

# INLETKEEPER®

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

Homer - P.O. Box 3269, Homer, AK 99603 - (907) 235-4068

Anchorage - 308 G St., Ste. 219, Anch. AK 99501 - (907) 929-9371

keeper@inletkeeper.org

www.inletkeeper.org

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COOK INLETKEEPER

## CONTENTS

EPA Permit Proposes Even More Toxic Dumping in Cook Inlet	1
Community-Based Science Reveals Local Impacts of Climate Change	1
Message of Inletkeeper	2
Oil Tanker Runs Aground in Heart of Salmon Fishery	3
Inletkeeper Testifies Before Congress on Pipeline Safety	4
Coal Gasification Proposed for Agrium's Nikiski Plant	4
Cook Inlet Offshore Drilling Update	5
Feds Look at Listing Beluga Whale Under Endangered Species Act	5
WATERSHED WATCH UPDATES	6
Murkowski Administration Pushes through Anti-Fish Rule	6
Proposed Port Expansion Design Would Fill Beluga, Salmon Habitat	6
EPA to Examine Anchorage Airport Deicing Operations	6
Vision and Values for Cook Inlet	7
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING	8
High Quality, Cost-Effective Laboratory Analytical Services Available	8
New Laboratory Manager Brings 24 year Water Quality Experience to Cook Inletkeeper	8
Volunteer Spotlight	9
Thanks to Our Outgoing Volunteers	9
Walkin Jim Stoltz-5 Free Concerts	10
A Snapshot of Cook Inletkeeper's 2005 Finances	11

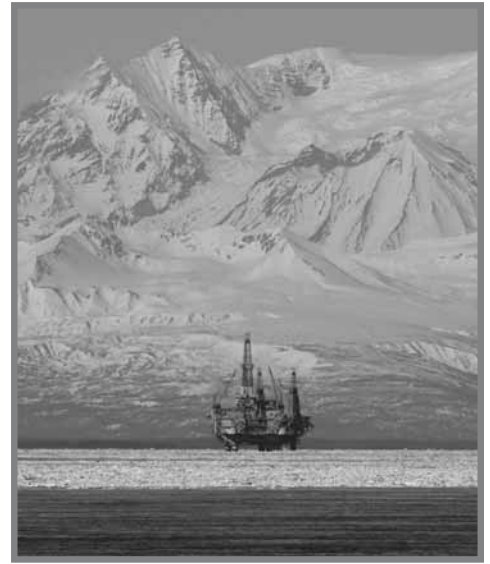
## EPA Permit Proposes Even More Toxic Dumping in Cook Inlet

*Oil & Gas Wastes May Harm Salmon Marketing Efforts, Beluga Protection*

The long-awaited and much-maligned permit that allows toxic wastewater and drilling wastes from 15 Cook Inlet offshore platforms to be discharged into the Inlet is open for public comment through May 31, with permit re-issuance following soon after. Cook Inlet is the only "coastal" area in the country where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allows these types of oil and gas-related discharges. The draft Clean Water Act (CWA) permit – issued on March 1, 2006 – would allow over 100,000 gallons of oil and grease to be discharged into Cook Inlet and over 835,000 pounds of metals such as mercury, nickel, copper, manganese and zinc. The draft permit also authorizes nine Cook Inlet discharge locations, a significant increase from the four locations currently discharging produced water.

The draft permit, currently up for public comment, allows significant increases in the quantity of "produced water" discharges. Produced water is a briny

*(Continued on page 3)*



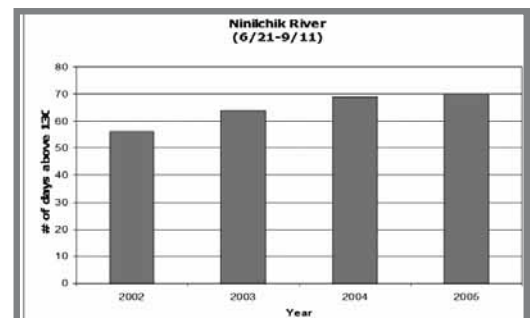
Lois Epstein

## Community-Based Science Reveals Local Impacts of Climate Change

*Fish Streams Warming Fast in Southcentral Alaska*

Cook Inletkeeper has been busy this spring, getting the word out about local effects of climate change. Inletkeeper's Stream Ecologist Sue Mauger has spoken to a number of groups recently, such as the South Peninsula Sportsman's Association, Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce, and the Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative, about rising stream temperatures on lower Kenai Peninsula's salmon streams. People are interested in how local streams are warming and whether this concerning trend is a result of climate change.

Temperature monitoring in 2005 reveal that summer water temperatures continue to rise in the Anchor River, Stariski Creek, Deep Creek and Ninilchik River. This past year was the first time Cook Inletkeeper and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District added air temperature data loggers at each of the 24 water temperature monitoring sites, to see how much variation in stream temperature can be explained by air



**In 2004, temperature data in the Ninilchik River exceeded Alaska water quality standards for 82 days, with the first exceedance on May 30. In 2005, temperature data exceeded standards for 88 days, with the first exceedance on May 23.**

temperature. If air and stream temperatures are highly related, then in the years to come, streams will warm at a similar rate as air temperatures.

Preliminary results show a very tight relationship between water and air temperatures

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Message from Inletkeeper

Dear Friends of Cook Inlet –

Can you feel the heat? If so, you're not alone. Alaska is getting warmer. For the past 8 years, Inletkeeper has been monitoring the health of local salmon streams on the Kenai Peninsula. Four years ago, Inletkeeper started deploying small temperature dataloggers – called "tidbits" – in strategic locations to continuously monitor temperature all summer long. As the article in this newsletter highlights, the evidence is alarming: our salmon streams are regularly violating the very temperature standards designed to protect fish passage and spawning. Fish science tells us that warm temperatures make salmon more vulnerable to disease and pollution. That's why Inletkeeper is getting the word out that our changing climate – hastened by our combustion of carbon-based fuels and the produc-

tion of greenhouse gases – requires a strong and decisive response from industry, government and citizens. If we want healthy salmon and resident fish for our kids, we need to pass on healthy and intact natural systems to the next generation. Thanks to all our volunteers, supporters and members who have made our work so successful, and we look forward to working with you so that Alaskans of tomorrow can enjoy the same fresh and wholesome fish resources we enjoy today.

Yours for Cook Inlet,  
Bob Shavelson  
Cook Inletkeeper



## Salmon Streams Cont. (from page 1)

collected in the upper reaches of the four lower Kenai Peninsula salmon streams. In the lower watersheds, however, this relationship changes: stream temperatures are actually warmer than air temperatures. This change could be due to natural and/or human influences. Possible natural influences include: flow rate, precipitation, water volume, channel width, wind speed, cloud cover, and relative humidity. Possible human influences include: removal of stream-side or upland vegetation, water withdrawals, channel straightening, and wetland loss.

It is important for us to understand the connections between stream temperature and water volume because climate change may alter Kenai Peninsula watersheds by affecting flooding frequencies, precipitation levels, surface and ground water volumes, soil nutrient dynamics, and other hydrologic characteristics. In addition, climate change may impact geographic distribution of wetlands. If a warmer climate mean less snow and less water storage on the landscape, low summer water levels may become more common. And stream temperatures will increase faster if there is less water to heat up.

This summer temperature loggers will be deployed at the lower site in each watershed to see if the trend towards earlier temperature exceedances in May continues. Also, new temperature monitoring sites will be added to determine if natural or human influences are affecting stream temperatures in the lower reaches. We want to know if our activities in these valuable watersheds are playing a role in increasing stream temperatures beyond the affect of rising air temperature. If they are, we need to make decisions about how to minimize additional stresses on these important salmon streams while they are undergoing climate change.

Due to limited water quality and habitat monitoring in Alaska, it is difficult to know if these same conditions and trends are occurring in other significant salmon watersheds. As Inletkeeper continues with this study on the Kenai Peninsula, it will also look to use this critical project as a cost-effective, transferable template for local communities to understand and address the effects of climate cycles on other salmon streams throughout Alaska.

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**COOK INLETKEEPER  
HOMER OFFICE**  
P.O. Box 3269, Homer, Alaska 99603  
3734 Ben Walters Lane  
ph: (907) 235-4068  
fx: (907) 235-4069

**COOK INLETKEEPER  
ANCHORAGE OFFICE**  
308 G Street, Suite 219  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
ph: (907) 929-9371  
fx: (907) 929-1562

www.inletkeeper.org  
keeper@inletkeeper.org

### INLETKEEPER STAFF

Bob Shavelson  
*Executive Director & Inletkeeper*  
Lois Epstein, P.E.,  
*Senior Engineer, Oil  
& Gas Industry Specialist*  
John Plaskett  
*Lab Manager*  
Sue Mauger  
*Stream Ecologist*  
Edan Badajos  
*Lab Analyst/Research Asst.*  
Will Schlein  
*GIS & Web Specialist*  
Marla McPherson  
*Development Director*  
Yvonne Prucha  
*Finance Officer*  
Ingrid Harrald  
*Volunteer Coordinator*

### COOK INLETKEEPER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

## EPA Permit Cont. *(from page 1)*

liquid that comes to the surface during oil and gas production, and typically contains oil and grease, metals, ammonia, and sometimes radionuclides. The draft permit also allows ongoing discharge of drilling waste liquids and solids from existing platforms and from new exploratory operations.

EPA and the state held three public hearings on the draft permit in Homer, Kenai, and Anchorage. At the Anchorage hearing, Inletkeeper Senior Engineer Lois Epstein stated, "These ongoing, permitted discharges are among the most important issues on which Cook Inletkeeper comments, and we believe, one of the most controllable and concentrated contaminant release sources discharging into Cook Inlet. Cook Inletkeeper does not want to shut down these offshore operations – we just want them to achieve the level of performance that others in the country expect of their coastal oil and gas operators where zero discharge is the norm."

The draft permit contains "mixing zones," essentially areas near the discharges where water quality standards designed to protect fish and other marine life are not met. EPA and the state use a hydraulic model to determine the distance where the water quality standards will be met. In the case of the Trading Bay facility, an onshore facility where crude oil, natural gas, and produced water from offshore platforms is separated and the produced water is then discharged offshore, the size of the mixing zone will be approximately 195 football fields in area, with a length of approximately 1.5 miles along its longest edge. Ironically, if this discharge occurred in

**Citizens were successful in getting EPA to extend the public comment deadline through May 31.**

**Send your written comments to:**

**Hanh Shaw**

**EPA Office of Water & Watersheds**

**1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-130**

**Seattle, WA 98101**

**shaw.hanh@epa.gov**

**For more information, including talking points, visit:**

**[www.inletkeeper.org](http://www.inletkeeper.org).**

federal waters (which are beyond state waters and thus more oceanic and have greater mixing potential), the mixing zone length could not exceed 100 meters.

Inletkeeper Executive Director Bob Shavelson believes the existing and draft permits are contrary to both the letter and spirit of the Clean Water Act. "Should the draft permit be issued without significant changes, the discharges could harm salmon and beluga whales, and adversely impact the subsistence lifestyles of Cook Inlet communities. This is unacceptable, especially at a time of record industry profits," states Shavelson.

In addition to preparing comments on the draft permit, Inletkeeper soon will issue a major report on the achievability of "zero discharge" in Cook Inlet, and will provide EPA with a contractor-prepared critique of the government's mixing zone analyses.



## Oil Tanker Runs Aground in Heart of Salmon Fishery

In the early morning darkness of February 2, heavy ice and tides ripped the tanker Seabulk Pride from its mooring at the Tesoro refinery in Nikiski; the powerless tanker drifted roughly half a mile before running aground in the heart of Cook Inlet's salmon fisheries with nearly 5 million gallons of oil on board. Inletkeeper learned of the incident shortly after it occurred when a concerned member who had been monitoring her scanner for radio traffic called in the report. Inletkeeper staff immediately responded, and because oil company officials were denying citizens access to the public beach where the tanker grounded, Inletkeeper promptly chartered an over-flight to inspect the situation. Inletkeeper also visited the Unified Command Center in Nikiski, where agency and industry officials had



*(Continued on page 4)* **The Tanker Vessel Seabulk Pride, on the beach Feb. 2 in Nikiski**

Inletkeeper

## Tanker cont. (from page 3)

gathered, to gauge the response level.

The tanker ran aground on one of the highest tides in the monthly cycle, and response personnel had to work fast as tides were scheduled to drop steadily in the days after the incident. Efforts to free the vessel late on February 2 were hampered by large floes of pan ice and a lack of suitable response capabilities, but with support from a larger tug vessel from the Lower Inlet, response vessels and personnel successfully re-floated the laden tanker the next morning, February 3. Fortunately, the Seabulk Pride's double hull construction prevented a major disaster. But a host of similar incidents in Cook Inlet over the past 30 years (see [www.inletkeeper.org](http://www.inletkeeper.org)) reveals we are woefully ill-prepared to prevent and respond to navigational casualties in Cook Inlet.

Inletkeeper loudly applauds the people and vessels that successfully averted a major disaster. But numerous questions need to be answered, and more importantly, strident navigational safety measures must be implemented to ensure such an incident never happens again. Why did the vessel part its lines at the dock? Why did the U.S. Coast Guard allow the vessel to remain at the dock, when days before it had issued its "extreme ice" rules due to worsening conditions in the Inlet? Why weren't adequate lighter-

ing barges available on scene to offload the tanker's cargo? Why did the Coast Guard allow the stricken vessel – later found to have hull fractures as a result of the grounding – to enter the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area?

Inletkeeper is now working to bring Cook Inlet navigational safety into the 21st century. Unlike other ports, such as Prince William Sound or Puget Sound, Cook Inlet lacks tugs dedicated solely to oil spill prevention and response. Numerous studies have indicated the need for adequately equipped support tugs, but the oil and gas and shipping industries historically have balked at paying for them. Yet the marine resources of Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay support countless families and businesses, and they're too important to sacrifice to profit-driven corporate decisionmaking. That's why Inletkeeper is working to identify and pursue solutions that put important navigational safety decisions into the hands of local citizens and communities. The only way to overcome the historic stalemate on navigational safety in Cook Inlet is by empowering local people, Tribes and communities to take control of their publicly-owned marine resources. Stay tuned for community meetings to be held in Fall 2006.



### Inletkeeper Testifies Before Congress on Pipeline Safety, Advances Safety in Alaska

Cook Inletkeeper Senior Engineer Lois Epstein traveled to Washington, D.C. in March and April to present invited testimony on the reauthorization of the federal pipeline safety law before two committees in the U.S. House of Representatives. Inletkeeper and the Bellingham, Washington-based Pipeline Safety Trust are the two most visible citizen organizations nationwide promoting strengthened pipeline safety, which benefits workers, the public, and the environment.

Epstein raised concerns about the March 2, 2006 BP pipeline, the largest spill ever on the North Slope, in her mid-March testimony in D.C., and the federal Office of Pipeline Safety told Congress that it will close the loophole that allowed this pipeline to be unregulated.

Inletkeeper submitted comments to the state Department of Environmental Conservation in early March on a proposed rule that would upgrade the current, minimal requirements covering oil field pipelines. The three Inletkeeper reports on Cook Inlet pipelines (see [www.inletkeeper.org/pipelines.htm](http://www.inletkeeper.org/pipelines.htm)) highlighted the problems resulting from the lack of regulation of oil and gas field pipelines. "The regulations proposed by ADEC on oil and gas field flowlines are both needed and welcome," says Epstein.

### Coal Gasification Proposed for Agrium's Nikiski Plant

Faced with a shortage of low-cost natural gas needed to make fertilizer, Agrium's Nikiski plant is exploring the feasibility of installing coal gasification, a process that uses coal to produce the hydrogen needed for fertilizer production. Agrium staff met with Cook Inletkeeper recently to discuss the process and to hear Inletkeeper's concerns.

In addition to constructing a coal gasification facility which could involve extensive emissions capture and carbon dioxide injection into oil fields nearby for Enhanced Oil Recovery, Agrium is considering building an adjacent coal-fired power plant to produce steam for its operations and excess electricity for the region. This power plant could be as large as 350 MW (megawatts), with Agrium only requiring approximately 100 MW.

Inletkeeper's primary concerns are: coal-fired power generation will significantly degrade air quality in the region, releasing particulates, mercury, and acid rain-causing chemicals. Additionally, the carbon dioxide generated – even if some portion is injected underground – will add to atmospheric greenhouse gases. Inletkeeper opposes any increase in the use of coal for power production.



## Cook Inlet Offshore Drilling Update:

**MMS Cancels Lease Sale but Proposes New Sales in 2009, 2011 and Escopeta Plans to Drill this Summer**

The rich and productive waters of Lower Cook Inlet received a reprieve when the Minerals Management Service cancelled its offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 199 scheduled for May 2007. The lack of industry interest is significant, given that MMS offered significant financial incentives to the oil and gas industry at a time of record-high crude oil prices and industry profits.

"MMS has wasted extraordinary amounts of taxpayer money -- and the public's time -- in its relentless drive to open Cook Inlet's federal waters to leasing," stated Inletkeeper Executive Director Bob Shavelson.

"Alaskans have urged MMS to pursue clean offshore energy projects such as tidal, wave and wind power with the same vigor the agency applies to oil and gas projects, and the federal energy bill passed in 2005 requires MMS to do so," said Inletkeeper Senior

Engineer Lois Epstein. "Energy security depends on moving away from the nation's addiction to fossil fuels, which would create long-term jobs without risking our fisheries and coastal habitats."

Additionally, MMS issued its draft 2007-2012 Outer Continental Shelf leasing plan on February 8 which includes two additional proposed lease sales in Lower Cook Inlet

Inletkeeper is closely watching plans for Escopeta Oil of Houston, TX to bring a jack-up rig to Cook Inlet this summer to drill several prospects offshore near Nikiski. As discussed in the waste dumping permit story on p. 1, Inletkeeper will continue to pressure operators such as Escopeta Oil to pursue zero discharge of exploratory drilling wastes and of produced water should the company find commercial quantities of oil or gas.



## Feds Look At Listing Beluga Whale Under Endangered Species Act Inletkeeper, Others Submit Comments Urging Action

In response to continually suppressed population numbers, the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) recently commenced a "status review" to determine whether the Cook Inlet beluga whale should be listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). A new scientific paper by marine mammal experts for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources declares the Cook Inlet beluga to be "critically endangered" under international standards. The small, isolated stock of Cook Inlet belugas is already listed as "threatened" under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act, but an ESA listing will provide additional safeguards, by requiring federal agencies to designate critical habitat for the whale, and to ensure activities in beluga habitat do not adversely affect the whale.

Inletkeeper has played a leading role ensuring the beluga whale remains an integral part of the Cook Inlet ecosystem for years to come. Inletkeeper has worked with Alaska Natives, fishing organizations and other conservation groups, including the Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, and the Alaska Oceans Program, to raise public consciousness around this cultural icon. For example, Inletkeeper and ACE are developing a beluga watch project that will educate Alaskans and tourists alike with signage along Turnagain Arm outside Anchorage, where belugas regularly feed and roam, and to build scientific knowledge by encouraging citizens to contribute data to beluga sighting databases.

Also, in response to a Clean Water Act settlement, Inletkeeper is working with ACAT, the Native Traditional Village of Chickaloon and the U.S. Department of Defense to monitor beluga impacts around the military's bombing range at Eagle River Flats



in Knik Arm. Furthermore, Inletkeeper has weighed in on various projects in important beluga whale habitat, including the proposed Knik Arm bridge, the proposed Port of Anchorage expansion (see p. 6), and the proposed Port MacKenzie ferry system, as well as existing pollution discharges from offshore oil and gas platforms, non-point source pollution from road run-off in Anchorage, sewage discharges and airport deicer pollution.

Inletkeeper is now working with Trustees for Alaska and other groups to submit comments to NMFS, calling for an ESA listing so important habitat can be defined and protected to ensure the Cook Inlet beluga whale remains part of the social and ecological fabric that makes Cook Inlet unique.



# WATERSHED WATCH UPDATES

## Murkowski Administration Pushes Through Anti-Fish Rule

### Mining Industry Kills Attempts at Legislative Fix

Despite thousands of public comments to the contrary, the Murkowski Administration in January rammed through a new rule that allows toxic and other pollutants in Alaska salmon and resident fish spawning areas. The new rule unraveled a prohibition on "mixing zones" in areas where fish spawn; and under the new Murkowski Administration rule, they will allow elevated pollution levels in some of the most sensitive fish habitats in the state.

In response to the Murkowski Administration's fish pollution efforts, Representative Paul Seaton (R-Homer) and Senator Gary Stevens (R-Kodiak) introduced bills (HB 328 & SB 225) to ban mixing zones, with limited exceptions for municipal wastewater systems, in fish spawning areas. After the bill cleared the House Fisheries Committee with strong bipartisan support, the mining industry stepped up its lobbying pressure on the Co-Chairs of the House Resources Committee – Rep. Jay Ramras (R-Fairbanks) and Rep. Ralph Samuels (R-Anchorage). Despite testimony from fishermen, Alaska Natives and others supporting the bill, the political influence of the mining industry prevailed, and in April, the bill died in committee.

Inletkeeper recognizes the important role that clean and healthy salmon and resident fish play in Alaska business and culture, and while the recent setbacks to fish protections raise serious concerns, we're continuing our efforts to get a statewide ban on polluting mixing zones in fish spawning areas.

## Proposed Port Expansion Design Would Fill Beluga, Salmon Habitat 135 Acres of Tideland Habitat to Be Filled; More To Be Dredged

The Port of Anchorage plays an important role in Alaska commerce, supplying over 85% of the bulk goods along the railbelt from Seward to Fairbanks and beyond. To accommodate increased usage, the Port has embarked on an Intermodal Expansion Project which will entail, among other things, new dock construction and additional dredging activities. Inletkeeper staff toured the Port in Summer 2004, and met with Port representatives and their consultants to discuss options for the planned expansion. During the meeting, and in subsequent comments submitted on the Port draft preferred expansion design, Inletkeeper emphasized the need to protect water quality and marine habitats, because the project area sits in the heart of beluga whale habitat, and the area provides important support to juvenile and adult salmon of the Ship Creek fishery. While the Port considered several design options, it regrettably chose a closed-cell sheet pile design as its preferred alternative; this design type would fill over 135 acres with fill material,



### Municipality of Anchorage

and unlike a pile-supported dock, it would prevent water flow and impede fish passage. In the response to the Port's selection of the sheet-pile dock alternative, federal agencies – including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency – have come-out strongly opposed to the project's design. Inletkeeper worked with the public interest law firm Trustees for Alaska to submit detailed technical and legal comments on the proposed plan, and will now work to persuade the Port and Municipality of Anchorage to adopt lower impact alternatives that protect salmon and belugas.



## EPA to Examine Anchorage Airport Deicing Operations

The water office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) periodically develops and updates its industry-specific wastewater discharge standards. One industry operation that has not had federal wastewater discharge standards is airport deicing – until now. This spring, EPA's water office sent a multi-page questionnaire on airport deicing to select airports, the first step toward developing cost-effective, technically-supportable wastewater discharge regulations.

At the urging of Cook Inletkeeper, EPA included Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport in its list of airports completing the questionnaire. The Anchorage airport is a good choice for EPA to examine because: 1) it is adjacent to a



sensitive yet relatively pristine marine environment, Cook Inlet; 2) it is among the world's busiest airports for cargo; 3) there is comparatively long deicer use period annually, allowing for a longer sampling season and greater potential for adverse impacts; and, 4) the airport used -- and possibly still uses -- locally-produced urea for deicing, a more environmentally-harmful deicer than used by most airports.



## Vision and Values for Cook Inlet

In April 2005, Cook Inletkeeper's Board of Director's and staff met for an intensive 3-day strategic planning retreat, to focus on critiquing old paradigms and identifying new strategies for change in Cook Inlet. Board and staff recognized a need to modify the conservation message, and to identify commonly held values and an all encompassing vision statement for Cook Inlet that embraces connections between the environment, communities, and economy. In December, the Board of Director's approved the following strategic vision, goals, and value statements for Cook Inlet.

### VISION

Cook Inletkeeper works to guarantee clean water for:

Abundant Fish and Wildlife • Strong Communities • Lasting Jobs  
Renewable Energy • Public Property Rights

### MISSION

To protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains

### GOALS

**GOAL 1:** Cook Inletkeeper builds support and positive action for clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and renewable energy.

**GOAL 2:** Cook Inletkeeper pursues policies that protect public property rights, wetlands, salmon streams, and estuaries that are necessary to sustain healthy communities and strong local economies.

**GOAL 3:** Cook Inletkeeper strives to build a sustainable and healthy organization with the capacity to achieve its vision for Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed.

### VALUES

**CLEAN WATER:** Clean water is essential. Cook Inletkeeper is first and foremost in the business of protecting water quality and quantity, because we all need clean water. Lasting livable wage jobs, strong local economies, and human health all depend on a clean environment. Cook Inletkeeper embraces the inherent connections between people, the economy, and the environment.

**RESPECT & FAIRNESS:** All people have an equal right to the essential necessities of life including clean water to drink, clean air to breathe, and healthy food for sustenance. Cook Inletkeeper believes these basic and fundamental human rights are inherent and must be upheld with respect.

**LOCAL CONTROL & RESPONSIBILITY:** Local people have a right and responsibility to guide the course of their community. Cook Inletkeeper believes that decisions made at all levels should involve the local community and reflect the interests of the local people who are most affected by those decisions.

**KNOWLEDGE & INTEGRITY:** Knowledge and facts are essential for guiding responsible and honest decisions. Cook Inletkeeper is committed to integrity and bases its actions on timely and accurate information and sound science derived from defensible methods. Cook Inletkeeper openly shares this science and knowledge with the public, media and policymakers.



## It's official! Group Name Change to Cook Inletkeeper

In May 2006, Cook Inlet Keeper officially changed its name to Cook Inletkeeper. After 10 years, it was a challenging task to make a relatively simple move. But we did it because Inletkeeper is part of the Waterkeeper Alliance – a network of over 150 similar programs in the U.S. and abroad – and we wanted to show support for other programs sharing the Waterkeeper family of names (i.e. Baykeeper, Soundkeeper, Riverkeeper, etc.). While our name has (slightly) changed, the hallmarks of our program – strident advocacy, sound science and citizen empowerment – will remain unchanged. And of course, we remain, as we always have been, an Alaska-based group, managed and run by Alaskans. So from now on, we will be “Cook Inletkeeper” – or “Inletkeeper” for short - and we look forward to the next decade with the same enthusiasm and commitment as we've exhibited over the past ten years.



# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

**High Quality, Cost-Effective Laboratory Analytical Services Available to Cook Inlet Communities and Researchers**



The Cook Inlet Community-based Water Quality Laboratory is setting the standard for high quality and cost effective analytical services for researchers and the community. The laboratory specializes in low level nutrient analyses of freshwater or seawater for critical projects throughout the Cook Inlet watershed. For example, Cook Inletkeeper performs laboratory analysis for research and monitoring projects performed by: Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Environment and Natural Resources Institute of University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Mat-Su Borough, and the Kenai Watershed Forum.

Laboratory quality assurance is maintained by highly qualified personnel. The laboratory combines

over 30 years of technical lab experience with an extensive background in environmental expertise to produce accurate water quality data of a documented precision and quality. The professional staff experience includes: watershed protection, biosolids analysis, and wastewater and potable water analysis for a variety of programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, Industrial Pretreatment Program, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The lab has demonstrated the ability to provide reliable data by continued success in performance evaluation testing by the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Estuarine Research Reserve's laboratory inter-comparison studies.

While analytical testing continues throughout the year, May marks the beginning of extensive water quality testing for the summer. Lab Manager John Plaskett is currently development the summer schedule, forming new partnerships, and helping groups and agencies who are initiating new water quality monitoring and research programs in Cook Inlet.

If you are involved in a project that requires water quality analysis and would like more information about the services provided by the Cook Inlet Community-based Water Quality Laboratory, please contact: John Plaskett, Lab Manager at (907) 235-4068 ext. 29 or [john@inletkeeper.org](mailto:john@inletkeeper.org).



## New Laboratory Manager Brings 24-year Water Quality Experience to Cook Inletkeeper

Cook Inletkeeper extends a warm welcome to John Plaskett as the new Laboratory Manager for the Cook Inlet Community-based Water Quality Laboratory. Inletkeeper is very fortunate to have John join our staff after a long career running laboratories and conducting analytical work in water quality labs throughout the U.S. John's 24 years of water quality experience includes work on: watershed protection, lake and river nutrient issues, drinking water, groundwater, wastewater, biosolids, industrial pretreatment, and fisheries. For 20 years, John has been managing water quality laboratories to meet regulatory compliance. "I'm looking forward to applying my experience to protect the environment, promote public health and enhance our quality of life in Cook Inlet," said John. He is also looking forward to hitting the spring tides for clamming, and catching his first halibut and salmon this summer! Welcome John!



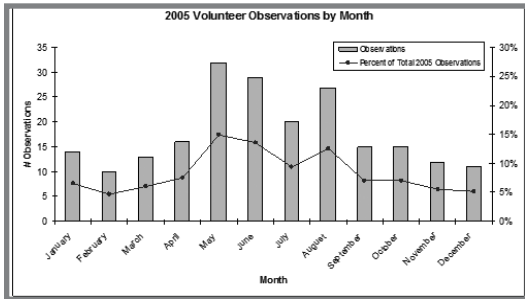


## Volunteer Spotlight BY INGRID HARRALD

April 23-29 has been declared National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Normally I shrug off these pseudo-holidays created by Hallmark to induce mass consumerism, so my eagerness to participate in this occasion was surprising to many.



It shouldn't have been. The importance of volunteers in our local community, and communities as a whole, is irrefutable, and I bear witness to the power of this volunteerism on a daily basis.



**In 2005, a total 214 observations were collected at 25 sites with 37 volunteers contributing 571 hours of time to the program**

The most recent study by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 65.4 million people volun-

teered last year (September 2004-September 2005). That means almost 30% of the nation's population donated time to local organizations. The median amount of time donated was 50 hours, with 40% of the volunteers becoming involved on their own initiative.

Cook Inlet Keeper's CEMP program is a perfect example of these statistics in action. In 2005, a total 214 observations were collected at 25 sites with 37 volunteers contributing 571 hours of time to the program. These hours included water quality monitoring, bio-assessment, and wetland monitoring. If you are a more fiscally-minded type, that means over \$10,000 worth of time was donated to the CEMP program in the last year alone. Looking at the breakdown of volunteer commitment, the CEMP program exceeds all expectations. Twenty-one percent of our volunteers have been volunteering three years or more. This dedication is what makes the CEMP program a leader in creating a consistent, credible, and coordinated citizen monitoring effort in Alaska. Volunteer Appreciation Week will have come and gone by the printing of this article, but our volunteers will be just beginning their summer of intensive water quality monitoring. To all of our volunteers, and especially those who have dedicated multiple years of service – Thank You!

### Three Years

Duane Howe  
Marla McPherson  
Scott Miller  
Bree Murphy  
Lani Raymond  
Kyra Wagner  
Neil Wagner

### Four Years

Dale Banks  
Patrick Houlihan  
Jim Levine

### Five Years

Milli Martin

### Over Five Years

Joel Cooper  
Laurie Daniel  
Mike Gracz  
John Mouw  
Anne Wieland



## Thanks to our outgoing volunteers

Cook Inletkeeper would like to thank Milli Martin and Janice Schwartz for their contribution and dedication to the Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program (CEMP). Both of these volunteers are retiring their monitoring kits this spring.

Janice Schwartz has been a volunteer monitor with Inletkeeper for two years and participated in both water quality monitoring and bio-assessment at Diamond Creek. She has contributed over 35 hours of volunteer time toward protecting the Cook Inlet watershed. Janice will be moving to the lower 48 this summer and is celebrating her recent engagement. We know her future will hold much good fortune and wish her luck in all she does.

Milli Martin has monitored Twitter Creek for over five years and made 50+ trips (over 100 hours!) to measure water quality. Because of her dedication, Cook Inletkeeper now has a complete dataset for baseline water quality data at this site. Milli has been an ardent supporter for numerous local conservation issues and her support for keeper has been endless. We appreciate all her hard



**Milli Martin**



**Janice Schwartz**

work, not only through the CEMP program, but as a borough assembly member and concerned citizen.

The commitment and compassion of these two women are an excellent example of how concerned citizens can make a difference in the local environment. We are greatly appreciative of their time and commitment to protecting our watersheds. Thank you!



## Walkin' Jim Stoltz – 5 Free Concerts for Conservation in Alaska

The year 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of Forever Wild, a project of Musicians United to Sustain the Environment (MUSE). Walkin' Jim Stoltz will be commemorating this anniversary by conducting a high profile series of 100 free concerts across America promoting wilderness preservation, endangered species protection and safe keeping of our rivers and watersheds.

Walkin' Jim has clocked in more than 26,000 miles hiking across the U.S. His musical roots are based in traditional folk, and he sings with the assurance and sincerity of one who has something to say.

Jim will perform five free concerts in Alaska:

May 6, Juneau,  
Centennial Hall,  
8:00 PM

May 7, Haines,  
Chilkat Center,  
7:00 PM

May 10, Homer, Islands  
and Ocean Visitor Center,  
7:00 PM

May 12, Anchorage,  
East High School  
Auditorium, 7:30 PM

May 13, Fairbanks,  
UAF Schiabile Auditorium,  
7:00 PM

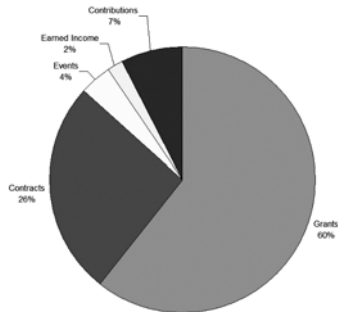
For more information, visit:  
[www.walkinjim.com](http://www.walkinjim.com).

## A Special Thanks to all of Cook Inletkeeper's members who contributed in 2005:

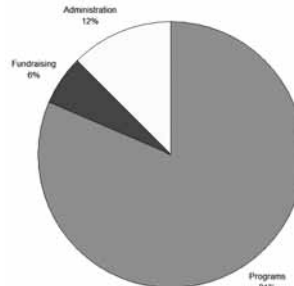
Alaska Wildland Adventures & Kirk Hoessle, Niniitchik Traditional Council, Vision & Don, EKPEAA, Kodiak Audubon Society, Friends of Mat-Su, United Cook Inlet Drift Association & Roland Maw, Hilary Adams, Steve Albert, Susan Aledort & Eric Aledort, Toby Allen, Lindsay Amsberry, David S. Anderson, Tracy Arensberg, Helena Ashby, Gary & Barbara Ault, Edgar P. Bailey & Nina Faust, Steve Baird & Marie McCarty, David & Joey Banks, Allison Bard, James & Elaine Bard, Ellen Bard, Sharon Baur, Sera Baxter, Mark Begich, Joseph & Peg Belcastro, Marja Beltrami, Brook Bennett, John Bernitz, Joe & Sibyl Beucler, Heather Beveridge, Daisy Lee Bitter, Joan & Charlie Blake, Daniel Blake & Barbara Maryan, Kenton Bloom, Robert & Florence Bolen, Dr. Todd Boling, Bradley Booth, Troy Bowler & Ivy Spohnholz, John Bowman, Lori Boyer, Clyde Boyer & Vivian Finay, Les & Susan Bradley, Ken & Nancy Branch, Molly & Dave Brann, Josh Brann, Pam Brant, Mark & Heather Brinster, Tim Bristol, Jean & Clay Brockel, John & Cheryl Brooking, Jerry & Jan Brookman, Jerry & Jan Brookman, Laura Brooks, Ralph Brosches & Deb Lowney, Lori Brown, Mike Bruce & Kari Gardey, Eric Brudie, Terry Brueck, Colleen D. Burgh & Jim Stratton, Mike Byerly, James Byrnes, Claudia Caffee-DeLapp & Frank DeLapp, Deni Callahan, Ellen Campfield, Barbara & Michael Carlson, Catherine Cassidy & Erik Huebsch, Julie Cesarini, Sara & Richard Chapell, Carroll Charbonnier, Steve Charles, Matt Claman, Steve Cleary, Cheryl Lynn Cline, Julia Clymer & Karl Stoltzfus, Calvin & Mary Cole, Dominique Collet, Florence Collins, Tom Collopy & Mary Frische, Susanna Colloredo, Steve Colt, Danny Constenstein, Leanne Converse & Arthur Jess, Joel Cooper & Marla McPherson, Mary Core & John Tichotsky, Betty Costello, Geneva E. Craig, Debbie Crocker, Patricia Cue, Sean Cullerton, Beth Cumming, Gabrielle Damro, Bill De Vries, Jack & Betty Dean, Kevin Dee & Patty Dolese, Catherine Dentinger, Sean Derry & Coreen Farris, Noami Devore, Susanne DiPietro, Dennis Dixon, Tross Dodge, Diane Douglas, Melanie Duchin, Willy & Jules Dunne, MaryAnn Dyke, Arthur & Karen Morrissey Eash, Steve Ebbert, Marvin Ebbert, Phyllis Ebbert, Thom Eley & Cherie Northon, Harriet & Stanley Epstein, Ginny Espenshade & Paul Gavenus, Nora Farnsworth & John Van Orden, Linda Feiler, Ellen Feiler, Trina Fellows, April Ferguson, Carmen & Conrad Field, Will Files & Martha Ellen Anderson, Kim Fine & Max Mitchell, Janet Fink, Kate Finn, Frank & Yvonne Fisher, David & Crystal Fisher, James Fisher, Robert J. Fitting, Barrett & Tamara Fletcher, Mike & Judy Flora, Mike & Diane Frank, Joan & Robbie Frankevich, Jerry Frederick, Steve Frenzel, Megan Gajkowski, Michael Galginaitis, Dennis Gann & Valerie Connor, Christie Gates, Charlie Gibson & Deborah Poore, Sarah Glaves, Cathy Gleason, Brian Goodman, Nick & Karin Goodman, David Gordon, Sharon Gorman & Joseph Spaeder, Michael Gracz & Michele Stenger, Madeleine Grant, Tom Greenwell, Paul Gresia, William & Jill Grimes, Mary Grisco, Richard & Nell Gustafson, Randy Hagenstein & Evie Witten, Claudia Haines & Steve Glasman, Andrew & Victoria Halcro, Sharman Haley, Duane Halverson, Tim & Annie Hamilton, Fred Harnisch, Robert Harrison, Robert G. & Pat Hartley, Libby Hatton & Susan Olsen, Marge Hays, James & Nancy Hemming, Gail Heneman, Bruce & Polly Prindle-Hess, Roberta Highland & Robert Archibald, Brian Hirsch & Hope Finkelstein, Diane Hirschberg, James & Lemom Hoban, Tom & Lyn Hodel, Winslow Hoffman, Michael Hohmeyer, Anne Marie Holen, Claire Holland & John LeClair, Barbara Hood & Dirk Sisson, Russell & Julie Hood, Duane Howe & Lani Raymond, Mitchell Hrachiar, Eleanor Huffines, Tom Hughes, Betty Hunter, Tami Huston, Randi Iverson, Benjamin Jackinsky, Steve Jackinsky, Sara Jackinsky & Ken Jones, Joe Jacob, Mary Jacobs, Kelly Jaden & Guadalupe Maroquin, Wendy Jason, Scott & Anne Jaspersen, Fred Jenkins & Susan Haines, John T. Jensen, Julie Jensen, Carrol Jewell, Jane & Peter Johngren, Suzan L. Johnson, Jeanette Johnson, Doug Johnson, Terry Johnson, Ancel Johnson, Steve Johnson, Mark & Julie Jonas, Bill & Suzanne Palmer Kabeseman, Jason Karolja, Sherry Kasukonis, Bob & Yael Kaufman, Mary Bee & Steve Kaufman, Nona Kaufmann, Dorothy & Leo Keeler, Mary Lou Kelsey & William Bell, Mike Kempson, Gwen Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. & Mary Richardson Kennedy, Holly Kent, Warren Keogh, Carol Kerkvliet, Susan Kernes, Patricia King, Peggy Ellen & Rich Kleinleder, Pamela & Tom Kloote, Charles & Frances Konigsberg, Jan & Christy Konigsberg, Richard & Judith Kroll, Mark & Leslie Kroloff, Marianne Kronk, Katherine Kuletz, Wendy & Karma Lama, Natalie Landreth, Corinne & Jim Lashley, Marne Lastufka, Buck & Shelly Laukitis, Daniel Lavoie, Tim Lawlor, Daniel & Patricia Lawn, Dorothy & Howard Lazar, Jonnie & William Lazarus, Michael LeMay, Jack & Mary Lentfer, Nancy Levinson, Matthew J. Lilley, Sasha Lindgren, Randi & Rob Lipin Valerious, Jane Little, Tracy Lohman, Nancy Lord & Kenneth Castner, Joe Lothian, Catriona Lowe, Patricia Lukin, Ron Lund, Mark Lusch, Jacqueline Lynn, Jan & Bill MacClarence Sr., Russ Maddox, Liz Manasek & Dave Atwood, Kurt Marquardt & Asia Freeman, Jordan Marshall & Siouxz Marshall, Elise Marshall, Milli Martin, Donna & John Martin, Varsha Mathrani, Sue Mauger, Michael Mauger, Joseph & Nancy Mauger, Carrie May, Diane & Michael McBride, Donald McClintock & Barbara Cleary, Richard & Jennifer McGill, Tom Meacham, John Meyer, Mitch Michaud & Jane Fuerstenau, Lloyd & Heather Kendall-Miller, Peter Mjos, Ted & Ginny Moore, John & Rika Mouw, Rachel & John Muir, Frank Mullen, Russell Mumm, Herman Mumma, Rusty Myers, Eric Myers, Rick Navitsky, Matthew Nemeth, Elizabeth Neumann, Angie & Chris Newby, Jay Noe, Doug North & Ellen Cole, Carolyn Norton, Jennifer Norton, Celeste Novak, Karen Noyes, Darrell Offt, Susan Olsen, Peter Olsen & Carey Olsen, Maryellen Oman, Suzanne Oparil, Riki Ott, Nelson Page, Jeanne Parker & Shawn Hansen, Gale Parsons & Mike Swan, Terri Pauls, David & Patricia Peach, Roger & Marlene Thiel Pearson, Catherine Perry, Craig Phillips, Anne Poso, Sue Post & Jim Levine, Pat Pourchot, Virginia Purrington, Peter & Bernadine Raiskums, Heather Rauch, Vaughn & Margaret Reale, Karla Reda, Joel Renyolds, Kimberly Ressler, George Rhyneer & Marilyn McKay, Tim Robertson, Joyce Robinette, Jeanne Roche, Dr. Julius Rockwell, Jr., Jean Romig, Donald & Arlene Ronda, David Roseneau & Art Sowls, Mary & Steve Rosenfield, Jerry & Debbie Rudloff, Robert & Tara Ruffner, Larry A. Rundquist, Joanne Sanchez, Miles Schlosberg, Angela Schmidt & Chris Miller, Lewis Schnaper & Janice Torres, Norma Schofield, Michelle Schuman & Mark Clark, Barbara Seaman, Lee Seater, Tim Seaver & Jennifer Wagner, Matt Shadle & Elisha Jensen, Dave & Harriet Shafel, Robert Shavelson, Bob Shavelson, Pam Shavelson, Roberta Sheldon, Linda & Lorvel Shields, Patty Shroy, Pixie Siebe, Marilyn Sigman, Scott Simmons, Leslie Slater, George & Trina Smallwood, Richard Smeriglio & Ellen O'Brien, Hal Smith & Susan McLane, Richard Smith, Robin Smith & Eric McCallum, Michael & Linda Smith, Walt Sonen, Mark Spalding, Andre Spinelli, Margaret Spring, Tania Spurkland, Janet & Chas St. George, Eileen St. Stevan, Heidi & Tim Stage, Carla & Wayne Stanley, Cathy Stingley, Bill Stockwell, Margaret Strobble, Melvyn Strydom & Nadya Klingel, Thomas Swanson, Charles W. Tebbutt & Karen Murphy, Gordon & Kim Terpening, Scott & Rebecca Downey Thomas, Tamara Thomas-McShane, Peg & Jules Tileston, Janice Todd, DeWaine, Jane & Zoe Tollefsrud, Ginger Tornes, Kenna Sue Trickey, David & Marcia Trudgen, Steve & Katie Turner, Paul Twardock, Richard "Toby" Tyler, Robert & Barbara Valerious, Ralph Van Dusseldrop, Peter Van Tuyn & Ilona Besseney, Koala Vandruuff, Gordon Vernon, Irene Vlach, Olga von Ziegasar, Neil & Kyra Wagner, Nancy Wainwright & Jeffrey Jessee, Janet Wainwright, Joseph Waldo, Emily & Bob Ward, Elizabeth Watney, Dickson Weese, Dylan Weiser, Michael & Susan Weiss, Karen West, Anne Wieland, David Wilcove, Christine Wilcox, John Williams, Steve Williams & Nancy Gordon, Dar Williams, Linda Wilson & Brad Owens, Kelly Wilson, Michelle Wilson & Chip Nordhoff, Lindsay Winkler, Charles & Barbara Wohlforth, Elise Wolf & Whitney Lowe, Susan Wolf, Connie Wood, Dee & Lynne Woods, Kenneth & Sharon Wyberg, Ken & Chris Zafren, Bill Zeddies, Tom & Lori Zitzmann, and Albert Zucker. And thank to all of our new and renewing members.

## A Snapshot of Cook Inletkeeper's 2005 Finances

In 2005, Cook Inletkeeper raised \$564,954 from the following sources:



And, Inletkeeper's expenses were \$542,063 for the following activities:



\* Based on Cook Inletkeeper's revenue and expense figures for 2005, which will be audited in late May. The 2005 audit will be available in summer 2006.

## Computer Recycling Success

Cook Inletkeeper joined with several other sponsors to hold Homer's first computer and cell phone recycling event on Earth Day. Computer electronics contain hazardous materials, and if dumped in a landfill, will release heavy metals and other toxic materials into the air and water. Thanks to all sponsors and recyclers for making this event a huge success. If you missed the event, and have electronics you would like to recycle, contact Greenstar in Anchorage at 907.278.7827.



## Ditch your car! National Bike to Work Day—May 19!

The biggest day for biking in the nation is just around the corner. Cook Inletkeeper would like to encourage all members to help the environment by joining us as we cruise, sprint, and roll into work on Friday, May 19th!



### Why bike to work?

**HEALTH:** Over 60% of Americans are overweight - ride your bike to work and get more exercise.

**MONEY:** The average annual price of keeping an automobile running: \$3,000. The cost of a bike for a year: \$300.

**CLEAN AIR:** The number of communities that will fall out of compliance with the Clean Air Act is expected to triple within a decade. Motorized vehicles are responsible for 70% of the carbon monoxide, 45% of the nitrogen dioxide, 34% of the hydrocarbons people produce, and greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change.

Riding a bike is a simple way to improve the environment. The communities of Anchorage and Homer are organizing special events for national Bike to Work Day on May 19. For more information, contact [ingrid@inletkeeper.org](mailto:ingrid@inletkeeper.org) (Homer) or [beth@greenstarinc.org](mailto:beth@greenstarinc.org) (Anchorage).

## Thanks to Support from:

- Alaska Conservation Foundation
- Alaska Community Share
- Alaska Oceans Program
- Ben and Jerry's Foundation
- BoatU.S. Foundation
- Bullitt Foundation
- Combined Federal Campaign
- Endurance Fund
- Louise H. Foley & Margaret Frischkorn Wildlife & Conservation Fund, in memory of Louise H. Foley
- Homer Foundation and City of Homer
- Homer Soil and Water Conservation District
- George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
- Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation
- Norcross Wildlife Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Patagonia
- Project Aware
- Skaggs Foundation
- True North Foundation
- Unitarian Universalist Funding Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- WestWind Foundation
- Wolfensohn Family Foundation



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Homer, Alaska 99603

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Join Cook Inletkeeper at [www.inletkeeper.org](http://www.inletkeeper.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6–12: ***Walking Jim Stoltz - 5 Free Concerts for Conservation in Alaska.*** See p. 10 for more details, or visit: [www.walkinjim.com](http://www.walkinjim.com).

May 19: ***National Bike to Work Day***, with special events held in Homer (contact [ingrid@inletkeeper.org](mailto:ingrid@inletkeeper.org)), and Anchorage (contact [beth@greenstarinc.org](mailto:beth@greenstarinc.org)).

May 26-30: ***Kachemak Kayak Festival***, Homer, [kachemakkayakfest.com](http://kachemakkayakfest.com).

June 10-11: ***Kenai River Festival***, at the Green Strip, Kenai, [www.kenaiwatershed.org/kenairiverfest.html](http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/kenairiverfest.html)

June 10: ***Alaska Ocean's Festival***: Delaney Park Strip, Anchorage, [www.akcenter.org/programs/oceans/ocean\\_festival.html](http://www.akcenter.org/programs/oceans/ocean_festival.html)

To be announced: ***Cook Inletkeeper's 9th Annual Splash Bash Volunteer Appreciation Party***, [www.inletkeeper.org](http://www.inletkeeper.org).

