

A statewide non-profit organization serving Alaska's communities by promoting environmental justice and health.
*"We aim to assure justice by advocating for environmental and community health.
 We believe everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food."*



**WE NEED YOUR HELP
 with the
 Alaskans for Healthy Kids
 Initiative!**

On October 21, 2005, *more than three months after* submitting our children's health initiative entitled the Alaska Children's Health Protection Act (CHPA) to the Division of Elections office, ACAT *finally* heard back from the Lt. Governor's office that it was certified. The Act requires

least-toxic pest management in schools and licensed child care facilities. The petition booklets for the children's health initiative are available NOW and we're working hard to gather signatures 40,000 from around the state by January 9th!

If you are interested in helping out with the initiative, please contact ACAT at 222-7714; info@akaction.net or varsha@akaction.net

For more information about the initiative, please visit: www.akaction.org

The legal criteria required to gather signatures are:

- Over 18 years of age &
- A registered voter or resident of Alaska (we can include name/address/phone, voter number or birthdate for volunteer signature gatherers).

Thanks for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you soon!



Paid for by:
 Alaskans for Healthy Kids
 c/o Alaska Community Action on Toxics
 505 W. Northern Lights Blvd, Ste 205
 Anchorage, AK 99503



ACAT Board & Staff Retreat at Windy Bay Beach in Port Graham in August

**National Study Finds High Mercury Levels In
 Store-bought Tuna And Swordfish**

by Pam Miller

In September, Alaska Community Action on Toxics and Oceana released the results of a major 22-state mercury testing project which included samples of swordfish taken from Carrs in Anchorage, Alaska. The national project led by Mercury Policy Project and Oceana confirmed that store-bought swordfish and tuna contain levels of mercury that the federal government has determined may be hazardous to human health, particularly children.

The analysis was more comprehensive than any recently performed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and included samples purchased at popular supermarket chains such as Safeway, Shaw's, Albertsons and Whole Foods. Swordfish and tuna samples bought in Alaska and 21 other states were tested at the University of North Carolina's Environmental Quality Institute between July 7 and August 11.

"Families have a right to know there could be dangerous levels of mercury in certain fish they are buying at the supermarket, and grocers have a responsibility to tell them," said Jim Ayers, Oceana's Pacific Region Director. "Consumers should be allowed to make informed choices, and labels at seafood counters and canned tuna shelves would give them that option. An obscure posting on an FDA website is not sufficient."

An average mercury concentration of 1.1 parts per million (ppm) was found in the swordfish tested. That level exceeds the FDA Action Level for commercial fish, which is the limit at which the agency can take legal action to remove a product from the market. Two samples, including one from Maine and one from Rhode Island, contained over 2 ppm, twice the FDA Action Level.

Continued on page 3

Inside

Slow Poisoning of the Arctic	2
Testimonial on Aerial Spraying	2
The Call for the Elimination of Lindane	3
Thanks to our Funders	3
Program Updates	4
Acknowledging Recent Contributors	5
Testimonial on Proposed Mixing Zones	6
Hints from Hazel	6
Donate to ACAT!	7
Aerial Spraying Update	8



ACAT Staff & Associates

Alice Aguilar
Development Director

Vicki Krissel Allen
Office Assistant

Morgan Apatiki
*Community Field Researcher,
Gambell*

Lydia Darby
Researcher & Gardener

Lorraine Eckstein
Research Anthropologist

Jesse Gologergen
Community Field Researcher

Jane Kava
*Community Health Researcher,
Savoonga*

Shawna Larson
*Environmental Justice
Coordinator, ACAT &
Indigenous Environmental
Network*

Varsha Mathrani
Environmental Health Researcher

Pamela K. Miller
Director

Lisa Norman
Office Manager

Geraldine Slwooko
*Community Health Researcher—
Gambell*

Lila Vogt
Finances

Vi Waghiyi
*Coordinator, St. Lawrence Island
Environmental Health & Justice
Project*

ACAT Board of Directors

Janet Daniels, Anchorage
Pauline Kohler, Aleknagik
Birgit Lenger, Anchorage
Kimberly Martus, Sitka
Harriet Penayah, Savoonga
Kathleen Peters-Zuray, Tanana
Patti Saunders, Anchorage
Violet Yeaton, Port Graham

Slow Poisoning of the Arctic

by *Caroline Van Hemert, guest writer*

In a recent UAA lecture sponsored in part by ACAT, *LA Times* journalist Marla Cone described high toxic “body burdens” in Arctic regions as a blatant and inexcusable environmental injustice. Although most Arctic communities, including those in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Norway’s Svalbard Islands, do not create or use any of the persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that have been linked worldwide to severe health problems, their residents harbor the largest loads of such toxins. DDT and other chemical compounds now banned from use were once viewed as a modern solution to age-old problems of insects and disease. Now, we know them as a destructive legacy that continues to show up in living bodies—birds, whales, humans—long after circulation has ceased. Joined by contemporary pollutants, these contaminants travel long distance, migrating from the center of the globe toward the Arctic and Antarctic. Through wind and water, toxins travel thousands of miles, landing in the laps of human and wildlife populations whose only connections to such compounds are through ingestion of other regions’ and nations’ waste.

As Cone, ACAT, scientists, physicians, and other concerned individuals and groups around the world have pointed out, this “slow poisoning of the Arctic” poses irreparable and immediate threats to environmental and human health. Such hazards must be addressed by the nations whose industrial and economic activities comprise the source of such contamination. Unfortunately, the United States continues to shirk responsibility for their role in production of harmful toxins by failing to ratify the Stockholm Convention.

All of us contain some level of many toxic chemicals. Because POPs and other chemicals are so prevalent in our environment, it is almost inevitable that we will come into contact with, for the most part, low level sources throughout our lifetimes. But for people who subsist, at least in part, on Arctic resources, particularly marine mammals, exposure to contaminants reaches extraordinarily high levels. This is due to a number of different environmental and biological patterns. First, chemicals from lower latitudes, such as the United States, Mexico, Central America, parts of Europe and northern Africa, have the uncanny tendency to “hop” toward polar regions. Since only the Arctic is home to human inhabitants, effects have been documented most carefully among northern communities.

Continued on page 7



Annie Alowa in front of military waste left on St. Lawrence Island.

Excerpted from Testimonial to Board of Forestry on Aerial Pesticide Spraying

By *Varsha Mathrani*



I would like to comment on agenda items including forest practices and Klukwan Inc.’s permit to aerially spray herbicides in SE Alaska. Aerial application would cause detriment to the health and environment of communities that use this area for subsistence, cause harm to salmon and other wildlife in salmon streams. Pesticide drift is an inevitable outcome in an area of unpredictable winds and rough terrain.

The karst topography of the area of Long Island would allow direct movement of chemicals into groundwater, negatively impacting water quality. The anticipated impacts of aerially applying herbicides on sensitive karst areas on Long Island include:

- Increasing toxicity of the chemical mixture due to confounding factors of high alkaline/pH waters in contact with the herbicides and surfactants;
- Harm to salmon streams, wildlife habitat, and areas where the Haida people gather berries, medicinal plants, fish, and game; and
- Harm to fragile karst groundwater systems, springs, and streams.

The various affected communities have a **right** to question the inadvertent use of toxic chemicals in their backyards -- it’s a human rights and environmental rights issue (we all face similar effects from chemical trespass into our bodies). It hits home deeply to affected people as their very life, culture, and ways are so connected to the land and water.

I think it is important to recognize the rights and resolutions of the many Alaska Native tribes that opposed aerial spraying of pesticides, including Chickaloon Tribe, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Organized Village of Kake, Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Craig

Continued on page 8



Mercury in Fish *continued*

The testing results also suggest that a random shopper buying swordfish in a grocery store has a 50 percent chance of buying a swordfish steak with mercury levels considered unsafe by the FDA. Three swordfish samples collected by Alaska Community Action on Toxics at Carrs in Anchorage were found to contain mercury concentrations of 0.903, 0.668, and 0.503 ppm.

“This study should serve as a wake-up call for anyone who routinely eats swordfish or tuna, as well as for the supermarkets who sell it,” said Pam Miller of Alaska Community Action on Toxics. “Government warnings tell us that children are particularly at risk. It’s kind of like lead poisoning in the 1970s. How many children have to be poisoned before we do something?”

Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin that has been linked to learning disabilities and developmental delays in children, as well as damage to the heart, nervous system and kidneys in adults. Chlorine plants, power plants, mining operations, and medical waste incineration are the primary sources of mercury in our environment. There are eight chlorine plants that refuse to switch to non-mercury technology that others are using. The Bush Administration has refused to require power plants to limit mercury emissions that are hazardous to human health and the environment.

Based on the national test results a 44-pound child eating six ounces of tuna weekly would be four times over the EPA’s reference dose, and a 120-pound woman eating just six ounces of tuna weekly would be eating one and one-half times EPA’s reference dose. The EPA reference dose is an estimation of the amount of mercury that,

if consumed, would not be expected to cause an appreciable risk of adverse health effects over a lifetime.

Forty-five states have issued advisories warning sensitive populations about the dangers of eating mercury-contaminated fish, and in 2004, the FDA and the EPA advised women of childbearing age and young children to avoid shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tilefish, and to limit consumption of canned albacore tuna and fresh tuna to 6 oz. per week.

To protect and inform the public about the risks of mercury poisoning, the coalition produced these recommendations:

Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin that has been linked to learning disabilities and developmental delays in children...The Bush Administration has refused to require power plants to limit mercury emissions that are hazardous to human health and the environment.

- ☑ State and federal governments should require warnings to be posted where fish covered by government advisories are sold.
- ☑ In the absence of federal and state requirements, grocery stores should post signs to communicate mercury advisories.
- ☑ The FDA should regularly test commercial fish for mercury content.
- ☑ The FDA should not interfere with states’ efforts to educate citizens about mercury in seafood.

The Fair Warning project analyzed and reported on six times more swordfish than the FDA has in the past five years combined, and eight times more tuna steaks than the FDA has in the past eight years, according to the FDA’s database.

The full report, *Fair Warning*, is available on our web site at www.akaction.org.

Groups Throughout the World Call for Elimination of Lindane

by Pam Miller



Sixty-one Indigenous, health and environmental organizations from Canada, the United States and Mexico submitted a letter in response to the draft *North American Regional Action Plan (NARAP) on Lindane and Other Hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH) Isomers*. The groups stated that the Action Plan failed to adequately address the urgent need to eliminate the use of lindane throughout North America. Another letter representing 23 organizations from 15 countries also urged the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the United States EPA and Food and Drug Administration to eliminate lindane use in agriculture and pharmaceuticals. Lindane is a dangerous insecticide that has significant adverse effects on human health and ecosystems. Lindane is a persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic compound. To read the full text of the letters, please visit the Alaska Community Action on Toxics web site at www.akaction.org.

ACAT would like to thank the following funders for their generous support this year:

- Alaska Conservation Foundation
- The Brainerd Foundation
- The Bullitt Foundation
- Common Stream, Inc.
- Environmental Leadership Program
- Environmental Support Center
- Fund for Indigenous Rights & the Environment
- The Harder Foundation
- International POPs Elimination Network
- The Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
- The John Merck Fund
- The Mitchell Kapor Foundation
- The Mountaineers Foundation
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- The New World Foundation
- Public Welfare Foundation
- The Skaggs Foundation
- True North Foundation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- WestWind Foundation

“Although social change cannot come overnight, we must always work as though it were a possibility in the morning.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Stockholm Convention UPDATE by Shawna Larson

On November 7th to 11th, 2005, government delegates, selected experts, and interested non-governmental organizations gathered in Geneva, Switzerland for the first meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee (POPRC). This is the body that will make determinations concerning the addition of newly proposed chemicals to the Stockholm Convention. To date, 113 nations have ratified the international treaty to eliminate the world's most toxic chemicals. The U.S. has not yet ratified this important treaty.

The Stockholm Convention contains important provisions to eliminate toxic and persistent chemicals on a global scale, including the following acknowledgement *“that the Arctic ecosystems and indigenous communities are particularly at risk because of biomagnification of persistent organic pollutants and that contamination of their traditional foods is a public health issue.”* The treaty is legally binding and includes 12 persistent chemicals (aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, dioxins, endrin, furans, hexachlorobenzene, heptachlor, mirex, PCBs, and toxaphene), with provisions to add additional chemicals that meet the established criteria for persistence, bioaccumulation, long-range transport, and adverse effects.

At the first Conference of the Parties (COP1), which took place in May 2005 in Uruguay, country delegates began proposing future chemicals to be added to the Stockholm Convention. Various nations have proposed the addition of: Pentabromodiphenyl ether (penta-PBDE), Hexabromobiphenyl (hexa-PBDE), Chlordecone, Lindane, and Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These chemicals are ubiquitous in the environment and in people throughout the world, including the Arctic. Although people may not recognize them by their complicated scientific names, we are all familiar with the products they are used in. The pesticide lindane is used in agricultural seed treatments and in pharmaceutical products used

to kill lice and scabies. The PBDEs are flame retardant chemicals used in synthetic fabrics, plastics, and furniture foams.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics' Director Pam Miller and I attended this meeting to raise key technical issues as well as work to educate members regarding unique concerns of Alaskans due to climate and geographical location. As an Alaska Native mother, I am certainly concerned about these toxic chemicals when it relates to our traditional foods and our future generations.

The Geneva meeting was significant because the Review Committee determined that all five chemicals met the scientific criteria for inclusion under the Stockholm Convention. Our involvement in the development of the risk profiles for these chemicals will now be critical. The chemical industry is trying to undermine the inclusion of new chemicals. Alaska Community Action on Toxics will be taking a lead role in coordinating comments for the non-governmental organizations of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) on lindane. The risk profile for each of the five chemicals is to *“evaluate whether the chemical is likely, as a result of its long-rang environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects, such that global action is warranted.”* The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Secretariat will accept comments on the risk profiles for the five new chemicals until **January 27, 2006**. The report of the POP Review Committee is available at www.pops.int/documents/meetings/poprc/.



Attending Democracy School By Shawna Larson and Lydia Darby

The first thing I thought was, “What is democracy school?” We heard of Democracy School last year during the annual Bioneers conference that was hosted at the University of Alaska Anchorage. We attended the conference and listened to the keynote address by Thomas Linzey who is an attorney with Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

Linzey shared the heroic efforts by citizens in rural Pennsylvania who have been taking every measure necessary to keep environmentally devastating corporations out of their communities. The Daniel Pennock Democracy School was named after a young boy who died 72 hours after being exposed to factory hog farm sludge that had been spread over a field. The family of the boy and the community are still fighting the protection that the U.S. government has allowed corporations to have. This struggle has shown how difficult it is to deal with the provision of U.S. constitution that provides corporations the rights of persons.

The first Alaska Democracy School was hosted in Wasilla on October 10th – 12th with sixteen students in attendance. We were lead by Mr. Thomas Linzey and Mr. Richard Grossman through two and a half days of training, which included an extensive historical overview.

When the constitution was created, women, minorities, and ecosystems were not represented. We spent time looking at the

history of corporations. In the early 1800's, when less than 300 corporations existed in the U.S., corporations were given limited charters and were strictly regulated. It wasn't until after the 1880's, when corporations gained the rights of a person under the U.S. Constitution, that the strict rules that had previously regulated corporations loosened and the era of the corporate boom began. Today, some states have chartered as many as 7000 corporations.

Since a Supreme Court ruling in 1886, which favored the argument that corporations are viewed as persons, courts around the United States have been ruling in favor of corporations over individuals and communities. Now, corporate law rules this land. Human health issues and ecosystem sustainability are second fiddle to profits.

Government “by the people and for the people” requires educated, involved citizens. There are now seventeen permanent Democracy Schools nation wide. Next year there will be two schools in Alaska in November.

This experience has changed our worldviews. It is now clear that we must look at our issues in a new context. We must go back to our fundamental and inalienable rights as human beings. We all should have the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic free foods.



Tribal Environmental Justice Task Force

By Shawna Larson

On September 27th, the newly formed Tribal Environmental Justice Task Force (TEJTF) held its first monthly teleconference. The TEJTF was established to create a coalition of Alaska tribal leaders and tribal environmental coordinators to focus on Environmental Justice issues that adversely affect their communities.

Alaska Native leaders throughout the state are concerned that corporations, industry, and government agencies are causing health problems among their people by contamination of air, water, lands, and food sources. There have been over two thousand sites mapped in Alaska that are contaminated by toxic materials from the past and current activities of the military as well as timber, mining, chemical, and petroleum industries. Most contaminated sites are located near tribal villages on lands and waters used by Alaska Natives for subsistence.

The goal of this task force is to establish and facilitate the coalition so tribal leaders and tribal environmental coordinators can share information, coordinate community capacity building activities, develop common strategies, and address common concerns to obtain environmental justice for their villages. This goal also allows the coalition to incorporate tribal leaders throughout Alaska to utilize their governmental status to:

- 1) Prevent further pollution from corporations and industries;
- 2) Prompt responsible cleanup of existing contamination;
- 3) Address concerns about the safety of traditional foods and the health of the people;
- 4) Generate “green” jobs in villages that provide financial independence from polluters; and
- 5) Affect policy changes on all levels (local, regional, state, national, and international).

The initial members were chosen by ACAT staff based on geographic location and their community-based work for

Continued on page 6

The Steller Peace Garden Update

By Lydia Darby

Freezing earth brings a hush to the Peace Garden. Star filled nights with the dancing Northern Lights watch over the quiet, as the Earth flag flutters in the passing winds. We have enjoyed the unseasonably warm days. Now the crisp autumn days turn our attention to indoor activities as we await the soft, gentle snow blanket of the north.

The cooperative effort with ACAT and Steller Secondary School continues. Both Varsha and I met with the new principal, Karen, and new ecology teacher, Shannon, at Steller the second week of October. I was able to share our experience with the garden and the visions of several Steller students. Varsha added practical details from her work tending the garden this past summer. Karen and Shannon both shared their willingness and interest in working cooperatively.

Steller has a strong student involvement in decisions concerning the school and garden. Many of the students are self motivated and directed. They network with each other and in the past have added much loving care to the garden.

We look forward to a meeting with Shannon in December, then will create a planting, tending, educational plan.

Environmental Health & Justice

In Norton Sound, Alaska

By Vi Waghiyi

ACAT was awarded a new Community-Based Participatory Research Project, *Environmental Health & Justice In Norton Sound, Alaska*, a four year grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). ACAT was one of five granted from hundreds of applicants nationwide. We are encouraged and honored to be one of five applicants to continue our work on St. Lawrence Island and expand to work with the fifteen communities in Norton Sound that Norton Sound Health Corp. (NSHC) serves.

ACAT will collaborate with State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, SUNY at Potsdam, Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY, Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), Anchorage, AK, Norton Sound Health Corp., Nome, AK, and the fifteen communities NSHC serves. With this project we will work to find effective means to limit the release and mitigate the human health effects of contaminants in the natural environment. The majority of the residents of these villages are Inupiat and Yupik, indigenous people who continue their traditional subsistence lifestyle and depend on the harvest of wild foods to sustain them and their way of life. Our collaborative work will include constructing a database of information regarding Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) in the region and the contaminants found at these sites. Building on our successful work at St. Lawrence Island, we will develop a model for exchanging information among the communities about those strategies that proved effective with the state and government agencies responsible for clean up of FUDS in the region. We will work with village leaders to provide training to oversee FUDS clean up work and establish independent monitoring programs for contaminants. Together, we will develop an environmental health care curriculum for the diagnosis and treatment of human health problems associated with environmental contaminants.

This pilot study will help residents design methods for conducting research on contaminants that may be important factors affecting the health of their communities so they can be fully engaged in future human health and contaminants studies planned for the region. These methods will include protocols for environmental sampling near FUDS in the region, examining body burdens of contaminants in residents, and documenting incidences of environmental diseases. We will incorporate local and elder knowledge in the scope of the research, documented from local interviews conducted to gather first hand knowledge, a vital part of our Community Based Participatory Research Project.

ACAT wants to thank the following individuals for their recent generous contributions:

Maryann Bozza, Natalie Brandon, Karen Button, Mary Core, Melanie Duchin, Johnny Ellis, Thomas Ely, Adam Grove, Mary & Denis Henry, Caitlin Higgins, Joseph Kotzin, Patrick Lavin, Tom Macchia, Ellen Maling, Pamela A. Miller, Maryellen Oman, Scott Pustay, Chris Reichman, Carol & David Sharpe, Martha Siebe, Geran Tarr, Lila Vogt, Hope Wing, Karen Yoshitomi, and Lynda Zaugg

Special thanks to Kevin Harun and Mike Coumbe for hosting our evening fundraising house party in November!



Excerpted from **Testimonial on Proposed Mixing Zones for Public Hearing Held by AK Dept of Environmental Conservation**

By Pam Miller

We remain opposed to proposed revisions to the mixing zone regulations on the grounds that they are not defensible from a legal or scientific standpoint. The promises made in the revised version of the proposed standards that provide that mixing zones will be the exception rather than the rule, cannot be held. The Department is given unjustifiable discretion in a decision-making process that favors polluters. We have no confidence that the State has the resources; the expertise; the baseline information about water quality, fish populations and their habitat; nor does the State have the political will to protect fish spawning habitat from unwarranted degradation caused by polluting discharges. The State is trying to set up a low threshold test that favors dischargers over the common good and public health. Where is the democracy in this, when hundreds of Alaskans concerned about their subsistence, commercial fishing, and protecting water quality have been virtually ignored in these revisions? Where is the science? Where is the common sense? The State has an obligation to protect our water quality on which the health of fish, wildlife and people depend. Clean water and the integrity of our fish habitat is the basis for our subsistence, commercial fishing and marketing, recreational, and tourism economies. We should be moving forward to protect our salmon streams from the mistakes made in the lower-48 which have led to

Continued on page 8

Task Force *continued*

environmental justice. The members were then tasked with choosing additional members for the Task Force. In the coming months the TEJTF members will be conducting community surveys, prioritizing issues, and discussing ways to carry out actions. They are currently discussing ways to connect other interested tribal members including having an e-mail list serve and website. The current members include: **Lydia Olympic**, Igiugig Tribal Council President; **Cherilyn Holter**, Haidaberg Tribal Council Member; **Hazel Apok**, Maniilaq Association; **Kathleen Peters-Zuray**, Tanana Tribal Environmental Manager; **Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak**, Nuiqsut; **Jesse Gologergen**, Savoonga, and; **Rosalie Kalistook**, Bethel.

For additional information please contact Shawna Larson at Shawna@akaction.net.



HINTS FROM HAZEL: A Shopper's Guide to Toxic-Free Children!



As you are shopping for holiday gifts this season for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends, please keep in mind that certain plastic products contain toxic chemicals that are harmful to developing babies and children. With a few guidelines, you can avoid these toxic products!

Pliable, gummy-like plastics made with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) contain *phthalates*, chemicals associated with reproductive defects, premature births, early onset of puberty in girls, and reduced sperm quality in adult males. Phthalates leach out of the toys and children may be exposed when they put the toys, plastic books, or teething rings, in their mouths. Phthalates may also be found in personal care products such as soaps, shampoos, lotions, perfumes, and deodorants.

Polycarbonate plastic, a hard, shatter-resistant plastic, is often used for plastic baby bottles and water bottles, and contains a harmful chemical called *bisphenol-A*. Bisphenol-A is an endocrine-disrupting chemical linked with Down's syndrome, reproductive problems, hyperactivity, breast and prostate cancers, and obesity. Resins used to coat the inside of aluminum and tin food cans contain bisphenol-A. The chemical leaches readily into foods and liquids.

Certain sleeping accessories, furniture, computers, and electronics contain toxic flame retardant chemicals known as *polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)*. These chemicals are toxic at low levels, impair learning, affect thyroid function, and persist in the environment and in the bodies of wildlife and people.

Ultimately, we are working to get these harmful chemicals out of consumer products. In the meantime, here are some guidelines to avoid products that contain phthalates, bisphenol-A, and PBDEs:

Products and Practices to Avoid:

- ✘ Food containers with polycarbonate plastic or PVC plastic: avoid #7 recycling code or PC (polycarbonate) and #3 (PVC) on the bottom/underside of the product
- ✘ Canned foods
- ✘ Foods wrapped in plastic
- ✘ Plastic baby bottles
- ✘ Don't heat food or beverages in plastic bottles or containers
- ✘ Don't let children put plastic toys in their mouths

Choose Safer Products:

- ✓ Look for PVC-free labels on toys
- ✓ Choose wood toys
- ✓ Choose plastic food containers labeled with #1, 2, 4 or 5 recycling code on the bottom. You still should not heat food in these containers
- ✓ Opt for glass for baby bottles and food containers rather than plastic or cans
- ✓ Buy ceramic, metal, or enamel plates and feeding utensils
- ✓ Choose natural materials for mattresses and linens
- ✓ Purchase furniture without PBDEs

Check out the web site: www.safefromtoxics.org

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Mixing Zones *continued*

precipitously declining populations of salmon and designation as endangered species.

The proposed revisions are in violation of state and federal laws, in particular the anti-degradation requirements of the Clean Water Act. There is no legal or scientific justification for the weakening of the ban on mixing zones in fish spawning water bodies. The proposed revisions fail to properly evaluate consumptive risks, nor to consider the special vulnerabilities of people reliant on the safety of fish for subsistence, or the threat to children, pregnant women, elderly people, and the chronically ill. The weakening of the mixing zone standard would allow chronic levels of pollution to persist in water bodies due to the retention of pollutants in sediments and re-suspension in the water column. The proposed changes also do not take into account the fact that spawning salmon are already carrying a body burden of persistent, bioaccumulative toxics. The proposal fails to establish protective, precautionary standards that assure the safety of our water quality and fish populations. More hearings are certainly warranted given the importance of this issue to all Alaskans.

We remain supportive of the prohibition of mixing zones in fish streams as a necessary measure to protect the health of our waters, fish, wildlife, and people. AK Dept of Environmental Conservation will

accept written comments until Dec. 19th. Visit www.akaction.org for more information or visit www.dec.state.ak.us for information about the public notice.

Aerial spraying *continued*

Community Association, and others. The state must respect these federally recognized tribes in their consistent opposition to the aerial spraying of pesticides.

In summary, we ask that the Board of Forestry advocate for refusal of Klukwan, Inc.'s permit application for aerial spraying on Long Island. It would set a negative precedent for future aerial spraying in the state.

Manual thinning is a far less dangerous approach to thinning brush, and has minimal long term consequences/costs to economic, environmental and human health. I ask you recommend that aerial spraying not be permitted and listen to the people who have a **real** relationship and connection to the land through their subsistence way of life. Please listen to science and reason. It reflects on your strength. The science regarding pesticide use is far ahead of the respective policies. The frenzied short-term quest for money knows no limits in terms of long-term human suffering and planetary destruction.

Aerial Spraying Update!

Klukwan, Inc. voluntarily withdrew their permit application to aerially spray herbicides during the summer of 2005. ACAT and 27 organizations had challenged the permit and requested an adjudicatory hearing. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation had granted the request after we presented evidence from expert witnesses and the scientific literature. Please keep posted because Klukwan, Inc. has requested a new permit for summer 2006. We will continue to support the efforts of Hyدابurg and other tribes to oppose the aerial spraying of pesticides.



505 West Northern Lights, Suite 205
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-222-7714 www.akaction.org

prst std
U.S. Postage Paid
Anchorage, AK
Permit #183