

Prince William Sound RCAC's...

THE **SOUND APPROACH**

e-newsletter for Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

February 2006

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Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers

DID YOU KNOW?

The origin of Valentine's Day is shrouded in mystery. One legend has it that in the third century, Roman Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage in hopes of building a stronger military. Valentine, a priest, disobeyed these orders and performed marriages in secret. The emperor had Valentine jailed and put to death on February 14. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "Your Valentine." In general during ancient times, mid February was associated with fertility and love.

A SOUND APPROACH TO...

Northern gardening: Winter is a great time to start planning your garden. The [Cooperative Extension Service](#) has a wealth of free publications specific to Alaska.

COUNCIL NEWS

Our **January board meeting** covered project updates by staff, committee activities by their chairs, and community involvement by board members; discussions of current issues; and presentations by Alyeska, JPO, the U.S. Coast Guard, Crowley, shippers, and an expert on underwater noise. [Review the board agenda, topics, and presentations](#) on our Web site.

On February 8, you can participate in a **Web cast on the Alaska Ocean Observing System**. Who should attend? Anyone who uses Alaska's marine environment—fishermen, coastal residents, navigators, shippers, resource managers, educators—and who wants to learn more about how ocean information can be used to make better decisions. [See the flyer for details](#).

PWSRCAC is looking for **volunteers**. Application deadline is February 28. Please see our [Volunteer Information page](#) for details.

Several important **conferences** are coming up. Please see the [PWSRCAC calendar](#) for dates and information.

Q&A

Q: How much crude oil does the United States use?

A: The U.S. uses 20.7 million barrels of oil per day, according to the [Energy Information Administration](#). Of that amount, 12.1 million barrels are imported.

Q: How do non-indigenous species get into Port Valdez?

A: One way is from oil tanker ballast water. Approximately 86% of the ballast water discharged into Port Valdez originates from the ports of Puget Sound, San Francisco, and Long Beach. The short time (five to ten days) the ballast water is in transit favors the survival of transported [non-indigenous species](#).

Q: Where can I read past issues of *The Observer*?

A: All issues of [The Observer](#), the council's quarterly print newsletter, are available on our Web site.

READING ROOM

[Chinese Mitten Crab Fact Sheet](#)

[European Green Crab Fact Sheet](#)

FEATURED LINKS

[Alaska Historical Society: This Month in Alaska History](#)

[North Pacific Research Board](#)



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