



Soundkeeper

Ensuring a positive, lasting legacy for Prince William Sound

Restoring Clean Harbors In Prince William Sound, Alaska



Clean Harbors

The presence of marine debris is not new in Alaska, nor is the awareness that marine debris is harmful to the marine environment and its inhabitants. But the marine debris problem is escalating as plastic production and use increase, and over many years debris that was lost or dumped into the ocean circulates and accumulates on our shores. The amount of debris, its persistence, and its insidious presence in our communities and on even the most remote beaches have brought to the forefront the need for addressing the issue to maintain a healthy marine ecosystem. It is clear that marine debris is a source of preventable human-caused injury and mortality for marine fish and wildlife. (Williams, M., and E. Ammann. 2009. Marine debris in Alaska: Coordinating our efforts.)

In Prince William Sound, commercial and recreational boating cause the greatest negative impacts on the ecosystem, and

outside of global warming, represent the greatest threat to the future health of the Sound. Boating related activity in the Sound includes approximately 800 commercial fishing vessels, an estimated minimum 10,000 recreational vessel launches and approximately 405,000 annual out-of-state visitors. It is estimated that visitation to Prince William Sound

will continue to increase exponentially, reaching 1,406,000 annual visitor trips by 2015.

Prior to its incorporation as a 501 c(3) charitable organization in 2004, Prince William Soundkeeper (PWSK) began

coordinating an annual summer marine debris cleanup on remote islands and coasts with concerned volunteers and a variety of organizations and groups. In 2007, PWSK's *Clean Harbors* program was launched, establishing a harbor master working group to facilitate communication with and among harbor professionals in all five communities and to support distribution of educational materials.

Clean Harbors is the first-ever focused and cohesive approach to restoration and prevention of marine debris associated with commercial and recreational boating in the Sound. *Clean Harbors* involves and targets the five harbor entry points to Prince William Sound for a coordinated approach to restoration and prevention of marine debris and works to provide a positive harbor presence to support education and prevention of marine debris. *Clean Harbors* works to educate and help

boaters, harbor users and visitors in the practice of clean and safe boating habits, and to encourage and support citizen environmental restoration and monitoring. For more information or to volunteer visit www.pwsoundkeeper.org.





Always report spills to the Department of Environmental Conservation at 800-478-9300 and the National Response Center at 800-424-8802.

Prevent Oil & Fuel Spills

One cup of used oil can contaminate one million gallons of water. Recent studies show hydrocarbon concentrates as low as one part per billion can harm salmon.

Never leave nozzle unattended during fueling.

Maintain hoses, gaskets and fuel lines.

Always use drip pans and absorbent pads during repairs.

Never pump oily bilge water overboard. Develop a spill plan, incorporate into regular checklist.

Ensure all crew members know plan.

Use absorbent pads to collect spilled oil.

Never hose down spills or use soap to disperse fuel or bilge oil.

Bring Contaminants back to town for proper disposal.

Dispose of Antifreeze & Batteries Properly

Antifreeze is toxic to marine life and batteries contain lead, acid and other toxic material.

Treat used antifreeze and batteries as hazardous waste.

Use less toxic propylene glycol-based antifreeze.

Never mix antifreeze with fuel or oil; store in separate, sealed, marked containers.

Use rechargeable batteries for EPIRB's, flashlights and other equipment.

Contain Your Trash & Sewage

Bacteria and viruses from sewage can contaminate shellfish. Plastics and fishing line can choke marine mammals and seabirds, and clog your engine.

Never throw plastics and trash overboard.

Avoid bringing excess packaging on board and secure all loose trash.

Display MARPOL sticker and adhere to disposal regulations.

Make use of sewage pump-out stations.

Never pump sewage overboard within three miles of shore.

Pay Attention to General Maintenance

Regular maintenance is a part of every boat, and you can ensure that it is done without harming fish and shellfish.

Do repairs, pressure washing and painting in dry dock whenever possible.

Place tarps between dock and vessel.

Plug scuppers when working over water.

Use dustless sanders. Vacuum dust, paint chips and tailings regularly during work.

Place trash containers, paint cans, etc., inboard or away from waters edge.

Don't clean brushes and tools over the water.

Use Safe Solvents, Paints & Cleaners

Many boat paints and cleaning products (including detergents, scouring powders and bleaches) are extremely toxic to marine life.

Use biodegradable cleaners, solvents and paints.

Don't be fooled by safe sounding product names. Get to know which products are truly safe by asking for them and by reading product labels.

Use tarps when scraping or painting on the grid or beach.

Avoid painting on windy days.

Limit overspray by using a high-volume, low pressure paint sprayer.

Re-use thinners and solvents by letting contaminants settle.

Share leftover paints with other boaters.

Unused paint and solvent are considered hazardous materials and must be disposed as such.

Become a Member Today!

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. Please 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

*Prince William Soundkeeper
PO Box 1368, Cordova, AK 99574*

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

Harbor Office Information

Chenega Bay IRA Council:
907-573-5132

Cordova Harbor Office: 907-424-6400

- Used oil collection facility behind harbor office.
- Trash dumpsters behind harbor office.
- Battery disposal behind NAPA/ANCHOR.
- Take antifreeze and solvents to baler.

Tatitlek Environmental Office:
907-325-2238

Whittier Harbor Office:

907-424-2327 x115

- Used oil collection facility next to harbor office.
- Trash dumpsters at head of each ramp.
- Dispose of batteries at oil collection facility.

Valdez Harbor Office:

907-835-4981

- Used oil collection across from harbor office.
- Trash dumpsters at top of each gangway.
- Take batteries to baler.
- Take antifreeze and solvents to baler.

visit us at www.pwsoundkeeper.org