



# The Observer

VOLUME 12, No. 2/MAY 2002

AK Chamber of Commerce - AK Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Assoc. - Chugach Alaska Corp. - Cordova District Fishermen United - OSREC - PWS Aquaculture Corp.

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## Study: Previous research underestimated toxicity of North Slope oil in water by ignoring effects of sunlight

By Lisa Ka'aihue  
Council staff

New research sponsored by the citizens' council calls into question years of oil toxicity testing because the older studies failed to account for the effects of sunlight present in the natural environment.

The researchers concluded that exposure to the ultraviolet radiation in sunlight significantly increases the toxicity of oil to marine organisms, regardless of whether the oil has been treated with chemical dispersants.

As a result, the researchers recommend that photoenhanced toxicity should be considered in determining the risks and injuries of spilled oil, and in the selection of oil spill responses.

The phenomenon of a chemical becoming more toxic under



This apparatus was used to expose herring eggs to North Slope crude oil in the council-sponsored phototoxicity study. Photo courtesy of Dr. Mace Barron.

exposure to ultraviolet light is called photoenhanced toxicity, and a chemical that exhibits it is called phototoxic. Previous studies of oil toxicity were conducted under fluorescent lighting, which contains little or no ultraviolet light and

so did not trigger photoenhanced toxicity in the oil being tested.

The latest research was conducted by toxicologist Dr. Mace Barron of P.E.A.K. Research in

See p. 5, *Phototoxicity*

## Alyeska to cut 300 jobs, will largely spare SERVS and terminal maintenance budget

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. last month announced a reorganization that will see layoffs of 300 people and the transfers of others to new work sites.

The shake-up affects all aspects of Alyeska's operations, from the North Slope to Prince William Sound to the corporate headquarters in Anchorage. But company officials told the citizens' council that the Ship Escort/Response Vessel System in Valdez would be virtually unaffected, as would be the budget for maintenance at the tanker terminal there.

However, the effects on staffing and operations at the terminal itself were still unclear at Observer press time.

Alyeska said about 50 staff positions would be cut in Valdez, 60 from Fairbanks and 40 from Anchorage. In addition, Alyeska said, its contractor workforce would be cut by about 150 positions, and an unspecified number of workers would be transferred to Anchorage and Fairbanks.

"The impact to the communities won't be known until the staff selection process is complete and the number of positions to be transferred is determined," Alyeska said in a prepared statement announcing



David Wight

the cuts.

Alyeska said the changes would eliminate duplication of functions between its three offices and centralize operations. That, according to Alyeska President and CEO David Wight, should both save money and improve operations.

"The new organization is better structured to support operations at the Valdez Marine Terminal and along the pipeline," Wight said in the statement.

Alyeska runs the pipeline, tanker terminal and SERVS for its

owner companies, the North Slope oil producers.

The changes will see the relocation of at least one face familiar to the citizens' council: Greg Jones, now head of Alyeska's Valdez operations, will move to Fairbanks to become Senior Vice President of Operations. In that position, he will be in charge of operations and maintenance for the pipeline, as well as SERVS and the Valdez tanker terminal.

The council does not involve itself in Alyeska's business decisions, said Executive Director John Devens, but is concerned that the shake-up not undermine safety.

See page 3, *REORGANIZE*

## BAT bill overturns ruling in Lakosh case

Gov. Tony Knowles in mid-April signed into law a bill reversing a state Supreme Court ruling on Best Available Technology regulations.

As a result, the state Department of Environmental Conservation can continue to hold that a company is using the best available technology if it can show on paper that it can clean up a 300,000-barrel oil spill in 72 hours.



Gov. Knowles

See p. 5, *BAT*

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## Volunteer Profile

# Seldovia volunteer juggles oil-spill work with rural basketball broadcasting

Karl Pulliam still remembers the moment 13 years ago when he and villagers from Nanwalek won a “small victory” over the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill.

The spot was Dogfish Lagoon, located in a pretty bay on the southwest tip of the Kenai Peninsula, a few miles south of Nanwalek. The lagoon is a prized subsistence and camping area for people from the area, valued for, among other things, the two salmon streams that feed into it.

By that day in late April 1989, oil from the *Valdez* had spread hundreds of miles from Bligh Reef and was entering Cook Inlet. Pulliam was a supervisor for workers from Port Graham and Nanwalek, serving mostly as liaison between the two villages and Exxon.

Working with their skiffs, the village men used local logs to create a homemade form of protective boom. Then they quit for the night.

“The very next morning,” Pulliam said, “the last of the oil fingers snuck around the bottom of the Kenai Peninsula and came into the lagoon on the tide. It lapped up on the boom, but it didn’t go over. It was a big deal to have stopped it, one of those small victories, and there weren’t many.”

For Pulliam, as for many Alaskans, the *Valdez* disaster was a turning point. The former commercial fisherman is still involved today in oil-spill work as project manager for the Seldovia Response Team.

The group – still known as SOS because of its original name, Seldovia Oil Spill Response Team – was recently called out to place containment boom when a fishing boat sank in Seldovia’s harbor.

“It’s one of those part-time jobs that takes full time,” Pulliam said.

A few months ago, SOS suffered a setback when it lost its contract with Alyeska to help adminis-



**VOLUNTEER** – Above, Karl Pulliam (in white shirt) chats with Alyeska’s Joe Kuchin at a citizens’ council board meeting. Right, Karl participates in SERVS fishing vessel training in Kachemak Bay in April 2002. Shown with him aboard the *Mainstay* is Martha Million of Jakalof Ferry Service. Photos by Stan Jones and Steve Lewis, citizens’ council.



ter the program under which a fleet of fishing vessels would be called out in case of an oil spill. Money from the contract had helped SOS maintain the office it used not only for the fishing vessel program, but also for its activities as a spill responder.

Pulliam says the organization is surviving. It has cut expenses, partly by putting staff on a part-time schedule. It will seek income from other activities, such as training. And when the fishing vessel contract comes up again in a little under three years, SOS will likely bid in an effort to get it back, he said.

Pulliam has been on the citizens’ council’s Oil Spill Prevention/Response Committee, or OSPRC, since early 1999.

Before joining, he was

involved for several years with the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council, first as a director, then as a member of the group’s Environmental Monitoring Committee.

“I enjoyed it, but there was too much science,” Pulliam said. “It was not the nuts and bolts of how do you stop a spill from damaging things. That’s what I wanted, so OSPRC was a natural for me.”

Pulliam has recently found himself mildly famous in rural Alaska because of his latest career: broadcasting high school basketball games on radio.

He bought the business a couple of years ago through an old coaching friend. He travels to games featuring teams from the state’s smaller high schools and transmits a feed by telephone back

to local radio stations or – on a couple of occasions – just to audiences gathered at the local high school.

He did 87 games this academic year, he said, and got to know dozens of young athletes and their coaches.

As a result, he says, people all over rural Alaska consider him almost a neighbor. Recently he was invited to an awards banquet in Unalaska. One thing he heard from the Unalaskans: “Everybody always wonders when you lived out here in Unalaska, because you act like you know everybody.”

Pulliam is originally from Oregon, where he grew up in a Columbia River fishing family. He holds a degree in general science, and fished commercially around Alaska for about 10 years before settling in Seldovia in the mid-1980s. He is married to the former Nancy Meganack of Port Graham. They have two children. Theresa is the oldest, and recently presented the Pulliams with a third grandson.

Charles is 16, and a basketball player. In one contest this season, he was chosen player of the game, leading to an on-the-air interview of athlete Charles Pulliam by announcer Karl Pulliam.

“I thought, ‘Well, this is kind of neat, except I don’t get to hear it,’” Karl Pulliam said.

For the foreseeable future, Pulliam plans to continue the business of his life as usual: calling basketball games, enjoying the small-town pleasures of Seldovia, and staying active in oil-spill response.

“After working with OSPRC, I’ve come to have a better understanding of the Prince William Sound RCAC and the Cook Inlet RCAC, and the role of citizens in making changes,” Pulliam said. “Without this forum, the changes that have occurred wouldn’t have occurred. I can guarantee you that.”

## Staff changes reshuffle roster in council’s offices

A series of comings, goings and reassignments have changed the job titles – and some of the faces – on the citizens’ council staff.

Tony Parkin, a Marine Environmental Geoscientist with over 20 years experience, was hired as project manager in the Valdez office overseeing oil spill drills.

Several existing staffers have taken new assignments, as follows:

Dan Gilson is becoming

project manager for committee support.

Jennifer Fleming is becoming Executive Assistant.

Tamara Byrnes is becoming Administrative Assistant in the Valdez office.

Shannon Guthrie is becoming a project manager in the Anchorage office. She is replacing Andrea Archer, who resigned the position in March.



Tony Parkin

## Observer gets a colorful makeover

Regular readers of the Observer will notice a different look in this issue.

Most striking is the change to full color photographs. But we’ve also switched paper. We now print on newsprint, the same as most daily and weekly newspapers.

Why change? For one thing, we’re saving money. Even with color photos, the newsprint version costs much less than

the previous black-and-white version.

For another, the turnaround is much shorter. We can now get the paper off the press the same day we take the files to the printer, versus eight working days before.

If you have a comment on the new look, let us know. You can use the information on the back page to contact Stan Jones, Observer editor.

# Oil shippers do the right thing on contingency planning outside the Sound

**By John Devens**  
Executive Director

In the last issue of the Observer, we wrote of our council's deep concern over an effort by North Slope crude oil shippers to eliminate planning for oil-spill response outside Prince William Sound.

The industry move surfaced when the shipping companies filed their proposed new tanker contingency plans in February with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Unlike past contingency plans, the new ones assumed that, even in a spill larger than the *Exxon Valdez*, no oil would escape Prince William Sound and therefore the shipping companies did not need to plan for oil-spill cleanup outside the Sound. We objected vigorously to

this unrealistic assumption.

I'm happy to report now that, after a cooperative effort by the citizens' council, BP, the shipping companies and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the contingency plans have been revised to provide for response efforts outside the Sound that are similar to those laid out in previous plans.

Under the revised plans, representatives of the spiller would reach downstream communities such as Seward, Homer and Kodiak in the first three days after a spill to begin identifying protection priorities and equipment needs. Field command posts and

staging areas would be set up, and equipment would be moved into outlying communities as the response progressed.

I think this issue and its outcome illustrate some important points about the oil transportation system assembled since the *Exxon Valdez* spill of 1989.

For one thing, it shows the importance of citizen involvement in the process. It was citizens who noticed that the proposed new plans omitted downstream response, identified it as a critical issue, and spearheaded the effort to bring the plans back to prior standards.

For another, it shows how the

structure now in place facilitates the resolution of disputes like this. Without it, this issue could easily have dragged on indefinitely, leading to gridlock and perhaps even litigation.

In short, it is an example of exactly how the process developed since 1989 is supposed to work.

The contingency plans are now out for public review, and we will, as always, be offering detailed comments on what they contain. As part of our analysis, we will consider whether or not more should be done to prepare for a spill response outside the Sound. However, the plans, as offered to the public, are much better documents than they would have been had citizens not been on watch.



John Devens

## REORGANIZE: Alyeska is downsizing itself again

Continued from Page 1

"Alyeska is under constant pressure from the owner companies to cut costs, which could lead to a reduction in safety margins," Devens said. "We'll be watching to see that staffing is not cut to unsafe levels. We're also concerned that the inevitable distractions created by the transition could undermine safety."

The changes, to be completed by the end of the year, will reduce Alyeska's total workforce to about 900. The company's last reorganization was in 1997, when over 400 jobs were eliminated.



**CUTS** -- How many jobs will be cut at the tanker terminal, shown here, isn't known yet. Photo courtesy Alyeska.



**NERD BOYS** -- Peter Armato and Dick Tremaine, members of the Scientific Advisory Committee, don cool glasses to look the part. Photo by Linda Robinson.



Port Fidalgo (near the village of Tatitlek) was the scene of an April 25 drill testing nearshore response capabilities. Here, in Landlocked Bay, crew members of the fishing vessel *Kanak* work on a minibarge as a skimmer collects "oil" from within containment boom and pumps it via hose over the *Kanak's* deck to the barge. Photo by Joe Banta.



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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.

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# Ballast water system reaches quarter-century mark in successful operation

**By Greg Jones**  
Senior Vice President  
Valdez Business Unit

This year Alyeska will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the operation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. During this time there have been many milestones and remarkable accomplishments but one story stands out that exemplifies the hard work and dedication of people striving to continuously improve the system.

The Ballast Water Treatment Facility (BWTF), located at the Valdez Marine Terminal, has been continuously operating since that initial barrel of oil was loaded almost 25 years ago. During the succeeding years the BWTF has undergone a succession of improvements designed to achieve the highest level of treatment possible to ensure the protection of the environment. Over the years Alyeska has worked with the EPA, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council to develop the standards for operating the BWTF. Each renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

(NPDES) permit has reviewed the BWTF with increasing rigor, and has imposed new requirements on its operation. The expertise we've developed in response has resulted in the BWTF achieving a perfect EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit compliance record for the last 5 years. In addition, the Ballast Water Team has received Alaska Water and Wastewater Management Association awards for excellence.

Improvements that have contributed to our outstanding record include the addition of a biological treatment system designed to remove soluble hydrocarbons from the ballast water and the addition of specialized process monitoring tools to ensure all aspects of the treatment system are operating as designed. An ongoing inspection and repair program ensures the BWTF piping and system components are in good working order and system integrity is intact. In 2000 we raised a 460,000-barrel ballast water gravity

separation tank to reduce the risks associated with tank bottom corrosion and mitigate the risk of an oil spill. This represented the largest tank lift ever accomplished in the U.S. Last year we completed maintenance on the six pressure retention tanks used in the Dissolved Air Flotation system and replaced the

entire recovered crude piping system. This year we plan to inspect, repair and raise another ballast water gravity separation tank, repair 42-inch ballast piping and perform maintenance on the Biological Treatment Tanks.

A comprehensive environmental monitoring program has been in effect for over 20 years to ensure the BWTF discharge is not creating an adverse impact to Port Valdez. From the initial baseline studies in the early 1970's to the most recent monitoring activities in 2001 Alyeska has consulted with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Institute of Marine Sciences. The purpose of this long-term monitoring program

is to understand the environmental dynamics associated with Port Valdez and provide information to citizens and regulatory agencies on the status of change or observed impacts. This long-standing monitoring program has provided a wealth of knowledge concerning the various ecosystems found in the Port and is available to the public through the Environment and Natural Resource Institute, part of the University of Alaska system. In recent years, Alyeska has worked closely with the citizens' council to ensure a thorough understanding of the BWTF and the integrity of our monitoring program.

Although there have been rare short term environmental incidents associated with the BWTF the overall assessment of 25 years of operating has concluded that there has been no observable adverse environmental impact to Port Valdez attributed to the BWTF. As we begin the process for NPDES permit renewal, we believe that these studies validate the commitment to safe and environmentally responsible operation of the BWTF shared by Alyeska and the members of the BWTF asset team.

### Alyeska Viewpoint



Greg Jones

## New president of citizens' council seeks businesslike operation

Steve Lewis of Seldovia was elected president of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council at the board's March quarterly meeting in Anchorage.

Lewis has represented the City of Seldovia on the council since March 1999, and was its vice president before his election to the presidency.

The other offices of the council's executive committee were filled as follows:

Vice president: Dennis Lodge, representing the City of Seward.

Secretary: Pete Kompkoff, representing the Community of Chenega.

Treasurer: Jane Eisemann, representing the City of Kodiak.

Members at Large: Stan Stephens, Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association; Paul McCollum, City of Homer; Tom Copeland, Oil Spill Region Environmental Coalition.

Lewis, the new president, holds a bachelor of science degree in petroleum engineering with a minor in oceanography. He has experience with offshore operations, environmental protection, scientific studies, governmental relations and public relations.

"I think the board now realizes it is necessary to put the animosities engendered by the Exxon Valdez spill behind us



The council's new executive committee was elected at the March board meeting in Anchorage. Clockwise from upper left: Steve Lewis, president; Dennis Lodge, vice president; Jane Eisemann, treasurer; Pete Kompkoff, secretary; and members at large Tom Copeland, Paul McCollum, and Stan Stephens.



and to move forward as a more mature organization," Lewis said. "Our challenge now is to become more business-like and

professional while maintaining our strong volunteer basis. I believe that I was elected to help facilitate this growth."

## New commander heads Alaska Coast Guard operations

Rear Admiral James W. Underwood is assuming command of the Coast Guard's District 17, which covers Alaska. He replaces Rear Admiral Thomas J. Barrett, who is moving to Washington, D.C. to become Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard.

This will not be Underwood's first tour of duty in Alaska. In the early 1980s, he commanded the Coast Guard cutter Sweetbrier in Cordova.

Among District 17's responsibilities is reviewing the citizens' council's annual application for recertification under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

**THE OBSERVER** is the quarterly newsletter of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. Except where noted, articles are written by Stan Jones, public information manager. Questions, comments and suggestions should be directed to him by mail to the council's Anchorage office, by email to [jones@pwsrac.org](mailto:jones@pwsrac.org), or by a call to 907-273-6230.

For a free subscription, contact the council using the information on the back page, or mail in the form appearing elsewhere in this issue.

## BAT: Bill changes law to match 1997 regulations

Continued from Page 1

That standard had been in state regulations since 1997. But, in February, the court held in a case brought by activist Tom Lakosh that those regulations were not strict enough to comply with then-existing state law on Best Available Technology. The court said the law required a specific analysis of whether a company was using the best technology available. Merely meeting the 300,000-barrel/72-hour standard was insufficient, the court ruled.

The bill to change the law to match the regulations was introduced soon after in the Alaska Senate, and passed out of the Legislature in early April.

The citizens' council did not take a position for or against the measure, Senate Bill 343, but did write several letters to Knowles and legislators cautioning against amending the bill to weaken contingency-planning requirements and urging that funding be approved for a Best Available Technology Conference. The conference is required every five years under the 1997 regulations, with the first conference due this year.

"Because a wide array of stakeholders – including regulators, the oil industry, technology vendors, environmental groups, and citizen groups – would participate in the conference, it would ensure a speedy and effective Best Available Technology process with a minimum of controversy," Executive Director John Devens wrote in a letter to legislators in late April. At Observer press time, the citizens' council was seeking other Alaska organizations to sign the letter as well.

Knowles' budget request to the Legislatures includes \$250,000

### Leland named to panel

Marilyn Leland, deputy director of the citizens' council, has been appointed to a seat on the federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

The announcement was made by U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton on April 1.

The committee advises the National Invasive Species Council, which coordinates federal activities concerning invasive species.

for the conference and is separate from the bill overturning the Supreme Court case. Because the money would come from a fund financed by a special crude oil tax and dedicated to such purposes, it would not affect the general-fund fiscal gap with which the Legislature has been struggling this year.

At Observer press time, the Legislature had not taken up the conference funding request and the outcome was unknown. The Legislature is to adjourn May 14.

## PHOTOTOXICITY: Study shows sunlight makes oil more toxic

Continued from Page 1

collaboration with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Auke Bay Laboratory in Juneau.

Pacific herring were chosen as the test species. Herring are not only ecologically and economically important in Prince William Sound and Gulf of Alaska waters, but are also known to be sensitive to very low concentrations of Alaska North Slope crude oil. Herring were collected from Sitka Sound, then spawned and fertilized in the laboratory. Herring eggs and larvae were exposed to various combinations of oil, dispersant, and ultraviolet light in the laboratory, and outdoors under sunlight.

The researchers concluded that weathered North Slope crude kills or injures herring embryos and larvae at concentrations of less than 10 parts per billion, even without the extra punch from sunlight.

But, the researchers concluded, the North Slope crude became two to 450 times as toxic when herring larvae were exposed to sunlight after being exposed to the oil.

In one test, for example, herring larvae were exposed to identical concentrations of oil in the water for four days. When no sunlight was present, 38 percent of the larvae were killed or injured. When sunlight was added, 95 percent were killed or injured.

Chemically dispersed oil demonstrated similar or greater phototoxicity, killing or injuring 90 percent of the herring with exposures as low as five hours of sunlight over two days.

Another aspect of this research was to understand how photoenhanced toxicity harmed the herring. Photoenhanced toxicity can occur through two mechanisms: photosensitization and photomodification.



In Kodiak, scene of the annual ComFish show, these vessels await the coming of fishing season. See *Community Corner*, page 8. Photo by Linda Robinson.



**RESEARCH** -- The council's phototoxicity study was conducted at the Auke Bay laboratory (above), near Juneau. Below, herring samples are exposed to sunlight to test whether it increases the toxicity of North Slope crude oil in seawater. Photos courtesy of Dr. Mace Barron.



Photomodification would mean the oil itself changed, and became more poisonous, when exposed to ultraviolet light.

Photosensitization would mean the oil, once lodged in the herring's tissues, would absorb the energy of the ultraviolet radiation, increasing the damage to the organism.

In this study, phototoxicity was found to occur only when oil residues were present in the herring's tissues, through the photosensitization mechanism. There was no

evidence of photomodification.

The researchers concluded that the Pacific herring used in the study are vulnerable to photoenhanced toxicity because both the eggs and larvae are translucent, allowing deep penetration of the ultraviolet radiation. This study suggests that photoenhanced toxicity may have had a role in the steep decline of herring populations Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska after the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

## Phillips christens another new double-hull vessel for use in Valdez trade

Phillips Petroleum on April 13 christened its third Millennium Class double-hulled tanker, the *Polar Discovery*. The ceremony took place at the Northrop Grumman Ship Systems Avondale shipyard in New Orleans.

Phillips is building five Millennium Class tankers for the North Slope crude oil trade, as required by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The *Polar Discovery* cost \$168 million, according to Phillips.

Phillips' first Millennium Class double-hull, the *Polar Endeavour*, started service last July. This summer the *Polar Resolution* will enter the trade, with the *Discovery* to join the fleet next year. The company's final two double-hulls

are due in 2004 and 2005.

Double-hull tankers are a long-sought goal of the citizens' council, which worked to see that they were required by the Oil Pollution Act. Double hulls can prevent or significantly reduce oil spills caused by groundings or collisions, according to various studies.

The Millennium tankers are designed to transport crude oil from Valdez to the West Coast of the United States and to Hawaii.

Besides double hulls, the vessels have two independent engine rooms, twin propellers and twin rudders. They are 895 feet long and can carry just over a million barrels of oil. They are operated by Polar Tankers, the shipping subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum.



Ballons flew as Phillips Petroleum's new double-hull, the *Polar Discovery*, was christened April 13 in New Orleans. Photo courtesy Phillips Petroleum.

## Publications, letters and reports are available from the citizens' council

### Reports

- Annual Drill Monitoring Report. 3/15/2002. 752.431.020315. *DrillMonitor.pdf*
- Report on Photoenhanced Toxicity of Aqueous Phase and Chemically-Dispersed Weathered Alaska North Slope Crude Oil to Pacific Herring Eggs and Larvae. Dr Mace G, Barron, et al. 2/22/2002. 955.431.02022. *2.PhotoxfAque.pdf*
- Drill Monitor Contractor Annual Report for 2001. 2/13/2002. 752.431.020315. *DrillMonitor.doc*
- Port Valdez Monitoring Report. RCAC. 2/7/2002. 953.431.020207. *PtVDZMonitor.pdf*
- Report on Assessing Transport and Exposure Pathways and Potential Petroleum Toxicity to Marine Resources in Port Valdez, Alaska. Written by: James R. Payne, William B. Driskell, Mace G. Barron and Dennis C. Lees. Payne Environmental. 12/1/2001. 956.431.011201. *ExposurePath.pdf*
- Report on VMT Fire Team and Valdez Fire Department October 25, 2001 Training Exercise. Loss Control Associates. 11/30/2001. 554.431.011130. *fireexercise.doc*
- 2000-2001 In Review (annual report of the citizens' council). 10/1/2001.

### Letters, Advice and Comment

- Letter to Governor Knowles asking him to support the \$250,000 in the draft FY03 CIP budget for a best available technology (BAT) conference. 4/12/2002. 600.105.020412. *KnowlesBAT.doc*
- Letter regarding PWS RCAC's

Copies of most council documents are available to the public at no cost. Contact the council's Anchorage office (see back page) to order.

- 2001 Drill Monitoring Contractor Annual Report by Tim Jones. 4/2/2002. 752.105.020402. *KuchinSERVS.doc*
- Comments on Proposed Nontank Vessel Contingency Planning Regulations Letter of support to ADEC on CIRCAC's comments re: above. 4/1/2002. 651.105.020401. *ADECnontank.doc*
- SB 343 Letter to House Resources Committee urging them to consider amending SB343 to include language on conducting a best available technology conference. Attachment included March 20, 2002 letter from the Alaska Oil and Gas Association in support of. 3/25/2002. 600.105.020325. *SB343HouseRes.doc*
- Valdez Marine Terminal Air Quality Operating Permit Compliance Letter requesting information on compliance matters associated with VMT air quality operating permit. 3/22/2002. 510.105.020322. *ADECaqCann.doc*
- Best Available Technology conference ideas. 3/22/2002. 00.105.020322. *ADECBATideas.doc*
- Senate Bill 343 Letter to House Oil and Gas Committee urging them to consider amending SB343 to include language on conducting a best available technology conference. 3/20/2002. 600.105.020320. *SB343HouseOG.doc*
- Letter to Mr. David Wight addressing recent changes with SERVS Fishing Vessel program. 3/18/2002. 703.105.020318. *WightAPSCSOS.doc*
- Letter addressing Air Quality in Port Valdez and the city of Valdez. 3/18/2002. 953.105.020318. *RangerAirQua.doc*
- PWSRCAC's position regarding Senate Bill 343. 3/11/2002. 600.105.020311. *PhillipSB343.doc*
- Letter to Judith Brady regarding ADEC's Best Available Technology Conference. 3/6/2002. 600.105.020304. *BradyOil&Gas.doc*
- Letter to Senator John Torgerson regarding Best Available Technologies in the Field of Oil Spill Technology. 3/1/2002. 600.105.020301. *TorgersonBAT.doc*
- Letter to USCG regarding Federal lightering requirements and the relocation of the 570 lightering barge. 2/22/2002. 700.105.020222. *USCGlighter.doc*
- Recertification Application package for 2002. 1/28/2002. 140.105.020128. *RecertApplic.doc*
- 1998 PWS Tanker Plans Review Process and related ADEC Conditional Approval and Working Group Processes for the Plans. Susan Harvey recognition letter. CC: Gov Tony Knowles Richard Ranger, RCAC Full Board. 12/11/2001. 651.105.011211. *susanharvey.doc*



**NO SMOKING** — Council board member Pete Kompkoff discusses the dangers of tobacco with visitors to the Chenega Bay Health Fair, April 30. Council staffers Linda Robinson and Stan Jones attended the fair and later showed videos on the council's work to members of the community. Kompkoff represents Chenega Bay on the council. Photo by Stan Jones.

**KODIAK COMFISH:** Board member Jim Nestic, right, was interviewed by local radio announcer Jack Bennett, left, during the annual show. Nestic represents the Kodiak Village Mayors Association on the citizens' council board. With them is Kodiak resident Darlene Turner, who helped set up the interview.



State Senator Loren Leman visited the council booth at ComFish to chat with Executive Director John Devens and board member Jim Nestic.

**HOMER** is one of the council's member communities and was the scene of the Kachemak Bay Science Conference in April. The community is located on Kachemak Bay and is famed for the Homer Spit, shown here.



The waters of Kachemak Bay are home to numerous fishing vessels from communities like Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalek.

Photos by Linda Robinson

**Community Corner****Election-year ComFish draws politicians**

By Linda Robinson  
Community Liaison

The City of Kodiak hosted its annual ComFish conference April 4-6. The citizens' council booth was staffed by Executive Director John Devens, Mayor Jim Nestic of Old Harbor, who represents the Kodiak Village Mayors Assoc. on the council, and me. Many fishing industry people and local residents attended the conference and – as it's an election year – so did a number of candidates. Visiting our booth were Lt. Gov. Fran Ulmer and Senators Loren Leman and Alan Austerman. Other visitors were former legislator Sam Cotten and Kodiak Island Borough Mayor Gabrielle LeDoux.

Jim Nestic and I participated in a local radio "hotline" during which we were able to provide information about the council and put out an appeal for a volunteer to replace Wayne Coleman, who has represented the Kodiak borough on the board since 1990.

The third Kodiak seat is held by the City of Kodiak, which is represented on the council board by Jane Eisemann. Sara Bruce, also from Kodiak is a new Oil Spill Prevention and Response committee member. Both Eisemann and Bruce are school teachers.

Kodiak Island, the main land mass of an archipelago in the Gulf of Alaska, is 100 miles long and lies southwest of the Kenai Peninsula. It is the second largest island in the United States, and hosts the country's largest fishing port. It is also home to the largest U.S. Coast Guard base. Kodiak, which has been inhabited since 8,000 B.C., has a population of approximately 6,300, including several Alutiiq Native villages. It relies on fishing and crabbing as its main industries.

The week of ComFish, Alyeska's Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS) conducted fishing vessel training in Kodiak. Level One training includes the basics of the program and of SERVS response. Level Two is the annual refresher that assists fishermen to renew their HAZ-WOPER cards so they can work in

the hazardous environment created by spilled oil.

Forty-four Kodiak vessels participated in Levels One and Two, which involved three days in the classroom and two, two-day classes on water. In Homer and Seldovia, Level One and Level Two classes were held the week of April 8, with a total of four days on water involving 58 vessels.

The goal of SERVS is to "prevent oil spills by assisting tankers in safe navigation through Prince William Sound, and to protect the environment by providing effective response services to the Valdez Marine Terminal and Alaska crude oil shippers."

**Homer meeting examines environmental changes**

The Kachemak Bay Science Conference was held in Homer April 12-14. Project Manager Lisa Ka'aihue assisted me in the display booth. Paul McCollum, Homer's representative on the council also attended the conference. The conference theme was "Patterns and Significance of Environmental Change in Kachemak Bay and the North Pacific Ocean" and included sessions by scientists from the University of Washington, the University of Alaska in Fairbanks and Juneau, Institute of Ocean Sciences, Lakehead University, Coastal and Ocean Resources, Inc., Canada, and Oregon State University, as well as researchers from NOAA, California, South Carolina and Alaska. A session on the Native Perspective included participants from Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Seldovia, including Scientific Advisory Committee member Sabrina Volstad.

**Council pays a visit to Anchorage university**

Alaska Pacific University requested the council display be part of the Earth Day celebration on April 21 at its Anchorage campus. The theme this year was "Protect Our Home", and participants included local, state and federal organizations. Sponsored by the Environmental Club, the activities encouraged family participation in the celebration.



Linda Robinson

## 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 18 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.*

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**For pictures from Kodiak and Homer,  
see page 7!**

Internet: <http://www.pwsrccac.org>