



KBCS Annual Membership Meeting & Earth Day Event

Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 6 - 8 pm
Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society annual gathering will feature a guest appearance by the Homer Youth String Orchestra Club; adventure photos, stories, and climate change prescriptions from Bjørn Olson; and a special presentation and films by Nina Faust and Roberta Highland: “Honoring the Life and Legacy of Edgar Bailey.”

Three short slide videos from Nina’s series, “The Making of a Refuge,” will feature the Barren Islands, the Alaska Peninsula from Mitrofanina to Sutwik, and the Sandman Reefs, chronicling Ed and Nina’s month-

long expeditions by themselves using a 16-foot, rubber inflatable boat to survey these remote areas for abundance and distribution of marine birds and mammals, information needed to select areas for the new Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Come early, 5-6 p.m., for socializing, a meal, and live music, at no charge.

For more information, contact KBCS at (907) 235-8214.



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Earth Day Presentation and Films by Nina Faust and Roberta Highland honoring the Life and Legacy of Edgar Bailey.

Nina Faust and Edgar Bailey
Co-founders, Kachemak Crane Watch
907-235-6262
reports@cranewatch.org
www.cranewatch.org

Message from the President

Happy Earth Day!

For someone who thinks some year I will be out of a job—this was not the year to plan retirement.

We lost an amazing conservationist in January—Ed Bailey went to the “Great Beyond” after a lengthy illness. He served on the KBCS Board for close to 20 years and was always a champion for conservation and wildlife. We will be honoring Ed at our annual Earth Day membership meeting. (See “Life and Legacy...” article.)

KBCS appointed two new board members in 2017. We welcomed Susan Kaplan in May and Pat Cue in November. Pat Cue served for many years, relocated to Eagle River and Soldotna, and then returned to Homer last year. (See Board Member bios.) We now have a full board of nine volunteer members.

We contracted with Penelope Haas in November to follow and write comments on two important management plans being revised—Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park Plan and Kachemak Bay & Fox River Critical Habitat Plans. Both of these plans are critical for our area and will take more time and attention than the volunteer board can manage. Penelope has also been writing the majority of KBCS's comments on a litany of subjects. (See info in newsletter.) She has a very good grasp on the process for comment writing and has given two classes to date. I was lost after Wendy Anderson moved and serendipity worked its magic—lucky us.

Bjorn Olson has been on fire with Alaskans Know Climate Change. It has been a joy to watch him in action. His ideas and follow through have proven to be a wonderful asset to KBCS. I also want to give special recognition to Jim Stearns and Salmonfest. This is an incredible annual event. If you haven't attended yet, be sure to take it in this year. KBCS has received \$12,000 in the last two years as the main sponsor enabling us to hire help during this busy time. Thank you Jim and Salmonfest.

I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the Board Members for their volunteer time to KBCS. We now have a great team.

Laurie Daniel will lead the Overlook Park hike again this year during Shorebird Festival. She has been doing this for KBCS for many years, and we so appreciate her continuing willingness and enthusiasm. (See notice in newsletter.)

The ongoing chaos in D.C. has left many of us reeling. We're never sure from which direction the next environmental attack will be flying. The Pebble Mine debacle is back at our door, and the Corps of Engineers EIS comments are due June 29, 2018. (See article in newsletter.) The environmental issues list is too long so I will stop right here.

We must remember our successes and that there are millions of people who understand Mother Earth, our planet and our home, continues to need our protection and stewardship. Conservation is one of many answers to our self-imposed dilemma.

As always, we hope you continue to assist us in our ongoing efforts to protect the beautiful environment on and around Kachemak Bay and greater Alaska. Together we can and do make a difference.

Thank you,

Roberta Highland

President



Life and Legacy of Edgar Bailey

Last January, Alaska lost an environmental champion, Edgar P. Bailey, whose legacy is his work protecting wildlife, wild areas, and local lands. He was a man of action, dedication, determination, and as was often said, put his money where his mouth was.

In his career with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Ed worked hard to catalog the abundance and distribution of marine birds and mammals on off shore islands and refuge coastlines. When that work was done, his firm belief that removing alien species on refuge lands was the most important thing he could do to restore the biodiversity of islands ravaged by marauding foxes left over from Alaska's fox farming era inspired him to convince the Refuge to start a fox removal program. His persistence convinced his bosses to send him out each summer to remove foxes from islands in the Refuge. Later, he started agitating for a rat spill prevention program. He always said, "In many ways a rat spill

is worse than an oil spill, because the rats keep on killing until they are removed."

Over the years, Ed worked on many important environmental issues he cared deeply about and served on numerous boards, including the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society Board. Because he so admired the Center for the Environment in Anchorage when he lived there, he decided to build the Kachemak Bay Conservation Center to house Cook Inletkeeper and other environmental organizations. Managing his own

refuge was his retirement dream, so he bought contiguous properties at the end of Skyline Drive to create a wildlife corridor connecting summer and winter habitat for local wildlife. Inspiration Ridge Preserve is the incarnation of that dream, soon to become a working wildlife preserve showcasing sandhill cranes, wildlife corridors, and land stewardship.

Ed believed strongly that individuals and organizations can make a difference. His life is a testament to the difference an individual can make for future generations. Help make Inspiration Ridge Preserve a lasting legacy by making a donation in Edgar Bailey's memory to the Alaska Conservation Foundation, Inspiration Ridge Preserve Maintenance and Operation Fund, 911 West 8th Ave., Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501.



Photo provided by Nina Faust



REVERSING GLOBAL WARMING: IT'S POSSIBLE

AKCC Year in Review

Since Earth Day 2017, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) has been busy and active with our education campaign Alaskans Know Climate Change (AKCC). Below is an incomplete summary of some of the endeavors that we have been engaged in.

Although AKCC is an education campaign we also advocate for action. The very first campaign we took on back in the fall of 2016 was advocating that Governor Walker reinstate the Climate Change Taskforce, which had originally been in place under former Governor Sarah Palin. We also advocated for the State to fill a climate change coordinator position. In October 2017, Governor Walker heard the plea, read our robust signature list and obliged our demands by filling these positions.

The State of Alaska has a long way to go before it fully digests what sort of policy and economic decisions it needs to embrace to bring Alaska into the 21st century, and entirely off fossil fuels, but we are seeing positive signals.

Over the last year, AKCC has begun coordinating with other people and organizations around the

state—groups and people who are also enthralled in the climate change fight. Together, our unified messages, from disparate regions of the state—from the high Arctic to soggy Southeast—become stronger, louder, and clearer when spoken in unity.

The best example we have of working together and seeing positive results has come from the work we have done to convince the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC) to divest from fossil fuel assets. Twice we have met as a statewide group to strategize and prepare for meetings with the Permanent Fund Trustees. At the meetings with the Trustees of APFC people from our group have given rehearsed and well-coordinated testimony. We have asked that the Trustees perform an Environmental, Social and Governance report.

Alaska's Permanent Fund is currently worth \$62 billion. Fossil fuel investments represent \$4.9 billion or 7.76% of the total Fund. A brief summary of major public oil stock holdings of the Permanent Fund shows that they have in aggregate lost about 3% in value (\$702 million down to \$680 million), over an unspeci-

fied time period. As the market has doubled in the past 6 or 7 years, this substantial amount of money should have increased in value correspondingly as well. Instead, these oil equities have lost value.

For a state that is warming twice as fast as the rest of the nation and four times faster in winter, divesting from fossil fuels is not only the moral thing to do it is also a wise economic choice. This is true for our Alaskan Permanent Fund but it stands to reason for anyone with fossil fuels in their investment portfolio.

Over the next year we plan to keep up the pressure on the Trustees of APFC.

One of the principal goals of AKCC is to promote and draw attention to good ideas. Our tagline is, *'it is time to come together as Alaskans to fight climate change, defend our way of life and embolden the industries of the future.'* The last part about emboldening the industries of the future is very important. We strongly believe that if we tackle climate change with all our might we will summarily grow our economy. Furthermore, we will grow our economy in a sustainable way rather than the tired and environmentally destructive boom and bust resource extraction model we have been presented with since the Russian-American period.

The best idea we have come across since Earth Day last is Kerry Williams' proposal to transform Alaska's rail-belt to 100% renewable energy. Kerry's proposal would provide four-times our current electric demands, which means we could see the end of the internal combustion vehicle here in Alaska as electric vehicles would make so much sense. We have thrown the full weight of our media resources and energy into Kerry's proposal. If you haven't already read our article, which is titled '100% Renewable Alaska,' please do. Kerry will also be giving a presentation with a question and answer session on April 22 (actual Earth Day) here in Homer. Kerry's partner Ceal Smith will also be here to present on the Renewable Energy Alaska Roadmap. Ask one of us for information about these presentations.

We are also working to offset the Conservation Center (3734 Ben Walters Lane) and addressing the building's carbon footprint. We are looking to invest in rooftop solar for the building, which will be a grid-tie project. Stay tuned as this project unfolds. As we go through the motions of offsetting the building's foot-

print, buying inexpensive carbon offsets, looking at ways to make energy reductions, and as we begin to invest in alternative energy, we are hoping to educate and share with the community about our experience. We want to demystify what it means to honestly address a carbon footprint and do the right thing. Furthermore, we want to expose that doing the right thing is less of a pain than one might think.

As our state continues to see radical environmental changes brought about as the result of our civilization generating an additional 40 billion tons of green house gasses every year, we *must* make addressing climate change a top priority. If you care about salmon, you need to address climate change. If you care about wildlife, winter recreation, shorebirds, commercial fisheries, biodiversity, cultural identity, healthy economies, rural Alaskans, and your children's futures, you need to address climate change and begin taking this issue very seriously. We all need to become climate change literate.

We here at KBCS are in it for the long haul. We hope you will support us any way you can but most importantly we hope you will get in the fight, protect our way of life and help embolden the industries of the future.

For more information please visit:

AlaskansKnowClimateChange.Com

-Bjørn Olson

KBCS board member and Alaskans Know Climate Change Director of Education and Advocacy

Alaskans Know Climate Change...

Alaska's climate is changing.

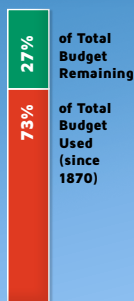
These changes are happening more quickly than ever recorded. Elders observe that conditions are unlike even the oldest stories. Scientists conclude that the global climate is warming because of rising emissions of gases like carbon dioxide and methane (the consensus on this is similar to the consensus that cigarette smoke causes cancer).

Alaskans know climate change because we are living it.

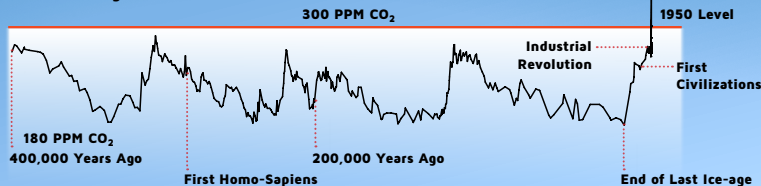


Thinking of Carbon Emissions as a Budget

To reduce catastrophic effects on both humans and ecosystems, we must prevent average global temperatures from rising by more than 2° C above pre-industrial levels. To do this there is only a finite amount of carbon pollution the world can emit—this amount can be thought of as our carbon budget. At our current rate, we have about 20 years remaining.



By drilling for ice cores and analyzing the trapped air bubbles, scientists have found that at no point during at least the past 400,000 years have atmospheric CO₂ levels been as high as they are now—404 parts per million (PPM). In the entire history of humankind, CO₂ levels have never been this high.



Actions you can take to mitigate climate change...

- Advocate for carbon pricing.
- Demand an end to fossil fuel subsidies.
- Support renewable energy projects
- Divest from fossil fuels.
- Reduce your carbon footprint.
- Offset your personal contribution to climate change by buying inexpensive carbon offsets.

For more information please visit: AlaskansKnowClimateChange.com

The Alaskans Know Climate Change education campaign is working to develop non-partisan climate change resources to help our citizens recognize the scope of these changes and to see why they are driven primarily by human activity. We are working to inspire action toward climate change mitigation to preserve our beloved state of Alaska.



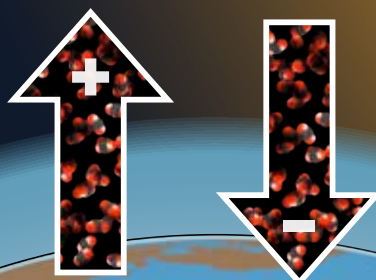
Addressing Climate Change Through the Voluntary Marketplace

Some human activities release CO₂ into the atmosphere.

As this CO₂ accumulates, it traps heat from the sun, overdriving the greenhouse effect.

Some human activities remove CO₂ from the atmosphere or prevent it from being released in the first place.

This helps us to manage climate change's catastrophic effects.



Investment in a Sustainable Balance

Investing in Technology that Reduces Human Energy use or Generates Energy with Less Carbon Production

There are many technologies being produced or invented that can change the human impact on climate. Purchasing these gives companies incentive and capital to improve quality and drive down prices.

Addressing Climate Change Using the Stock Market

If you have investments in fossil fuels, consider joining the fastest growing divestment campaign in history. The global movement for fossil fuel divestment is asking institutions and individuals to move their money out of oil, coal and gas companies for both moral and financial reasons.

Purchasing Carbon Offsets

Carbon offsets are inexpensive donations by individuals or companies to projects that can sequester large amounts of greenhouse gasses, such as land-use, methane capture, biomass, renewable energy and industrial energy efficiency.

The 3 Basic Steps of Carbon Offsets



Using a Carbon Calculator

Use an online carbon calculator to find out how much you are contributing to climate change. The average American produces 20 tons of CO₂ annually. How much do you produce?



Decreasing Your Personal Impact

Assess where you can make personal reductions to your contribution to climate change by modifying your lifestyle and consumer habits.



Purchasing Carbon Offsets

No matter what, you will never be able to become carbon neutral through lifestyle changes alone. Currently, the most effective action an individual or business can take to combat climate change is to purchase inexpensive carbon offsets.

Verifying Carbon Offsets

In order to ensure that the offsets are robust, credible and precise, projects must demonstrate to independent oversight that the emissions reductions meet a specific set of measurement and verification criteria. This includes showing that the reductions would not have been generated without the project—meaning that they are additional to a business-as-usual scenario.

The Alaskans Know Climate Change education campaign is working to develop non-partisan climate change resources to help our citizens recognize the scope of these changes and to see why they are driven primarily by human activity. We are working to inspire action toward climate change mitigation to preserve our beloved state of Alaska.



For more information please visit: AlaskansKnowClimateChange.com



Salmonfest

Once again KBCS will play a major role, along with Cook Inlet Keeper and Musicians United To Protect Bristol Bay as major a sponsor and beneficiary of Salmonfest. Salmonfest has provided an economic boost to KBCS and other organizations in their consistent effort to protect wild salmon and the waters, ocean, lakes, rivers and streams that provide the vital habitat in which they thrive and spawn.

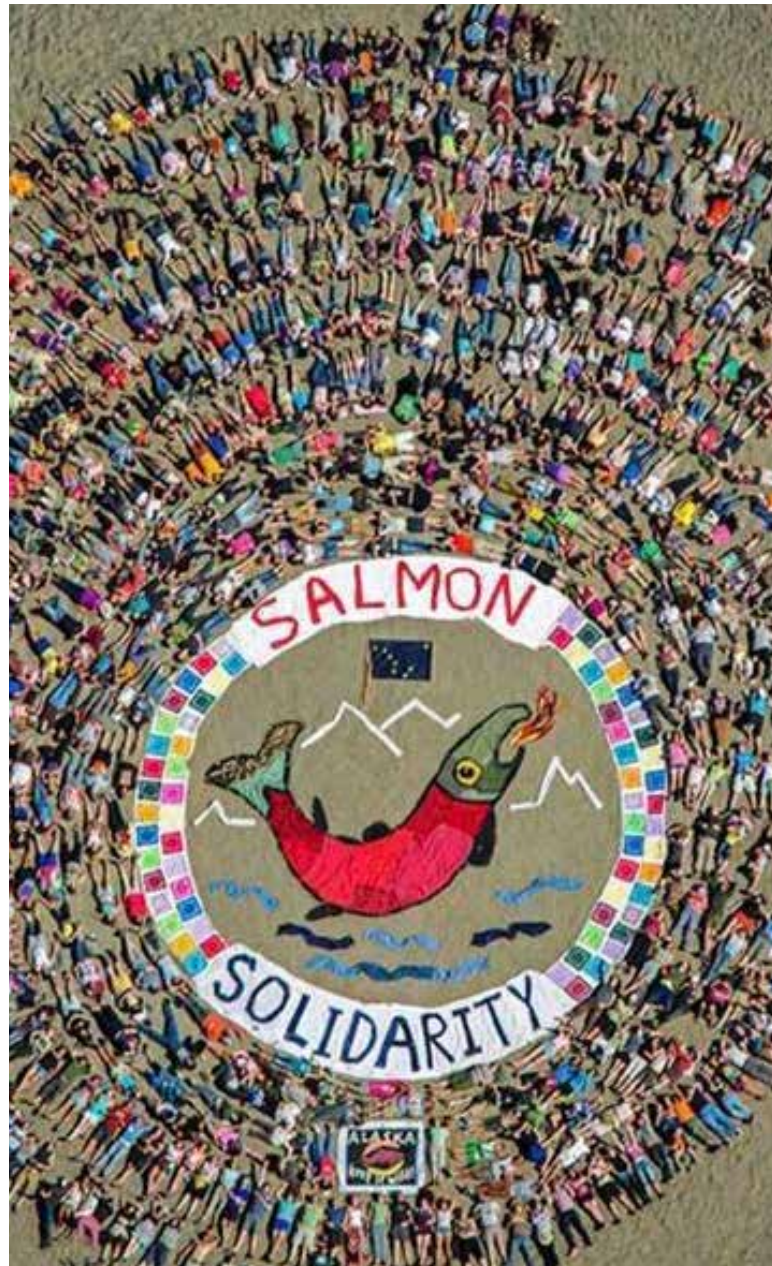
In particular this year is shaping up to be a big one as it is an election year and the Stand For Salmon Initiative is on the ballot, along with many other important issues. The Salmon Causeway will once again be a major component of the festival and will provide a great opportunity to educate, organize and galvanize the people of Alaska who find a common bond with deep connection and love of

salmon that transcends all political, demographic and socio-economic divisions.

Brandi Carlile and Michael Franti have been chosen to headline this years festival on Aug. 3-5 at the Kenai Peninsula Fairgrounds in Ninilchik. Both Michael and Brandi are deeply committed to the foundational elements of the festival and we are hoping to get them out to Bristol Bay to see what is at stake and they can disseminate the Stand For Salmon message throughout the country.

In addition to these two powerhouse acts there are 60 other acts including Fruition, Front Country, Great American Taxi and much more. 3 days, 4 stages-top food, crafts, brews, arts, crafts, parades and the one and only Salmon Causeway!

salmonfestalaska.org



Earth Day

with
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

What: Earth Day Presentations and Films

Where: Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

When: Saturday, April 21, 2018 6-8 PM

Who: Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Alaskans Know Climate Change

Guest Appearance: Homer Youth String Orchestra Club

Adventure Photos, Stories, and Climate Change
Prescriptions from Bjørn Olson

**Presentation and Films by Nina Faust
and Roberta Highland**

Come early and enjoy a
free meal and live music 5-6 PM

**Honoring the Life and Legacy
of Edgar Bailey**



AlaskansKnowClimateChange.com

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kBayConservation.org

KBCS's Public Comment Writing

KBCS has contracted an environmental analyst to draft comments to permitting agencies on areas of critical concern:

- Use and Development of Kachemak Bay
- Oil and Gas Development
- Mining
- Salmon Hatcheries

The analyst, Penelope Haas, has a background in legal and policy analysis and has worked both as a commercial fisherman and in commercial fisheries management in Alaska. She loves wild Alaska and this love drives her work. Many of our comments can be read on our website blog; in the coming months, we hope to reconfigure the website to make this information more user-friendly, so stay tuned.

Some of the highlights of this collaboration include comments urging the Board of Fisheries to reinstate a Hatchery Committee that will meet annually. The Board has done it! We hope you will follow their proceedings! These comments are attached here.

KBCS is participating in monthly meetings on the development of the Management Plan for the Kachemak Bay and Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Areas. We will be commenting on the final plan, as well as on the forthcoming Kachemak Bay State Park Management Plan: in both cases, we are working to ensure that mariculture permits require sufficient assessment of environmental impacts, that possible impacts from Pebble Mine development are addressed, and that the critical habitat plan uses digital mapping technology to

meaningfully protect key habitats and species. If there are any areas of concern that you want to see reflected in these Management Plans, please let us know, so we can advocate for you.

Our comments to DNR on the expansion of oyster farm operations in Bear Cove were picked up for a story by the Homer Tribune: feedback on these comments suggest that we need to clarify our position here: we are not opposed to oyster farmers. We want transparency about the data being used by DNR to determine the impacts of such expansions; this same view holds for hatcheries in Kachemak Bay.

Lastly, this is a big year for mining. We have opposed the issuance of a permit to build a road to Ambler Mining District without conducting an environmental assessment of the mine. We are collaborating with Cook Inletkeeper to stop the Pebble Mine and are speaking out against the development of the Donlin Gold Mine, which has a proposed tailing pile of 2,351 acres fifty miles upstream of the Yukon Delta National Park.

Other comments include: Demanding reasonable protection of the Anchor River in Hilcorp's Cook Inlet Contingency Plan, Opposing the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program; urging Murkowski, Young and Sullivan to advocate funding the NERRS in Washington D.C.; critiquing DNR's Commissioner's Analysis and Proposed Decision Cross-Inlet ROW Lease, and comments opposing the issuance of POA-2015-564 Greg Davis and Precious Earth, Inc. Discharge Permit.



Make sure your voice is heard regarding The Pebble Mine.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers will be accepting comments on the dredge and fill permit application until June 29, 2018.

How to submit comments:

1. Go to <http://pebbleprojecteis.com>
2. Click on "Documents" and download the Scoping Package.
If you're interested, you can see Pebble Project's Permit Application under "Background Documents." It is Appendix D.
3. Submit Comments online at <http://pebbleprojecteis.com> or by mail to:

Mr. Shane McCoy
Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK 99506-0898.

Please Attend:

Pebble Comment Writing Workshop

Thursday, April 26 at 5:30pm
Kachemak Conservation Center/Cook Inletkeeper office
3734 Ben Walters Lane
Food and refreshments provided
RSVP to Satchel at: satchel@inletkeeper.org





Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
3734 Ben Walters Ln, Homer, AK 99603
907 235.8214
kbayconservation@gmail.com

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
dfg.bof.comments@alaska.gov

**RE: March 6-9, Statewide Dungeness Crab, Shrimp,
Misc. Shellfish Standing Hatchery Committee**

To Whom It May Concern:

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) is a thirty-five year old nonprofit based in Homer, Alaska. Our mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and greater Alaska by encouraging sustainable use and stewardship of natural resources through advocacy, education, information, and collaboration.

We strongly urge the Board of Fisheries (the Board) to establish a standing Hatchery Committee. A standing committee is badly needed to increase public knowledge about hatcheries and confidence that wild populations of fish are responsibly managed, to maintain the highest standards of scientific integrity in fishery management, to ensure sustainability, and to assist the Department of Fish and Game (the Department) in fulfilling its legal obligation to protect wild stocks. No member of the Board with a conflict of interest can be permitted to serve on this committee if it is to perform the above functions.

The Department of Fish and Game is obligated by numerous laws to protect wild stocks from hatchery

stocks. The Department needs to restore public confidence that it is operating within the parameters of those laws. We list here a few examples: according to the 1974 Act *Authorizing the Operation of Private Nonprofit Salmon Hatcheries*, salmon hatcheries “shall be operated without adversely affecting natural stocks of fish in the state.” There are alarming signs that salmon hatcheries are adversely affecting natural stocks via substantial and wide-spread straying. The *Alaska Department of Fish and Game Alaska Hatchery Research Project Synopsis* of May 2017 estimates that the proportion of hatchery-origin pink salmon spawners in streams in the Prince William sound was 4% in 2013, 15% in 2014 and 10% in 2015. Estimates of the proportion of hatchery-origin chum



salmon spawners in streams in Southeast are 7% in 2013, 5% in 2014 and 9% in 2015. Those are the percentages of hatchery strays in wild streams in one year: If streams have an average stray rate of 10%, you have replaced 100% of the wild stocks over the course of 10 years.¹ Not only are hatchery fish straying at outrageous rates, they are straying outrageous distances, across districts, and into systems that do not traditionally harbor many pink salmon. Many residents of Homer were disturbed to see streams that do not support pink runs overloaded with pink salmon in 2017; as it turns out a great many of these were hatchery strays from Prince William Sound

Aquaculture Corporation. The *Alaska Department of Fish and Game Lower Cook Inlet Pink Salmon Otolith Sampling Summary, 2017* reports that Prince William Sound hatchery-produced pink salmon are generally found at levels ranging 2%–70% in the Lower Cook Inlet, a substantial number of which are found in the Critical Habitat Area of Kachemak Bay. This is not acceptable. It is extremely likely a great many of our wild stocks are either fully destroyed or profoundly harmed. These stray rates and distances represent a

¹ In contrast, ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries Special Publication No. 23 *Prince William Sound-Copper River Phase 3 Comprehensive Salmon Plan* wrote in 1994 that “the proportion of hatchery salmon straying into wild-stock streams must remain below 2% of the wild-stock escapement over the long term.” The Department has clearly changed paradigms in what it is willing to interpret as sustainable.

profound diversion from the letter and spirit of the laws governing the Department or the Board. We hope a standing Hatchery Committee can provide a forum for a discussion of this and other alarming evidence; we hope it can also help bring the Department into compliance with its foundational mandate.

The *Alaska Policy for the Management of Sustainable Salmon Fisheries* requires that the “effects and interactions of introduced or enhanced salmon stocks on wild salmon stocks should be assessed; wild salmon stocks and fisheries on those stocks should be protected from adverse impacts from artificial propagation and enhancement efforts...” Effects of introduced stocks on wild salmon are only just beginning to be assessed; we’ve missed nearly 50 years of important research: how does competition of 1,479.7 million hatchery salmon fry affect wild fry? How does competition of millions and millions of hatchery stocks out in the ocean affect wild stocks? How does competition of straying fish affect wild fish in streams? How many predators do hatchery fish bring to wild-stocks at the release sites, out in the ocean, and up rivers and streams? There are many more questions. The Department must invest in more research. We hope a standing Hatchery Committee can help facilitate some of that research.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Genetic Policy states that “gene flow from hatchery fish straying and intermingling with wild stocks may have significant detrimental effects on wild stocks. First priority will be given to protection of wild stocks from possible harmful interactions with introduced stocks...” In light

of its neglect of the above, the Department cannot be said to be prioritizing the protection of wild stocks. The Board must help the Department prioritize wild stocks.

In conclusion, according to AS 16.10.440(b), the Board of Fisheries may

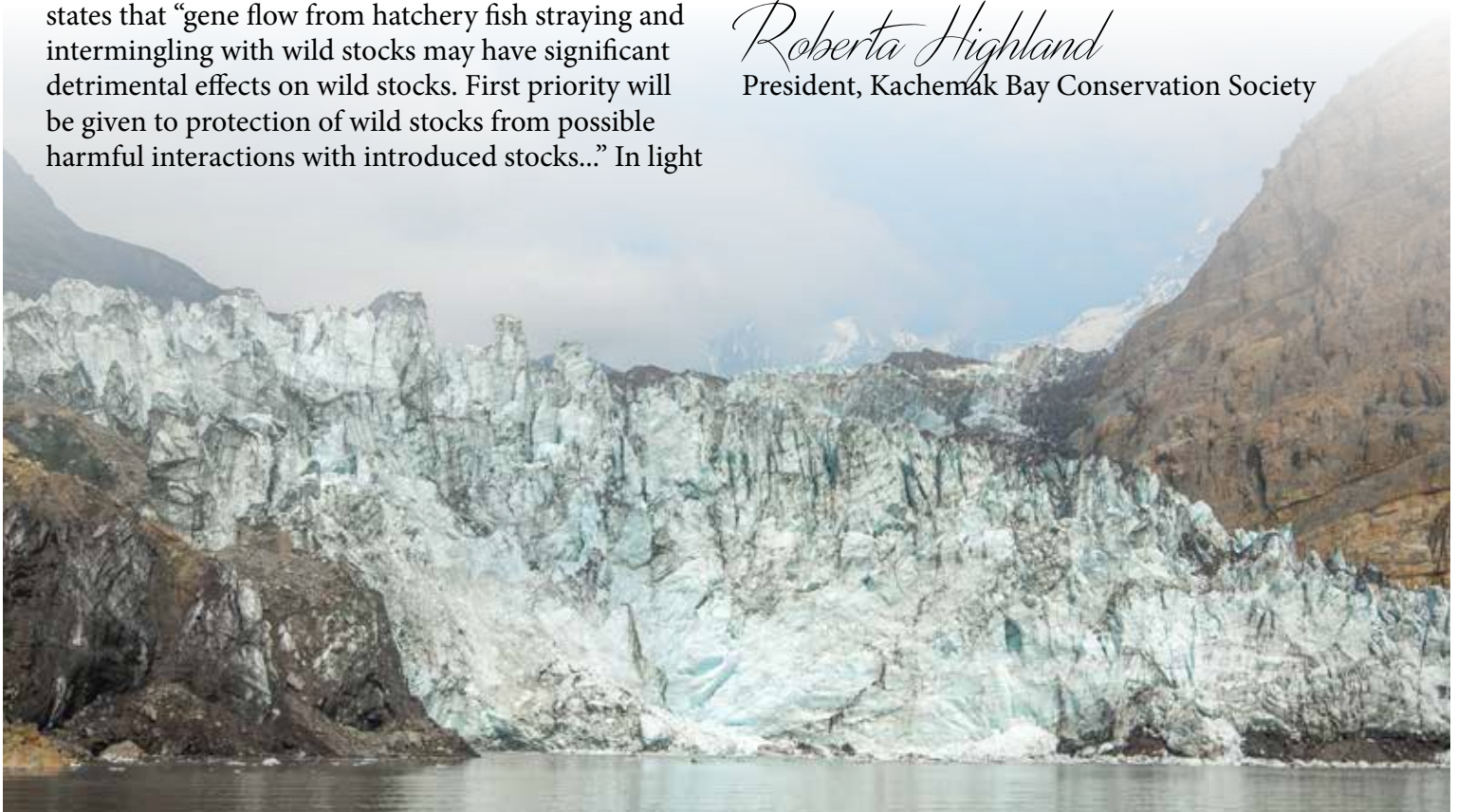
“amend by regulation adopted in accordance with AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), the terms of the permit relating to the source and number of salmon eggs, the harvest of fish by hatchery operators, and the specific locations designated by the department for harvest.”

We strongly urge the Board to invoke this power. We recognize that the scale of this challenge is formidable; however, we cannot turn a blind eye to the loss of our wild stocks: it is a tragedy, and will ultimately mean the death of the fishery as well as the industry. The Board of Fish was established for the purposes of conservation and development of the fishery resources. The formation of a standing Hatchery Committee is a necessary first step to satisfying these basic obligations.

Sincerely,

Roberta Highland

President, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society



KBCS Board Members

Martie Krohn

Treasurer



Martie replaces Linda Gorman as treasurer with an appointment to the board in March, 2016. As a resident of Homer since 1984, Martie has been involved in many civic and environmental endeavors through teaching and 4-H.

She taught at The Learning Place, a parent's cooperative educational venture prior to starting Smoky Bay School which operated from 1986 to 2006. Through the school, Martie worked with children from grades one through twelve on academics as well as stewardship of the earth through many science projects and wilderness education programs.

Other endeavors include playing with the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra, Inlet Winds Band, and the Krohn Family Band; activities with Pier One Theatre, and stage management for Dance Theatre North.

In 2014, Martie was named Woman of Distinction by Haven House.

Jim Stearns

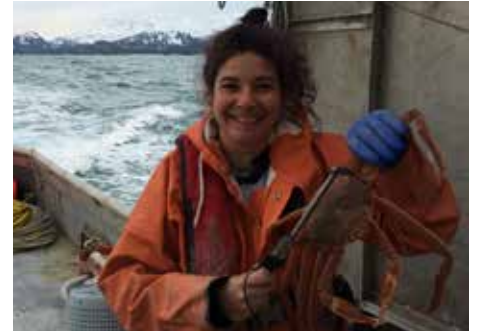
Board Member



Jim is president of the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board, a member of the Homer Little League Board and is the producer of Salmonfest. Prior to moving to Alaska 7 years ago, Jim was involved in producing many fundraisers and brought his restaurant and catering experience to Hurricane Katrina and, with a revolving team, served 75,000 meals to evacuees over 2 months. He was also a founding member and leader of Friends of the River in California, founding member and board president of the Central Sierra Watershed Coalition, and past board president of the Mother Lode Women's Center.

Elisa Russ

Board Member



Elisa Russ has lived in Alaska since 1992 and in Homer since 1996.

Elisa has volunteered for many non-profit organizations including KBCS, Cook Inletkeeper, and Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park.

In 1997 she co-founded KARE, Kachemak Advocates for REcycling, and in 1998 she held the first Earth Day celebration at Big E's Eatery, her Homer business at the time.

Most recently she served on the Board of Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges (Friends) for 5 years where she was the Outreach Coordinator and coordinated several large photography exhibits of Refuge lands in Homer, Anchorage, Juneau, and Cold Bay.

Currently, Elisa is employed as a fisheries biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

In Elisa's free time she enjoys skiing, hiking, biking, yoga, dancing to live music including attending Salmonfest.

KBCS Board Members

Susan Kaplan

Board Member



Susan Kaplan has called Homer home since 1995 and has walked the beach since arriving. Kaplan joined the board on May 19th, 2017 after helping with the annual earth day events. Kaplan has enjoyed many endeavors while in Homer from food service to the arts, advertising to journalism and always an interest in real estate. Kaplan now finds herself at Cornerstone Home Lending helping good people get into good homes. And during the summers Kaplan lends a hand with Salmonfest.

Patricia Cue

Board Member



Patricia (Pat) Cue's passion for conservation and all things wild have been an integral part of the Homer community for many years.

As an elected official on the Homer City Council, she worked to establish the Beach Policy Task Force in collaboration with many city, state and private citizens. Pat was one of the first water quality monitors for Cook Inlet Keeper which provided the impetus to create the City of Homer Beach Policy.

She has worked to keep jet skis out of Kachemak Bay State Park and billboards off of Alaska roadways and scenic places.

Pat's interests include stopping the Pebble Mine, reducing global warming and limiting plastics in our oceans. Another keen interest is developing a greater understanding of how noise pollution impacts our lives and how to minimize all types of noise in our environment.

She is happy to be back in Homer and grateful to serve on the KBCS Board.

KBCS Board Members up for Re-election

Roberta Highland

President



Roberta is civically engaged through her seats on the Homer Advisory Planning Commission and the South Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board. She serves as President of the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association. Roberta weighs in regularly on issues being discussed on local radio including KBBI's Coffee Table or the statewide Talk of Alaska.

Her guiding principles embrace the Four E's: Environment, Economy, Energy, and Ethics. Using this approach, inspired by former Governor Jay Hammond, she strives to elevate important conservation issues and influence decision makers. "We are all in this together." Roberta said, "So be respectful and nice to all-including those who disagree with us. . . I find that a sense of humor and talking about the weather is a good icebreaker, especially in Alaska. . . I make it a point to frequently talk to the 'other side,' if you will, because it does little good to just talk to each other."

Teresa Sundmark

Secretary



Teresa Sundmark moved to Alaska from Colorado in 1992, never fully expecting to stay for so long. She and her husband Dean found their way to Homer in 1994 and decided there was no better place to raise their two children.

Teresa has worked at the Homer Public Library since it was located on Pioneer Avenue and is an adjunct creative writing professor at the Kachemak Bay Campus of the Kenai Peninsula College.

Teresa has written for the High Country News and on her personal blog about a range of topics including Alaska's changing climate, her personal quest to reduce plastics in her life as well as a number of social issues.

In 2014 she graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with an MFA in creative writing. When she's not writing or working, she enjoys gardening, playing old-time fiddle music and hiking.

KBCS Board Members up for Re-election

Bjørn Olson
Board Member



Since birth, Southcentral, Alaska has been the home of Bjørn Olson, who began life in an abandoned trappers cabin in the Wrangell Mountains. In his late teens, Bjørn was inspired by legendary Alaskan outdoors-men and women, whose adventures were what most defined and consumed them. Since then he has been following his own life of adventure, from mountaineering and climbing to kayaking, packrafting and wilderness cycling.

Bjørn has completed many original winter and summer “firsts” on his fat-bike including: Hope to Homer, Cook Inlet to Bristol Bay, Homer to Port Graham, the length of the Kuskokwim River, Knik to Kotzebue, Nome to Kivalina, and Point Hope to Utqiagvik (Barrow), to name a few.

A life-long closeness to Alaska’s vast wilderness and its unique cultures has helped shape and inform Bjørn’s identity, his environmental activism, and the media he produces.

Alisa Mooy
Board Member



Alisa Mooy was appointed in October 2014.

In California, she was involved with the Avery Ranch collective that utilized the Nature Conservancy model to purchase private lands within the Stanislaus National Forest boundaries and provide stewardship and habitat preservation for the flora and fauna of the region.

In 2005 she went to Houston, Texas and set up a Katrina relief kitchen to serve meals to thousands of New Orleans residents who had evacuated to Houston. She remained in Houston for nearly 3 months and raised funds and co-managed the kitchen that ended up serving nearly 75,000 meals.

In 2007 Alisa started a soup kitchen for the homeless and underprivileged residents of Calaveras County, California. She has very good computer skills and will be working on Salmonfest. This will be a 1-year term to get her on the regular 2-year election cycle.

The Future, the Past, and Whale Oil

a short film
by Bjørn Olson

In the midst of Alaska's current, ill-conceived fossil fuel frenzy, Senator Tom Begich (D-Anchorage) delivered a historic speech on the floor of the Alaska Senate re: climate change, and the energy transition from fossil fuels to a low-carbon alternative energy future.

Watch the short film on [Vimeo.Com](https://vimeo.com) or find it on AlaskansKnowClimateChange.Com

YES!

I'll support the
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society!

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☐ New Member
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2. Support Level:

☐ \$20 Individual
☐ \$35 Couple/Family
☐ \$50 Supporting
☐ \$100 Business

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City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

(Check which items you would like to receive)

☐ Email newsletter
☐ Snail mail newsletter
☐ Email Announcements and Action Alerts

☐ I am interested in serving on the KBCS Board of Directors!

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membership tab and renew through PayPal at
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Kachemak Bay
Conservation Society
3734 Ben Walters Ln.
Homer, AK 99603

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PayPal or Credit Card at KBayConservation.org**

**Kachemak Bay Conservation Society is
now on Facebook**

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Membership benefits and how you can help

100% Renewable Alaska

**An elegant proposal to transform Alaska's
Rail-Belt to 100% renewable energy.**

Presentations:

Sunday, April 22nd, 3pm-5pm

Conservation Center, 3734 Ben Walters Ln.

Alternative energy experts, Kerry Williams and Ceal Smith will be giving presentations about how to transform Alaska to 100% renewable energy.

Come to their talk prepared to learn and bring your hard-boiled questions.

KBCS will provide food and refreshments.