



# Soundkeeper

*Ensuring a positive, lasting legacy for Prince William Sound*

## Clean Harbors News



**Community Effort to Raise Sound Developer** *A big thank you to Alaska Marine Response, Global Diving and Chief Todd Taylor, USCG!* PWSK continues to monitor ongoing response to the sinking of the Sound Developer, working with the City of Cordova, Alaska Marine Response, Global Diving, the USCG and others. On August 27, the Sound Developer, a 117' landing craft, sank at its slip in the Cordova harbor. The vessel had not been operated since 2003 when it was purchased by its current owner. It was reported to have been readied for non-operational status in 2004, however the sunken vessel continued to leak petroleum products into the harbor for over two months while responders, agencies and citizens worked to get the vessel removed. Within several hours of the initial incident response by the Cordova harbor staff, Cordova based Alaska Marine Response (AMR) was

contracted to contain pollution at the site, booming off the area, monitoring the site around the clock and documenting and responding to a continued steady discharge of petroleum products. As a result of AMR's reports, two dive surveys were conducted to assess marine and pollution hazards following which the USCG determined that pollution hazards met criteria to open the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for removal and cleaning of the vessel. On November 3, the Viking, a 120 ton derrick barge, was brought in from Anchorage to lift the vessel and move it onshore for cleaning. The City of Cordova and AMR are exploring options for final disposal of the vessel. PWSK continues to work with all parties to support successful resolution.



**Egg Island Marine Debris Clean Up** PWSK members, volunteers and partners worked this summer to survey 25 acres of Egg Island and to remove 1200 pounds of plastic marine debris. The majority of trash was weather worn plastics, with plastic water bottles dominating "whole" finds. Motor lubricant containers, drink bottles, fishing floats, buoys and lines were also in abundance. The group estimated that it would take several months to clean the entire island. Project partner, Lindsay Butters, Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC), worked with a PWSSC high school oceanography class and PWSK project director Kirsti Jurica to survey debris deposits. Following the survey, PWSK's volunteer clean up team spent two days walking the targeted deposition zone, documenting each piece of garbage and picking up all plastics but leaving glass, metals and large items difficult to

extricate such as fuel drums, nets and steel navigational buoys. Once bagged and staged for pick-up, trash removal from the island was conducted via bowpicker by a team of volunteer commercial fishermen. All garbage collected has been saved for education and outreach purposes. Ultimately useable items will be saved and #1 and #2 plastics will be separated and recycled. Volunteers are discussing plans for a follow up project in 2010. *See over for more information regarding marine debris.*

**PWSK Member Initiates Volunteer Clean Harbor Patrol** A volunteer Clean Harbor team has been launched by Cordova PWSK member Karen Swartzbart and PWSK CEMP program director, Kirsti Jurica, with the support of the Cordova Harbor Office, Alaska Marine Response and the USCG. The group plans to recruit and train volunteers for an ongoing harbor patrol to help keep the Cordova harbor clean and to raise awareness regarding marine debris prevention. Andy Craig and Brent Davis of Alaska Marine Response recently met with the group to discuss the basics of harbor spill response and give volunteers a tour of the Sound Developer response site. *To volunteer, email [jennifer@pwsoundkeeper.org](mailto:jennifer@pwsoundkeeper.org).*



**Harbor Master Working Group Holds Annual Meeting** PWSK's Harbor Master Working Group (PWSK HM) held its first annual meeting on October 20th in conjunction with the 2009 annual meeting of the Alaska Association of Harbormasters and Port Administrators. The PWSK HM group was formed in 2007 to facilitate communication and partnership among PWS harbor professionals. Members include Ed Barrett, Whittier HM, Diane Kinney, Director of Ports & Harbors, Valdez, Steve Waller, Valdez HM, Dale Muma, Cordova HM and Jennifer Gibbins, Soundkeeper/Executive Director, Prince William Soundkeeper. Participants at the PWSK HM annual meeting discussed a variety of issues ranging from marine debris to how to improve related harbor facilities and services.



Marine Debris collected on Egg Island, Summer '09

### Marine Debris Biodegradation Timeline

<b>Plywood</b>	<b>1-3 years</b>
<b>Cigarette Butts</b>	<b>1-5 years</b>
<b>Plastic Bag</b>	<b>10-20 years</b>
<b>Nylon Fabric</b>	<b>30-40 years</b>
<b>Leather</b>	<b>50 years</b>
<b>Tin Can</b>	<b>50 years</b>
<b>Foam Plastic Cup</b>	<b>50 years</b>
<b>Rubber Boot Soles</b>	<b>50-80 years</b>
<b>Foam Plastic Buoys</b>	<b>80 years</b>
<b>Aluminum Can</b>	<b>80-200 years</b>
<b>Disposable Diaper</b>	<b>450 years</b>
<b>Plastic Beverage Bottles</b>	<b>450 years</b>
<b>Monofilament Fishing Line</b>	<b>600 years</b>

Sources: U.S. National Park Service; "Garbage in, garbage out", Audobon magazine and Mote Marine Lab, Sarasota, Fl.

“The marine debris clean up weekend on Egg Island was fun and impacted me a lot. The next week when I went shopping, the experience made me much more attentive to my choices. Thank you!”

Ellen Americus  
PWSK Member & Volunteer

### Become a Member Today!

*Join the friends who make our work possible through their financial support - because they love the Sound and because they believe in the importance of working together to build a positive, lasting legacy for Prince William Sound. Please visit [www.pwsoundkeeper.org](http://www.pwsoundkeeper.org) and become a member today! Or send your donation by mail.*

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