



# Watershed news

## OVK INSTALLS FISH WEIR ON KARTA RIVER FOR 2006 SOCKEYE ASSESSMENT

Six employees of the Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) and volunteer camp chef Lynzee Demmert installed an adult sockeye monitoring weir across the Karta river starting on June 1, 2006. The location of the Karta weir, and a seasonal rise in the river presented challenging conditions for installation, which involved hauling gear through waist deep swift waters with various sized boulders on the river bed. There will be a crew of three workers at the Karta camp, who will rotate shifts throughout the season.

The Karta Sockeye project was initiated in 2005, to monitor adult Sockeye populations that many locals felt were dwindling over the years in an area that has a rich tradition of fish and

gathering for Kasaan's indigenous Haida people. Hundreds of thousands of fish pass through the weir in a given season, including Sockeye, Pink, Chum, and Coho Salmon as well as Steelhead Cutthroat, and Dolly Varden Trout. The Karta crew will monitor the weir from June into September, and counting passing fish all through the day and night.

The Project is a cooperative effort between the OVK with funding and technical assistance from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alaska Dept of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). For more information or for updates, please contact the OVK Natural Resources Dept @ (907) 542-3008

See page 5 for another weir Photo.



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David Yates Displaying his Karta "Moon Shoes" made from Duct tape and broken sandals.

**Cathy Needham and Pam Kristovich measure the width of the Culvert on Son-i-hat Creek**



## Stream Assessment Up-date

Ben Kirkpatrick (USF&G) and Cathy Needham (OVK), led the way during a recent baseline stream assessment conducted on Tinkum Creek and Son-i-hat Creek. Pam Kristovich, David Yates and Audrey Escoffon rounded out the team.

The crew started at the mouth of Tinkum Creek and set Minnow traps along the way. They caught 5 Coho, 12 sculpin, and 1 dolly, of the 9 traps set only 2 came up empty. This was a great way to prove that Coho do exist in that stream.

They entered the GPS waypoints and listed features location, tallied large wood and key wood, counted macro pools, substrate and riparian vegetative code, what type of channels, average stream gradients, bank composition and width, channel patterns, and did culvert surveys.

They also learned a huge amount of abbreviations, like class codes for and descriptions of stream crossing structures, barriers, substrate compositions, species of fish, disturbance, and the most favorite 7 page "Vegetation Class Codes".

It was amazing to actually walk, crawl, jump, straddle, bend, and fall through Tinkum Creek all the way to the road. There were a few hazards as well, like devils club and salmon berry bushes.

Son-i-hat Creek had its own special characteristics. The



David Yates, Pam Kristovich and Audrey Escoffon start collecting data at the mouth of Tinkum Creek

beaver dam was a favorite.

Of the 8 traps set in Son-i-hat Creek only 1 caught any minnows, that one fish was a cut throat trout. We did see lots of small minnows also.

It was a great learning experience for all of us, and showed us what really was in our own back yard, and where there were some problem areas.

## EARTH DAY 2006 & COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Global Warming was this years Earth Day Fair theme. It was a huge success. Over 300 students and general public walked through the booths learning about Environmental issues, picking up recipes for alternative household cleaning supplies, playing games and having

fun! Planning is already underway for next years Fair to make it bigger and better. A BIG thank you to student volunteers, Erika Loving, Tara McCamy and Brittany Young; The OVK couldn't have done it without them.

Kasaan held its annual community

clean-up on April 28th with the help of community members and Barry Craig Stewart Kasaan School Students. We collected over 20 ALPAR bags of trash. The OVK sponsored the grilled hotdog lunch that followed.

Thanks to all the volunteers!!

## Baseline stream assessments to continue

Ben Kirkpatrick and Cathy Needham will be returning to continue the baseline stream assessment on Poorman Creek. Audrey Escoffon and Aaron Prussian from the Thorne Bay Forest Service will be as-

sisting.

The assessment will begin on June 26th and continue through the 27th.

They will be collecting the same type of data that was done on the Son-i-Hat and

Tinkum Creek project

This Project has been funded through Southeast Conference and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**What is the record for the greatest number of fishing casts made in 24 hours?**

**6,358**

## Are our Clams safe to eat? Some tips...

Alaskan clammers should be familiar with the cause, symptoms and avoidance of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) is caused by consuming shellfish that have fed on the minute planktonic neurotoxins which cause paralysis of skeletal muscles in warm blooded animals. These toxins accumulate at different concentrations for different length of time and for different species. Cooking will not make toxic clams harmless nor can the toxin be detected easily.

Precautions to avoid PSP:

1. avoid certain species such as mussels, little necks and butter clams which are known to retain large quantities of toxin.
2. Cleaning clams by removing organs in which toxins tend to be concentrated such as the viscera, gills and the dark siphon tip.
3. Eating only the central muscle of scallops
4. Clamming only in areas and during seasons that

have a history of being safe.

5. Do not clam around direct discharges of raw sewage via outfalls
6. Blooms of toxic phytoplankton (RED TIDE)

Human diseases, including cholera, typhoid fever, hepatitis, polio, gastrointestinal (stomach) diseases, and others, are spread by the ingestion of water or food that is contaminated with human fecal material or occasionally the feces of other warm blooded animals. Shell fish that grow in proximity to sewage outfalls, marina's or residences with poor sewage systems may accumulate, through their filter feeding, viruses and bacteria that can cause human diseases. Other sources of bacterial or viral contamination are seal haul-outs, bird roosting areas, and livestock.

### SYMPTOMS OF PSP

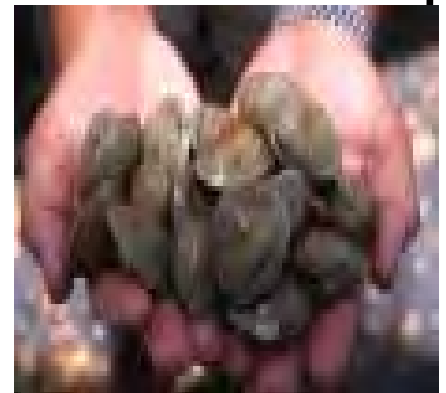
Symptoms appear within 5 to 30 minutes as tingling, burning or stinging sensations around the lips, gums,

Fingers and toes follows, spreading within 4 to 6 hours through the arms, legs and neck. Other symptoms include dizziness, weakness, drowsiness, incoherence of speech, impaired vision, headache, staggering, a feeling of tightness around the throat, and respiratory distress. During the later stages of the illness, paralysis becomes more severe, and death results from respiratory failure.

### TREATMENT OF PSP:

Poisoning can be treated by inducing vomiting and using a fast acting laxative; artificial respiration may be necessary if breathing becomes difficult.

**WHEN POISONING IS SUSPECTED SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY**



## MARINE ECOLOGY CLASS-FISHERIES

Ray Ralonde, faculty fellow and Professor from the University of Anchorage Alaska, Dr. Dolly Garza from the University of Alaska Fairbanks Marine Advisory Program and Jack Lorri-gan Fisheries Biologist for the Organized Village of Kasaan, instructed this week long course. Students were instructed in basic fish biology, life histories, age and growth, management, anatomy, diseases, parasites, fecundity (the ability to reproduce), population estimation techniques, mark recaptures, habitat inventory and evaluation, morality causes and effects. Grant information for local use the Values of Traditional Eco-

logical Knowledge and Local Ecological Knowledge were also discussed. Students were taught on how to develop and present on a fishery project for their region based on the tools they were provided from the class. Lectures were conducted in the mornings and topical labs and field trips were done in the afternoon. This class was held May 10th through the 14th at the Craig Community Association building on Prince of Wales Island. A total of 8 participants attended. This course was paid for by the Organized Village of Kasaan's I-GAP program. Future classes are in the planning stages.



Earth Day Water Bottle



**Pam Kristovich educates the children at this years Earth Day Fair.**

All photos in this issue are courtesy from OVK staff  
Thank you for taking such great pictures. Haw`aa

**The Crew works on installing the weir up at the Karta. Seen here is Mike Ljubich, Danny Frank, Jack Lorrigan and Daniel Edenshaw**



## **GIS TRAINING**

This course introduced the students to ArcGIS and provided the foundation for each to become a successful ArcView, ArcEditor, or ArcInfo user. Each student learned how to use ArcMap, ArcCatalog, and ArcToolbox and explored how these applications worked together to provide a complete GIS software solution. The course covered fundamental GIS concepts as well as how to create, edit, and work with georeferenced spatial data.

Each student learned how to manipulate tabular data, query, a GIS Database, and present data clearly and efficiently using maps and charts.

These tools will be specifically useful in our Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project, by identifying traditional places and names and putting them on a map.

This class was held in Juneau, through Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The instructor, Volker Mel, was from Sheldon Jackson College.

### **Bumper Stickers:**

***This car is designed by a computer, built by a robot and driven by a moron.***

***The early bird may get the worm but the 2nd mouse gets the cheese.***

***A sure way to avoid work is to find a job you love.***

***Just when I am winning the rat race, along come faster rats.***

***Tough times dont last, tough people do.***

***The worst failure is the failure to try.***

***Before giving anyone a piece of your mind, besure you have enough to spare.***

***If you dont want to wash dishes, do em bad the first time.***

***Just because you can, doesnt mean you should.***

**Kasaan Bay  
Watershed Council**

Primary Business Address  
PO Box KXA  
Kasaan, Alaska  
99950-0340



Phone: 1-907-542-2230  
Fax: 1-907-542-3006  
Email: [audrey@kasaan.org](mailto:audrey@kasaan.org)

**To Preserve and Protect**

The Kasaan Bay Watershed Council

To preserve, protect and restore the watershed ecosystem associated with the Kasaan Bay and its environs, and to organize all concerned stakeholders dedicated to this purpose through management planning, monitoring and education

The OVK, The City of Kasaan, KAVILCO, SEALASKA, DNR, USFS, AMHLT, Kasaan Community, and

Private Landowners.

**We're on the web  
[kasaanbaywatershed.org](http://kasaanbaywatershed.org)**