



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS  
BRISTOL BAY CAMPUS

BRISTOL BAY ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1 WINTER 2008

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Winter is the time of year when Bristol Bay Environmental Science Lab analyzes data, writes reports and plans future projects. The future of BBESL is looking bright! UAF-BBC was awarded a US Department of Education Title III grant which provides funds to develop an Sustainable Energy Initiative. (see ENERGY p. 2).

tol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area to monitor fecal bacteria levels in drinking and recreational waters in Bristol Bay Region (see BACTERIA p.2).



BBESL is also monitoring air quality as part of a project stretching from China to Canada (see CHINA p.2)

After a successful 2008 Dillingham debut, the 2nd Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference, will held in Nome in April 2009. WAISC will bring together researchers from all disciplines working in

western Alaska (see WAISC p.3).

Not all partnerships involve scientific research, some are just fun! Join us Jan 17th as UAF-BBC hosts the AK Ocean Film Festival, sponsored by AK Center for the Environment. Come by for a day of Ocean Celebration! (see FILMS p.3)



BBESL is committed to working with our neighbors in Bristol Bay and beyond. This way we can begin to tackle the some of the challenges facing rural Alaska.



In September BBESL received EPA Microbiology State Certification. We are now working with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation and Bris-

FIELD NOTES



*Delphinapterus leucas*

Also known as the Sea Canary, beluga whales produce high-pitched squeaks, squeals, clucks and whistles. Belugas are distinguished from other

toothed whales by their pale white color and large, bulbous melon that gives their head its distinctive shape. Found along coastlines of Alaska, Canada, Russia, and Greenland, belugas mostly feed on smaller fish, such as herring, smelt, salmon, flatfish and sculpin. In Bristol Bay, Lori Quakenbush

from AK Depart of Fish and Game, has been studying belugas with the help of local hunters, learning about population size and beluga's role as a salmon predator. Belugas will over-winter in Bristol Bay, look (or listen!) for them along the shoreline, at river mouths and even in boat harbors.

READING LIST:

- *GOOD NEWS for a change* by: David Suzuki & Holly Dressel
- *Silent Spring* by: Rachel Carson
- *Our Story: Readings from Southwest Alaska* edited by: John Branson & Tim Troll
- *How to Live a Low-Carbon Life: The Individuals' Guide to Stopping Climate Change* by: Chris Goodall
- *The Last Giant of Beringia, the Mystery of the Bering Land Bridge* by: Dan O'Neill

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PARTNERSHIPS	1
FIELD NOTES	1
ENERGY	2
CHINA	2
BACTERIA	2
FILM FESTIVAL	3
WAISC	3
LETTER FROM THE PROFESSOR	4

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