WRANGELL
NARROWS

Floresca, Leslie
From: Henriques, MaryAnn
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2001 14:03
To: Floresca, Leslie
Subject: Phone Response

On Monday a woman left a message on our DAS phone voice mail. I just now retrieved the message. She did not leave her name but was interested in the water quality of the Wrangell Narrows. Her number is 907-772-4476. Would you please notify the appropriate individual to contact this woman.

Thank you,

MaryAnn Henriques
Procurement Specialist
Administrative Services

→ Enid McGill

• boat harbor fecals, and fecals in the Narrows

boat harbor expanding

Hammer Slough
& Wrangell Narrows
ED

Decker, Eric

From: Decker, Eric
To: Redburn, Doug
Cc: Decker, Eric
Subject: Petersburg field trip Oct. 22 -24
Date: Wednesday, October 09, 1996 3:37PM

Just got off the phone with ADFG's Brian Lynch. He'll be available when we plan to go to Petersburg and has a flexible schedule. Brian said he hasn't been up the Slough since April. ADFG has lots of boats and can either lend one to us for our use or Brian may decide to go with us when we collect the fecal samples up and down the Wrangell Narrows.

I explained to Brian the fecal sampling in Wrangell Narrows was only because the waterbody is on our internal suspect list - we are not sampling because of the City's treatment facility. I also said we would welcome input on Narrows sampling areas. Because of housing development all along the Narrows, we will need to take samples probably from in front of town down through Beecher's Pass (at the entrance of Duncan Canal). Probably looking at 40 miles on the water roundtrip.

Brian did say that the fecal sampling was timely in that there is a Scow Bay (Scow Bay is part of Wrangell Narrows) bond issue sewer upgrade project that will be decided during the local election this fall (election day is Oct. 22 according to Brian).

I also made reservations at the Tide's Inn for one room/two beds at $80 a night. Also got a Avis car for $49 a day. We need a government credit card on the car rental if the State doesn't want to pay sales tax.

CITY OF PETERSBURG
WATER & WASTEWATER UTILITIES
P.O. BOX 329 • PETERSBURG, ALASKA 99833
TELEPHONE (907) 772-3787
TELECOPIER (907) 772-4102

February 28, 1996

RECEIVED
MAR 04 1996
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Eric Decker
State of Alaska
Dept. Of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Quality
410 Willoughby Ave., Suite 105
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1795

Dear Mr. Decker:

I have received the "Draft" 1996, Section 305 (b), Water Quality Assessment Report and would like the following comments entered into the record of "comments received".

Two waterbodies in the Petersburg area are listed in the "Draft" 1996 Water Quality Assessment Report, those being Hammers Slough and Wrangell Narrows. Both of these waterbodies have been listed without the documented water quality data or credible evidence listed in Appendix II for "Impaired Surface Waters". To the best of my knowledge they have never been selected for a State Notice of Violation or other enforcement action. Photographs and video tapes of these waterbodies do not document persistent violations, but document the pristine conditions of the waterbodies that Alaska is famous for.

Water Quality data samples on Hammers Slough were collected and analyzed during the month of February 1996. The results of the sampling is as follows;

Settleable Solids Averaged 0 ml/L

Suspended Solids Averaged 6 mg/L

Turbidity measured between 18 and 24 NTU

Color measured between 99 and 130 units

These results are comparable to the test results from the water entering our drinking water treatment facility. This is no surprise, as they share a common ridge line in their respective watersheds. Definitely not the indicators of an impaired waterbody.

In closing, it appears that Hammers Slough and Wrangell Narrows have been targeted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 staff for inclusion in this list of Impaired or Suspected of being Impaired Waterbodies. Because I know of no substantiating documentation for either of them, I am

concluding that their assessment is politically based, rather than scientifically based. My assessment, as a water quality professional, albeit local, is that both Hammers Slough and Wrangell Narrows should be de-listed, immediately, before they become officially listed. This will save the State of Alaska thousands of dollars de-listing the waterbodies and the tourism industry in Petersburg will not be adversely affected by these false accusations.

Sincerely,

Bruce R. Jones
Superintendent

BJ/EW

WRANGELL NARROWS File
& Hammer Slough

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Watershed Management Unit

Waterbody Inspection and Monitoring Report

Waterbody / Watershed: Wrangell Narrows (saltwater waterbody near Petersburg)
Lower Hammer Slough (intertidal area within City of Petersburg)
Ohmer Creek (freshwater stream about 15 miles S. of Petersburg).

Date & Time: October 23, 1996

Inspectors: Eric Decker and Doug Redburn

Segment Inspected / GPS Location (if available): Sampled for fecal coliform in the Wrangell Narrows at the north end of Scow Bay at the DOT boat launch (12:40 pm) and at the Papke's Landing dock (1:00 pm). At Hammers' Slough, took a fecal coliform sample just below the city shop (11:30 am) and at the Nordic Drive Bridge (12:20 pm). The high tide was at 11:08 am (16.4 ft). A freshwater fecal coliform sample was also taken at the Ohmer Creek bridge.

Parameters of Concern: Fecal coliform from failed or leaking septic systems.

Purpose of Inspection: Collect fecal coliform data from the Wrangell Narrows and Hammer Slough. Collect freshwater background fecal coliform from a stream with minimal human activity.

Monitoring Data Collected: Fecal coliform sampling lab tests were conducted by City of Petersburg staff at the wastewater treatment facility laboratory. Test results were as follows:

Sampling site	**# of colonies per 100 ml**
N. end of Scow Bay	10
Papke's Landing	10
Hammer Slough (below City shop)	30
Nordic Drive Bridge	20
Ohmer Creek	10

Please refer to lab report dated 10/23/96.

Visual Observations: Fecal coliform sampling was conducted just after high tide. The weather was overcast clouds with intermittent light rain; temperatures in the high 40's.

Recommended Actions: Whenever DEC staff has the opportunity to visit the Petersburg area, continue to collect fecal coliform samples at the same sample stations at different tide stages and at different times of year to determine fecal coliform trend conditions.

ATTN: R. ERIC DECKER
Doug

Petersburg Wastewater Treatment Plant
Daily Lab Report

Date 10 23 96 Weather 4 Rain Temp. 37°

Operator R.S. Rainfall .50" Time 08:00

Sample Type Composite – C Grab – G (STEVE SMITH)

Flow

Influent Totalizer	Recirc. Pump	Effluent Totalizer
To Date	No. Running	To Date
Previous	Flow	Previous
Amount		Amount

Laboratory Analysis

	BOD mg/l	S.S. mg/l	Setl. Solids ml/L	DO mg/l	pH	Temp. °C	Fecal Coliform Colonies/ 100 ml
Plant Influent							
Trickling Filter Effluent							
Plant Effluent							

Transferred Sludge

Gallons Transferred	% Dry Solids	% Volatile	Time

Wt. Wet + Dish _____ Wt. Dry + Dish _____
Dish Wt. _____ Dish Wt. _____
Wet Wt. _____ Dry Wt. _____

Wt. Ash + Dish _____
Wt. Dish _____
Volatile Wt. _____

Chlorine

lbs. CL_2 24 Hours		Time	Analyzer	Titrator	Hach	Ave.
	Analyzer No. 1					
	Analyzer No. 2					
	Analyzer No. 1					
	Analyzer No. 2					

Dewaterer

Time Start		Gallons Processed	% Dry Solids	% Volatile	lbs. Dry Sludge Process	lbs. Volatile Sludge Process	Polymer Strength %	Amount Polymer Used
Time Finish			1.	1.				
			2.	2.				
			3.	3.				
			Ave.	Ave.				

Settleable Solids

Min.	Time	Plant Influent	Filter Effluent	Effluent
0				
5				
10				
15				
20				
25				
30				
40				
50				
60				

44.4°
1505
44.5
1630
08:00
44.4
12:00
44.6

Fecal Coliform

Petri Dish No.		Sample Filtraion Volume	Water Bath Time in	Water Bath Time out	No. of Colonies Visual	No. of Colonies Per 100 ml
1	A	.10	15:05		1	10
	B	.01			0	—
2	A	.10			1	10
	B	.01			0	—
3	A	.10			3	30
	B	.01			0	—
4	A	.10	15:00		2	20
	B	.01			0	—
5	A	.10			1	10
	B	.01			0	—

Petri Dish No. & Sample Source _____

Remarks

#1 North End Scow Bay (D.O.T. boat launch)
#2 Papke's Landing (D.O.T. dock)
#3 Hammer Slough (Before City Shop)
#4 Nordic Drive Bridge
#5 Ohmer Creek

Samples collected between 11:30 AM and 1:25 pm

R.S. Smith

Pilot Publishing, Inc.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
1992 STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

NAME OF WATERBODY: Wrangell Narrows

Location or Lat/Long: Alaska ID Number 10202-601

Is the waterbody in a national or state park, monument, refuge, preserve, or similar area?:
[ ] Yes / [X] No / Name: _____

Waterbody Type:
- [ ] River/Stream
- [ ] Lake
- [ ] Fresh Wetland
- [ ] Tidal Wetland
- [ ] Estuary
- [X] Coastal Shoreline
- [ ] Groundwater

Waterbody Size:
- ____ Miles
- ____ Acres/Hectares
- ____ Acres/Hectares
- ____ Acres/Hectares
- Approx. 30 Square Miles
- ____ Miles

Segment of Waterbody Addressed:
From: Petersburg, Northend of Mitkof Is.
To: Southend of Mitkof Is.
Other Description: _____

Size of Segment: _____

Period of Assessment, From: _____ **To:** _____

Type of Documentation (attach if possible):
- [ ] Water quality data
- [ ] Documented oil spill
- [ ] NOV / Enforcement action
- [ ] Photos with documentation
- [ ] Photos without documentation
- [ ] Written report
- [ ] Field notes
- [ ] Overflight
- [X] Observation
- [X] Other -- Knowledge of changing activities

Describe Source and Nature of Pollution, Documentation Provided and Other Comments: (no logging in last couple years)

The Wrangell Narrows is on the Suspected Waterbodies List due to Timber Harvest, Urban Runoff, Septic Tanks, Petroleum Products, Road Runoff and Seafood Processing. It is my opinion that the Wrangell Narrows remain on the Suspected Waterbodies List until data can be compiled,ie. Fecal Coliform, oil&grease, turbidity, to either remove it from the list or upgrade its classification. In my opinion, the water quality should be improving because of recent sewer extensions and the decrease in logging activities along the waterway.

The respondent cannot supply any documentation other than As-Built plans of the Scow Bay Sewer Extension Project, Phase IV that extended the sewer collection system to 3.8 miles south of town. In this construction season (1992) sewer laterals will be installed for one additional mile. The collector main will be in a future project.

RESPONDENT INFORMATION:

Name: Bruce R. Jones **Phone:** (907) 772-3787 **Date:** March 6, 1992
Employer: City of Petersburg **Dept:** Water/Wastewater **Title:** Superintendent
Address: P.O. Box 329, Petersburg, Alaska 99833
Education/Experience: ADEC certified Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator, 12.5 years.

E. Hubbard, Water Quality Mgmt., ADEC, 410 Willoughby Ave., Juneau, AK 99801-1795 / 907-465-5306