

## 1.1. Current Activities Related to Motorized Watercraft

ADEC is currently leading a coordinated effort with the Big Lake community and local, regional, state and federal stakeholders to develop an action plan for addressing the petroleum hydrocarbon impairment in Big Lake. To date, the community and their partners have participated in seven work sessions (August, October, November 2010; February, April, October, November 2011) to develop a set of prioritized actions that meet three key criteria: 1) they must address the most critical issues and geographic areas; 2) they must have community support and a high likelihood for community-led implementation; and, 3) they contribute to the long-term health of the lake. Participants in the process have included Big Lake community residents and property owners, the state senator and representative for the area and their staff, representatives from the Mat-Su Borough, ADEC, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation (State Parks). Table 7-1 summarizes the actions identified by the Big Lake community to date to address the petroleum impairment in Big Lake. (Information on the evolving Big Lake Action Plan, including detailed work session notes, is available on ADEC's website at [www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wnpspc/protection\\_restoration/biglakewq/index.htm](http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wnpspc/protection_restoration/biglakewq/index.htm).)

Table 7-1: Action Items Identified by Big Lake Community to Address Impairment in Big Lake

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Past Achievements (Starting August 2010)</b>	<b>Current Status (as of February 2012)</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
1	Develop a clean boating campaign that reaches all Big Lake recreators including resident and visitors.	Summer 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· ADEC developed educational insert that has been distributed with the Department of Motor Vehicles boat licensing information.</li> <li>· State Parks also distributed insert with launch pass materials.</li> <li>· Insert can be used as template for other campaign components (e.g., fishing licenses, marinas, boat manufacturers, refueling station).</li> <li>· 10 Big Lake recreators attended the Alaska Water Wise Class to learn about clean boating and boating safety.</li> <li>· The educational brochure went out with marine billings.</li> <li>· Cook Inletkeeper conducted an informal survey to assess boating practices on Big Lake.</li> <li>· Cook Inletkeeper worked with the community to develop a "Communications Plan" for the education campaign. The plan identifies funded and unfunded water quality improvement projects.</li> <li>· The community with the assistance of Mat-Su Conservation Services has made connections to the Mat-Su Resource Conservation + Development and the Mat-Su Health Foundation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cook Inletkeeper will be working with the community to develop a more complete educational program including a pilot launch host program that will provide on-site educational volunteers at the Borough and State recreation sites.</li> <li>· The workgroup is continuing to research funding opportunities for unfunded actions in the "Communications Plan".</li> <li>· The workgroup will continue to work with local businesses regarding the possibility of making the insert available for their customers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cook Inletkeeper</li> <li>· Big Lake Water Quality Work Group</li> <li>· Mat-Su Conservation Services</li> <li>· Big Lake Businesses/Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>

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2	Educate and work with marina owners and staff to implement appropriate components of the Alaska Clean Harbors (ACH) program Clean Harbor checklist	Summer 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADEC met with marina operators and coordinated with them to obtain feedback on feasible changes.</li> </ul> <p><i>Marinas (Summer of 2011):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted a self-assessment using Clean Harbor guidelines.</li> <li>Gave out bilge pillows and got some back; these were incinerated using a Smart Ash Burner.</li> <li>Held batteries for proper disposal.</li> <li>Purchased and distributed bilge socks to their customers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cook Inletkeeper is continuing to coordinate with local marinas on several actions toward meeting Alaska Clean Harbors standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cook Inletkeeper</li> <li>Burkeshore Marina</li> <li>Shilanski Family Marina</li> </ul>
3	Improve state launch ramps	Summer 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADNR State Parks has developed an initial design for an improved launch ramp that includes a passive treatment mechanism</li> <li>Two metal clean boating signs and spill response panels were put up at the North and South recreation sites.</li> <li>State recreation campground hosts and the concessionaire directed boaters to the marinas for bilge socks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workgroup is continuing to pursue options for launch improvements, including working with ADNR State Parks representatives beginning with an updated letter legislators that includes a quote from a local contractor that shows the approximate cost to do the bioremediation project at the three public launch sites (North Shore, South Shore and Mat-Su Borough site); request to legislators to discuss the request with DNR to expedite the funding process for the design and construction to include funding for environmental controls (e.g. bioremediation project).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Lake Water Quality Workgroup</li> </ul>

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4	Evaluate funding opportunities to implement action plan	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community partnered with Cook Inletkeeper and was successful in their FY12 ACWA grant application. Grant activities include developing action plans with the marinas to meet Clean Harbor checklists; developing and piloting a launch host program; and developing and distributing clean boating kits and other outreach materials.</li> <li>The community presented project updates to the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and gained support from the Board of Directors to collaborate on fundraising efforts.</li> <li>The community established a fiscal sponsor relationship with the Mat-Su Resource Conservation + Development for future fundraising efforts that meet both groups' missions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Action Items 1, 2 and 3 above regarding pursuit of education and launch ramp-related funding pursuits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Big Lake Water Quality Workgroup</li> <li>Mat-Su Conservation Services</li> </ul>
5	Resample Big Lake	Summer 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sampling was conducted at key sites in 2004, 2005 and 2009.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADEC will conduct community check-ins to assess progress on action plan, and if the community feels they have made significant progress, ADEC will retest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADEC</li> <li>Big Lake Water Quality Workgroup</li> </ul>

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6	<p>Request a State Parks Director's Order that includes the following actions for Big Lake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· No refueling at launch areas</li> <li>· Require plugs to removed only after the watercraft is required distance away from launch ramp</li> <li>· Create bilge pump out station with a tank to collect/dispose of dirty bilge water</li> <li>· Monitor bilges and check for pads before allowing launch or refueling</li> <li>· Use booms to contain spills but not as a daily solution</li> </ul>	Undetermined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· After coordinating with the DNR State Parks Director on the possibility of implementing a Director's Order, it was determined that this was not a feasible approach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The community is working with State Parks to implement other action items as outlined above.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· N/A</li> </ul>

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7	<p>Draft and submit a policy request letter to legislative representatives to include the following recommended statewide policy changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Encourage no refueling policy on the water except at the marinas and mandatory haul out for refueling jet skis</li> <li>· Institute a boat inspection program that includes a prevention checklist</li> <li>· Employ launch hosts that can inspect watercraft at launches</li> <li>· Ban use of dish detergent as a dispersal agent</li> </ul>	Undetermined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The community has decided to table this action until they have implemented the educational and facility improvement actions 1-5 above.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· None to report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· N/A</li> </ul>
8	Establish a Lake Association	Undetermined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· This action item is considered a longer-term solution and will be reconsidered after implementation of all other action items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· None to report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· N/A</li> </ul>