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Hello Soundkeepers!

Board of Directors

Kate McLaughlin
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Chenega Bay

Dean Rand
Vice-President
Whittier

Liz Senear
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Our spring and summer arrived three weeks early due to a low snowfall winter and early April rains. With an El Niño event warming up the waters in the North Pacific, the water temperatures in Prince William Sound may be higher than usual later this summer and into the fall, with unforeseen effects upon our ecosystem. While PWS has never had a documented case of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP), it has occurred around us in other areas of the N. Gulf of Alaska. Be aware of the symptoms of PSP and know to protect yourself – just in case. More information on this subject can be found here:

www.http://how-to-eat-clams-and-protect-yourself-too.html

When we last left the State Legislature in April HB77 had been shelved, but they passed HB47, “An Act requiring a party seeking a restraining order, preliminary injunction, or order staying the operation of certain permits affecting an industrial operation to give security in the amount the court considers proper for costs incurred and damages suffered if the industrial operation is wrongfully enjoined or restrained.” In other words, anyone asking the courts to delay industry action while their suit is heard must post a security deposit. Think the average citizen has that kind of money on hand? This bill was awaiting transmittal to the Governor, but never was, and so died in Senate Resources due to “lack of support”. Or were they just afraid of the public outcry if it was signed into law?

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has been rewriting the regulations for the “Large Commercial Passenger Vessel Discharge Permit”. These regulations will replace the dismantled 2006 Citizen’s Cruise Ship Wastewater Ballot initiative, completing the overturning of the will of the people in passing this initiative. The draft is very discouraging as it re-introduces the failed concept of “mixing zones” and allows for wastewater to be discharged from vessels while in harbor, or even at dock. The 2006 Voter Initiative did not allow mixing zones, which are not enforceable, especially moving mixing zones. Currently there are waste water to tap water solutions to drought stricken areas being implemented, so the unattainable technology issue isn't defensible any more. Nor does the old argument "municipalities do it" hold up as municipalities do not cruise down Montague Strait or up College Fjord. PWSK will be watching for the next development of these so-called regulations to protect Alaskan waters.

Designated Member

Our five member Board of Directors represent different user groups, each from a community that utilizes Prince William Sound. The PWSK Board would ultimately like to have seven Board members to include seats in Fairbanks and the Native Village of Tatitlek. It is important that you know who is representing your interests for Prince William Sound water quality and citizen advocacy, therefore the next few Letters To Our Membership will highlight one of your board members.



Vice President and Founding Member, Dean Rand

A licensed marine vessel captain and naturalist, Captain Rand, his two daughters, and black lab Happy live year round aboard the Discovery in the little town of Whittier, in western Prince William Sound. As owner/operator of Discovery Voyages and the full-time captain of the Discovery, Dean is not just another hired captain like the majority of tour operations.

Considered by many to be one of the most knowledgeable mariners in Prince William Sound after 30 years exploring its waters, Dean's extensive involvement with a broad range of scientific research conducted throughout the Sound have provided him with a well-rounded background in the region's natural history. Dean housed the first group of damage assessment biologists out in the Sound soon after the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and have helped conduct oil spill research every year since then. Dean is a master shipwright and marine mechanic with more than 40 years of full-time service in the marine trades on the Alaska coast. The past 25 years have been exclusively in Prince William Sound.

He is active in local and national land and water use management and carries extensive experience in wilderness tourism and scientific research. He was co-recipient (with the Chugach School District of Prince William Sound) of the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for supporting and participating in the education of all children.

Dean's historical knowledge of the Sound, his environmental expertise, connections, and public relations savvy are valuable assets to our Board – when we have him in cell/internet range! He is also one of our best fund-raisers. Clients of Discovery Voyages are asked to donate to a “Dollars a Day” which is collected as part of their general bill for each day they are in Alaska waters. Donations are distributed to Alaska programs as part of the Green Travel Organization Initiative. Approximately 30% of donations are given to PWSK from the Discovery Voyage's program. The donation to PWSK has been averaging about \$1,500/yr.

Look for Capt. Dean and The Discovery sailing around Prince William Sound this summer.



Kate McLaughlin, President & Executive Director