

Public Comment by: Joel Blatchford, Alaska Regional Meeting

My name is Joel Blatchford I have studied this inlet all my life, impart how the water moves in this inlet . I spoke at meetings saying how this inlet (CI) doesn't flush out. Because the cities said that this is the second highest tide, and that it washes out . I would tell them it's backwards. They're work and the model proved I am correct. When the feds hired a college man in the lower 48 to make a model of the inlet. That is why they are able to dump whatever they want in the inlet. One person said the killer whales were eating up allot of the resources, that isn't correct. Science hasn't caught up with it's self cause Alaska is such a new state. We don't have enough money to protect our resources the way we should. For instance an example our Beluga whale. I'm president of **Alaska Native Marine Mammal Hunters Committee**. I grew up a Whale Hunter That is life, to me. I grew up watching and inter acting with animals, and the waters. The Athabascans claim the territory, all they own is the paper it is written on. Inupiat people have been here all our lives, we are in their legends. And we wouldn't know how to make the medicine run to keep all the villages alive we helped them with subsistence. And showed them how to hunt . We as the aboriginal people traveled this whole state to feed ourselves and there people. So we keep in touch with the animals the waters how they are. The reason I say science hasn't caught up with itself is: People want progress quickly and don't pay attention to the small stuff that will affect us latter. Until animals start to disappear then, everyone starts in blaming either animals or people for their demise. That's when science doesn't work. You will see it in a room of people trying to figure out where they went and spend more money on studies that they as scientist can't figure out . Or not even your average person.

Many thanks to Judge Parlene McKenna. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't be able to hunt. Because I filed a law suit, for our Beluga Whales. So the feds limited the hunt . We the CI Beluga Whale Hunters stood down for three years, voluntarily. That way NMMFS could do their job. But with the money the tribe received they hired a lawyer to fight against us. But they should have used that money to protect the CI Whales, Because in protecting them they protect themselves. We **ALaska Native Marine Mammal Hunters Committee (ANMMHC)** were the only ones taking conservation methods seriously, that's in the whole state for a long time. We need to work as a team together. Also the pipeline is going across the Cook Inlet. One of the many concerns is: When the pipeline breaks or leaks, as all have and do. And sometimes they don't know or sometimes can't fix it right away. The hydrocarbons is bad for our CI marine life, in turn bad for all of us. So do they have a back up plan for that?