



Environmental Newsletter

Environmental Staff:

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Burn Box

We wanted to inform the community again on what should and what shouldn't be thrown into the burn box. We did notice that there were a lot of plastics and Styrofoam being dumped into the box with all the burnable items. By throwing these items into the burn box, it can harm our health and the environment. Please take extreme caution on what goes into the burn box. Here is a list of Burnable and Non-burnable items:

Burnable Items:

- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Cardboard
- Natural fiber rope
- Paper packaging products, such as cereal boxes and paper-based packaging

materials, etc.

- Non-glossy magazines
- Bare wood in small quantities-**do not place any treated lumber or painted wood**
- Wax coated fish boxes
- Food cans

Non-Burnable Items:

- Plastics of any type
- Aerosol Cans
- Diapers
- Sorbent pads, oily rags, and used oil
- Synthetic construction materials such as insulation, wiring, drywall, plumbing materials, visqueen, or empty caulk tubes
- Synthetic fish nets
- Synthetic rope

- Batteries or any type
- Electronics (TV's, computers or toys)
- Carpet
- Demolition debris
- Hazardous Materials
- Tires or other rubber products
- Diapers
- Any painted material
- Shrink-wrap
- Tape
- Medical Waste
- Appliances

Any of the non-burnable items that were listed, please take to the appropriate areas at the landfill. If you have any questions please contact Violet or Bobbi @ 2842227.

Inert Waste Pile

It has been brought to our attention that there are propane tanks, computers, TV's and household electronics being dumped into the Inert Waste Pile at the dump. All of the hazardous waste that is being dumped into the pile is bad for the environment and for our selves. Inside the electronics, contains mercury and if the mercury gets ex-

posed, it will evaporate into the air, which is bad for all of our health. As a community, we need to think of ourselves and others health when disposing of our waste.

The Environmental Program has placed a new plastic tote in between the two conexes specifically for computers, monitors, TV's, VCR's and DVD players . The propane

tanks can be disposed of in between the conexes as well as oil, paint, gas, antifreeze, etc.

All refrigerators must have the Freon removed from the Freezers & Refrigerators before disposing. The refrigerators have a designated place at the dump (next to the conex) not in the Inert Waste Pile.

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Environmental Health Committee Members:

- **Peter Anahonak, Sr./Elder Rep.**
- **Jennie Kamluck/Elder Rep.**
- **Lydia McMullen/Member**
- **Stella Meganack/Member**
- **John Moonin/Elder Rep.**
- **Port Graham High School Students**

18 Threats to Inlet Beluga Whales

Declaring Cook Inlet beluga whales an endangered species—as the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration did Friday—was only the first step toward protecting them. Now federal biologists are trying to figure out exactly what’s endangering them.

The newly released “Conservation Plan for the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale”—a 128 page report compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service—takes a preliminary stab at the question, listing 18 possible threats to the local whale population.

Five of these threats would pose a “high” risk of jeopardizing the belugas were they to occur, the study says. Among them are two natural dangers: disease & stranding of whales on mud flats.

Three are man-made dangers: whale poaching, food reduction (by damaging

salmon habitat or overfishing) and unnatural noise in the water (such as offshore drilling, pile-driving in the construction of a Knik Arm bridge or expansion of the Port of Anchorage).



The report also lists as

“unknown” the impact on belugas that might result from three man-made dangers: Oil & gas spills, systematic water pollution (including the partially treated sewage Anchorage discharges into Cook Inlet) and environmental change (such as ocean warming).

“Certainly oil & gas development and all in-water activities that might introduce pollutants are a concern,” says Fisheries Service biologist Brad Smith, one of the conservation plan authors.

Listing the Cook Inlet belugas as endangered—federal biologists estimate there are only 375 of the animals left—means any federal agency that authorizes activities in the Inlet must first determine whether such actions will hurt the whales.

The agency will be taking a closer look at beluga tissue for other contaminants, like fire retardants and pharmaceuticals. If discovered, they could prompt a closer look at the city’s sewage out-fall.

~ For more information on the beluga whales, go to www.adn.com the Anchorage Daily News website. ~

Imperiled Fish

Almost 40 percent of North American species of fish are imperiled, primarily due to threatened habitats, the U.S. Geological Survey said Sept. 9 in reporting results of a study it led.

The study, Conservation Status of Imperiled North American Freshwater and Diadromous Fishes, which appeared in the August issue of the journal Fisheries, lists 700 species or subspecies, almost

twice the number included on the original list compiled in 1989. Of those added, 58 are newly described species. The list includes 230 considered vulnerable, 190 considered threatened, and 280 considered endangered, though the authors note that the classification is meant only as guidance for governmental regulation. An additional 62 species or

“Fish are imperiled, primarily due to threatened habitats.”

subspecies are considered extinct or entirely removed from their natural habitats.

The U.S. Geological Survey conducted the study with assistance from a team of scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

**** This information came from EPA Region 10’s Tribal Newsletter.****

Cell Phones For Soldiers

The United States of America is trying to recycle unused or broken cell phones to help Our Troops that are overseas to call home to talk with their loved ones. We as a community can help to show our appreciation to Our Troops by recycling them.

Its free and convenient to turn in your used cell phone. Phones can be any condition or brand and do not need to have batteries.

Marching Orders:

- Turn the power off
- Please keep the phone and battery attached if possible



- Place the phone in the envelop
- Seal the envelop
- Place it in the mail

For your convenience, the postage is pre-paid.

To get the pre-paid envelopes, go to

www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com

2007 Toxic Release Inventory Data Release (e-FDR)

To better inform communities about releases of toxic chemicals from industrial facilities in their area, EPA announced the availability of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) facility-level data for 2007. This is the 5th annual Electronic Facility Data Release (e-FDR) and displays the TRI data exactly as received by EPA from the facilities—one form for each chemical at a facility. Many stakeholders have requested that EPA share TRI data sooner and in the format received, without waiting for further analysis. The “raw” data released are not grouped in any way or are as easily searchable as the traditional Public Data Release (PDR), which also includes more quality checks, national

trends and analysis. EPA will still publish the complete 2007 PDR in early 2009.

TRI provides American communities with vital information on chemical releases including disposal of chemicals. In addition, TRI tracks releases of chemicals and industrial sectors specified by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986. The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 also mandates that facilities report data on other waste management activities such as treatment, recycling, and energy recovery.



The e-FDR is now available at:
www.epa.gov/tri-efdr

**** This is information came from the EPA Region 10 Tribal Newsletter.****

Sewer Lines

We wanted to inform all of our community residents and visitors to not dispose of any cooking oil, paper towel or diapers down the toilets.

Cooking oil should never be dumped into the kitchen sink or in the toilet bowl. The proper way to dispose of oil is to put it in a sealed non-recyclable container and discard it with the regular trash.

If wastewater cannot move freely through the pipes and out into the sewer system, it can back up into your home and cause unsanitary conditions and damages that will be very expensive to repair. By following the guidelines below, you can help avoid repeated repairs and unnecessary disruptions to homes and businesses.

Cooking oil & grease are waste that the sewer system cannot handle and should not be discarded down the

drain. Dumping grease, fats, and oils can clog the sewer lines, causing sewage back-ups and flooding. Sewage back-ups can damage personal and public property.

Here are some examples that can help to learn to dispose of cooking oils properly.

DO NOT:

- * Dump cooking oil, poultry fat & grease in the kitchen sink or toilet.
- * Use hot water & soap to wash grease down the drain, because it will cool & harden in the pipes or in the sewer down the line.

DO:

- * Place cooled cooking oil, fat, or grease into a non-recyclable container & discard with regular trash.

- * Use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of any dishes, pots & pans prior to washing.

Please follow these guidelines to prevent another blockage.

Thank You!



PGVC

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Port Graham Village Council Members:

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Deborah McMullen-**Treasurer** Agnes Miller-**Secretary**
Stella Meganack-**Member** Walter Meganack, Jr.-**Member**
Melvin Malchoff-**Member**

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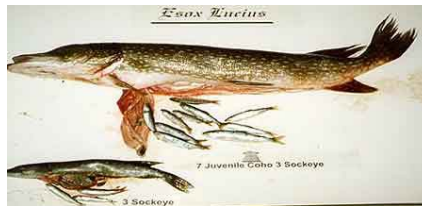
About Invasive Pike in Southcentral Alaska

Illegal stocking of northern pike is reducing the quality of fishing in Southcentral Alaska and threatening both wild and stocked fisheries.

The northern pike is native to most of Alaska, but it does not naturally occur south and east of the Alaska Mountain Range except for a remnant population near Yakutat. Pike are top-level predators in aquatic food chains and are highly piscivorous (fish eating). Outside their native range, trout, salmon and other fish have not had time to adapt defenses against pike's predatory tactics. Invasive species are plants or animals that do not naturally occur in an area and can negatively affect the environment, economy, and/or recreational activities. In Southcentral Alaska, northern pike are doing just that. Pike were first illegally introduced into water bodies of the area by people, and they are now decimating salmon

and trout populations. This causes ecological damage and also negatively affects the economy by reducing recreational fishing opportunities.

In their native range, pike are simply another member of the fish community,



living in a balanced ecosystem with other fish species.

In Southcentral, illegally-introduced pike can change the balance of an aquatic ecosystem by preying on native fish while having few predators of their own. Some lakes and streams that once supported healthy numbers of silver salmon, Chinook Salmon, and rainbow

trout now have only small northern pike. This is how illegally –stocked pike have lessened the quality of fishing and threaten wild and stocked fisheries in Southcentral Alaska.

The Department of Fish & Game recently did a poll that was conducted by Channel 2 News, respondents were asked whether or not they agreed with the decision to poison the invasive pike.

Here is the official question & results.

Do you agree with the decision by the Dept. of Fish & Game to poison the invasive pike?

Yes 81%
No 19%

~ This information came from the Dept. of Fish & Game, also the Channel 2 News website. ~