



Soundkeeper

Ensuring a positive, lasting legacy for Prince William Sound

Spring 2009



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Results

Public Concern Moves Legislators to Sunset Cruise Ship Mixing Zone Waivers by 2015.

Responding to a strong grassroots effort by PWSK members and partners across the state, the Alaska Legislature rejected proposed legislation that would have permanently eliminated the prohibition on mixing zones for cruise ships. Instead, in almost unanimous bipartisan votes in both the House and the Senate, legislators voted to retain the ban on mixing zones but allow the cruise industry more time to comply.

At the urging of the Alaska Cruise Association (ACA), Rep. John Harris sponsored HB 134. As originally written, HB 134 would have changed laws passed by a 2006 cruise ship voter initiative to allow ships to dump incompletely treated wastewater into mixing zones indefinitely. ACA argued that dilution of

contaminants in mixing zones did not pose a threat to water quality, that standards were too high, and the 2010 deadline mandated by the 2006 initiative was impossible to meet.

Legislators responded by providing more time for the cruise industry to meet increased legal standards, but were ultimately compelled by public

"We could not have done this without PWSK's assistance. Thanks and thanks to all who helped."

*Joe Geldhoff, Initiative Co-Sponsor
Gershon Cohen, Initiative Co-Sponsor
Chip Thoma, President, Responsible Cruising in Alaska*

demand to maintain water quality protection. Concerns raised by the public through emails, phone calls and testimony citing the impacts of ammonia, nickel, zinc and copper on aquatic life, and in particular on fish including salmon, were essential to keeping Alaska's marine waters clean.

The final bill (cont'd on page 2)

Volunteer!

Sign up now to volunteer with PWSK, and project partner Prince William Sound Science Center, for our Summer 09 Egg Island Debris Study and Clean Up!

This summer, PWSK staff and volunteers will spend three days on Egg Island, a barrier island on the western edge of the Copper River Delta, to document, study and remove debris. Volunteers and support vessels are needed to assist in planning, debris study / clean up and outreach to raise awareness regarding marine debris, its impacts and best practices that can reduce and prevent marine debris.



Egg Island, provides habitat to 30 shorebird species on outer beaches

and 24 shorebird (cont'd on page 2)



State Closes Proposed Hawkins Land Sale

Thanks to an all-out effort by PWSK members and partners!

The State of Alaska has closed an ill-conceived proposed subdivision land sale of 380 acres on Hawkins Island. Concerned Cordovans and area residents argued that the proposed development reflected an outdated 20 year-old area plan and that the development would ruin an important subsistence area, restrict traditional access and negatively impact traditional uses which the State is required to protect. According to the project manager, information gathered by the State during the Hawkins Island subdivision preliminary decision will be available to State planners for future reference and planning purposes.

Thank You!

PWSK members, partners and champions including Alaska Center for Coastal Studies, Alaska Conservation Alliance, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Anchorage Waterways Council, Bullitt Foundation, Cascadia Wildlands Project, Copper River Watershed Project, Cordova Boy Scouts, Cordova District Fishermen United, Harder Foundation, Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Oceans Foundation, Patagonia, FIRE Fund, Prince William Sound Science Center, Tatitlek Corporation, True North Foundation, Trustees for Alaska, United States Forest Service, Village of Tatitlek, Waterkeeper Alliance, and the Wildlife Forever Fund.

Results(from page 1) stipulates that every cruise ship applying for a temporary waiver achieve an equal or better level of protection than the best technology currently employed by any member of the fleet and establishes a panel to advise the Alaska Department of Conservation in conducting analysis of methods of cruise ship waste water pollution prevention, control and treatment. Two technology conferences will be held by 2015 for the purpose of tracking and reporting on research and development of improved cruise ship waste water treatment methods.

PWSK worked with the initiative co-sponsors, the Alaska Conservation Alliance and concerned citizens across the state to educate legislators regarding the impacts of cruise ship waste water on the aquatic environment and the facts surrounding wastewater treatment methods and technologies. This grassroots team urged lawmakers to craft a more balanced bill that would allow industry flexibility needed to meet the standards, but would also honor the intent of the voter initiative to protect Alaska waters.

Comments and testimony by ACA representatives acknowledged that the 2006 voter initiative is the driving force in progress towards improving cruise ship waste water treatment.

Volunteer!(from page 1) species in the dune system, marine mammals including harbor seals, and, occasional brown and black bears who graze on nesting and molting



Become a Member Today!



Photo by PWSK member Margie Jamieson.

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.

Visit www.pwsoundkeeper.org and become a member today! Or send your donation by mail.

\$25 Supporter \$250 Guardian

\$50 Protector \$500 Benefactor

\$100 Champion \$1000+ Founder

PWSK is a 501 c(3) charitable organization. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

*Prince William Soundkeeper
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glaucous-winged gulls and beach greens.

Marine debris is an escalating problem that degrades habitat, causes injury and mortality to wildlife, and is a preventable human-caused environmental impact.

Project volunteers are needed to map, document, collect, analyze and remove debris. To sign up, please contact jennifer@pwsoundkeeper.org.

visit Prince William Soundkeeper at www.pwsoundkeeper.org