

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Kenai****Federal Tax ID: 92-6001599****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

# Kenai - State Personal Use Fishery Improvements

**State Funding Requested: \$300,000****House District: Kenai Areawide (33-35)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Construction of fish cleaning stations to eliminate up 1.2 million pounds of fish waste being deposited on the beach at the mouth of the Kenai River.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$300,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$300,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**2013 - State Appropriation***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

During the 2010 and 2011 Personal Use Fishery conducted at the mouth of the Kenai River, fish waste estimated at 1.2 million pounds each year was discarded by participants either on the beach or near-shore in the river. In both cases the majority of the fish waste lies on the beach and collects at the tide-line. The condition is unhealthy, as it attracts other animals, including birds, bears, and seals, which deposit fecal matter in/near the river, resulting in enterococci and coliform bacteria levels which exceed EPA water quality standards.

The estimate to construct fish cleaning stations including piped or stored water is \$300,000. In addition we estimate the disposal of the fish waste to be \$100,000 to \$125,000. Costs associated with disposal can be paid for by an increase in user fees, a daily increase of \$5 for parking, camping, and boat launch. The cost associated with construction of the fish cleaning facilities if paid for by an increase in user fees would more than double the present fees and we believe would be met with fierce opposition.

The majority (93%) of the Personal Use Fishery do not reside on the Kenai Peninsula, but travel to the mouth of the Kenai River from other areas of the State, primarily Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley.

During the Personal Use Fishery in 2011, the City of Kenai collected approximately \$320,000 in fees. Our expenses directly related to the Personal Use Fishery were approximately \$300,000. This information is included so there is not a misconception that the City receives a financial windfall from this fishery.

**Project Timeline:**

2012 Design  
2012-2013 fabrication Construction  
2013 Utilization

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

The City of Kenai

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No



*"Village with a Past, City with a Future"*

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## State Personal Use Fishery, Capital Improvements

The State of Alaska Personal Use Fishery is both a positive and a negative for the City of Kenai. We welcome our Alaskan neighbors to take part in this fishery, however the activity has grown to such a level that the existing resources which the City provides are not adequate to respond to the crowds.

There are a number of issues which need to be addressed, these include enforcement, data collection, and State funding for capital projects to assist the City in providing a parking and camping area for the up to 15,000 individuals which participate in the fishery on a daily basis.

Our residential subdivisions near the beach are being over-run with vehicles/campers as they simply do not have alternative places to park. On one day during the last year's season an estimated 15,000 people were participating in the fishery at the mouth of the Kenai River, and 10,000 participants is commonplace.

One specific issue is the amount of fish waste that is deposited on tidelands owned by the City. When participants clean fish the fish waste is often thrown into the river/ocean where it ends up being washed up to the tideline. The City attempts to remove the decomposing fish wastes each evening by utilizing a tractor with a rake to transport fish wastes.

The City recommends that fish cleaning stations be constructed in three locations, (North Beach, Boat Launch and South Beach) and that disposal of fish waste from the personal use fishery into the Kenai River be prohibited by regulation.

Estimated costs for the construction of three fish cleaning stations, is as follows:

Water Systems	\$100,000
Site Preparation	30,000
Wastewater Disposal Systems	60,000
Cleaning Facilities & Appurtenances	75,000
Design, Administration & Contingency	<u>35,000</u>
Total	\$300,000

The fish cleaning stations could also be used as data collection, and enforcement stations for ADF&G and AST.







