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## Final Interim Performance Report for USFWS Agreement F15AC01214

**Date:** March 20, 2017

**Report submitted by:** Sue Mauger, Science Director, Cook Inletkeeper

**Reporting Period:** October 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016

**Due Date:** March 31, 2017

**Project Title:** Building an Index Watershed Program to Assess and Track Land Use and Climate Impacts – Phase 1

### Project Background

This project aims to establish an index watershed program to track habitat concerns identified by the Partnership: aquatic invasive species, warming climate, incompatible road development and residential development in riparian areas. One index watershed for each conservation target has been identified: Anchor River (lowland system); Resurrection Creek (non-glacial, mountain river); Kenai River (mainstem, glacial river with lakes); and Russian River (clearwater lakes with streams). Through the Index Watershed Program, Project partners will assess the current status of each threat and/or develop a plan for how to evaluate the current threat status. This assessment will provide the Partnership with guidance about which threat in each conservation target is the highest priority for Partnership activities.

### Project Objectives

Our objectives are to 1) assess the current status of aquatic invasive species, warming climate, incompatible road development and residential development in riparian areas in four Index Watersheds; 2) re-engage the CAP participants; and 3) build upon the momentum and strategic thinking of the CAP process to further Partnership activities and effectiveness.

### Project Activities for the reporting period

During this project, Cook Inletkeeper conducted the following activities:

- Continued building on the existing 12-year Anchor River stream temperature data set with HOBO loggers and maintained a real-time site at the Old Sterling Highway Bridge.

- Coordinated with BeadedStream to have the Anchor River temperature sensor recalibrated.
- After multiple field visits and consultation with partners, we selected a site on the Russian River to establish a real-time temperature site. Acquired Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service and permits through the Kenai River Center. Recruited partner field help and installed the site on October 14, 2016.
- Developed a webpage portal to allow public access to the Russian River data, time series graphs and a summary of current conditions: <https://inletkeeper.org/healthy-habitat/real-time-temperature-sites/russian-river>
- Coordinated with the Alaska Ocean Observing system to have the Russian River data incorporated on their real-time sensor portal: <http://data.aoots.org/maps/sensors/>
- Shared the Russian River on-line link in Cook Inletkeeper's 2016 fall quarterly newsletter as well as the Kenai Partnership's November 2016 newsletter. Russian River installation story picked up in the Peninsula Clarion, SFGATE, Alaska Journal of Commerce and on the radio (KBBI, APRN)
- Compiled existing stream temperature data from various sources (USGS, EPSCoR, USFS).
- Compiled current information about the status of aquatic invasive species occurrences through the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC) data portal.
- Compiled current information about the status of fish passage through the ADF&G Fish Resource Monitor data portal.
- Provided project results to the Partnership's Steering Committee for discussion and received positive feedback on the value of this assessment tool to help in future project selection.

### **Project Accomplishments during the reporting period**

We have increased our capacity to assess stream temperature trends in a range of watersheds by establishing a new Russian River monitoring site and maintaining existing sites. We have compiled existing information on fish passage and aquatic invasive species and discovered useful online spatial mapping tools to facilitate the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership's capacity to assess these threats across the entire Kenai Peninsula Borough in the future. After discussion with the Steering Committee, we decided that the Index Watershed concept provides a way to track measurable progress towards our conservation goals. Although we did have some individual conversations with CAP members, we did not reengage them as much as anticipated.

### **Brief Budget Summary for the reporting period**

Cook Inletkeeper has used the Department of the Interior's Automated Standard Application Payments (ASAP) process to draw down funds totaling \$12,500 this reporting period. Please see the attached SF425 and Expenditure Summary Report for details about how these funds were spent to achieve project objectives. In addition, Cook Inletkeeper has contributed a total of \$12,500 this reporting period in match support through non-federal grant funds.

**Expenditure Summary Report**  
Building an Index Watershed Program  
(F15AC01214)

Grant Award	\$12,500
Draw 10/04/2016	\$ 9,500
Draw 11/25/2016	\$ 3,000
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Balance	\$ 0

This report summarizes drawdowns from October 4th and November 25th, 2016, which covered expenses incurred from August 1, 2015 – December 31, 2016.

Salaries	
Science Director (120 hours @ \$39.20)	\$ 4,704
Contractual	
BeadedStream LLC	\$ 5,780
Indirect	\$ 2,046
Federally Approved Indirect rate 28.66%	
(\$10,484 * .2866 = \$3,004.71; requesting \$2,046)	
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Total	\$12,500

Explanation of Expenditures as related to Grant Objectives:

Salaries: Science Director's time related to Objectives 1-3

Contractual: BeadedStream for Russian River installation package and Anchor River cable recalibration (Objective 1)

