



# COOK INLETKEEPER®

PROTECTING ALASKA'S COOK INLET WATERSHED AND THE LIFE IT SUSTAINS

## RESOLUTION NUMBER 2006-1

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PLACING THE KENAI RIVER ON THE 303(D) LIST OF IMPAIRED WATERS PURSUANT TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT AND ADDITIONALLY SUPPORTING THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IMPOSING FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON MOTORIZED VESSEL TRAFFIC ON THE KENAI RIVER.**

**WHEREAS,** Cook Inletkeeper is a community-based nonprofit organization that combines advocacy, education and science toward its mission to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains;

**WHEREAS,** the Kenai River is a world-class sport, commercial and personal-use resource that supports sustainable economic development, and a spectacular natural system that plays an integral role in the complex fabric of life in the Cook Inlet watershed;

**WHEREAS,** water quality test results have shown high levels of hydrocarbon pollution during times of peak outboard motor usage on the Kenai River, with sample concentrations suggesting the discharge of 200-300 gallons of hydrocarbons to the Kenai River system during certain summer days;

**WHEREAS,** such hydrocarbon levels violate state Water Quality Standards established under the Clean Water Act to protect, among other things, fish and fish habitat;

**WHEREAS,** research from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill shows oil pollution, in particular, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, are much more toxic to salmon than previously thought, and that state Water Quality Standards may not adequately protect salmon and other fish from the chronic effects of hydrocarbon pollution;

**WHEREAS,** outboard motor usage on the Kenai River has resulted in water quality degradation, boating safety issues, and conflicts with shore-side property owners, and has been implicated in river bank erosion concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** the proposal to increase the size of outboard motors allowable on the Kenai River will likely aggravate existing pollution, user conflicts and other problems on the Kenai River.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COOK INLETKEEPER DOES HEREBY RESOLVE:**

1. Cook Inletkeeper urges the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to place the Kenai River on the 303(d) list for petroleum hydrocarbons pursuant to the Clean Water Act, and to take all necessary steps to ensure ambient water quality conditions in the Kenai River meet state Water Quality Standards at the earliest possible date; and

2. Cook Inletkeeper opposes any increase in motor size above that currently allowed, and supports the requirement for four stroke or direct fuel injected two stroke engines after January 1, 2008. Cook Inletkeeper further urges the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to adopt regulations that prohibit all commercial motorized vessel traffic in the Kenai River Special Management Area, and require all commercial fisheries in the Kenai River Special Management Area to be "drift only."

HAVING BEEN DULY CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PURSUANT TO COOK INLETKEEPER'S BY-LAWS, THIS RESOLUTION IS HEREBY ADOPTED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF DECEMBER 2006.



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Bob Shavelson, Executive Director

December 12, 2006  
Date