

INLETKEEPER®

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

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COOK • INLETKEEPER

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Mount Redoubt Eruption Exposes Oil Risks in Cook Inlet *Chevron, Agencies Unprepared for Large Spill, Job Losses*

When oil corporations developed the initial infrastructure for the Cook Inlet oil fields in the 1960's, they selected an unusual location for an oil storage terminal: they sited it at the base of the Mount Redoubt volcano on the West side of Cook Inlet. On March 22, Mount Redoubt erupted, and revealed - once again - how short sighted it was to retain an oil storage facility below an active volcano.

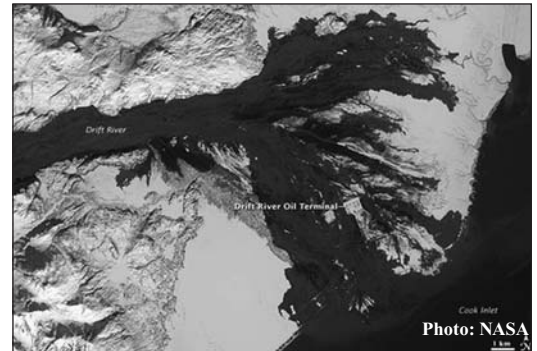
In 1989-90 - around the same time as the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill - a Mount Redoubt eruption and resulting debris flows threatened the Drift River Oil Terminal, forcing an evacuation of the facility and eventually, a draw down of oil in the storage tanks. So the threats and risks posed at Drift River have been well-known for a long time.

Yet when Mt. Redoubt awoke in the winter of 2008-2009, the Drift River terminal operator, Chevron Pipeline Company, refused to publicly reveal how much oil remained in the storage tanks, and also refused to share something called a "Volcano Readiness Plan," which presumably would include information on how Chevron would address a worst case oil spill. Why? Because of Homeland Security concerns. Yet the very same tank volume information is made public every day at the Valdez

Marine Terminal in Prince William Sound.

Shortly after the March 22 eruption, Chevron finally announced it had left approximately 6.3 million gallons of oil at the facility. Importantly, there was no actionable plan to address a worst case spill from the facility; existing plans dealt only with smaller spills and the capacity to address a large lahar-induced spill in Cook Inlet simply did not exist. Inletkeeper immediately wrote to state and federal officials, calling for the safe and orderly draw-down of the tanks, to protect fisheries from any subsequent eruptions. Yet despite the significance of the incident, it took

(Continued on page 3)



The Drift River Oil Terminal at the base of Mount Redoubt volcano threatened by massive lahars in satellite photo

New Clean Harbors Certification Program

Inletkeeper Working to Help Boaters, Harbors Protect Water Quality, Fisheries

Public harbors are vital economic and cultural centers in coastal communities around Alaska, serving both recreational boaters and a large commercial fleet. While local, state, and federal regulations ensure some measure of environmentally sound practices, other activities - such as staging and launching, boat repair and maintenance, boat storage, fueling, and harbor construction and maintenance - can pose potential pollution problems. Alaska's harbors are ideally situated to be pro-active stewards in protecting our marine resources, and Inletkeeper knows

most boaters and fisherman want to do the right thing. Implementing best management practices at harbor and port facilities ensures that harbor staff members and users are well-equipped to minimize potential impacts from boat-based pollution in Alaska's sensitive coastal ecosystems.

Clean Harbor Certification is a voluntary process that encourages the use of best management practices at harbor facilities to reduce and mitigate the effects of nonpoint source pollution. Over 20 U.S. states implement voluntary Clean Harbor or Clean Marina

(Continued on page 2)

ENERGY

Letter From YOUR Cook Inletkeeper

I've had the pleasure working to protect the magnificent resources of Cook Inlet since 1996. In that time, I have witnessed numerous incidents that highlight the risks posed to our magnificent fisheries. But I have never seen anything like the complete break-down in oil spill prevention and response we encountered at the Drift River Oil Terminal when Mt. Redoubt erupted on March 22. Prior to the eruption, industry hid behind the cloak of the Homeland Security Act and refused to disclose how much oil remained in the facility's storage tanks. When Chevron finally announced on March 22 that 6.3 million gallons of oil threatened our valuable Cook Inlet fisheries, it quickly became clear there was no actionable plan in place to address a catastrophic release. The only plan we could identify was "hunker down and hope for the best." Another massive eruption on April 4 forced Chevron to suspend facility operations, and more than a month after the initial eruption, it finally drained over 93% of the oil. In addition to the fact Chevron had no plan to contain a 6 million gallon spill, it also had no plan to protect industry workers and state revenues impacted by the shut-down of the oil terminal. Now, the entire future of the Cook Inlet oil industry hangs in limbo because Chevron ignored an obvious threat. And let's be clear: the writing has



been on the wall for a long time - this very same scenario unfolded the last time Redoubt erupted in 1989-90. So, on the 20th Anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, the Drift River Terminal incident is a painful reminder that complacency is an ever-present threat, and that powerful corporations and compliant state and federal agencies require a vigilant and informed citizenry to protect our jobs and fisheries for current and future generations.

Yours for Cook Inlet -

Bob Shavelson
Executive Director



New Clean Harbors Certification (cont. from page 1)

programs. In early 2009, Inletkeeper was awarded an Alaska Clean Water Act grant through the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a statewide Clean Harbor Certification Program. This work follows on the excellent work done by the Clean Harbors Workgroup in producing the 2008 Alaskan Clean Harbors Guidebook. Now, Inletkeeper is prepared to work with a diverse partnership of harbormasters, coastal communities, boaters, fishermen and the State to address the collective effects of commercial and recreational boating activities on the marine environment. Work on the Clean Harbors Certification program will begin in July 2009. Homer and Seldovia will both take a large role in helping to inform and develop this process and will initiate pilot Clean Harbor Certification Programs, and these efforts will be used as templates for other areas around the state. For more information, contact Rachel Lord at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068.



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WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE

Mount Redoubt Eruption Exposes Oil Risks in Cook Inlet *(cont. from page 1)*

more than a week before Chevron, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Alaska DEC activated a Unified Command structure to coordinate spill prevention and response efforts.

The Unified Command insisted it could not drain the tanks, because they needed the oil to provide ballast, so the tanks would not float away. But it's standard practice to ballast such tanks with water, and when the Unified Command posted information explaining why water could not be used, Inletkeeper contracted with a professional engineer who quickly rebutted that rationale.

On April 4, when a tanker neared the facility to draw down tanks to make room for additional oil upstream in the Cook Inlet oil fields, a massive eruption finally forced Chevron to suspend operations. Then, contrary to previous assertions, Chevron used water to ballast the tanks.

So, what's the significance of this about-face? If fisheries protection was a higher priority than continued oil production, then the tanks would have been drained as soon as safely possible. But Chevron did not start drawing down the tanks and ballasting them with water until after the April 4 eruption - when it was forced to suspend operations.

From Inletkeeper's perspective, the 2009 Drift River Terminal incident reflects the worst breakdown in oil spill prevention and response since the Exxon Valdez. Not only did Chevron and the relevant agencies have no plan to address a catastrophic spill to

our magnificent fisheries. But equally important, they had no plan to protect oil industry jobs or state revenues from a facility shut-down. Now, the fate of oil operations hangs in the balance of a Chevron business decision whether it makes economic sense to re-start the facility or take other steps to move oil from the west side of Cook Inlet.



What's a Lahar?

According to the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a "lahar" is "[a]n Indonesian term for ... any type of sediment/water mixture originating from a volcano. Most lahars move rapidly down the slopes of a volcano as channelized flows and deliver large amounts of sediment to the rivers and streams that drain the volcano. The flow velocity of some lahars may be as high as 20 to 40 meters per second and sediment concentrations of greater than 750,000 parts per million are not uncommon." Hot pyroclastic flows can melt glaciers and snow, creating what one AVO expert described as "moving walls of cement." For more information on Mt. Redoubt & other volcanoes, see www.avo.alaska.edu.



The Proposed Chuitna Coal Strip Mine

Coal for China; Water Pollution, Mercury Contamination & Habitat Destruction for Us

The Chuit River, or Chuitna, near the communities of Tyonek and Beluga, is one of the few non-glaciated streams on Cook Inlet's west side providing some of the best King Salmon fishing in the area. While the river and its tributaries support all 5 species of wild Alaskan salmon, rainbow trout, and Dolly Vardon, the larger watershed provides important habitat for moose, bear, small game, waterfowl and berries; all important sources of subsistence harvest for the local citizens and communities.

The health of the Chuitna watershed's wildlife and fisheries habitat provide a long term, sustainable economic base for the nearby communities, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the Cook Inlet area in general. According to a report released earlier this year by Alaska Department of Fish and Game, sport fish-

ing in Cook Inlet alone provides 8000 jobs and \$55 million annually in state and local tax revenues. While smaller than the better known Kenai River, the Chuitna plays a vital role in the economic importance of Cook Inlet sport, commercial, and subsistence fisheries.

All this stands at risk as PacRim Coal, the Delaware Corporation funded by Texas investors Dick Bass and William Herbert Hunt continue to press forward their plans to strip away 5000 acres of prime fish and game habitat to develop the Chuitna Coal Strip Mine. PacRim's Fish and Wildlife Protection Plan, submitted to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, shows PacRim's clear intention to mine directly through 11 miles of Middle Creek, an important salmon stream that produces 20% of the silver salmon for the entire Chuit River system.

Never before has the state allowed a large project to mine directly through salmon spawning and rearing habitat, and doing so will set a terrible precedent, clearly crossing the threshold of what Alaskans consider 'responsible mining'.

(Continued on page 4)



Alaskan coal burned in Asia will add toxic mercury to Alaska fisheries

The Proposed Chuitna Coal Strip Mine

(cont. from page 3)

Under state and federal law, PacRim must reclaim the mined land - or return it to its pre-mining condition - PacRim's plans show a general lack of understanding of the complex hydrology of the watershed and its functions. Stream restoration goes far beyond creating a channel for water to flow; it includes restoring complex hydrological flow paths and the biological diversity of the entire stream system - both of which will be destroyed during mining operations that will create a pit over 300 feet deep. In fact, no salmon stream has ever been successfully reclaimed in the type of cold, wet and complex conditions around the proposed mine site.

From a basic economic perspective, it makes no sense to jeopardize the health of this river system and the sustainable economies it supports for the short term profits acquired through the destructive practices of strip mining in wetlands. Our salmon fisheries can last for centuries if we manage them correctly. To find out what you can do to support Cook Inlet fisheries and strong, sustainable local economies, contact Dennis Gann, Inletkeeper Coal Organizer, at dennis@inletkeeper.org or 907.929.9371.



The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

Not gone, Not Forgotten

Local citizens began to strategize about starting a Cook Inletkeeper amid the acrid aftermath of the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history. Now, on the twentieth anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS), some remarkable authors and filmmakers want to ensure we never forget that fateful night of March 24, 1989 in Prince William Sound. Recent books by Alaskan authors Dr. Riki Ott (*Sound Truth and Corporate Myth: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* (2005); *Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* (2009)) and Sharon Bushell and Stan Jones (*The Spill: Personal Stories from the EXXON VALDEZ Disaster* (2009)), and a recent Macumba Doc film, *The Black Wave: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez* (2009), seek a deeper understanding of the event and the people it most impacted. These sources provide vital lessons to help us chart a future where the mad scramble for more oil by multinational corporations will require constant vigilance. And if you want to learn how we can take back our democracy from the gluttonous profiteering of today's corporate America, don't miss www.ultimatecivics.com.



The Alaska Coal Workshop Series West Virginians Provide First Hand Accounts of Coal Impacts to Alaska

As part of its ambitious efforts to educate Alaskans about coal mining and burning, Cook Inletkeeper hosted the Alaska Coal Workshop Series in Homer and Anchorage during the first week of May, featuring guest speakers Judy Bonds and Joe Lovett from the coal-fields of West Virginia. These workshops provided Alaskans with information about the scope and effects of coal mining and combustion, and explored issues such as mercury contamination, habitat impacts, water pollution, and sustainable jobs as Alaskans face an uncertain energy future.



Goldman Prize Winner Judy Bonds brings her stories of Appalachian coal mining to Alaska

Judy Bonds is the co-director for Coal River Mountain Watch, a coal miner's daughter, 10th generation West Virginian, and 2003 recipient of the Goldman Prize honoring her work for the environment. Judy witnesses first hand the destructive practices of mountain top removal in her home-state and provided Alaskans with compelling personal stories of her fight to protect her community. Joe Lovett is one of America's premier Clean Water Act lawyers who has dedicated his career to protecting the environment, local economies, and healthy communities.

Joe and Judy experienced a whirlwind Alaska tour as the Workshop series took them to Fairbanks, Palmer, Homer, Seward, and Anchorage in 5 consecutive nights. Inletkeeper truly appreciates the support from these exceptional activists, and looks forward to hosting similar events in the future. If you have ideas for speakers or presentation topics, contact Dennis Gann, Inletkeeper Coal Organizer, at dennis@inletkeeper.org or 907.929.9371.



Support for Defunct Healy Coal Plant Fading *HEA Pulls Plug on Controversial Facility*

In January 2009, the Alaska Economic Development & Export Authority (AIDEA), the Homer Electric Association (HEA) and Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) signed an agreement to try to re-start the long-defunct Healy Coal Plant 2, located just outside Denali National Park. AIDEA has already poured over \$300 million in public funding into the experimental facility, which according to court documents filed by GVEA never worked as planned. But AIDEA wants to offload this albatross so badly that it offered to sell the plant to GVEA at the fire-sale price of \$50 million, and to loan GVEA another \$45 million to upgrade the facility. To spread the risk for this high-risk venture, HEA had agreed to pay half the purchase and start-up costs (i.e. up to \$47.5 million), and to buy half the facility's power (HEA is desperate for additional electric generation capacity, because its current power supply agreement with Chugach Electric ends in 2013). In a remarkable turn of events, however, the HEA Board voted 8-1 on May



12 to back out of the Healy deal. The move came soon after the HEA annual meeting, where HEA management failed to present any information about Healy until asked by members from the floor. That lack of transparency, coupled with the significant economic and technical hurdles presented by the Healy Coal Plant, informed the HEA Board's decision. Inletkeeper worked closely on this issue with the HEA Members Forum (see sidebar) and other ratepayer groups statewide; additionally, Jim Levine - who ran a pro-renewable platform - won election to the HEA Board, and Inletkeeper will continue to work with HEAMF and others to ensure our electrical cooperatives truly reflect the will of their ratepayer-owners.



HEA Ratepayers Join Growing Chorus Demanding Clean & Affordable Power

In Fall 2008, word leaked out that Homer's member-owned electrical cooperative - the Homer Electric Association - was engaged in secret negotiations to buy into the long defunct Healy Coal Plant. Having watched ratepayers in the Mat Su Valley recently reject a coal-fired power plant over cost and pollution concerns, a group of ratepayers came together as the Homer



Ratepayers Rally Outside the HEA Offices in Homer

Electric Association Members Forum to support clean, affordable, and sustainable alternatives to fossil fuels. In January 2009, HEAMF organized a successful protest outside the Homer offices of HEA, which led to the formation of a Power Supply Study Committee to review HEA power generation options. Today, over 300 ratepayers support HEAMF's goals, and HEAMF is working with other ratepayers up and down the Railbelt electrical grid to press for cost-effective, clean, renewable power supplies. For more information, contact Mike O'Meara at mikeo@cosmichamlet.net and see www.heamembersforum.blogspot.com.



Help Shape YOUR Clean Energy Future!

Get Informed, then Get Involved!

Want to know how you can help move your family and your community toward a clean energy future? Check out the award-winning documentary "Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America" by Jeff Barrie. This hour long DVD does an amazing job not only highlighting the problems we face with traditional fossil fuels, but more importantly, it provides concrete examples of steps you can take to kick the fossil fuel habit. You can learn more about the film at www.kilowattours.org and you can obtain copies to borrow or purchase (sliding scale \$5-20) at Inletkeeper's Homer and Anchorage offices. For more information contact keeper@inletkeeper.org or call 907.235.4068 x21.



Safe Cigarettes. Flying Monkeys. Clean Coal. *Waterkeeper's "Clean Coal is a Dirty Lie" Campaign*

Coal-fired power plants produce more mercury than any other traditional fuel source, and they emit roughly 60% more greenhouse gases than natural gas-fired plants. And despite what you might hear, there's no such thing as a "clean" coal strip mine. But that hasn't stopped the coal industry from spending millions of dollars on a massive public relations campaign aimed at fooling people into thinking there's something clean about coal. To pull back the curtain on this well-funded and concerted misinformation campaign, the Waterkeeper Alliance is working with Cook Inletkeeper and other Waterkeeper programs across the nation to expose the true costs of coal to local communities, to our health and to our waterways. For more information, see www.thedirtylie.com.



WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE



WATERSHED WATCH

Feds Working to Define Critical Habitat Areas for Beluga Whale *Inletkeeper Focused on Protecting Prime Beluga Habitat*

In October 2008 - after more than ten years of discussion, debate and lawsuits - the National Marine Fisheries Service designated the Cook Inlet Beluga whale as "endangered" under the federal Endangered Species Act. Yet at the time of the listing, NMFS did not define "critical habitat" for the beluga, which is a necessary step toward developing a recovery plan. Instead, NMFS took public comments until May 14, asking for input on how to define those areas important to beluga whale feeding, mating and migration. Inletkeeper, Trustees for Alaska and numerous other groups submitted comments to NMFS, calling for common-sense protections in prime beluga whale habitat.

Despite rhetoric from whale protection opponents, ESA listings do not hamper responsible development. In fact, statistics compiled since the enactment of the ESA all establish that the federal agency consultation process does very little to block projects. In 1992, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that only twenty-three of 18,211



projects would jeopardize a listed species and had no reasonable alternative. Other reports have posted similar findings. Between 1987 and 1995, only an estimated 600 jeopardy or adverse modification findings were made in consultations on 186,000 projects. This is less than one-half a percent. Though only anecdotal data, the Fish & Wildlife Service stated that in fiscal year 1999, 12,000 informal consultations took place. Of the eighty-three formal consultations conducted in that year, only one resulted in an opinion that a species would be in jeopardy. More recently, the Fish & Wildlife Service reported that from 1998 to 2000, only 420 projects resulted in a

"jeopardy" opinion out of more than 300,000 consultations.

Thus, the vast majority of projects entering the consultation process are resolved informally with a determination that no listed species will be impacted, and responsible development can occur in conjunction with a listing decision. Furthermore, even in the extremely rare instances when a project as proposed is terminated, nothing in the ESA prevents project proponents from re-configuring their projects so as to ameliorate ESA problems and then reapplying for relevant permits.

The beluga whale has long been ignored in management and permitting decisions on oil and gas, sewage, port expansion and related projects. Cook Inletkeeper recognizes the Cook Inlet beluga whale as a vital strand in the ecological fabric that makes up the Cook Inlet ecosystem, and this ecosystem supports the economic and natural vitality of Southcentral Alaska. For more information, contact Bob at 907.235.4068 x22 or bob@inletkeeper.org.



Cook Inlet Belugas Featured in Cousteau Documentary

In April, Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, in conjunction with KQED Public Television, aired a one hour documentary on PBS stations across the nation entitled "Sea Ghosts: The Beluga Whale." Homer author and State of Alaska Writer Laureate Nancy Lord brought the Cook Inlet beluga to Cousteau's attention, and the documentary features interviews with Lord, Inletkeeper Bob Shavelson, Tyonek Whaling Captain Peter Merryman and others. For more information see www.pbs.org/kqed/oceanadventures/episodes/seaghosts/ or contact Inletkeeper at keeper@inletkeeper.org to obtain a copy of the DVD.



Inletkeeper Member Spotlight – Diana Carbonell

In addition to her duties as the co-proprietor of the Fritz Creek General Store (often working baker's hours midnight to morning), and following her passion for cross country skiing, Diana Carbonell has earned the Inletkeeper Member Spotlight due to her tireless support of Cook Inletkeeper's mission "to protect the Cook Inlet watershed and all the life it sustains". The Fritz Creek General Store has consistently supported Cook Inletkeeper's Tide Book publication, which contains a 32 page insert on clean boating and marine debris prevention; the business also hosts a cell phone collection box which helps keep electronics out of the landfill as well as earning a stipend for Inletkeeper. In April of 2008 Diana joined our cadre of volunteers as a water quality monitor for Fritz Creek, sampling with her team monthly during the winter and twice per month during the summer. To the surprise of the entire Cook Inletkeeper staff, Diana and her fellow members of "the Krewe of Gambrinus Marching Band" donated their winnings from the 2009 Winter Carnival parade. Your long term contributions as a member, combined with your personal dedication and commitment to protecting the Cook Inlet watershed, is cause for a hearty THANK YOU, Diana. Be sure to visit the Fritz Creek General Store at mile 8.2, East End Road and let Diana know how much we appreciate the support!



Diana Carbonell at her favorite pastime



RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Salmon Streams Temperature Monitoring Network

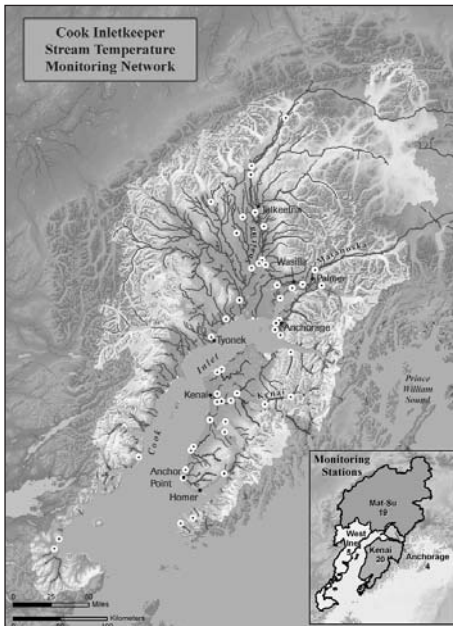
Up until about 10 years ago, few people paid attention to stream temperatures in salmon streams. We're in Alaska - healthy salmon, cold streams - no problem! But as data on climate change became more compelling, and a number of baseline water quality projects were reporting higher than expected in-stream temperatures, interest began to grow. So why would we be concerned about warming temperatures - because warm temperatures stress salmon making them more vulnerable to pollution, predation and disease. At all life stages, warm temperatures can have a physiological or behavioral effect on salmon.

Through Cook Inletkeeper's Stream Temperature Monitoring Network, we now have data on 48 of Cook Inlet's salmon streams which is the first comprehensive effort in Alaska to look at water temperatures in non-glacial streams at a regional scale. In 2008 - which was a cooler, cloudier summer - we still found a lot of variability. Maximum water temperatures among all the sites ranged from 20 - 9 degrees Celsius (68 - 48 degrees Fahrenheit). In 2009



Rachel Lord on Stariski Creek

we will collect our second year of data with the help of partners throughout the Cook Inlet watershed. Our sites represent a range of watershed size, land cover types, and geographic distribution (see map). By identifying streams that have low or high sensitivity to air temperatures, this work will provide valuable information for prioritizing restoration and protection efforts and be a useful tool for fisheries management and land-use planning decisions.



48 monitoring stations of the Cook Inlet Stream Temperature Monitoring Network

Also in 2009, we will be working with Scenarios Network for Alaska Planning (SNAP) to get a better understanding of climate predictions on a regional scale. SNAP (<http://www.snap.uaf.edu/>) will generate future scenarios of air temperature and precipitation conditions across the Cook Inlet watershed. By understanding these smaller-scale patterns, local communities will be better prepared for changing conditions in the years ahead.

Contact Inletkeeper Science Director Sue Mauger for more information at sue@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x24.



Jennifer McCard with the Kenai Watershed Forum on Slikok Creek

Conference Outreach: American Water Resources Association & Kachemak Bay Science Conference

Cook Inletkeeper was a proud sponsor of the 5th Kachemak Bay Science Conference held in Homer on March 6-7, 2009. The conference theme - Navigating Environmental Change - provided an opportunity to explore how we monitor change, document its significance, consider the role we play in causing it and how we might respond to it by adapting or mitigating its effects.

Sue Mauger, Cook Inletkeeper's Science Director, presented a talk at this conference as well as the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) national meeting held in Anchorage in May. These conferences provide important opportunities for us to spread the word to communities and scientists about the impact of climate change on salmon stream temperatures.

Welcome New Summer Interns!

Thanks to the Alaska Conservation Foundation & Whitman College!

This summer Cook Inletkeeper is looking forward to working with two interns who will help us accomplish the long list of monitoring and outreach projects we have planned for 2009. Liza Mitchell from Colorado and Elli Matkin from Homer will join us in early June. Liza was selected from a large group of applicants through the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) Internship

Program which offers students planning a career in conservation the opportunity to develop practical job skills in a challenging and fun environment. Elli received a Whitman College Internship Grant to work with us on community outreach efforts focused around renewable energy and climate change issues. We're excited to have them join our team! Welcome Liza and Elli!

Volunteer Spotlight – Will Schlein

Many people know Will Schlein as the owner of the Homer Hostel, an intrepid bike commuter with an electric-motor assisted bicycle, or as Inletkeeper's Information Technology Specialist. Fewer people may know that Will is one of our Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program Volunteers!



Will at his site on Woodard Creek

Will started monitoring with CEMP almost 2 years ago, and has been keeping an eye on Woodard Creek behind the Pratt Museum. Woodard Creek is Homer's main 'urban waterway', run-

ning through "...more or less my backyard" - true for Will and many other Homer-ites. When asked why he joined CEMP and what keeps him monitoring, Will says, "Through friends and work I heard about CEMP and the process and figured it was another good way to become involved in the world around us. I continue because you sort of become hooked with curiosity about how the stream changes through the seasons and years. Also it's another fun excuse to get outside!" In addition to volunteering with CEMP, Will also volunteers as an educator for oceanography programs at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, for Homer's E-cycling Day, and the Obama Campaign. Homer is lucky to have involved and active citizen's like Will, and we're certainly happy to have him as an integral member of CEMP. Thanks Will!



... and demonstrating his karaoke skills with former CEMP Coordinator Dale Banks



CEMP Volunteer Monitoring Update

This spring, 16 CEMP Volunteers were recertified and 5 new volunteers went through the 3-day CEMP Training to become Certified Water Quality Monitors. Welcome to Bob Burns, Lee Dewees, Carla Milburn, Judi Nester, and Sara Thompson! We're currently monitoring 13 sites on 10 streams in the Anchor River and Kachemak Bay watersheds. Bruce Macphail, from the World Bank's Sustainability Network, flew to Homer to participate in

our CEMP Training and interview volunteers and staff about CEMP. Bruce will be using Inletkeeper's CEMP as one of three case studies examining citizen-based monitoring. These case studies will be used to look at involving communities in resource management and stewardship as part of an initiative to implement community-based fisheries management in West Africa.



Monitoring Coordinator Rachel Lord looks on as new volunteers Bob Burns and Judi Nester take bacteria samples as part of Phase II CEMP training



Bruce Macphail, from the World Bank's Sustainability Network, will use CEMP as a case study in West Africa

CEMP Partnership & Annual Meeting *Working With Partners to Monitor & Protect Water Quality*

Since 1997 Inletkeeper has brought together community-based organizations throughout the Cook Inlet basin to train citizens in approved and effective data collection methods to enhance resource protections throughout Alaska's most populated watershed. This unique partnership has grown into the Citizens' Environmental Monitoring Program Partnership (CEMP Partnership); Cook Inletkeeper currently heads this partnership, which consists of 7 participating member organizations within South-central Alaska. The CEMP Partnership's mission is to create the most comprehensive and credible citizen-based water monitoring program in Alaska.

In February, Inletkeeper staff joined CEMP coordinators from Anchorage Waterways Council, Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance in Anchorage for the CEMP Partnership's annual meeting and recertification. Other partners include the Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District and the Mat-Su Borough's Lake Monitoring Program. Dan Bogan from UAA's Environmental and Natural Resources Institute administered the training, and Joel Cooper from Homer was able to join us all for the business meeting to discuss funding opportunities, data quality objectives, and goals for the Partnership in the coming year.





Drinking Water Well Testing 2009
Inletkeeper Responds to Concerns Over Drinking Water Safety

In response to numerous concerns from local residents, Inletkeeper began a Safe Drinking Water Program in 2008 with four objectives: to increase awareness of potential contaminants and health risks associated with private drinking water, provide information and discounts for private drinking water testing, educate private well owners on how to interpret water test results and find resources for treatment of contaminated water, and

encourage citizens to be pro-active in long-term maintenance and testing of their private drinking water sources. We will continue this Program in 2009 with a booth at the Homer Rotary Health Fair in November, and offer discounted testing for arsenic and other pollutants. For more information, please contact Rachel at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 ext.29.



BEACH Monitoring Update
Keeping Our Beaches Safe for Alaskans!

Inletkeeper is continuing to work through grant funding by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to monitor bacteria levels on Homer's recreational beaches. The BEACH Program is a national effort to ensure public health by monitoring for fecal contamination in places where people enjoy contact recreation sports, such as surfing and shore-based fishing. Inletkeeper staff and volunteers collect water samples weekly from beaches on the Homer Spit. These samples are sent to a state-certified water testing laboratory in Anchorage for analysis and results come within 36 hours. In the event of bacteria detection, Inletkeeper has an agreement to work with the City of Homer to notify the public of bacteria levels that exceed state health standards if necessary. With growing numbers of people collecting shellfish, surfing and kiteboarding around Homer, we need to ensure our waters stay clean and healthy. To volunteer for the BEACH Program or for more information, contact Rachel Lord at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235-4068 ext. 29.



Kachemak Bay Clean Harbors Day
Taking a Bite Out of Marine Debris

Over 6,000 people call the communities around Kachemak Bay home, and more than 100,000 visitors arrive annually to this area. The harbors in Homer, Seldovia, Nanwalek, and Port Graham provide residents and visitors alike with access to Kachemak Bay for commercial and recreational activities. While harbors have the potential to be sources of marine debris entering the Bay, they can serve as outreach hotspots

to encourage responsible boating and harbor use. Through a grant from the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, Inletkeeper will be holding a Kachemak Bay Clean Harbors Day this summer in all four harbors in an effort to reduce locally produced marine debris across Kachemak Bay. For more information, please contact Rachel at rachel@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 ext.29.



Dr. Riki Ott Wins Inletkeeper's 2009 "Muckraker of the Year" Award!
Tireless Work on Exxon Valdez Spill Recognized

Each year, the Cook Inletkeeper Board and staff recognize a special Alaskan who personifies the true spirit of "muckraking" - someone who speaks truth to power and tirelessly sets out to question the status quo. On the 20th Anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS), we could think of no better recipient than Dr. Riki Ott. On the eve of the EVOS in 1989, Riki predicted a major accident in light of the complacency that had befallen oil transportation in Prince William Sound. Ever since, Riki has set out on a dogged path to reveal the truth behind the worst oil spill in U.S. history; she has authored two books on the subject (Sound Truth

and Corporate Myth\$: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (2005); Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (2009)) and connected with thousands of people through presentations and media appearances. Inletkeeper honored Dr. Ott at its Muckraker's Ball in December at Chilkoot Charlie's in Anchorage, where Special Guest



Inletkeeper Bob Shavelson presents Dr. Riki Ott with the 2009 Muckraker of the Year Award

Emcee Shannyn Moore led the event, with Homer's own Three Legged Mule providing a night of music. Our hat goes off to Riki Ott for her inspirational leadership! If you have thoughts on who should be recognized as Inletkeeper's "2010 Muckraker of the Year," please contact Joan at joan@inletkeeper.org or 907.235.4068 x21.



2009 Electronics Recycling Event

The fourth annual Homer Electronics Recycling Event was a resounding success. This year the Homer community kept 19,016 pounds of waste electronics out of our local landfill, more than last year's 12,887

pounds. Over 4 years this event has diverted 54,135 pounds of electronics for recycling with Total Reclaim in Anchorage. The growing electronic waste collected at the event demonstrates the need to start

addressing this problem throughout the year. Many people still dump their electronics into the landfill where the toxins contained in these products can leach into our ground and

Continued on Page 10



2009 Electronics Recycling Event

(cont. from page 9)

surface waters, threatening our drinking water and our fisheries.

Those who have worked on this event and many who have dropped off their dead electronics have expressed a desire for the Borough to address this problem more frequently. Many have suggested collecting the material the same time the Borough's quarterly toxic waste collection occurs. Paying the cost of dealing with this waste is the conundrum faced by most municipal governments and indeed is the question our Borough will need to address as well. Toxic electronic waste will not go away nor will the problem lessen, so now is a good time to start thinking about how to deal with this growing problem.

Nina Faust

Chair, Homer Electronics Recycling Committee

Electronic Recycling Event History

year	# Households	# Businesses/ Non-Profits	Total Weight (lbs) Collected
2006	61	11	12,039
2007	69	11	10,193
2008	83	16	12,887
2009	109	22	19,016
Total			54,135



Busy volunteers at this year's event



Thank You for Gifts in Memoriam

Bev Ryan in memory of Barney Ryan

James & Lamon Hoban in memory of Sean Hoban

Patricia Henderson and Debbie Bullock in memory of Frank Grant

2009 Tide Books Available Now

In addition to daily tide charts for Southcentral Alaska, Cook Inletkeeper's unique tide book contains an insert that promotes stewardship among boaters and beach walkers with helpful tips on how to practice clean boating and avoid marine pollution. The tide book also includes tips on how to prevent and remove marine debris, a guide to practicing beach etiquette, information about the Cook Inlet beluga whale, and a description of invasive species that threaten Southcentral Alaskan waters.

Several area businesses support Cook Inletkeeper's tide book, serving as distribution centers for the publication. Each business sponsor receives tide books to distribute to their customers. If your organization is interested in becoming a sponsor of the tide book publication for 2010, please contact Mike Allen at 907-235-4068 ext. 27 or by email at michael@inletkeeper.org. If you would like a copy of Cook Inletkeeper's 2009 tide book, they are available at the following business locations:

Kenai:

Already Read Bookstore

Girdwood:

Alaska Wildland Adventures

Anchor Point:

Blackwater Bend Espresso

Ninilchik:

Deep Creek Sport Shop

Fritz Creek:

Fritz Creek General Store

Homer Spit:

Bay Excursions

Lands End Resort

Mako's Water Taxi

North Country Charters

True North Kayak Adventures

Homer:

Alderfer Group

Bald Mountain Air

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

Fresh Sourdough Express

Homer Air

Homer Boat Yard

K-Bay Café Roasting Company

Loopy Lupine Recycled Products

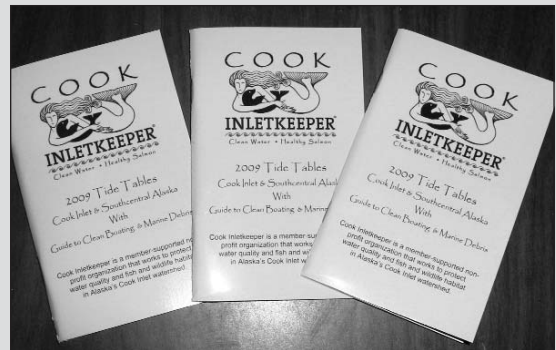
Nomar

Bidarka Inn

Tech Connect

The Gear Shed

Ulmer's Drug and Hardware



Don't Leave the Dock Without It!

Thank You for Your Generous Business Contributions Over the Past Year!

Alaska Handi-Crafts, AHQ Alaska Health Quest; Alaska Conservation Solutions; Alaska Marine Conservation Council; Alaska Maritime Wildlife Refuge; Alaska Northern Lights; Alaska Personal Journeys; Alaska Retreat; Alaska Wildland Adventures Inc.; Alderfer Group; Already Read; Anchorage Waterways Council; Archipelago Consulting; Alyeska Tire; Bald Mountain Air Service; Bay Excursions LLC; Bear Creek Winery; Best Western Bidarka; Black Water Bend Espresso; Black-Berry Bog; Boardwalk Fish & Ships; Brant General Contracting; Cascadia Kayak Tours; Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies; Chuitna Citizens No-COALition; City of Homer; Coal Point Trading Co.; Deep Creek Sport Shop; Dock n Depot Bed & Breakfast; Doctors Longevity Formula; Dr. Elizabeth Wolfe, Veterinary Services; Duggan's Galley; Fat Olives; Fishward Bound Adventures; Forget-Me-Not Flowers and Gifts; Fresh Sourdough Express; Friends of Mat-Su; Fritz Creek General Store; Good Karma Inn; Goodsearch; Grog Shop; Heritage RV Park; High Tide Arts; Homer Air; Homer Boat Yard; Homer Bookstore; Homer Brewery; Homer Electric Association; Homer's

Jeans; Habco Marketing Corporation; Homer Air;; Homer Veterinary Clinic; Inlet Charters Across Alaska Adventures; Latitude 59; Land's End Resort; Loopy Lupine Distribution LLC, K Bay Caffe Roasting Co.; Kachemak Bay Conservation Society; Kachemak Bay Shellfish Growers; Kachemak Bay Seafoods; Kachemak Bay Wilderness Lodge; Kachemak Gear Shed(Redden Marine Supply); ; Kar-a-van Trucking; Kennedy Associates; Kiana Bed and Breakfast; K-N-S Marine; Lazy M Leather; Mako's Water Taxi; Masteller Enterprises; NEMA, Inc.; Nomar; North Country Charters; North Gulf Oceanic Society; North Wind Gifts; Ocean Foundation; Ocean River Institute; Ocean View RV Park; Patty Wagon; Peninsula Surgical Clinic; Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries; Pudgy's Market; RBCA - Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance; Ring of Fire Meadery; Sadie Cove Lodge; Salty Dog Saloon; Salty Girls; Scrogg's Automotive; Seaside Adventures; Seater & Company; Skyline Bed & Breakfast; Summer Song Honey Co.; Spenard Builder's Supply; Starvin' Marvin's; Susitna Wild Seafoods; TDX Power; Tech Connect; The Boatyard Café; The Brew Shop; The Fish Connection; The Grog Shop; The Peterson Bay Company, Inc.; Tom Hughes Graphic Design; Total Reclaim; Totem Ocean Trailer Express; True North Kayak, Inc.; Two Sisters Bakery; United Cook Inlet Drift Association; Ulmer's Drug and Hardware; Wild North Photography; White Earth Tile; World Wildlife Fund.

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