaska, we might think we are immune from the TPP. But even well-established programs such as the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and Alaska Grown could be challenged because they effectively distort markets by providing subsidies that favor our products over others’.

So, next time you see Senators Murkowski and Sullivan, ask them if they’ve read the entire TPP. Ask them why they voted to curtail debate on it and why they’ve allowed it to remain secret. And ask them why they would agree to trade away our freedom to govern ourselves to unaccountable international tribunals, convened behind closed doors, where corporate lawyers will decide which of our laws stands or falls.



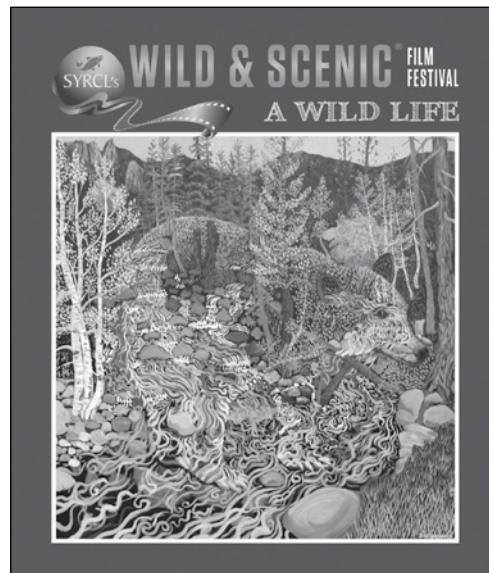
## Join Inletkeeper for Upcoming Events

Join us at these upcoming events. Check Facebook for new events throughout the year:

- July 30** Splash Bash, 6pm at Bishop’s Beach, Homer
- July 31-8/2** Save the Chuitna booth Salmonfest, Ninilchik
- August 8-9** Save the Chuitna table at Hope White Water Festival
- August 13** Eat Salmon Save Salmon BBQ - Free salmon and root beer floats 5:30-7:30pm at Valley of the Moon Park, Anchorage
- August 27** Eat Salmon Save Salmon BBQ - Free salmon dinner 5:30-7:30pm at Soldotna Creek Pavillion, Soldotna

We’ll also be hosting the Wild & Scenic Film Festival this Fall at four locations throughout the watershed:

- Oct 15** Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 6pm at the Kenai Visitor Center
- Oct 23** Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 7pm at the Hangar, Talkeetna
- Oct TBD** Wild & Scenic Film Festival, in Anchorage
- Nov 5** Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 6pm at the Homer Theater



This Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of  
**Frank Mullen**

*His passionate voice for Cook Inlet inspired us.*

*We are deeply honored by his family’s request that memorial donations be made to Cook Inletkeeper.*

