

THE OBSERVER

September 2013 Volume 23, No.4

A publication of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council

Recent inspections for potential pipe corrosion at terminal show encouraging results

By TOM KUCKERTZ

Project Manager for Terminal Operations

Some of the council's concerns regarding the unknown condition of the crude oil piping at the Valdez Marine Terminal have been answered by inspections performed this summer by Alyeska.



Causeway to Berth 4 at the Valdez Marine Terminal. Scaffolding has been installed and covered with plastic tarps to keep Alyeska's inspection crews and exposed piping dry during inspection. Photo by Tom Kuckertz.

In 2012, a routine inspection by Alyeska personnel of the 20-inch vertical riser pipes that feed crude oil to the loading arms on Berth 4 at the terminal revealed the existence of serious corrosion in some of the girth welds. Girth welds are welds that extend around the diameter of a pipe, typically used to join two sections of pipe.

Following this discovery in 2012, the remaining riser pipes on Berths 4 and 5 were subjected to additional inspections. More occurrences of vertical pipe girth weld corrosion were found and repaired. The cause of the corrosion in that particular region was attributed to water collecting under the pipe's insulation in combination with a missing anti-corrosion paint coating in the vicinity of the girth weld.

In response to these discov-

See page 6, **PIPING**

New outreach coordinator joins council staff

Lisa Matlock joined the council's staff on August 12. Matlock brings almost twenty years of experience in coastal Alaska education and outreach to the position.



Lisa Matlock

Originally from southwestern Colorado, she is a "green brat," a term for kids whose parents work for natural resource agencies,

so she bounced around beautiful places in the west during her childhood. Her family moved to Alaska to 1974. They returned to the lower 48 in 1976, but Matlock never got over her time in Alaska.

Always torn between a love for science and a love for communications, she majored in English and minored in Biology at the University of Chicago. She returned to Alaska for graduate

See page 6, **MATLOCK**



Council staff took a trip into Prince William Sound this summer to look for lingering Exxon Valdez oil. Here, Linda Swiss, council project manager, shows a glove dirtied with oil. Read more about the expedition on page 4. Photo by Amanda Johnson.

Long time volunteer retires from board

Marilyn Heddell has announced her resignation from the council's board of directors. Heddell represented Whittier on the board since 1996. Heddell held several positions during her 17 years on the council. She was first elected as member-at-large on



Marilynn Heddell

See page 4, **HEDELLE**

AK Chamber of Commerce - AK Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Assoc. - Chenega Bay - Chugach Alaska Corp. - Cordova - CDFU - Homer - Kenai Peninsula Borough - Kodiak - Kodiak Island Borough - Kodiak Village Mayors - OSREC - Port Graham Corp. - PWS Aquaculture Corp. - Seldovia - Seward - Tatitlek - Valdez - Whittier

INSIDE THE OBSERVER

Volunteer Spotlight: Chair of science committee long interested in effects of toxins on environment and health, p. 2



Carey takes industry preparedness position with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, p. 2



Drones to be used for oil spill monitoring in Arctic, p. 2

Swanson: Working together effectively is a matter of balance and finding the middle road, p. 3



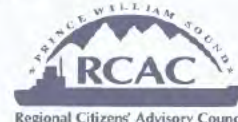
Alyeska: Alyeska intern impressed by safe work environment, p. 3

Oil spill response in Sound depends on trained fishing vessel crews, p. 5

Annual science event to be held in December, p. 7

Do you have an idea for a new council project?, p. 7

Community Corner: Conferences help keep the council on the cutting edge, p. 8



NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK
PERMIT NO. 836

Volunteer Spotlight

Chair of science committee long interested in effects of toxins on environment and health

John Kennish, chair of the council’s Scientific Advisory Committee, also known as SAC, found his life’s calling early.

“I knew I’d be a chemist in the 11th grade when my teacher told us how scientists first figured out the composition of water,” Kennish said. “What excited me was how you could take indirect evidence and use your own sense of logic to draw conclusions about what was really occurring.”

“I thought that was awesome.”

Kennish grew up in small town in New Jersey. His hometown was a rural community of around 2000 people. He worked on farms, fished and collected mushrooms. When he left to attend graduate school, he only applied to colleges in the Pacific Northwest, because that area had the best fishing, he says.

Fishing is also what inspired Kennish to start looking for work in Alaska after earning his PhD in Environmental Analytical Chemistry from Oregon’s Portland State University in 1978. He was hired by the University of Alaska in Anchorage to teach chemistry, and has been there ever since.

Kennish was recruited as a volunteer for the council by SAC member Roger Green and former council staffer Lisa Ka’aihue in 2004. He was elected chair of the committee in 2008.

Since the council’s inception, the committee has managed a project to monitor the level of hydrocarbons from crude oil in the Sound. One difficulty the monitoring project has always faced is that there was very little environmental data to show what the water quality conditions were like in Prince William Sound before the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Kennish says if his advice had been taken, it wouldn’t have been that way. About ten years before the spill, Kennish and then fellow UAA professor John French wanted to test the waters of Port Valdez for hydrocarbons. At that time, the terminal’s ballast water treatment facility that cleans the oily water from the ballasts of

tankers discharged an estimated average of two barrels per day of oil and grease into Port Valdez every day.*

“When I look back, we were ahead of the curve on that one,” Kennish said. “We would have had that baseline data.”

Kennish and French went ahead with a modified version of the project, but results were limited because they were refused access to the terminal to collect samples.

Many of Kennish’s research projects have involved looking at the effects of toxic materials in the marine environment. Most recently, Kennish has been studying the effects of phthalates on trout and salmon. Phthalates are what makes plastic flexible. The substance is easily released into the environment as plastic degrades. Scientists are suspicious that phthalates in the environment are having a negative effect on the health of various species, including humans.

Kennish and his collaborator, Patty Zwollo a biology professor at The College of William and Mary, are testing phthalate levels in Elizabeth Lake on the Kenai Peninsula. Waves from the Gulf of Alaska push marine debris into the lake where it collects on the shore.

Kennish thinks this project could possibly answer questions about declining wild salmon runs in recent years.

Read more about Kennish’s project here: <http://bit.ly/PhthalatesAndSalmon>

Kennish’s expertise has been a valuable asset to the council over the years. The council has long been concerned about the effects of crude oil, and the mix of crude oil and dispersants.

“Dispersants are a problem because they increase the toxicity of oil,” Kennish says.

“You’re not really removing the oil, you’re just spreading it out, so it affects the environment in a different way,” said Kennish. “We still don’t know all the effects.”

Kennish says the science committee has been looking into how to evaluate the low-level chronic impacts of oil and dispersed oil. They are

trying to determine a good biological indicator, a species that can be monitored to determine the health of the environment, which would not be prohibitively expensive to monitor.

To read more about the council’s hydrocarbon toxicity projects, visit our website: www.pwsrccac.org/programs/environmental-monitoring/hydrocarbon-toxicity/

“My time on the Scientific Advisory Committee has been one of the most significant contributions I have made to the State of Alaska,” Kennish said. “The members of this committee are very dedicated and hardworking and are well respected.”

“Working as a volunteer for the council is a wonderful opportunity and a great experience because the organization is surprisingly well managed and has very clear and positive goals for carrying forward the intent of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and in continuing to protect Prince William Sound.”



John Kennish

** Today, due to lower pipeline throughput, improvements in operation of the ballast water treatment facility and the reduction of oily ballast coming to the terminal due to the phase-out of single hull tankers, the facility puts out about one gallon per day of oil and grease.*

Carey takes industry preparedness position with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Anna Carey, project manager assistant for the council, has taken a position with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. She will replace Vince Kelly.

Her new position, titled “Environmental Program Specialist III,” is in the department’s Industry Preparedness Program’s Marine Vessels section. She will be working with oil spill contingency plans, and says she hopes her duties at the new job will keep her in contact with the council.

“We look forward to continuing to work with her in support of our mission in her new capacity,” said Mark Swanson, executive director for the council.

Carey joined the council in May of 2011. She provided support to project managers and the council’s Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring, Port Operations and Vessel Traffic System, Legislative Affairs, Board Governance and Long Range Planning committee volunteers and their projects. She also managed several projects including the review of fire protection assets at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

Carey helped monitor Port Valdez for inva-

sive species such as tunicates and European green crab. The council is concerned that these two species, among others, could arrive in oil tanker’s ballast water, which is discharged into Prince William Sound before loading North Slope crude at the Alyeska terminal in Valdez. Invasions like this can harm valuable native species such as salmon.

Carey also helped with outreach and education presentations in the Valdez schools and for several youth education programs during summer months.

Her last day with the council was September 13. The council is currently in the hiring process to fill the vacancy.



Anna Carey

Drones to be used for oil spill monitoring in Arctic

Remote controlled unmanned aircraft, commonly known as “drones,” have been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for use in Alaska. Conoco Phillips received the approval to use the drones to monitor for oil spills and observe wildlife off the Beaufort Sea coast in the Arctic Circle.

“Aerial observation missions can now be safely accomplished in hazardous Arctic locations, which will reduce the risk of manned aviation in an efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly manner,” said Tim Conver, chairman and chief executive officer of AeroVironment, the company who makes the approved drone, in a press release from the company. “We believe initial operations in the Arctic can lead to long-term broad adoption for similar applications elsewhere in the United States and throughout the world.”

The drones were expected to be used for the first time in August to survey “ocean ice floes and migrating whales in Arctic oil exploration areas,” according to the administration, however Conoco Phillips recently told Petroleum News that they are not quite ready to begin using the drones.

This is the first approved commercial use of drones in the U.S. by a private company.

From the Executive Director

Working together effectively is a matter of balance and finding the middle road

Almost every issue of significance comes to us with strongly divergent viewpoints. In the oil transportation industry, for example, some say more regulations are needed while others say less regulations would be better. Often we as human beings dismiss a view opposite our own. Today, people have the opportunity to segregate and isolate themselves to a great extent. They may have little occasion to associate with others or be exposed to information about differing viewpoints or beliefs. With political re-districting, politicians in the majority party get to pick their voters instead of voters picking their politicians. These tendencies can lead to increasingly polarized viewpoints on the issues that affect us all. We are losing the ability to find common ground and mentally stand in the other person's shoes enough to see balanced viewpoints. Combine these trends with winner take all style elections and decisions by authority figures and we end up with hostile and marginalized losers and arrogant and callous winners on virtually every issue. Eventually, when things get so lopsided that the pendulum swings the other way, it is often abrupt and disruptive. This is neither good nor sustainable.

Council strives to find middle ground

The council aims to come up with sound advice and reasonable solutions that are balanced and benefit a broad collection of stakeholders with disparate views, all affected by the environmentally safe operation of Alyeska's terminal and tankers. For example, the council would like to see the risk of oil spills from previously uninspected piping or crude oil tanks at

the terminal eliminated or at least reduced to a level as low as reasonably practicable. Currently, the terminal's pipe and tank inspections are expensive and disrupt operations. However, oil spills are also expensive, disrupt operations, and damage reputations. The council has recommended the application of industry and regulatory best practices as a balanced tried and true solution to address these intersecting concerns and balance cost with benefits.

Often there is no tried and true answer. Finding a solution can be difficult. Sometimes, as a mental exercise, simply articulating the extremes that neither side would advocate for helps to paint a path and better define the middle ground where a consensus or acceptable compromise can be found. Another method is a robust exposure to and familiarity with the opposing view holders' concerns. Based on who we work for, how we were raised and other differentiating factors, some viewpoints are naturally opposed. So often we don't really all want the same thing, at least not as a primary motivator. However, we often could accept many of the same things, preserving elements that are important to us, and letting go of our lesser concerns that are more important to other parties.

Workgroups help find a balanced solution

Workgroups are one common way to find middle ground when the workgroup's principals are appropriate to ensure success. To achieve their intended purpose of finding a compromise, all participants in a workgroup need to

share a commitment not only to participate and advocate for their own positions, but to listen, respect and make a good faith attempt to accommodate the concerns of other participants. Supervisors of work group participants, back in their own

potentially more homogeneous and polarized work environments, with less exposure to and concern for divergent viewpoints, need to resist the urge to subvert that consensus building process that naturally arises among good faith workgroup participants.

Extreme solutions are fundamentally unhelpful and unsustainable. The council is looking for balanced solutions to help us and our industry and regulatory counterparts promote and ensure the environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska Marine Terminal and associated tankers. Let's roll up our sleeves together.

• Mark Swanson is the executive director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council.



Mark Swanson

From Alyeska Pipeline

Alyeska intern impressed by safe work environment

Every summer Alyeska Pipeline Service Company offers internships to college students around Alaska. This year, we asked them to share their thoughts about their time with Alyeska. Here's an interview with Kyle Tee, who interned with the Facility Engineering team on the Valdez Marine Terminal.

Was this your first internship on TAPS?

This is my second Internship with Alyeska. My first Internship was in Anchorage in Project



Kyle Tee

Engineering.

What were your expectations for this internship when you first started?

My expectation for this internship was to learn more information about Valdez and what type of work is involved here. Accepting this internship in Valdez I knew that I would be seeing more of the pipeline and being away from a cubical a little bit more than if I was in Anchorage and I was excited for that.

What was the most interesting or educational project you worked on and why?

The most interesting project I worked on is a design of a snow shelter to access a valve. The reason why it is so interesting is because the space to place a snow shelter is very limited. There is only about 28 inches between the building and a tank and during the winter snow is falling off of the structures and building up between them. So far the design is incomplete but it has been an enjoyable experience with it.

Who is someone who really mentored you, and how did they do that?

Todd Carsten: he gave, helped and guided me on all of the projects I worked on this summer. When we go out into the field I tend to be very observant and ask a lot of questions and Todd has done an outstanding job in providing

me with answers to my questions.

Tell us about one of your favorite experiences you had during the internship.

My favorite experience would be the morning that Carol and Jeff Simmons given me the opportunity to kayak to work. It was terribly early in the morning but the whole scenery was beautiful. We didn't encounter any wildlife of any sort but it was an awesome way start off the day.

Describe what you've learned about the TAPS culture.

From this internship I have a greater understanding of the five cultural attributes than I had last summer. The attribute that I most identified with is Making Sound Decision. Ever since I started to work in the Valdez Terminal I have heightened my safety awareness to ensure that I am making sound decision every day when I am out in the field and everything I do.

Now that you've spent many weeks working on TAPS, what's your impression of Alyeska, TAPS, or its people?

My last impression I will have of Alyeska's will be the extraordinary safety environment that I was given the opportunity to work in this summer.

• Submitted by Alyeska Communications.

Council staff witness lingering Exxon Valdez oil

Council staff visited Eleanor Island in central Prince William Sound this past August to look for residual oil from 1989's Exxon Valdez oil spill. While several staff experienced the Exxon Valdez spill first-hand, many had never seen the oil other than in photographs and in small sample jars collected each year and displayed in our offices.

The group was accompanied by David Janka, owner of Auklet Charters. Each year, Janka visits several beaches in the Sound where oil can still be found. He documents the locations and collects samples which he shares with the council.

This area of Prince William Sound was hardest hit with oil.

Alicia Zorzetto, who joined council staff in January, says she remembers the spill only vaguely, as she was 6 years old at the time. The images of the dead animals on TV were memorable because they were scary for a young kid. Later, her environmental politics classes in college discussed the spill through an historical lens.

"It's one thing to study in a classroom, and then to come here and see and imagine what the fishermen and the locals had to go through, it's like looking into a little part of



Left: Janka shows Steve Rothchild, the council's administrative deputy director, where to look for oily sheen, evidence of oil in the sediment below waterline. Photo by Lisa Matlock.



Above: Janka and financial manager Gregory Dixon start digging in a new location farther up the beach. Photo by Alicia Zorzetto.

Below: Jars of oil were collected for display in council offices and at outreach events. Photo by Serena Lopez.



Above: Barb Penrose, administrative assistant for the council, cleans off a jar of collected oil. Photo by Tom Kuckertz.



Left: Alicia Zorzetto fills a jar with Exxon Valdez oil. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Oil lingers just a foot under the surface of the beach in some places. The oily water in the photo above was just a few feet from the water's edge at low tide. At a location farther up the beach, thicker oil seeps out of the sediment (below). Photos by Amanda Johnson.



HEDDELL: Long time volunteer leaves board of directors

Continued from page 1

the council's executive committee in 1996. She served as secretary from 1997 to 2001, spent two years serving as vice-president in 2003 and 2004, again elected as secretary from 2004 to 2008, and was elected to the position of treasurer in 2012 and 2013.

Heddell was an active member of the council's finance committee. This committee helps the board to oversee the council's financial affairs and ensure a balanced budget each year.

Heddell and her husband, Pete, owned and ran a gift shop in Whittier from 1988 until their recent retirement. Pete is a member of the council's Port Operations and Vessel Traffic System committee. This summer, they bought a 50 foot Delta yacht and plan to begin

exploring the San Juan Islands and Canadian waters.

"Thanks to staff, board, ex-officio and volunteers for the support of this fine organization," Heddell said in her resignation letter to the board. "It was a tremendous privilege and honor to serve as the Whittier representative on the RCAC board all these years. I will cherish the memories."

Whittier's city council has appointed Andrea Korbe to replace Heddell. Korbe will be seated at the council's meeting in Seward on September 19.



Marilynn and Pete Heddell

Oil spill response in Sound depends on trained fishing vessel crews

In Prince William Sound, fishing vessel crews are trained to help clean up oil spills. These trained responders are familiar with local waters, and can respond quickly to a spill.

Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System, or SERVVS, oversees the program. SERVVS contracts vessels throughout Prince William Sound and downstream areas such

as Kodiak, Seward, Homer, Kenai and other smaller communities as part of the program. There are over 400 vessels and their associated crews on contract.

The vessels' crews attend three days of training each year, including classroom lectures, hands-on experience with equipment, and on-water exercises.



Left: Crews spend one day on the water practicing response techniques. Here, two fishing vessels practice pulling a "buster" oil spill boom system during the Valdez training. SERVVS' spill response tool-box contains differ-

ent boom systems for different conditions. The buster is the newest generation of boom systems. While it has its own limitations, the buster can be towed faster, better handle rougher water, and collect and hold recovered oil better compared to more traditional booms. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Above: The buster, shown here during the Valdez training, has a collection area at the rear and a skimmer can be set inside to recover oil and oily water. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Above: Close-up of a weir skimmer in the collection area of the buster system. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Left: Small temporary storage barges, known as mini-barges are used to hold the oil and oily water mix that would be recovered by the fishing vessel fleet during a spill response. These smaller barges would be offloaded to larger tank barges as they were filled. The main support barge for nearshore recovery operation, known as the "500-2," has twelve such mini barges onboard. The 500-2 is shown here setting one to the water during the Valdez training. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Above: Three boats are shown here in a typical oil recovery formation during the Valdez training. The farthest pictured vessels are pulling the buster system forward. The outstretched legs of the buster collect the oil and direct it into the collection area. The closest vessel manages the skimmer and the transfer of product into the mini-barge, tied alongside. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Above: Fishing vessel crews learn to set-up and run a small brush skimmer during this year's Spring training in Cordova. Photo by Serena Lopez.



Above: Participants help recover boom during this year's training in Seward. Photo by Jeremy Robida.



Above: An instructor teaches vessel crews about the tanker oil spill contingency plans during the Cordova training last Spring. Photo by Serena Lopez.

Subscribe to The Observer

Want to keep up with the news about oil tankers, oil spill prevention and response, activities of the citizens' council, and other issues related to oil transportation in Alaska waters? You can receive The Observer through your mailbox or your inbox! If you would like to sign up to receive The Observer by email, please visit: www.bit.ly/TheObserver-ByEmail

If you prefer the good old fashioned printed version, send an email to newsletter@pwsrcc.org with your name and full mailing address if you aren't already on our mailing list. Or you can call us at 1-800-478-7221. Thank you!



PIPING AT TERMINAL: Inspections show encouraging results

Continued from page 1

eries and in substantial agreement with recommendations of a council sponsored review of corrosion management practices by Dr. Rust Inc. in 2012, Alyeska significantly expanded their 3 year ongoing pipe inspection efforts. These inspections will now include the majority of the girth welds in crude oil piping under insulation at the terminal with over water piping as a first priority, beginning this year.

In August, Alyeska reported that it was well-along in accomplishing the inspection of the girth welds for the over water piping to Berth 4 and invited council staff to observe its inspection activities. Alyeska had erected scaffolding at multiple locations to remove insulation at the

girth welds to inspect, clean, and repair as needed.

The good news is all corrosion found during the recent inspection tended to be superficial and could be easily cleaned and then the weld recoated. Alyeska also reported that it accelerated the completion date for similar inspections of Berth 5. Originally planned for 2014, the Berth 5 inspections are now expected to be largely accomplished in 2013.

The council is in the midst of developing a project to assess the current state of inspection technologies, known in the industry as “in-line-inspection”, or colloquially as “smart pigging,” for their applicability to Alyeska’s terminal piping. Much of the crude oil piping on the terminal has historically been very difficult to inspect because of many turns and sections which are either buried or over water and covered by

insulation. Alyeska has indicated that it is in the midst of developing a project that would add the capability of performing internal in-line inspections using these technologies at the terminal. The council has requests pending with Alyeska for more information regarding the project.

The bottom line is that the council’s immediate concerns regarding the unknown condition of the over water piping have been allayed to a considerable extent by Alyeska’s recent inspection activities and the excellent overall condition of the pipe that has been observed. The need to inspect and quantify the presently unknown condition of the remainder of the 35-year-old piping at the terminal remains. The council looks forward to hearing more about Alyeska’s in-line inspection technology plans for the terminal as that project progresses.



Girth weld in the crude oil piping to Berth 4. The weld is showing superficial amounts of corrosion that does not materially affect the integrity of the weld. The coating applied to the visible piping segment during construction appears to be in remarkably good condition. Photo by Tom Kuckertz.



Once the corrosion is cleaned from an affected girth weld, the weld is recoated and then the exposed pipe segment is re-insulated with a protective barrier that prevents the introduction of water. The girth weld shown is ready to be re-insulated. Photo by Tom Kuckertz.

MATLOCK: New outreach coordinator joins council staff in August

Continued from page 1

school at the University of Alaska Anchorage, specializing in nature writing and science communications. This background led to her nearly two decades of work for natural resource agencies in the state.

After working for several years as a seasonal park ranger in Anchorage, Skagway, and Gustavus, Matlock’s first permanent job was in Seward at Kenai Fjords National Park in 2000. She worked as the park’s education specialist on tour boats in the fjords and at Exit Glacier. She was part of the Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center, a research and education partnership between the National Park Service and the Alaska SeaLife Center, from its inception.

Matlock was the education specialist for Sitka National Historical Park from 2003-2007. There she interpreted the rich and emotional connections between land and water, people and places. The park’s 100 acres in Sitka includes totem poles in the rainforest and the Russian Bishop’s House. For parts of each summer, Matlock worked

on the M/V Spirit of Endeavor as an onboard naturalist for Cruise West. She interpreted the phenomenal marine environment and special communities along the Inside Passage from Ketchikan to Juneau during 8-day cruises.

From 2007-2012, Matlock traveled a huge swath of Alaska’s coast, doing education and community outreach for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Matlock worked in communities both large and small doing wildlife education, including oil spill-related subjects, during this time. Most recently, Matlock worked as an outreach specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage. For the past year she did a variety of communication projects for the relatively new Landscape Conservation Cooperative partnerships.

Matlock is very excited to be working for the council and looks forward to meeting those who live in communities new to her. She also is excited about reconnecting with those she has worked with in the past in a new capacity. Look for her visiting the region’s communities this fall and winter.

2013 Marine Firefighting Symposium

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council and

AVTEC – Alaska’s Institute of Technology will be presenting the

7th Marine Firefighting Symposium for Land-based Firefighters

in Seward, Alaska, October 8-10, 2013.

- Through this program, 50-75 firefighters and responders from Prince William Sound and other Alaska coastal communities will be provided hands-on classroom and field training opportunities that are tailored for the challenges faced in Alaska.
- Topics include: shipboard basics, cruise ship awareness, vessel familiarization, private/public response coordination, politics of a marine incident, and more.
- The symposium will be a mix of classroom lectures, hands-on training and live fire exercises.
- Jeff Johnson of Resolve Marine Group will be returning as an instructor for the event.
- Registration information and forms are on our website: www.bit.ly/MarineFireSymposium.



Contact Project Manager Alan Sorum if you are interested in participating or helping to sponsor the event:
907.834.5020 or alan.sorum@pwsrccac.org

Annual science event to be held in December

Every December, the council sponsors an evening of presentations by scientists conducting research in areas of council interest. The event is an initiative of the council's Scientific Advisory Committee. SAC, as it's known, ensures council projects are based on the best available scientific information.

Topics in the past have included humpback whale research, the council's green crab monitoring program, the effects of oil and dispersants on salmon and other species, ocean waves, Columbia Glacier, and much more.

This year, Science Night will be held December 5, 2013 at the Hilton hotel in downtown Anchorage. The

event is open to the public. A list of this year's presentations will be posted on our website when available: www.pwsrcac.org/programs/environmental-monitoring/science-night/



Council staffer Jeremy Robida talks about invasive species monitoring during last year's Science Night. Photo by Amanda Johnson.

Do you have an idea for a new council project?

The council is inviting your suggestions for projects that would support our mission.

We strive to achieve our mission of promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers through many avenues.

One is to foster collaborative partnerships involving industry, government agencies and citi-

zens. We have learned that such partnerships lead to good policies, better response capabilities, safer transportation of oil and improved environmental protection.

Your suggestions can help us achieve our goals on behalf of you, the citizens we represent.

For details on how to submit a project proposal idea, visit our website: <http://bit.ly/ProjectIdeas>

Council Board Meetings

The citizens' council board of directors meets three times annually. The January meeting is held in Anchorage, the May meeting in Valdez, and the September meeting is rotated among the other communities affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Here is the tentative board meeting schedule for the coming year:

- January 16-17, 2014: Anchorage
- May 1-2, 2014: Valdez
- September 18-19, 2014: Homer

Board meetings are open to the public, and an opportunity for public comments is provided at the beginning of each meeting.

Agendas and other meeting materials are available on our website: www.pwsrcac.org

You may contact either council office for a printed copy: Anchorage, 907-277-7222, or Valdez, 907-834-5000.



Members of the council's board and committees at the May 2012 meeting at the Valdez Civic Center. Photo by Amanda Johnson.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Much of the council's work is done through permanent volunteer committees made up of board members, technical experts, and citizens with an interest in making oil transportation safer in Alaska.

These standing committees work with staff on projects, study and deliberate current oil transportation issues, and formulate their own advice and recommendations to the council's full board of directors.

Our committees provide an avenue for public participation in the council's work.

The council has five technical committees:

Terminal Operations & Environmental Monitoring:

The Terminal Operations and Environmental Monitoring (TOEM) Committee identifies actual and potential sources of episodic and chronic pollution at the Valdez Marine Terminal.

- Members:**
Chair: Bob Benda, Valdez
Vice-chair: Harold Blehm, Valdez
Amanda Bauer, City of Valdez*
Jo Ann Benda, Valdez
Stephen Lewis, Seldovia*
George Skladal, Anchorage

Port Operations and Vessel Traffic Systems:

The Port Operations and Vessel Traffic Systems (POVTS) Committee monitors port and tanker operations in Prince William Sound. POVTS identifies and recommends improvements in the vessel traffic navigation systems and monitors the vessel escort system.

- Members:**
Chair: Bob Jaynes, Valdez
Vice-chair: Bill Conley, Valdez
Kari Anderson, Seward
Cliff Chambers, Seward
Pat Duffy, Valdez*
Jane Eisemann, Kodiak*
Pete Heddell, Whittier
Orson Smith, Seward

Scientific Advisory:

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) sponsors independent scientific research and provides scientific assistance and advice to the other council committees on technical reports, scientific methodology, data interpretation, and position papers.

- Members:**
Chair: John Kennish, Anchorage
Vice-chair: Paula Martin, Soldotna
Roger Green, Hope
Dorothy M. Moore, Valdez*
Debasmita Misra, Fairbanks
Dave Musgrave, Palmer
Walt Parker, Anchorage*
Mark Udevitz, Anchorage

Oil Spill Prevention and Response:

The Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) Committee works to minimize the risks and impacts associated with oil transportation through strong spill prevention and response measures, adequate contingency planning, and effective regulations.

- Members:**
Chair: John LeClair, Anchorage
Vice-chair: Jerry Brookman, Kenai
Robert Beedle, Cordova*
David Goldstein, Whittier
Jim Herbert, Seward*
Walter Parker, Anchorage*
Gordon Scott, Girdwood
John Velsko, Homer

Information and Education:

The Information and Education Committee's mission is to support the council's mission by fostering public awareness, responsibility, and participation in the council's activities through information and education.

- Members:**
Chair: Patience Andersen
Faulkner, Cordova*
Vice-chair: Savannah Lewis, Seldovia
Jane Eisemann, Kodiak*
Cathy Hart, Anchorage*
Ruth E. Knight, Valdez
Allen Marquette, Cordova
Kate Morse, Cordova
Linda Robinson, Kenai

*council director

THE OBSERVER is published in January, May, July and September by the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. Except where credited to others, articles are written by Amanda Johnson, public communications project manager for the council.

Questions or comments about anything in The Observer? Another topic that you want to hear about? We want your feedback. Send your comments to newsletter@pwsrcac.org

Community Corner

Conferences help keep the council on the cutting edge

Each year the council exhibits its booth and presents its citizen-driven research and information on technological advances at conferences, both in Alaska and outside, making contact with thousands of individuals from all over the world. Have you ever wondered why the council asks its staff and volunteers to participate in these conferences?

The value of the council contributing at conferences lies in our need to constantly expand our knowledge about cutting edge oil spill prevention and response strategies from all over the world. It is also vital for the council to share its story of citizens' oversight of Prince William Sound's oil industry. Each of the regular conferences the council attends is unique in its audience and focus.

For instance, the Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program was initiated by Environment Canada in 1978 to "improve the knowledge base and technology for combating Arctic and marine oil spills." Its technical seminar has expanded and now includes a wider range of oil spill-related sessions. However, according to the council's project manager for environmental monitoring, Joe Banta, "its technical content and cold waters focus" make it an important conference for the council to attend since it addresses the environment in which we do all of our work. My predecessor Linda Robinson attended this conference in Nova Scotia in June.

Upcoming outreach events

We share our oil spill research and educational resources with the public at a variety of conferences. In the next few months, we'll be at the following conferences and events:

Where can you connect with K-12 teachers from all over the state to share the best new ideas in math and science education? The bi-annual Alaska Math and Science Conference is that place, and it will be held at East High School in Anchorage on October 18-20. For more information, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/2013akmathscienceconference/>.

The City and Port of Valdez will host the 34th annual Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators conference October 21-24. Harbormasters from all over the state will gather

Then there is the International Oil Spill Conference, which has more of a focus on the international oil spill response community and its technology and techniques for response. Many participants are from the U.S. Coast Guard, private sector companies, and non-governmental organizations who "come together to tackle the greatest challenges facing us with sound science, practical innovation, social engineering and imagination,"

according to the conference's website. The council absorbs important lessons in logistical planning for oil spill response and technical advances at this conference. This conference will be held in Savannah, Georgia next spring, and council staff will be in attendance.

More locally, the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle and Kodiak Com-Fish expositions help the council to gain insight into the needs of some of its most interested citizens, the maritime community in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. At both of these conferences the council exhibits its booth and presents the fishing and boating public with an opportunity to voice their interest in safe oil shipping in the Exxon Valdez region.

If you find the council booth at any of these events, or at others, in the coming months and years, please stop by and give us your input. We can only choose the best paths forward in helping to prevent future oil spills in our region with your help and interest.

to discuss how to keep Alaska's harbors safe and productive for our coastal communities. Find out more: www.alaskaharbors.org.

The council will again be exhibiting at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle November 20-22. The Expo brings together maritime industries and communities from all over Alaska and the Pacific Northwest under one roof each year. More information: www.pacificmarineexpo.com.

Every winter, the Alaska Marine Science Symposium proves that it is one of the best places to learn about cutting edge Alaska fisheries and ecosystem research and technological advances in the state. This year, the symposium will be held January 20-24 in Anchorage. Find out more: www.alaskamarinescience.org.



Lisa Matlock

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council is an independent, non-profit corporation formed after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill to minimize the environmental impacts of the trans-Alaska pipeline terminal and tanker fleet.

The council has 19 member organizations, including communities affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and groups representing Alaska Native, aquaculture, environmental, commercial fishing, recreation and tourism interests in the spill region.

The council is certified under the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990 as the citizen advisory group for Prince William Sound, and operates under a contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. The contract, which is in effect as long as oil flows through the pipeline, guarantees the council's independence, provides annual funding, and ensures the council the same access to terminal facilities as state and federal regulatory agencies.

The council's mission: Citizens promoting environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers.

Board of Directors

Pres.: Amanda Bauer - City of Valdez
Vice Pres.: Thane Miller - Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.
Secretary: Patience Andersen Faulkner - Cordova District Fishermen United
Treasurer: Marilynn Heddell - City of Whittier

Robert Beedle - City of Cordova
Al Burch - Kodiak Island Borough
Emil Christiansen - Kodiak Village Mayors Association
Pat Duffy - Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
Jane Eisemann - City of Kodiak
Larry Evanoff - Community of Chenega Bay
Nick Garay - City of Homer
Cathy Hart - Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association
Jim Herbert - City of Seward
Blake Johnson - Kenai Peninsula Borough
Steve Lewis - City of Seldovia
Dorothy Moore - City of Valdez
Walter Parker - Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition
Diane Selanoff - Port Graham Corporation
David Totemoff - Chugach Alaska Corporation
Roy Totemoff - Community of Tatitlek

Staff

Mark Swanson, Executive Director

Anchorage

Joe Banta, Project Manager
Gregory Dixon, Financial Manager
Amanda Johnson, Project Manager
Tom Kuckertz, Project Manager
Serena Lopez, Project Manager Assistant
Lisa Matlock, Outreach Coordinator
Barbara Penrose, Administrative Assistant
Steve Rothchild, Administrative Deputy Director
Linda Swiss, Project Manager
Alicia Zorzetto, Digital Collections Librarian

Valdez

Jean Cobb, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Fleming, Executive Assistant
Roy Robertson, Project Manager
Jeremy Robida, Project Manager
Donna Schantz, Director of Programs
Alan Sorum, Project Manager
Vacant, Project Manager Assistant

3709 Spenard Road, Suite 100 Anchorage AK 99503 Phone: 907-277-7222 Toll-free: 800-478-7221 Fax: 907-277-4523	Box 3089 / 130 S. Meals, Suite 202 Valdez AK 99686 Phone: 907-834-5000 Toll-free: 877-478-7221 Fax: 907-835-5926
---	--

On the web: www.pwsrccac.org
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PWSRCAC
Follow us on Twitter: @PWSRCAC
Email: newsletter@pwsrccac.org