

Larry Hartig  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800

[www.dec.alaska.gov](http://www.dec.alaska.gov)



Candice Bressler  
Public Information Officer

907.465.5009

[candice.bressler@alaska.gov](mailto:candice.bressler@alaska.gov)

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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**CONTACT:** Michelle Hale, Director, Division of Water, (907) 465-5135,  
[michelle.hale@alaska.gov](mailto:michelle.hale@alaska.gov)

## **State of Alaska Hosts Transboundary Environmental Data Workshop**

(JUNEAU, AK) — The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is hosting a Transboundary Environmental Data Workshop in Juneau on April 15, 2016. The purpose of this workshop is to bring agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, and interested public together to share information and identify opportunities for collaboration regarding the collection, summary, and distribution of water quality and quantity data on transboundary waters.

Presentations will be given on current monitoring efforts by the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, DEC, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, United States Geologic Survey, and the British Columbia Ministry of the Environment. Additional presentations will cover the gathering and use of traditional ecological knowledge, quality assurance plans, and historic monitoring data. Time is built into the workshop schedule for group discussions on prioritizing monitoring needs and areas of collaboration.

"Public concern over the risk of pollutants entering Alaska waterways from mining and other development in Canada has been growing over the last several years. This workshop will help build a common understanding of current monitoring activities and what might be needed going forward to detect any changes in water quality caused by development activities," said Michelle Hale, Director of DEC's Division of Water.

The Transboundary Environmental Data Workshop is an outgrowth of the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia, signed by Governor Walker and the Premier of British Columbia, Christy Clark, on November 25, 2015. That memorandum calls for collaboration on a number of topics of mutual interest, including protection of waters that cross the boundary between British Columbia and Alaska.

The Transboundary Environmental Data Workshop is occurring during the same week (April 13-15) as the Climate Change in Southeast Alaska — Informing Sustainable Management of Water Resources and Anadromous Fisheries Workshop. That workshop is being coordinated by United States Forest Service and Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership and focuses on the effects of hydrologic regime shifts on rivers, streams, riparian corridors, and anadromous fish.

Both workshops will be held at the Westmark Baranof Hotel in Juneau, Alaska. More information can be found at: <http://www.seakfhp.org/>.

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