

Larry Hartig
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, AK 99811-1800
www.dec.alaska.gov



Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 12, 2008

Contact: Tim Hoffman, Division of Water, (907) 269-0598

or email Timothy.Hoffman@alaska.gov, or visit www.dec.state.ak.us/water/

World Water Monitoring Day set for Sept. 18
Department of Environmental Conservation and Juneau
Watershed Partnership to host hands-on event
Water testing to promote awareness of
water quality issues in Juneau area

JUNEAU, ALASKA—Lemon Creek will be the focus of this year's World Water Monitoring Day in the Juneau area. Water quality testing of Lemon Creek is scheduled for September 18 from noon-1 p.m. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is providing test kits and water quality experts. The Juneau Watershed Partnership (JWP) will also be on hand to assist people with the water quality testing. Parking for the event will be at Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School.

"Our main goal is to raise awareness of water quality issues," said Joran Freeman, Environmental Specialist with DEC's Division of Water. "The World Water Monitoring Day folks developed an easy-to-use test kit that enables everyone from children to adults to sample local water bodies. People can test a core set of water quality parameters with these kits including acidity (pH), clarity (turbidity), dissolved oxygen and temperature."

DEC also tests these parameters, plus several others, using more sophisticated equipment to determine the quality of water in many local streams and seeks to identify those with problems. DEC then works with local government, nonprofits, industry, and residents to develop a plan to address water quality problems. One stream of concern in Juneau is Lemon Creek.

"We wanted to highlight Lemon Creek because although it runs through a developed area of Juneau and is classified as an impaired stream, Lemon is still a salmon stream," said Beverly Anderson, Executive Director, JWP. "We know that we can have smart growth and development and good neighborhoods, while keeping our wild salmon streams healthy and full of fish."

All it takes is awareness and teamwork to ensure that Juneau's water quality is maintained and improved for all users."

Although free use of test kits is only available at the Lemon Creek event, those interested in testing other water bodies can order the kits on-line at: www.worldwatermonitoringday.org. The kits cost \$13 plus shipping. The web site is also the place where the water quality data can be logged in and compared with other sites from around the world.

For more information about the Juneau Watershed Partnership go to: www.juneauwatersheds.org.

For DEC water quality information: <http://www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/>.

Media Note: There will be experts from the Tanana Valley Watershed Association Council and DEC available for interviews during the event.