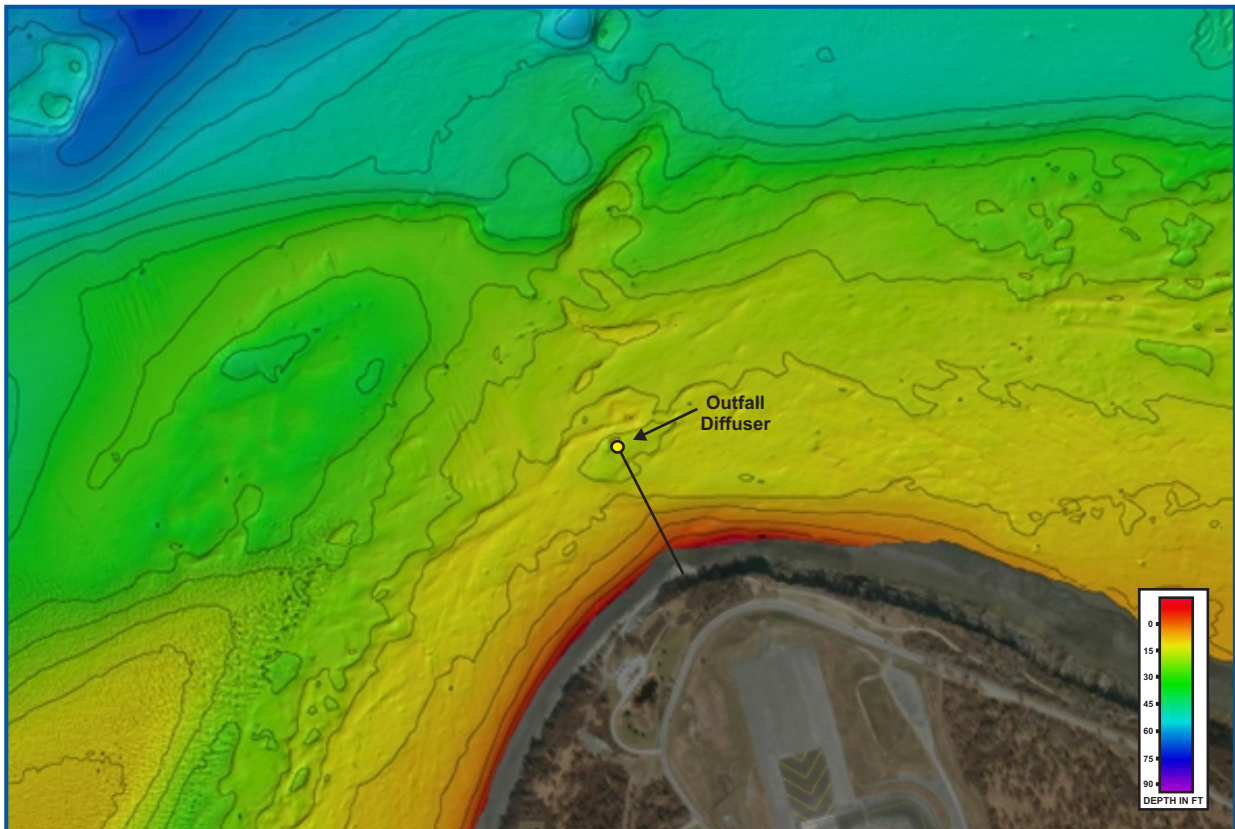


# MONITORING PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022

## ANCHORAGE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY JOHN M. ASPLUND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY AT POINT WORONZOF



Prepared for:



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility  
Anchorage, Alaska

Prepared by:

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(907) 276-6178

February 2023



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**NPDES Permit AK-002255-1**

*Prepared for:*



*Prepared by:*

**KINNETIC**  
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February 2023





## PREFACE

This Monitoring Program Annual Report was prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fulfill requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit AK-002255-1. This permit pertains to the effluent discharge from the John M. Asplund Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), operated by the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) at Point Woronzof under authority of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). This NPDES permit incorporates provisions necessitated by Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for a variance from the requirements of secondary treatment.

Elements of the monitoring program as specified by the permit are:

- Influent, Effluent, and Sludge Monitoring
  - In-Plant Sampling
  - Toxic Pollutant and Pesticide Sampling
  - Pretreatment Monitoring
  - Whole Effluent Toxicity Monitoring
- Receiving Water Quality Monitoring
  - Plume Dispersion Sampling
  - Intertidal Zone Bacteria
- Sediment and Bioaccumulation Monitoring
  - Sediment Analyses
  - Bioaccumulation Analyses

During 2022, the monitoring program consisted of two influent, effluent, and sludge toxic pollutant and pesticide sampling and analysis efforts, a receiving water quality sampling and analysis effort, and quarterly whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing. These efforts were coordinated and conducted by Kinnetic Environmental, Inc. (KEI). In addition, AWWU conducted permit-required daily, weekly, and monthly self-monitoring for influent, effluent, and sludge. The sediment and bioaccumulation components of the monitoring program were originally conducted once each during 2003 and 2004 and have not been performed since, as the current NPDES permit only required those components be performed once during the life of the permit.

This annual report provides information and data pertaining to the monitoring program performed to meet the requirements as set forth in the NPDES permit that became effective on 2 August 2000. This report covers the period of 1 January through 31 December 2022.

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## ACRONYMS

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADT	Alaska Daylight Time
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
Avg or AVG	Average or Mean
AWQS	(State of) Alaska Water Quality Standard
AWWU	Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility
B	Bottom Depth
BETX	Summation of Benzene, Ethylbenzene, Toluene, and Xylenes
BOD <sub>5</sub>	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-Day)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COC	Chain of Custody
CTD	Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth Profiler
CWA	Clean Water Act
DCS	Duplicate Control Sample
DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
DI	Deionized
DMR	Discharge Monitoring Report
DMR-QA	Discharge Monitoring Report – Quality Assurance
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
Eff or EFF	Effluent
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
FB	Field Blank
FC	Fecal Coliform
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
GC	Gas Chromatography
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Sulfuric Acid
HCl	Hydrochloric Acid
HEM	N-Hexane Extractable Material
Hg	Mercury
HNO <sub>3</sub>	Nitric Acid
H <sub>0</sub> 1	Null Hypothesis 1
H <sub>0</sub> 2	Null Hypothesis 2
I&I	Infiltration and Inflow
Inf or INF	Influent
JBER	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
KEI	Kinnetic Environmental, Inc. (formerly Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc.)
KLI	Kinnetic Laboratories, Inc.
KW	Kruskal-Wallis Statistical Test
LCS	Laboratory Control Sample
LCSD	Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate
LOEC	Lowest Observed Effect Concentration
M	Mid-depth
MAEC	Maximum Allowable Effluent Concentration
Max	Maximum
MB	Method Blank

MDL	Method Detection Limit
Min	Minimum
MLLW	Mean Lower Low Water
MOA	Municipality of Anchorage
MPN	Most Probable Number
MRL	Method Reporting Limit
MRT	Multiple Range Test
MS	Matrix Spike
MSB	Matanuska-Susitna Borough
MSD	Matrix Spike Duplicate
MW	Mann-Whitney Statistical Test
NA	Not Applicable or Not Available
Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Sodium Thiosulfate
NACWA	National Association of Clean Water Agencies
NaOH	Sodium Hydroxide
ND	Not Detected
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NOEC	No Observed Effect Concentration
NOS	National Ocean Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NT	Not Tested
O&G	Oil and Grease
ORP	Oxidation Reduction Potential
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
pH	Hydrogen potential
POC	Organochlorine Pesticide
POP	Organophosphorus Pesticide
POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works
PQL	Practical Quantitation Limit
QA	Quality Assurance
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
QC	Quality Control
REM	Percent Removal
Rep	Replicate
RPD	Relative Percent Difference
S	Surface Depth
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRM	Standard Reference Material
SSI	Sewage Sludge Incinerator
SSWQC	Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria
TAC	Test Acceptance Criteria
TAH	Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons
TAqH	Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons
TB	Trip Blank
TCDD	Dioxin 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
TIE	Toxicity Identification Evaluation
TPAH	Total Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons



TRC	Total Residual Chlorine
TRE	Toxicity Reduction Evaluation
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
TVS	Total Volatile Solids
WET	Whole Effluent Toxicity
WPCF	Water Pollution Control Facility
WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility
ZID	Zone of Initial Dilution

## UNITS and SYMBOLS

°	degree(s)
'	minutes of latitude or longitude
"	seconds of latitude or longitude
±	plus or minus
>	greater than
≥	greater than or equal to
<	less than
≤	less than or equal to
%	percent
‰	parts per thousand
°C	degrees Celsius
cm	centimeter(s)
cm/s	centimeters per second
EC <sub>50</sub>	50 percent effective concentration
FC/100 mL	Fecal Coliform colonies per 100 milliliters
ft	foot or feet
g	gram(s)
hr	hour(s)
in	inch(es)
km	kilometer(s)
L	Liter(s)
lb	pound(s)
m	meter(s)
mgd or MGD	million gallons per day
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mi	mile(s)
mi <sup>2</sup>	square miles
min	minute(s)
mL	milliliter(s)
MPN/100 mL	Most Probable Number per 100 milliliters
ng/L	nanograms per liter
nm	nautical mile
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
psu	practical salinity units
TUc	Chronic Toxicity Units
µg/g	micrograms per gram
µg/L	micrograms per liter



# SUMMARY

## PURPOSE

This report was prepared to meet requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), as outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit AK-002255-1, signed on 30 June 2000 and effective on 2 August 2000. This permit authorizes discharge of effluent from the John M. Asplund Water Pollution Control Facility (Asplund WPCF). Wastewater from the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) is treated and disinfected at this facility before discharge to the receiving waters of Knik Arm in Cook Inlet, Alaska. The NPDES permit incorporates requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for a 301(h) variance from secondary treatment and is in compliance with provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) as amended by the CWA (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) and the Water Quality Act of 1987.

## HISTORY

In September 1979, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) submitted to EPA a 301(h) secondary treatment variance application proposing an improved discharge which eliminated chlorination and required the addition of both a 610-meter (m) extension and a 305-m diffuser to the Asplund WPCF outfall. The outfall extension was intended to move the point of discharge beyond the negative influence of a gyre that was reported to exist off Point Woronzof on a flood tide and was presumed to carry effluent toward shore, causing bacterial contamination of the shoreline.

Further studies were subsequently undertaken to derive design criteria for outfall improvements. The central issue was to evaluate outfall design alternatives and the chlorination/no chlorination option in relation to a system of eddies that occur on the flood tide. These studies were completed as an *Amendment to the Wastewater Facilities Plan for Anchorage, Alaska* (CH2M Hill in association with Ott Water Engineers, 1985). This amended plan recommended the use of the existing 245-m outfall with the addition of a three-nozzle diffuser. It was shown that chlorination would still be required to meet bacterial standards even with an extended outfall and diffuser. Because the same water quality standards could be met by chlorinating and installing an improved diffuser at the end of the existing outfall, there was no need to extend the outfall.

Concurrent with the studies to amend the facilities plan, a revised CWA 301(h) variance application was submitted to EPA in 1984. After extensive EPA review, public comment, and hearings, the Final Permit Decision was issued by EPA and the five-year NPDES permit became effective 16 October 1985 (EPA, 1985a). As required by this permit, a multi-port diffuser was installed in August 1987 prior to the second year of receiving water sampling. Fourteen years of monitoring were performed under the initial 1985 NPDES permit.

AWWU submitted an application to renew the CWA 301(h) variance from secondary treatment in 1990, but the application was never acted on by EPA. A more recent application was then prepared and submitted in 1998 at EPA's request with additional data and information provided in 1999. A renewed final NPDES permit that incorporated the 301(h) variance was signed by EPA in June 2000 to become effective on 2 August 2000 for five years. The permit was administratively extended in August 2005 pending a permit renewal decision from EPA. The most recent application for a reauthorization of the NPDES permit and CWA 301(h) variance was submitted in January 2005 for review by the EPA. In addition, AWWU has since conducted a number of

special studies, including the evaluation of effects on endangered species in support of the permit renewal as a result of the Cook Inlet beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) being listed as an endangered species (CH2M Hill, 2011).

## **RECEIVING WATER ENVIRONMENT**

The Asplund WPCF discharges into the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet, a unique body of estuarine water with extremely high tidal fluctuations (over 39 feet (ft) [12 m]) with a mean range of 26.2 ft [7.98 m] at Anchorage; NOAA/NOS, 2022). These fluctuations produce extensive tidal flats, swift tidal currents of 4 - 6 knots, and intense mixing within Cook Inlet. The continual input of sediments, combined with the re-suspension of bottom sediments due to high bottom shear stress with each tidal cycle, results in naturally high suspended sediment concentrations of up to 2,500 milligrams/liter (mg/L) in Knik Arm (KLI, 2007b). This sediment originates primarily from riverine and glacial melt waters flowing into Upper Cook Inlet and Knik Arm from the Eagle, Knik, Matanuska, and Susitna Rivers that drain a combined area of over 23,300 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>).

Large temperature extremes occur between summer and winter. In the winter, ice can reach thicknesses of over 1 m and consists of broken pieces due to the large tides and strong currents. An important consideration to this ongoing monitoring is the large volume of saline ocean water entering Cook Inlet that is vertically mixed with the riverine and glacial inputs by tidal turbulence. These characteristics yield a water body that is very effective in wastewater dilution and assimilation.

## **MONITORING OBJECTIVES**

The monitoring conducted during 2022 consisted of two main components: (1) in-plant monitoring of influent, effluent, and sludge, including whole effluent toxicity testing (WET); and (2) receiving water quality monitoring in the vicinity of the discharge and mixing zone, and at a control site across Knik Arm. Objectives of the 2022 program as outlined in the permit are:

### **2022 MONITORING OBJECTIVES**

#### **INFLUENT, EFFLUENT, AND SLUDGE MONITORING**

- Determine compliance with the NPDES permit and State of Alaska water quality standard (AWQS) criteria
- Determine effectiveness of the industrial pretreatment program
- Aid in assessing the water quality at discharge point
- Characterize toxic substances
- Monitor plant performance
- Determine compliance with the regulatory criteria of Section 301(h) of the CWA
- Provide data for evaluating re-issuance of the NPDES permit

#### **RECEIVING WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

- Determine compliance with the NPDES permit and AWQS criteria
- Aid in assessing the water quality of the receiving water
- Determine compliance with the regulatory criteria of Section 301(h) of the CWA
- Determine the level of bacterial concentrations in nearshore waters
- Provide data for evaluating re-issuance of the NPDES permit

## 2022 MONITORING RESULTS

As part of its self-monitoring program, AWWU conducted daily, weekly, and monthly sampling of influent, effluent, and sludge, depending on the parameter measured. In addition, monitoring for toxic pollutants and pesticides was conducted twice during 2022, once in June and again in August. WET testing was conducted quarterly and receiving water quality monitoring was performed in June. The following summarizes results of this year's monitoring:

### INFLUENT, EFFLUENT, AND SLUDGE

- Influent, effluent, and sludge monitoring showed that the Asplund WPCF met the NPDES permit requirements with only one exception in 2022. In November the percent removal for 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) was found to be lower than the 30% requirement. AWWU's self-monitoring of total residual chlorine (TRC), pH, fecal coliform, and total suspended solids (TSS) showed compliance with all permit limitations.
- AWWU's self-monitoring of effluent TRC and pH showed that the permit limit for daily maximum TRC was met, and pH was always within permit limitations.
- Fecal coliform concentrations in the effluent were low; neither the permitted limit of 850 fecal coliform colonies per 100 milliliters (FC/100 mL) as a monthly maximum geometric mean, nor the monthly criterion “that not more than 10 percent (%) of the effluent samples shall exceed 2600 FC/100 mL” were exceeded.
- AWWU’s self-monitoring of TSS and BOD<sub>5</sub> showed compliance with all regulatory and permit effluent limitations except the required removal rate of  $\geq 30\%$  as stipulated by the amendment to the CWA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 125; Final Rule) for these constituents. The BOD<sub>5</sub> removal rate during a single month fell to 24%. Effluent concentrations of TSS and BOD<sub>5</sub> were otherwise well below the daily, weekly, and monthly permit limits for the entire year. Average annual removals were 76% for TSS and 36% for BOD<sub>5</sub>, indicating a high level of primary treatment was typically achieved.
- Effluent total aromatic hydrocarbons (TAH) and total aqueous hydrocarbons (TAqH) were below their maximum allowable effluent concentrations (MAECs) during 2022 as calculated from AWQS and the mixing zone dilution credit.
- Concentrations of metals, cyanide, and total ammonia in the effluent never exceeded their MAECs at any time during any of the 2022 monitoring events.
- Concentrations of toxic pollutants and pesticides, including metals and cyanide, in the influent and effluent were all within the established range or lower than values from a national study of secondary treatment plants (EPA, 1982a).
- Toxic pollutant sludge concentrations were found to be very low compared to the limits established by 40 CFR Part 503. Sludge metals were similar in range or lower than values from a national study of secondary treatment plants with all metals well below the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile worst-case values (EPA, 1985c).
- With the exception of one urchin fertilization test conducted in the third quarter, results of quarterly WET testing met the permit limit, and all were below the permitted trigger level for all species and events in 2022. The third quarter urchin test was reperformed as required by the permit returning acceptable results.

## RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

- Little variation among stations was observed for most hydrographic parameters indicating that the receiving water environment is uniform and well mixed near the outfall.
- To test the hypothesis that water quality at the zone of initial dilution (ZID) boundary was not degraded with respect to water quality at near-field and control stations, statistical comparisons were made. Some differences were noted in water characteristics (e.g., temperature, salinity, pH, and turbidity); however, these were not ascribed to the outfall but were due to riverine influences and higher currents at the control stations.
- Fecal coliform concentrations in receiving water and intertidal samples were found to be low at all locations and met the most restrictive AWQS criteria including stations located within the mixing zone boundary.
- Supplemental receiving water samples obtained as part of the plume monitoring indicated total metals were elevated compared to dissolved metals due to the naturally high suspended sediment load in Cook Inlet. Dissolved metals were generally higher than those seen historically at all locations with these high results ascribed to a problem with inadequate field filtration due to high sediment loads. No statistically significant differences between the outfall and control station groupings were seen for any dissolved or total recoverable metal.
- Supplemental receiving water samples demonstrated that TAH and TAqH met the AWQS at all locations and were not statistically different between the control and outfall stations.
- Supplemental receiving water cyanide samples met AWQS at all locations with the exception of one sample taken within the ZID directly over the outfall diffuser.
- TRC was detected at only one receiving water location in 2022, Station F1-1 directly over the outfall at low slack tide. All other measurements were <10 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) compared to the marine AWQS of 7.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for chronic, 13.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for acute, and ADEC's Practical Quantitation Limit of 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Based on the highest daily effluent TRC concentration (898  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) and a 180:1 dilution credit, the maximum TRC at the ZID boundary was estimated to be 5.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , meeting all AWQS.
- Turbidity did not exceed natural conditions and color did not exceed 5 color units at any receiving water station other than at Station F1-1 within the ZID at low slack tide.

## CONCLUSIONS

In summary, results from the past year of the monitoring program confirm years of previous studies, data in the NPDES permit and 301(h) variance renewal application, and the decision by EPA to reissue the NPDES permit with a 301(h) variance. The Asplund WPCF operated within regulatory requirements during 2022 with few exceptions and has shown no measurable impacts to the marine environment. In addition to the good performance seen in 2022, the Asplund WPCF received the distinguished Platinum Award for exceptional plant performance and permit compliance from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for 2018, after four consecutive years of Gold Awards given from 2014 through 2017. In addition, the Asplund WPCF received another Gold Award in 2021 for exceptional performance and permit compliance.

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND AND FACILITY OVERVIEW

This monitoring program is designed to meet the requirements of the NPDES Permit AK-002255-1 that authorizes discharge from the John M. Asplund WPCF of municipal effluent into the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet receiving waters (Figure 1). The Asplund WPCF is operated by AWWU under authority of the MOA and subject to this NPDES permit that became effective 2 August 2000. The permit incorporates requirements necessitated by the CWA 301(h) secondary treatment variance and is in compliance with provisions of the FWPCA as amended by the Clean Water Act (CWA 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) and Water Quality Act of 1987, P.L. 100-4.

### 1.1.1 REGULATORY BACKGROUND

In 1972, while the Asplund WPCF and its outfall were being built, the FWPCA was amended to establish two phases of effluent limitations applicable to all Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). Under Section 301(b), POTWs were required to achieve secondary treatment of effluent by 1 July 1977 and "best practicable waste treatment technology" by July 1983.

Congress again amended the FWPCA in 1977. Section 301(h) was added, providing that the EPA Administrator, upon application from a POTW and with the concurrence of the State, might issue an NPDES permit modifying the requirements of Section 301(b). On 15 June 1979, EPA promulgated the regulations regarding issuance of a variance from secondary treatment to an applicant discharging into certain ocean and estuarine waters and demonstrating compliance with all nine of the rigorous 301(h) criteria.

In September 1979, AWWU submitted to EPA a 301(h)-variance application proposing an improved discharge which eliminated chlorination and required the addition of both an extension and diffuser to the Asplund WPCF outfall. Earlier studies had recommended construction of a 610-m outfall extension and a 305-m diffuser. The proposed extension/diffuser reportedly could meet fecal coliform receiving water standards without chlorination and prevent shore contact of the wastewater plume. As a parallel program, AWWU undertook preparation of a wastewater master plan for the Anchorage area. The resultant *Wastewater Facilities Plan for Anchorage, Alaska* (Ott Water Engineers, Inc. et al., 1982) and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the City of Anchorage, Alaska, *Wastewater Facilities* (EPA and Jones & Stokes, 1982) were accepted by EPA and ADEC.

Further studies were subsequently undertaken to derive design criteria for outfall improvements. Significant efforts were included to improve reconnaissance level receiving water data upon which the outfall length and diffuser design were to be based and to evaluate bacterial standards applicable to Knik Arm. The central issue was to evaluate outfall design alternatives and the chlorination/no-chlorination option in relation to the presence of a system of eddies that occur east of Point Woronzof on the flood tide and that might be capable of transporting the effluent plume shoreward. These studies were completed as an *Amendment to the Wastewater Facilities Plan for Anchorage, Alaska* (CH2M Hill with Ott, 1985). This plan recommended using the existing 245-m outfall with the addition of a three-nozzle diffuser. It was concluded that chlorination would still be required to meet bacterial standards even with an extended outfall and diffuser.



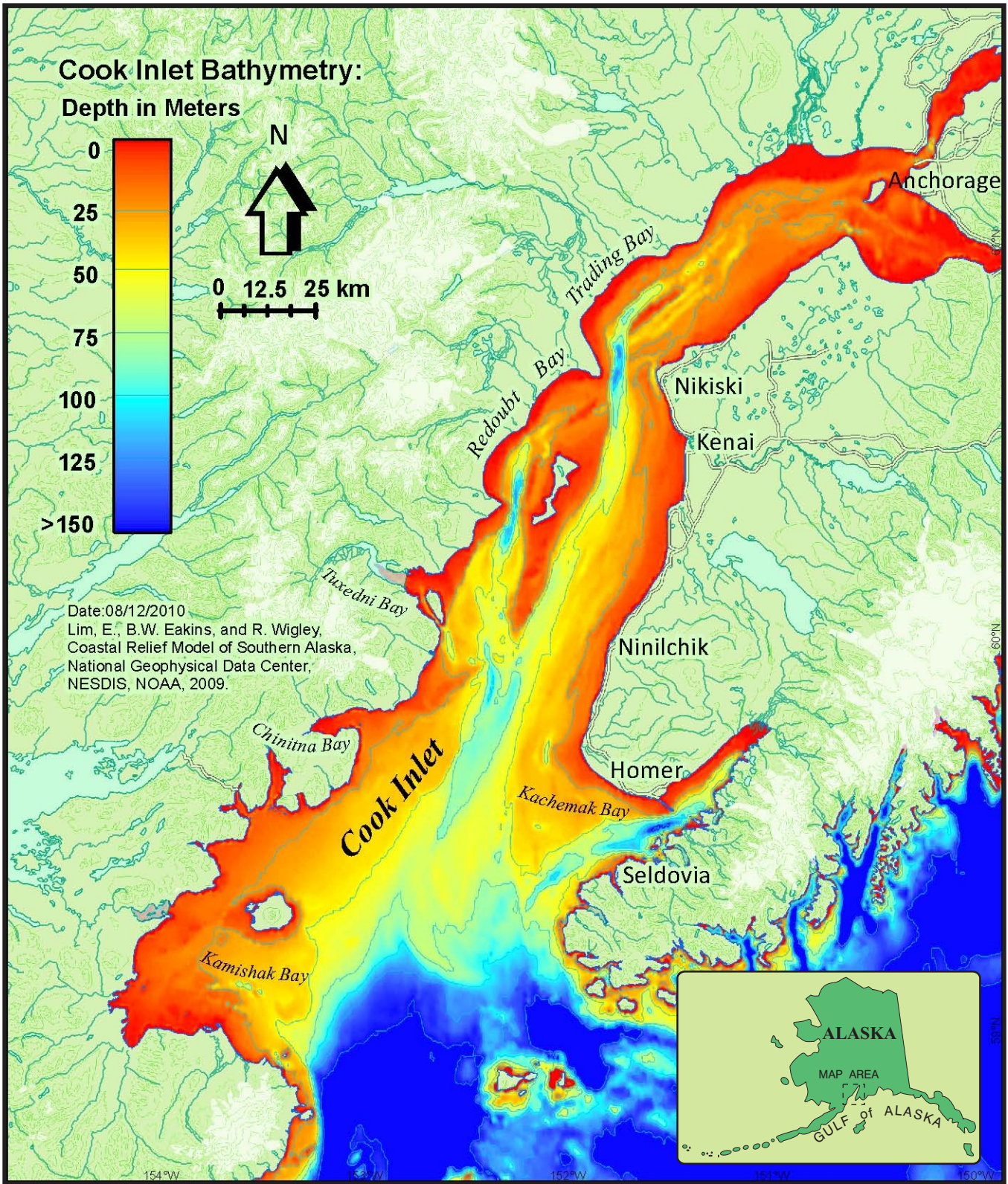


Figure 1. General Study Area and Bathymetry.



Because the same standards could be met by use of chlorination and the existing outfall, there was no need to extend the outfall. With continued chlorination, all water quality standards were predicted to be met by the amended facilities plan.

Concurrent with studies to amend the facilities plan, a revised application entitled *Application for Modification of Secondary Treatment Requirements, Section 301(h), Clean Water Act* was submitted to EPA (CH2M Hill with Ott, 1984). The EPA Region 10 301(h) Review Team's Tentative Decision Document, entitled *Analysis of the Section 301(h), Secondary Treatment Variance Application for the John M. Asplund WPCF* (EPA, 1985b) and a draft NPDES permit were made available for public comment on 17 January 1985. After comments and appropriate hearings, the Final Permit Decision (EPA, 1985a) was issued 13 September 1985, and the start date of the five-year NPDES Permit AK-002255-1 was 16 October 1985. As required by this permit, a multi-port diffuser was installed at the Asplund WPCF outfall in the beginning of August 1987. This occurred prior to the 1987 summer water quality monitoring program. This original NPDES permit expired on 15 October 1990.

AWWU submitted a renewal application for the permit in April 1990 which addressed amendments made to the 301(h) provisions by the Water Quality Act. That renewal application was not acted upon by the EPA, and the facility continued to operate under an administrative extension of the 1985 permit until August 2000. In 1998 it was projected that the growth of Anchorage would result in the discharge limits contained in the 1985 permit being exceeded within a few years. Therefore, AWWU prepared and submitted another renewal application which replaced the 1990 application in October 1998 (CH2M Hill, 1998).

In tandem with the renewal application, AWWU conducted special studies and submitted a request for site-specific water quality criteria (SSWQC) to ADEC for the Point Woronzof area of Cook Inlet in December 1998 (AWWU, 1998). This request for SSWQC for turbidity and a suite of metals was necessary because the AWQS for marine waters could not be achieved due to the naturally high suspended sediment loads in Cook Inlet from glacial inputs. The SSWQC request was based on EPA's metals policy that had been recently promulgated which recommended the use of dissolved metals as bioavailable and appropriate for the protection of aquatic life and associated beneficial uses of the water body. Following both agency and public review and comments, the SSWQC were incorporated into the AWQS as amended on 27 May 1999. The SSWQC for the Point Woronzof area included turbidity and the dissolved fraction of arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc.

Following the promulgation of these new AWQS, a tentative decision to grant AWWU its 301(h) variance was made by EPA in November 1999. The tentative decision, draft NPDES permit, and permit fact sheet were then made available for public review and comment. The State of Alaska's Division of Government Coordination issued its Final Consistency Determination for the action in February 2000. The current NPDES permit for the Asplund WPCF was signed by the EPA and went into effect 2 August 2000 for five years; it was then administratively extended in August 2005 pending permit renewal. The NPDES permit specifies the current ongoing monitoring program as documented in the Monitoring Program Work Plan (KLI, 2000a), submitted to EPA in October 2000, that identifies how AWWU intends to fulfill the requirements of the permit. The most recent application for a reauthorization of the permit with 301(h) variance was submitted in January 2005 and is still under review by the EPA. Since that time, AWWU has performed a number of special studies including preparation of a biological evaluation in support of the permit

renewal as a result of the Cook Inlet beluga whale being listed as an endangered species in October 2008 (CH2M Hill, 2011). These studies, which are some of the largest of their kind, included detailed analyses of influent, effluent, and biosolids for pollutants of emerging concern such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

Since issuance of the current NPDES permit, EPA has approved ADEC's use of dissolved metals for the AWQS, approved SSWQC for Upper Cook Inlet in the vicinity of Point Woronzof, and removed Alaska from the National Toxic Rule list (EPA, 2006). In 2009, EPA approved the 2009 revisions to the AWQS and the December 2008 State of Alaska Toxics Manual which lists numerical limits. With the exception of cadmium and mercury, where the chronic cadmium standard changed from 9.3 µg/L in the SSWQC to 8.8 µg/L in the AWQS and the chronic mercury standard which changed from 0.025 µg/L in the SSWQC to 0.94 µg/L in the AWQS, all other dissolved metals criteria are the same in the two standards.

### **1.1.2 ASPLUND WPCF DESCRIPTION**

AWWU provides both domestic wastewater and potable water utility service to customers located within the MOA. Wastewater processing and treatment is conducted at the Asplund WPCF located on approximately 45 acres in West Anchorage at Point Woronzof, adjacent to Cook Inlet. The wastewater treatment facility was constructed from 1971 through 1973 and is a conventional primary treatment plant rated for an average daily flow of 58 million gallons per day (mgd). The WPCF treats wastewater collected from the Anchorage Bowl region including the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). Sludge from both the Eagle River and Girdwood wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) is also received at the Asplund WPCF for processing. The WPCF is operated under a CWA Section 301(h) modification as a primary treatment facility utilizing incineration as the solids handling process. The facility underwent a major expansion in the 1980s which roughly doubled its capacity. The facility currently operates at an average daily flow of approximately 30 mgd and is required to meet published BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS removal rates of 30 percent (%) prior to discharging treated effluent to Cook Inlet at Point Woronzof. Figure 2 depicts the overall process flow for the WPCF in a simplified schematic form and Figure 3 provides a plan-view layout of the facility. The major processes of the Asplund WPCF include the following:

- Headworks
- Grit Removal
- Primary Clarification
- Disinfection
- Plant Effluent Discharge System
- Scum Concentration
- Solids Handling (Gravity Thickening, Dewatering, and Incineration)

Expected population growth within the service area combined with more stringent permitting regulations is expected to increase demand on the Asplund WPCF in the coming years. The future average daily dry weather flow in 2032 is projected to be 30.4 mgd whereas the 2032 peak wet weather flow for a 25-year event was determined to be 60.8 mgd (CDM Smith, 2014).

The WPCF receives and treats wastewater generated throughout the Anchorage Bowl geographic region that encompasses the area west of Chugach State Park, from Potter Marsh in the south to Eagle River in the north, including JBER. Influent flows and loads at the WPCF are conveyed to

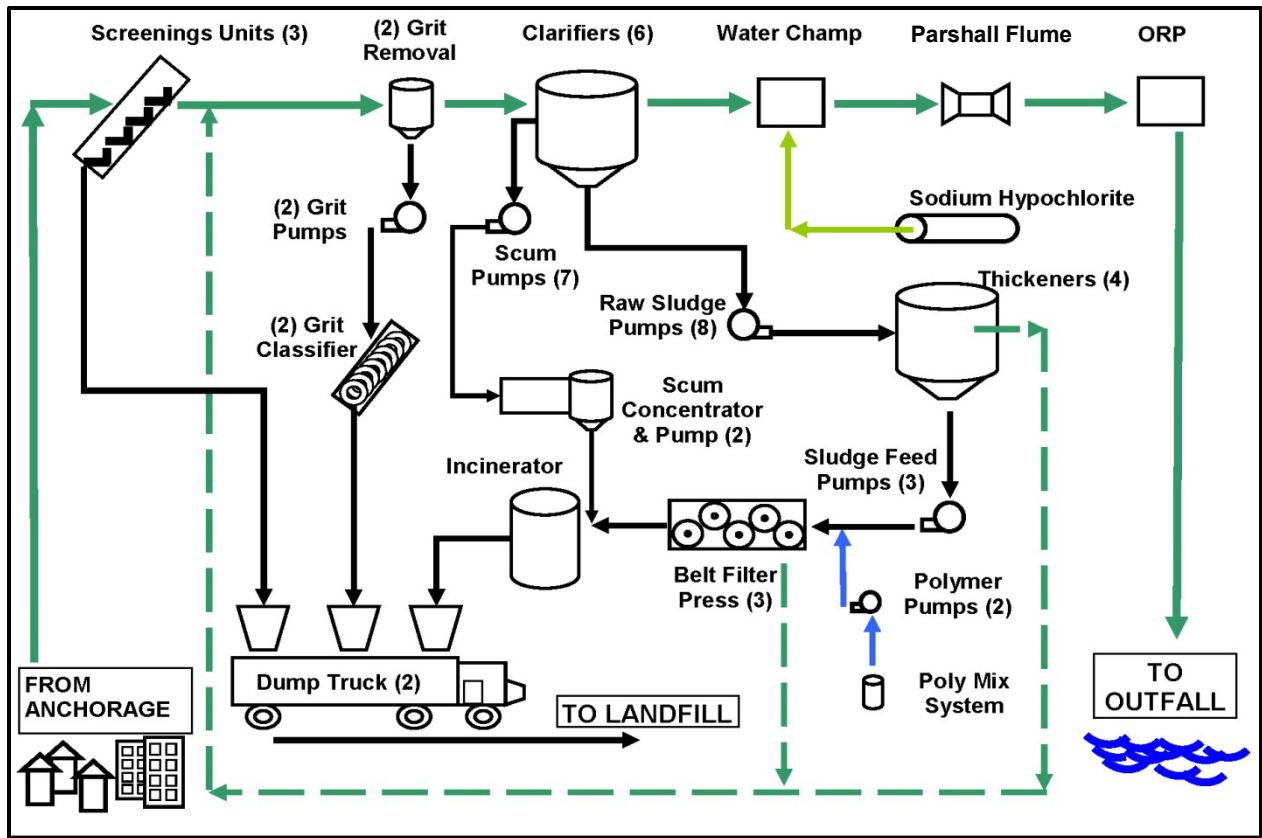


Figure 2. Asplund WPCF Process Flow Diagram.

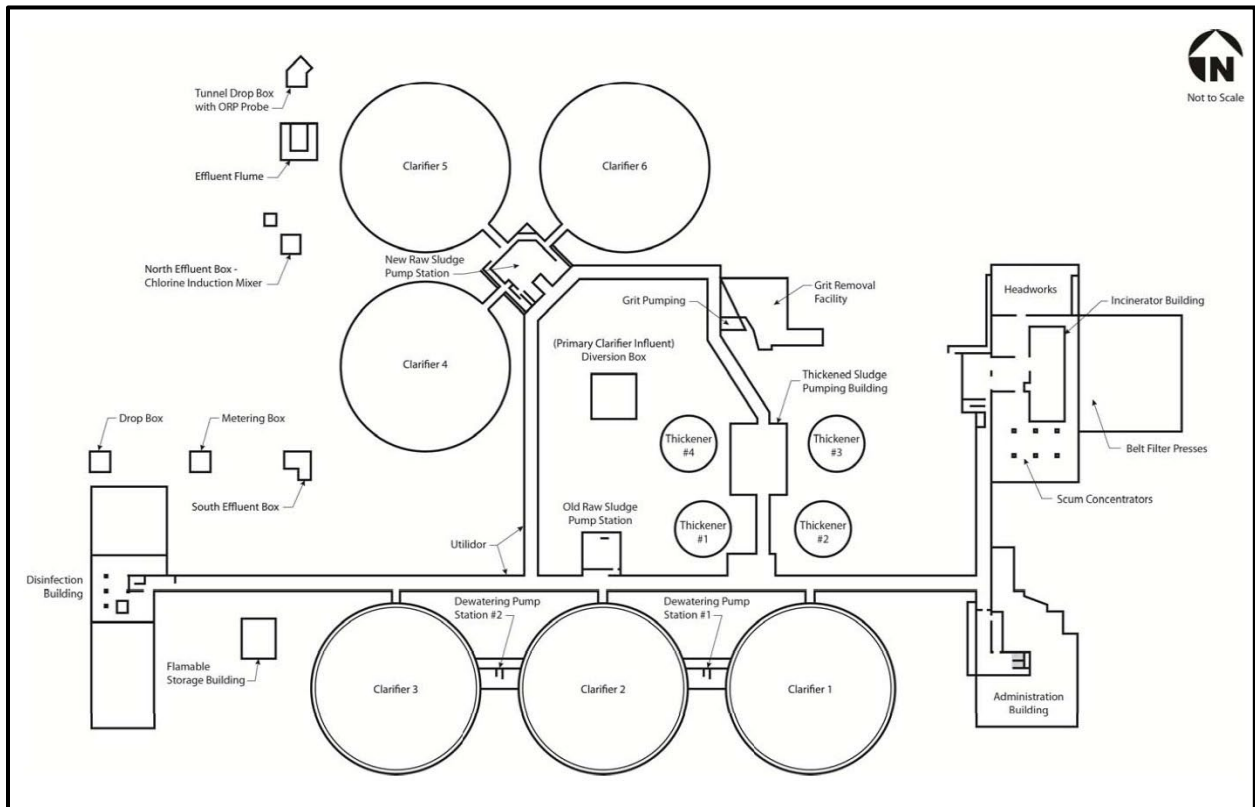


Figure 3. Asplund WPCF Facility Layout.

the plant via the Anchorage Bowl wastewater collection system. In addition to the domestic, commercial, and industrial inputs, piped flows to the plant include infiltration and inflow (I&I) and discharges of septage and landfill leachate that are collected and discharged into two collection system receiving stations. Since these loads are discharged into the collection system, all impacts of flows and loadings are captured in plant sampling and analyses. The one source of effluent flow that is not represented in the plant influent is makeup water. Approximately 1.1 mgd of makeup water is utilized in various plant processes such as the belt filter press and the incinerator scrubber washdown; this consists of a combination of city water and well water.

Combined septage from the King Street and Turpin Street receiving stations account for approximately 0.5% of the total influent flow, but due to their concentrated nature, they account for 11.9% of the total TSS loading and 6.0% of the total BOD<sub>5</sub> loading to the WPCF (CDM Smith, 2014). In addition to septage, landfill leachate from the Anchorage Regional Landfill and Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Central Landfill is collected at the Turpin receiving station. The Merrill Field Landfill discharges landfill leachate directly into the collection system. On a combined basis, leachate from these three landfills accounts for approximately 1.0% of the total influent flow, 3.0% of the TSS loading, and 7.8% of the total BOD<sub>5</sub> loading. The vast majority of the leachate loading was found to come from the Anchorage Regional Landfill even though flow from the Merrill Field Landfill was nearly four times greater (CDM Smith, 2014). Contributions from JBER to the total TSS loading at Asplund are approximately 8.2%.

### **1.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND**

The Asplund WPCF discharges offshore of Point Woronzof into the receiving waters of Knik Arm in Upper Cook Inlet, Alaska. Cook Inlet is a major tidal estuary that is approximately 333 kilometers (km; 180 nautical miles) long and 93 - 148 km (50 - 80 nautical miles) wide at its lower end with a large assimilative capacity and over 16,000 square km of surface area. Bathymetry indicates the Inlet is fairly deep, generally 36.6 m (120 ft) north of the Forelands and about 167 m (550 ft) at the entrance (refer to Figure 1). Numerous rivers, including the major Knik, Matanuska, and Susitna River drainages, discharge into the Upper Inlet. A detailed map of the Point Woronzof region indicates deep water (33 – 164 ft [10 - 50 m]) extending well past Anchorage up into Knik Arm (Figure 4).

Cook Inlet is a unique estuary, with perhaps the closest parallel being the Bay of Fundy between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada. The occurrence of tidal bores at the head, currents of 4 - 6 knots, suspended sediment loads of up to 2500 mg/L, large temperature extremes, and moving pancake ice of up to one meter thick make Cook Inlet unique. The high tidal ranges result from the geometry of the Inlet, which has a natural resonance period close to the semi-diurnal tidal period. The resulting large tidal fluctuations and fast currents cause complete vertical mixing of the Inlet waters including any discharges into those waters. Another important factor for the Point Woronzof discharge is the large volume of saline water that enters Cook Inlet that is completely vertically mixed with the riverine inputs by tidal turbulence. This allows the water body to be very effective in wastewater dilution and assimilation.

The particle size distributions of natural suspended sediments near Point Woronzof show that very large particles are suspended by the current-generated turbulence, with 50% of the load being in the size range of 65 - 250 microns. Particle settling is seen at slack tide, but due to high tidal currents, particles never completely settle. In the absence of currents, settling rate tests show that 93% of the solids in an ambient water sample settle within about 20 minutes (min).

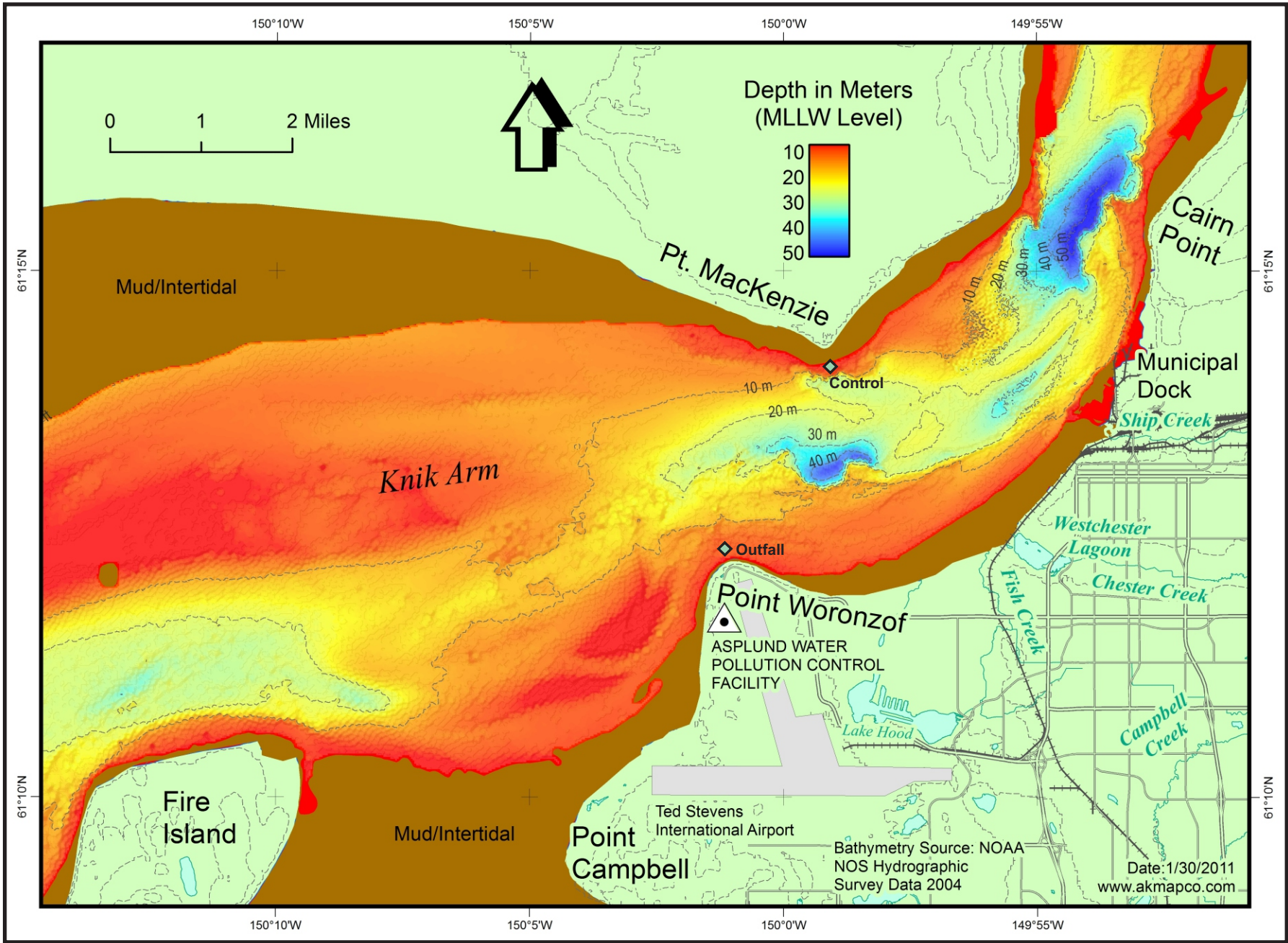


Figure 4. Asplund WPCF Outfall and Control Station Locations.



Previous work has indicated that due to extremely swift currents, no seabed accumulation of suspended sediments, either natural or from the discharge, occurs in the vicinity of the outfall. The bottom is strictly coarse gravel and cobble because of these currents. Areas of deposition do exist in other areas, however, such as east of Point Woronzof, where mudflats and beaches are found, and southwest of the Point. Prior Asplund monitoring studies have also shown that essentially no benthic biota is found on the scoured cobble/gravel bottom or on the beaches in Knik Arm or at Point Woronzof. Similar sampling by these studies of the beaches and tidal flats showed very sparse abundances and very low diversities (KLI, 1979, 1987a, 1987b, and 1989). Benthic and intertidal marine fauna populations are limited by the naturally harsh physical environment of mud and glacial silt, high turbulence and bottom scouring, large tides and strong currents, and extreme ice conditions.

Current trajectories in the immediate vicinity of the outfall are of concern because of flow separation zones on either side of Point Woronzof. Previous work indicated that, on a flood tide, a clockwise eddy sometimes exists east of Point Woronzof resulting in shoreward transport at certain stages of the flood tide. A flow separation also exists to the west of Point Woronzof during ebb flow that entrains effluent closer to shore during the beginning of the tide cycle. The formation of eddies, however, has never been observed during these ebb tides.

## **1.2 STUDY DESIGN**

### **1.2.1 MONITORING OBJECTIVES**

The monitoring program as described by NPDES Permit No. AK-002255-1 includes influent, effluent, and sludge monitoring at the Asplund WPCF; receiving water and sediment quality monitoring; biological and toxicological monitoring; and a toxics control program. The objectives of the overall monitoring program as outlined in the NPDES permit are to:

- Determine compliance with the NPDES permit
- Determine compliance with AWQS criteria
- Determine effectiveness of the industrial pretreatment program
- Aid in assessing water quality at the discharge point
- Characterize toxic substances
- Monitor plant performance
- Determine compliance with the regulatory criteria of Section 301(h) of the CWA
- Determine the level of bacterial concentrations in nearshore waters
- Monitor for changes in sediment quality (organic enrichment, alteration of grain size distribution, and pollutant contamination) (note: not required or performed in 2022)
- Determine if pollutants from the discharge are accumulating in exposed biological organisms (note: not required or performed in 2022)
- Provide data for evaluating re-issuance of the NPDES permit

### **1.2.2 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The elements of the monitoring program for the Asplund WPCF are:

- Influent, Effluent, and Sludge Monitoring, including
  - In-plant sampling
  - Toxic pollutants and pesticides (including metals and cyanide)

- Pretreatment monitoring
- Whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing
- Receiving Water Quality Monitoring, including
  - Plume dispersion and water quality
  - Intertidal bacteria
- Biological and Sediment Monitoring, including
  - Sediment quality
  - Bioaccumulation

Table 1 provides an overview of the monitoring requirements as described by the permit. Detailed information regarding each program component is provided in Section 2.0, Methods.

### **1.2.3 HYPOTHESES**

Hypotheses were formulated for the monitoring program as an unbiased approach in determining whether the Asplund WPCF was affecting the marine receiving water environment. The null (no effect) hypotheses ( $H_0$ ) tested each year of monitoring are as follows:

*H<sub>01</sub>: Applicable State and Federal effluent and receiving water standards are met by the Asplund WPCF discharge.*

*H<sub>02</sub>: Water quality at the boundary of the ZID is not significantly changed with respect to nearfield or control stations.*

### **1.3 CONTRACTOR**

AWWU's designated contractor for the 2022 Asplund WPCF Monitoring Program was Kinnetic Environmental, Inc. (KEI) of Anchorage, Alaska.

Influent, effluent, and sludge analyses of volatile and semi-volatile priority pollutants, pesticides, aromatic hydrocarbons, cyanide, and trace metals (total and dissolved) for the toxic pollutant and pretreatment monitoring were performed by ALS Environmental of Kelso, WA, except dioxins which were analyzed by ALS Environmental of Houston, TX. Asbestos analyses were performed by International Asbestos Testing Laboratories of Mount Laurel, NJ. WET testing was performed by Pacific EcoRisk of Fairfield, CA. In addition, AWWU's Asplund Laboratory performed monthly in-plant analyses as part of its self-monitoring program and contracted the Part 503 sludge analyses to SGS North America Inc. of Anchorage, AK.

KEI performed the receiving water sampling and field analyses for turbidity, TRC and color analysis. Analytical support for the receiving water sampling included: Brooks Applied Labs of Seattle, WA for trace metals; ALS Environmental, Kelso, WA for volatile aromatic hydrocarbons and cyanide; AWWU's Asplund WPCF Laboratory in Anchorage, AK for bacteriology and TSS; and TDI-Brooks International, Inc./B&B Laboratories, Inc., College Station, TX for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) analyses.

### **1.4 PERIOD OF REPORT**

This report documents results of the monitoring program from 1 January through 31 December 2022 under the current NPDES permit.

**Table 1. Overall Monitoring Requirements.**

Parameter	Frequency	Sample Type	Remarks
In-Plant Monitoring	See Table 2	See Table 2	See Table 2 - includes flow, TRC, dissolved oxygen (DO), BOD <sub>5</sub> , TSS, temperature, pH, fecal coliform, total ammonia as nitrogen, enterococci bacteria, and oil and grease
Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides (including Metals and Cyanide)	2/year <sup>a</sup>	Influent, 24-hour (hr) flow composite Effluent, 24-hr flow composite Sludge, 24-hr composite	See Table 2
Pretreatment Program	2/year <sup>a,b</sup>	Influent, three 24-hr flow composite Effluent, three 24-hr flow composite Sludge, 24-hr composite	Includes metals and cyanide plus percent solids for sludge
Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing	4/year <sup>c</sup>	Effluent, 24-hr flow composite	See Table 2
Receiving Water Quality	1/year <sup>d</sup>	Receiving water, grab	See Table 5
Intertidal Bacteria	1/year <sup>e</sup>	Intertidal receiving water, grab	Fecal coliform sampling at 8 intertidal stations
Sediment	Once during the fourth year of the permit <sup>e</sup>	Grab samples of surficial (0-2 centimeters [cm]) sediment collected at intertidal and subtidal stations <sup>f</sup>	Includes total volatile solids (TVS), toxic pollutants and pesticides (including metals and cyanide), and sediment grain size distribution
Bioaccumulation	Once during the fourth year of the permit	Grab samples of intertidal macroalgae ( <i>Vaucheria</i> spp.)  Note: Macroalgae was not available during 2003 or 2004. Therefore, in consultation with EPA and AWWU, Pacific cod ( <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i> ) were collected and analyzed for this permit component in October 2004.	Includes toxic pollutants and pesticides (including metals and cyanide)

*a* Sampling will be conducted twice per year: once in summer-dry conditions and once in summer-wet conditions.

*b* One day of the three consecutive days of sampling will also serve as part of the Toxic Pollutant and Pesticides (metals and cyanide) sampling performed twice each year.

*c* WET testing will be performed on a quarterly basis.

*d* Sampling will be conducted once per year in summer-dry conditions.

*e* Sampling will be conducted in conjunction with the receiving water sampling.

*f* Sampling will be performed at Intertidal Stations 1, 2, and Control (IT-1, IT-2, and IT-C); a subtidal station located at the ZID boundary; and a subtidal control station near Point MacKenzie (in a similar water depth as the ZID boundary).



## 2.0 METHODS

### 2.1 INFLUENT, EFFLUENT, AND SLUDGE MONITORING

Influent, effluent, and sludge monitoring requirements as specified by the NPDES permit are outlined in Table 2. AWWU performed routine daily, weekly, and monthly sampling of conventional pollutant parameters, biannual sampling of enterococci bacteria, and daily measurements of flow rate. KEI performed the less-frequently monitored parameters of oil and grease, toxic pollutants and pesticides (including metals and cyanide), and WET testing.

- ✓ determine compliance with the NPDES permit and State of Alaska water quality criteria
- ✓ determine effectiveness of the industrial pre-treatment program
- ✓ aid in assessing the water quality at the discharge point
- ✓ characterize toxic substances
- ✓ help monitor plant performance
- ✓ determine compliance with the regulatory criteria of Section 301(h) of the CWA
- ✓ provide data for evaluating re-issuance of this permit

#### 2.1.1 IN-PLANT MONITORING

In-plant influent, effluent, and sludge sampling was performed by AWWU personnel as described in Table 2 and in a separate monitoring program plan prepared by AWWU (AWWU, 2000). Samples were obtained following the schedule required by the permit. Influent was sampled at a representative location in the influent headworks, upstream from any recycle streams. Effluent was sampled at a well-mixed point downstream from the chlorination input point in the final effluent line with pumping of the sample back to the plant so that effluent samples were representative of actual chlorine contact time at the point of discharge. Composite sludge samples were obtained from the sludge feed screw auger downstream of the addition of primary scum and scum concentrate. Influent and effluent grab samples were obtained for pH and temperature, and effluent grab samples were obtained for TRC, dissolved oxygen (DO), and fecal coliform. Composite influent and effluent samples were obtained for the analysis of BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, and total ammonia as nitrogen (effluent only).

#### 2.1.2 TOXIC POLLUTANT AND PESTICIDE MONITORING

As outlined in the permit, toxic pollutant and pesticide sampling was conducted twice during 2022, once during June (summer-dry) and once during August (summer-wet). Samples were collected as required by the permit and either analyzed by AWWU laboratory personnel or provided to KEI for shipment to the appropriate analytical laboratory. Influent and effluent were sampled as discrete grabs or by 24-hour (hr) flow-proportional methodology (depending on the analysis method). Influent was sampled at a representative location in the influent headworks upstream from any recycle streams, and effluent was sampled at a well-mixed point downstream from the chlorination injection point in the final effluent line. Influent and effluent 24-hr flow-proportional sampling was performed with Teledyne ISCO Model 5800 Refrigerated Autosamplers. Influent and effluent samples were chilled as required during composite sampling. Sludge samples, consisting of eight discrete grabs collected every three hours over a 24-hr period, were obtained from the sludge feed screw auger, chilled, and composited prior to analysis.

Influent and effluent composite samples included pesticides, semi-volatile organics, metals, asbestos, and cyanide. Influent and effluent grab samples included volatile organic analyses and

**Table 2. In-Plant Influent, Effluent, and Sludge Monitoring Requirements.**

Parameter	Sample Point <sup>a</sup>	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Flow <sup>b</sup>	Effluent	Continuous	Continuous
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) <sup>b</sup>	Effluent	Continuous <u>or</u> every 2-4 hrs	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) <sup>b</sup>	Effluent	4/week	Grab
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> ) <sup>b</sup>	Influent and effluent	4/week	24-hr flow composite
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) <sup>b</sup>	Influent and effluent	4/week	24-hr flow composite
Temperature <sup>b</sup>	Influent and effluent	4/week	Grab
pH <sup>b</sup>	Influent and effluent	4/week	Grab
Fecal Coliform Bacteria <sup>b</sup>	Effluent	3/week	Grab
Total Ammonia as N <sup>b</sup>	Effluent	1/month	24-hr flow composite
Enterococci Bacteria <sup>b</sup>	Effluent	2/year <sup>d</sup>	Grab
Oil and Grease <sup>c</sup>	Effluent	2/year <sup>d</sup>	Grab
Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides (including Metals and Cyanide) <sup>c,e</sup>	Influent, effluent, and sludge	2/year <sup>d</sup>	24-hr flow composite (influent & effluent) 24-hr composite (sludge and influent /effluent volatile organics)
Whole Effluent Toxicity <sup>c,f</sup> (WET) Testing	Effluent	4/year	24-hr flow composite

*a* When both influent and effluent samples are required, samples will be collected during the same 24-hr period.

*b* AWWU performed this monitoring component.

*c* KEI performed this monitoring component.

*d* Twice per year sampling: during summer, once in dry conditions and once in wet conditions.

*e* As part of the pretreatment program sampling requirements, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, cyanide, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, and zinc in influent, effluent, and sludge will be sampled, along with percent solids (in sludge only). These metals were analyzed for and reported as both total recoverable metals and dissolved metals for influent and effluent and as total metals in dry weight for sludge. Sampled as follows: Influent and effluent as three separate 24-hr flow composite samples taken on three consecutive days, one day of which coincides with the twice-yearly sampling (summer-dry and summer-wet conditions); and sludge as one composite of eight grabs/day when influent and effluent samples are being taken. In addition, the other five metals from the toxic pollutant list are analyzed in the summer-wet/summer-dry samples: beryllium, molybdenum, antimony, thallium, and selenium.

*f* WET requirements are summarized in the text (Section 2.1.4). Initial testing was a screening period performed during three quarters, during which three species were tested to determine the most sensitive species. Re-screening is performed each year during one quarter (different than the previous year) to determine the most sensitive species to use for continued testing. Accelerated testing requirements will be triggered if chronic toxicity is greater than 143 TUC (chronic toxicity units, TUC=100/NOEC).

total hydrocarbons as oil and grease. Volatile organics grab samples were collected every three hours during the 24-hr sampling period and composited at the contract laboratory prior to analysis.

At time of collection (or subsampling from composites), all samples were appropriately labeled using project-specific sample labels as described in Section 2.5. Sample collection and shipment was documented using project-specific chain of custody (COC) forms as described in Section 2.5.

Toxic pollutants as defined by the permit are those substances listed in 40 CFR 401.15 (Table 3). This list involves 65 categories of pollutants, including asbestos, aromatic hydrocarbons, pesticides, metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Pesticides as defined in the permit are demeton, guthion, malathion, mirex, methoxychlor, and parathion as listed in 40 CFR 125.58. Other pesticides which were tested for are included on the toxic pollutants list (40 CFR 401.15). Methods used to analyze these constituents for the program and for which KEI was responsible, as well as those performed by AWWU, are provided in Table 3. Preservation and maximum holding time information for each method is provided in Table 4. All samples were collected in the appropriate sample containers and preserved, if necessary, as described by EPA or equivalent approved standard methodology. Filled sample containers were immediately chilled and shipped to various laboratories for analysis.

### **2.1.3 PRETREATMENT MONITORING**

Pretreatment program monitoring (Table 1 and Table 2) was performed by AWWU's Point Woronzof Laboratory. This monitoring was performed twice in 2022 in conjunction with summer-dry and summer-wet sampling. As part of the pretreatment program sampling requirements, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, cyanide, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, and zinc in influent, effluent, and sludge were sampled, along with percent solids (in sludge only). Although not required by the permit, pretreatment sampling also included antimony, beryllium, molybdenum, selenium, and thallium. These samples were analyzed by ALS Environmental as total recoverable and dissolved metals for influent and effluent and as total recoverable metals in dry weight for sludge. Sampling was conducted as prescribed by the permit: influent and effluent as three separate 24-hr composite samples taken on three consecutive days, one day of which coincided with each of the twice-yearly toxic pollutant and pesticide sampling efforts (summer-dry and summer-wet). The sludge sampling consisted of a single composite of eight grabs/day when influent and effluent composite samples were being taken.

### **2.1.4 WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING (WET)**

As outlined in the permit, WET testing was performed on a quarterly basis using 24-hr flow-composited effluent samples. Final effluent was sampled by discrete flow-proportional samplers at a well-mixed point downstream from the chlorination injection point. Following sample collection, effluent samples were chilled, packaged, and shipped immediately to the toxicity laboratory for testing. Samples were appropriately labeled at the time of collection using project-specific labels as described in Section 2.5. Sample collection and shipment were documented using project-specific COC forms.

**Table 4. Preservation and Analytical Procedures for Influent, Effluent, and Sludge.**

Parameter	Sample Type	Preservation	Maximum Holding Time	Method <sup>a</sup>
Temperature	Inf/Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	SM 2550B
pH	Inf/Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	SM 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B
BOD <sub>5</sub>	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C	48 hours	SM 5210B
Total Residual Chlorine	Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	Hach 8167 (EPA 4500-Cl, G)
DO Electrode	Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	SM 4500-O G
Suspended Solids	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days	SM 2540D
Total Solids	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days	EPA 160.3 Modified SM 2540 G
Enterococci	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤8°C, Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> in effluent	8 hours total, 6 hours receipt by laboratory	ASTM D6503-99
Asbestos	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark	Filter within 48 hours of receipt at lab	EPA 100.2 EPA 100.1
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	28 days	EPA 600
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Eff	Cool, ≤8°C, dark 0.0008% Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	8 hours total, 6 hours receipt by laboratory	SM 9221B/E
Total Ammonia as N Eff		Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH <2	28 days	Hach 8038 (EPA 4500-NH <sub>3</sub> ,C)
Total Hydrocarbons as Oil and Grease	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark HCl to pH<2	28 days	EPA 1664A HEM <sup>b</sup>
Volatile Organics	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark, HCl to pH <2 L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	14 days	EPA 624.1
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days	SW 8260C
Dioxins	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C	1 year	EPA 1613B
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	30 days until extraction/45 days after extraction 1 year	SW 8290
Semi-Volatile Organics	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	7 days until extraction/40 days after extraction	EPA 625.1
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days until extraction/40 days after extraction	SW 8270D
Pesticides & PCBs	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	7 days or 1 yr (PCBs) until extraction/40 days after extraction	EPA 608.3 ALS SOP
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days or 1 yr (PCBs) until extraction/40 days after extraction	ALS SOP SW 8081B SW 8082A

**Table 4. Preservation and Analytical Procedures for Influent, Effluent, and Sludge.**

Parameter	Sample Type	Preservation	Maximum Holding Time	Method <sup>a</sup>
Temperature	Inf/Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	SM 2550B
pH	Inf/Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	SM 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B
BOD <sub>5</sub>	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C	48 hours	SM 5210B
Total Residual Chlorine	Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	Hach 8167 (EPA 4500-Cl, G)
DO Electrode	Eff	None required	Analyze immediately	SM 4500-O G
Suspended Solids	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days	SM 2540D
Total Solids	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days	EPA 160.3 Modified SM 2540 G
Enterococci	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤8°C, Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> in effluent	8 hours total, 6 hours receipt by laboratory	ASTM D6503-99
Asbestos	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark	Filter within 48 hours of receipt at lab	EPA 100.2 EPA 100.1
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	28 days	EPA 600
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	Eff	Cool, ≤8°C, dark 0.0008% Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	8 hours total, 6 hours receipt by laboratory	SM 9221B/E
Total Ammonia as N Eff		Cool, ≤6°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH <2	28 days	Hach 8038 (EPA 4500-NH <sub>3</sub> ,C)
Total Hydrocarbons as Oil and Grease	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark HCl to pH<2	28 days	EPA 1664A HEM <sup>b</sup>
Volatile Organics	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark, HCl to pH <2 L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	14 days	EPA 624.1
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days	SW 8260C
Dioxins	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C	1 year	EPA 1613B
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	30 days until extraction/45 days after extraction 1 year	SW 8290
Semi-Volatile Organics	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, dark L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	7 days until extraction/40 days after extraction	EPA 625.1
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days until extraction/40 days after extraction	SW 8270D
Pesticides & PCBs	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	7 days or 1 yr (PCBs) until extraction/40 days after extraction	EPA 608.3 ALS SOP
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days or 1 yr (PCBs) until extraction/40 days after extraction	ALS SOP SW 8081B SW 8082A

**Table 4. Preservation and Analytical Procedures for Influent, Effluent, and Sludge.  
(continued)**

Parameter	Sample Type	Preservation	Maximum Holding Time	Method <sup>a</sup>
Cyanide (total)	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, NaOH to pH>12, 0.6 g L-Ascorbic Acid in effluent	14 days	SM 4500-CN, E
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	14 days	EPA 9012 B
Antimony	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Arsenic	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Beryllium	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Cadmium	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Chromium	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Copper	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Lead	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Mercury	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HCl to pH<2	90 days	EPA 1631 E
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	28 days	EPA 1631 E
Molybdenum	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Nickel	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Selenium	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Silver	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Thallium	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A
Zinc	Inf/Eff	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2	6 months	EPA 200.8
	Sludge	Cool, ≤6°C	6 months	EPA 6020A

<sup>a</sup> Unless noted, "EPA" refers to *Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes*, 1983, EPA-600/4-79-020 or 40 CFR 136; "SM" refers to *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 22<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2012. "SW" refers to SW 846, *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1986.

<sup>b</sup> EPA, 1999a. Method 1664, Rev. A; Document No. EPA-821-R-98-002.

Initial WET testing was performed as a screening period over the course of three quarters, during each of which three toxicity tests were performed: one vertebrate and two invertebrate species. These screening tests were performed during 2000 and 2001. Screening included the vertebrate *Atherinops affinis* (topsmelt) for survival and growth; an invertebrate bivalve species *Mytilus* spp. (mussel) for larval development; and an invertebrate echinoderm species *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* (purple urchin) for fertilization. Once the initial screening period was completed, the single-most sensitive species (bivalve) was used for subsequent toxicity testing until the next three-species screening was performed. As required by the permit, three-species screening must be performed each year during one quarter (different than the previous year) to determine the most sensitive species to use for continued testing. Re-screening that was performed in 2002 and 2003 found bivalves to be the most sensitive species. Three-species re-screening performed from 2004 through 2022 has found the purple sea urchin to be the most sensitive species.

Toxicity testing was performed as required by the permit and as described in *Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Marine and Estuarine Organisms* (EPA, 1988) and *Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to West Coast Marine and Estuarine Organisms*, First Edition (EPA, 1995). The presence of chronic toxicity was estimated as described by these references. Toxicity testing included testing a series of seven dilutions and a control, including the predicted concentration of the effluent at the edge of the ZID (0.70%) as well as four dilutions above and two dilutions below the ZID concentration. Reference toxicants were tested concurrent with the effluent testing using the same procedures. If effluent tests did not meet all test acceptance criteria (TAC) as specified in the referenced methods, then effluent was required to be re-sampled and re-tested as soon as possible. Control and dilution water was natural filtered seawater as called for by the referenced methods. If dilution water was different from culture water, a second control using culture water was also run.

If WET testing showed chronic toxicity to be greater than (>) 143 chronic toxicity units (TUc; TUc=100/No Observed Effect Concentration [NOEC]), then accelerated testing requirements were triggered. Accelerated testing would include implementation of the initial investigation Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) workplan along with at least one additional WET test. If the investigation indicated the source of toxicity (e.g., a plant upset) and no toxicity >143 TUc was observed in this additional test, the normal schedule of testing would be continued. If toxicity >143 TUc was observed in the additional test, then accelerated testing would continue with six more tests performed on a biweekly basis over a 12-week period. Testing must commence within two weeks of receipt of sample results indicating excess chronic toxicity. If no toxicity >143 TUc was observed in these additional tests, then the normal testing schedule was re-instated. If toxicity >143 TUc was observed in any of the six tests, then a TRE would be initiated within 15 days of receipt of the qualifying sample results. A Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) must also be initiated as part of the overall TRE process; if this was initiated during the accelerated testing period, accelerated testing may be terminated or used as necessary in performing the TIE.

As part of permit requirements, an initial investigation TRE plan was prepared and submitted to EPA under separate cover (KLI, 2000b). This plan describes processes to be followed should chronic toxicity be detected. As required by the permit and described in *Toxicity Reduction Evaluation Guidance for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants* (EPA, 1999b), a preliminary toxicity evaluation must be initiated within 15 days of the receipt of sample results if chronic toxicity is detected above the toxicity trigger level. A more detailed TRE workplan may subsequently be developed to more fully investigate and identify the cause of the toxicity, identify

and provide a schedule of the actions that AWWU will use to mitigate the impact of the discharge, and to prevent the recurrence of the toxicity. As noted above, the TIE may be initiated as part of the overall TRE process during the accelerated testing schedule.

### 2.1.5 PART 503 SLUDGE MONITORING

Operations at the Asplund WPCF include a sewage sludge incinerator (SSI) that is subject to regulation under 40 CFR Part 503 - *Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge*. The current NPDES permit requires sludge monitoring twice per year, once during summer-dry conditions and once during summer-wet conditions, as noted earlier. There are no Part 503 monitoring requirements included in the reissued NPDES permit because EPA Region 10's current policy is to remove these requirements in anticipation of writing "sludge only" permits in the future. However, the Part 503 regulations are "self-implementing" in that the facility is required to meet the SSI monitoring requirements in the regulation whether they are specifically included in a sludge-only permit or not. Therefore, monitoring at the Asplund WPCF includes Part 503 monitoring of sludge. Monitoring frequencies required by 40 CFR Part 503 are once per 60 days for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and nickel. Frequency required for mercury is at least once per year. Frequency for beryllium is not specified. AWWU has chosen to also test for mercury and beryllium once per 60 days, more frequently than required, so as to be consistent with the testing frequency for the other metals. Allowable limits are site-specific and were calculated in 2015 per Part 503 regulation by AWWU based on 2015 source testing data. While methods for this monitoring component have been described elsewhere (AWWU, 2000) and results of the monitoring have been provided under separate reporting requirements to EPA, the data are also included in this report.

## 2.2 RECEIVING WATER QUALITY MONITORING

### 2.2.1 WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

As required by permit, water quality must be monitored annually during the summer in dry weather conditions (Table 1). In 2022, sampling was performed at non-fixed stations during consecutive ebb and flood tides at the outfall station and on the following day for a single flood tide at the control station. Station locations were determined by following the track of drogues released above the diffuser at the outfall station and at the control station located north across Knik Arm from Point Woronzof, directly off Point MacKenzie, in a similar water depth to the outfall. Three drogue tracks on each tide were performed at each location. Four stations were sampled on each drogue track, as follows:

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ determine compliance with the NPDES permit and State of Alaska water quality criteria</li><li>✓ aid in assessing the water quality at the discharge point</li><li>✓ determine compliance with the regulatory criteria of Section 301(h) of the CWA</li><li>✓ determine the level of bacterial concentrations in nearshore waters</li><li>✓ provide data for evaluation of permit re-issuance</li></ul> |
|--|

- Directly above the diffuser
- As close to the ZID boundary as practicable
- At least one near-field station along the drogue's path
- In the shallow subtidal area before the drogue grounded or along the drogue's path at a far-field location.



As noted in the permit, the ZID is defined as “the water column above the area delineated by the sector of a circle with the center located 245 meters (m) offshore over the outfall diffuser, 30 m shoreward of the diffuser, 650 m in radius, and with a 220 degree (°) angle” (Figure 5).

The plume location was determined by following a holey-sock current drogue (Figure 6). The drogue consisted of a six-foot cylindrical nylon tube ballasted at the bottom with a weight and lead line and attached at the top with a bridle to a spherical float. This float was attached to the tracking spar via a connecting line. These cylindrical designs that enclose a parcel of water have been found to more accurately follow the ambient current patterns than other drogue designs such as the window shade design (Sombardier and Niiler, 1994).

Sampling was performed by positioning the vessel over the diffuser (or control site) for the first sampling station of the drogue track. The drogue was then released and the station sampled. The drogue was followed until navigation information indicated the ZID boundary had been reached, at approximately 650 m from the outfall, at which time the ZID-boundary station was immediately sampled. The third and fourth stations along each drogue track were sampled as the drogue traveled along shore, in the channel of Knik Arm, or as it slowed in shallow water prior to grounding. Navigation was accomplished using a differential global positioning system (DGPS) with an accuracy of  $\pm 3$ -5 m.

Samples were collected as outlined in Table 5 and analyzed as outlined in Table 6. The surface waters of all stations were sampled for fecal coliform, color, turbidity, and TRC. Surface grab samples were collected directly into the appropriate sample bottles at sample depth (15 - 30 centimeters [cm]). Mid- and bottom-depth turbidity samples were collected at all stations using Niskin<sup>®</sup> bottles. Mid and bottom depths were determined at each station using the survey vessel's fathometer. Samples were collected at all three target depths simultaneously.

For color, an additional preparation step was added beginning in 2008 where color samples were allowed to settle and then decanted in the field prior to submittal to the laboratory. Upon reaching the laboratory, the samples were then processed by either filtration or centrifuge to remove any remaining suspended sediment from the sample. The need for this additional field preparation step is the result of naturally high suspended sediment levels in samples from Knik Arm that in the past had sometimes not been completely removed prior to analysis, which resulted in anomalously high color values.

Hydrographic profiles of temperature, salinity, DO, and pH were collected at all stations using a Seabird SeaCAT<sup>®</sup> SBE-19plus V2 CTD (conductivity, temperature, and depth) profiler. This instrument was also equipped with DO, pH, and optical backscatter (turbidity) sensors to allow profiles of these parameters to also be recorded.

Samples for the analysis of total and dissolved metals, TSS, PAH (for TAqH), and TAH were collected from surface waters directly into appropriate sample containers at the first three stations (diffuser, ZID-boundary, and near-field) at low tide along the first flood drogue track, at both the outfall and control stations.

A single replicate sample for each parameter or a single hydrographic profile was collected at each station, except for quality control (QC) samples where field duplicates or triplicates were obtained.

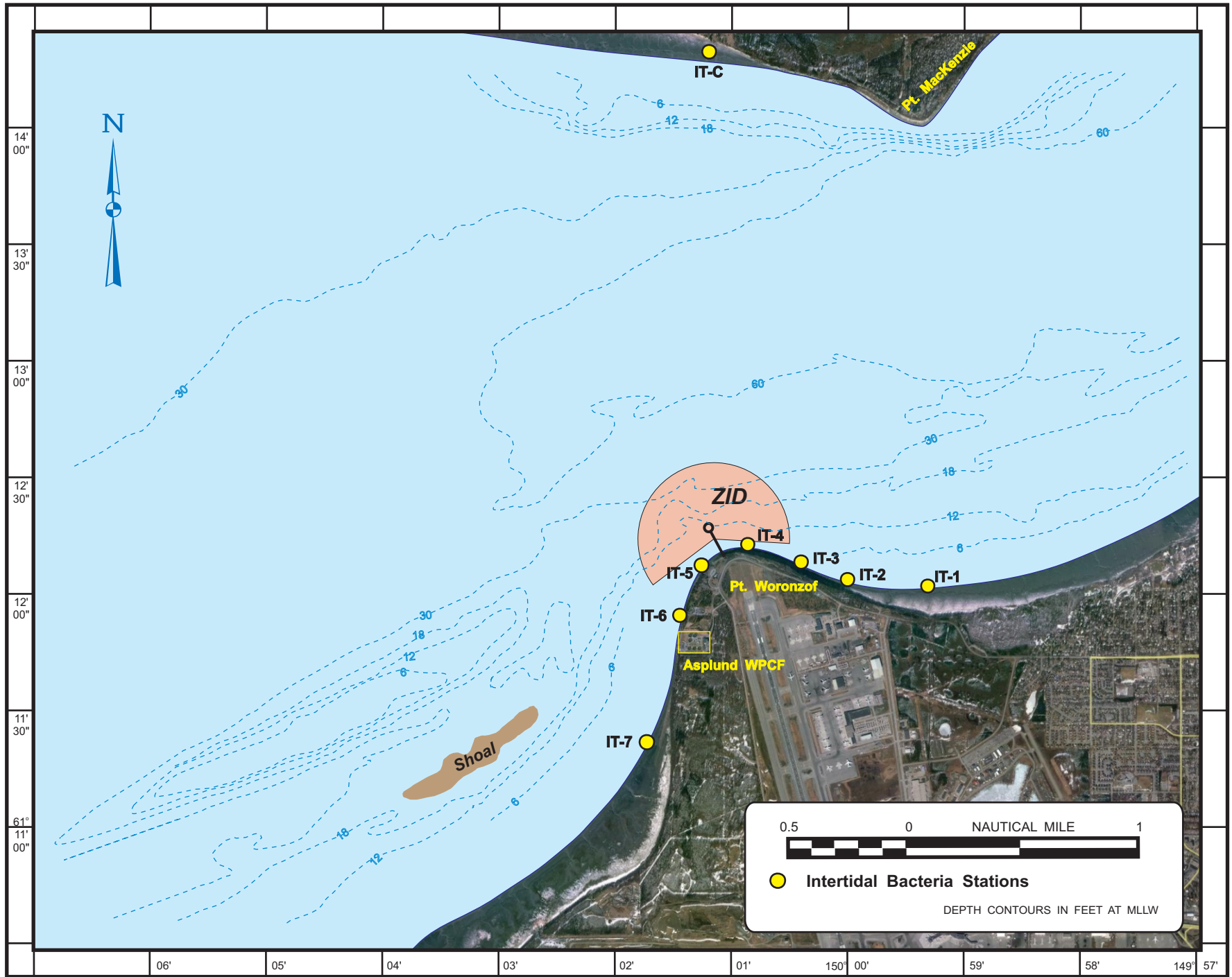


Figure 5. Asplund WPCF Outfall, ZID, and Locations of Intertidal Bacterial Sampling.

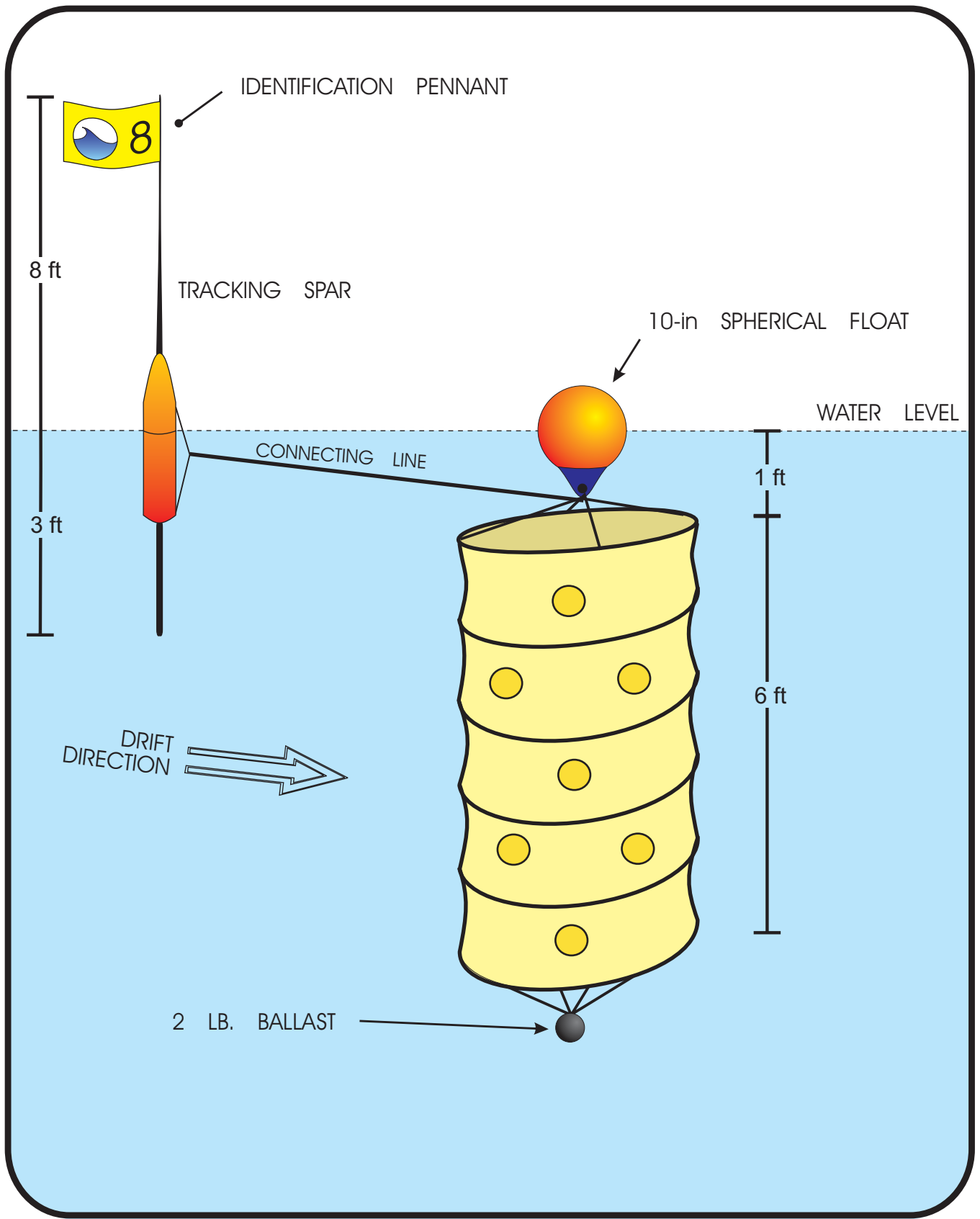


Figure 6. Holey-Sock Drogue, Flotation, and Marker Buoy.

**Table 5. Receiving Water Quality Monitoring Requirements.**

Parameter	Sampling Depth		
	Surface (above 0.5 m)	Surface, Mid-, and Bottom	Profile (1- to 3-m intervals)
Fecal Coliform	All stations <sup>a</sup> , within the 15-30 cm layer		
Color			
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)			
Field Observations: presence or absence of floating solids, visible foam (other than trace), oil wastes, and/or sheen	All stations where surface samples are collected		
Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons (TAqH)	First three stations along the first flood drogue track at both the outfall and control locations		
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons (TAH)			
Metals and Cyanide <sup>b</sup>			
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)			
Turbidity		All stations	
pH			All stations
Temperature			
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)			
Salinity			

*a* Non-fixed stations were sampled following the track of drogues released at the diffuser (outfall station) or at a fixed station having the same depth due north across Knik Arm from Point Woronzof near Point MacKenzie (control station). Three drogue tracks were made during each of a consecutive flood and ebb tide at the outfall station. Stations included the following along each outfall drogue track: above the diffuser; as close to the ZID boundary as practicable; one near-field station along the drogue's path; and a far-field station along the drogue path or in the shallow subtidal area before the drogue grounds. Three drogue tracks were also made during a flood tide at the control station in conjunction with or as soon as practicable as the sampling at the outfall station.

*b* Metals include arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, and zinc; these were analyzed and reported as both total recoverable and dissolved metals.

**Table 6. Methods, Preservation, and Maximum Holding Times for the Analysis of Receiving Water Quality Samples.**

Parameter	Method <sup>a</sup>	Preservation	Maximum Holding Time
Fecal Coliform	SM 9221B/E	Cool, ≤8°C, dark, (0.0008% Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> in presence of chlorine)	8 hours (6 hours max transport, 2 hours once received by lab)
Color	SM 2120B	Cool, ≤6°C, dark	48 hours
Total Residual Chlorine	SM 4500-Cl I	None	Analyze immediately
Turbidity	SM 2130B	Cool, ≤ 6°C, dark	48 hours
Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons (TAqH)	TAqH = TAH/BETX (EPA 624.1) plus TPAH (EPA 625 SIM, TDI SOP1006)	Cool, ≤6°C, HCl to pH<2, L-Ascorbic Acid in presence of chlorine	14 days
Semivolatile Organics (added in 2022)	EPA 625.1	Cool, ≤6°C, dark, L-Ascorbic Acid in presence of chlorine	7 days until extraction/ 40 days after extraction
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons (TAH) Volatile Organic Compounds (full suite added 2022)	TAH = summation of BETX analytes EPA 624.1	Cool, ≤6°C, HCl to pH<2, L-Ascorbic Acid in presence of chlorine	14 days
Pesticides & PCBs (added in 2022)	EPA 608.3 ALS SOP	Cool, ≤6°C, HCl to pH<2, L-Ascorbic Acid in presence of chlorine	7 days or 1 year (PCBs)
Dioxins (added in 2022)	EPA 1613B	Cool, ≤6°C	1 year
Metals (Total Recoverable and Dissolved <sup>b</sup> )	EPA 1638 Mod. EPA 1631E (Mercury)	Cool, ≤6°C, HNO <sub>3</sub> to pH<2 (after filtration for dissolved). Mercury samples require no acidification.	6 months 90 days – Mercury
Cyanide	EPA 335.4	Cool, ≤6°C, NaOH to pH>12	14 days
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	SM 2540D	Cool, ≤6°C	7 days
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	SM 4500-O G <sup>c</sup>	None	<i>in situ</i>
pH	SM 4500-H <sup>+</sup> B <sup>c</sup>	None	<i>in situ</i>
Temperature	SM 2550B <sup>c</sup>	None	<i>in situ</i>
Salinity	SM 2520B <sup>c</sup>	None	<i>in situ</i>

<sup>a</sup> "EPA" refers to the EPA document *Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes*, revised March 1983, Document No. EPA-600/4-79-020 or 40 CFR 136. "SM" refers to *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 22nd ed., 2012.

<sup>b</sup> Dissolved metals were filtered before acidification.

<sup>c</sup> Modified for *in situ* measurements collected with the CTD.

Field notes, including navigational and sampling information, were recorded on project-specific field logs. As required by the permit, field observations taken at each station included the presence or absence of floating solids, visible foam in other than trace amounts, oily wastes, or sheen. Weather observations were also recorded. All field documentation was reviewed by the field leader at the completion of the survey for accuracy and completeness. Sample collection and shipment was documented using project-specific COC forms as described in Section 2.5.

### 2.2.2 INTERTIDAL BACTERIAL SAMPLING

As part of the receiving water quality monitoring effort, intertidal sampling for fecal coliform bacteria was also performed at eight stations (Table 7 and Figure 5). The primary survey vessel, the *North Forty*, and a skiff were both utilized to collect two replicate water samples from each station near high slack water and as close to shore as safely practicable. Additional quality control samples were collected as described in Section 4.2. Surface samples were collected by grab sampling from 15 to 30 cm depths, directly into the appropriate container. Samples were analyzed using the same procedures described previously and in Table 6.

**Table 7. Approximate Locations of Intertidal Bacteria Sampling Stations.**

Station	Station Location Relative to Diffuser	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
IT-1	2000 m east	61° 12' 10"	149° 58' 55"
IT-2	1200 m east	61° 12' 11"	149° 59' 50"
IT-3	750 m east	61° 12' 15"	150° 00' 20"
IT-4	250 m east	61° 12' 19"	150° 00' 52"
IT-5	250 m southwest	61° 12' 15"	150° 01' 10"
IT-6	750 m southwest	61° 12' 02"	150° 01' 28"
IT-7	2000 m southwest	61° 11' 22"	150° 02' 02"
IT-C	Across Knik Arm, approximately 4 km due north	61° 14' 26"	150° 01' 09"

In addition to the required intertidal samples, two fecal coliform replicate samples were collected once during the water quality monitoring effort from three area streams that empty into Knik Arm: Ship, Chester, and Fish Creeks. Surface grab samples were collected from each stream and analyzed using the same procedures described previously and in Table 6.

At time of collection, all fecal coliform samples were labeled using project-specific labels as described in Section 2.5. All samples were collected in appropriate clean and certified sample containers, and preserved according to the method. Samples were placed on gel ice immediately after sampling and remained chilled during transport to the laboratory.

### 2.2.3 VESSEL SUPPORT

The *NORTH FORTY*, a 26-ft KEI-owned survey vessel, was used for drogue tracking and water sampling in 2022. In addition, a 15-ft Zodiac® was used to retrieve grounded drogues and assist with intertidal bacteria sampling. The Zodiac was also used to transport samples with short holding times (i.e., bacterial and turbidity samples) ashore throughout the sampling effort.

## **2.3 SEDIMENT AND BIOACCUMULATION MONITORING**

As stipulated in the NPDES permit, sediment and bioaccumulation monitoring was to be performed during the fourth year after the effective date of the permit. Accordingly, the intertidal and subtidal sediment sampling was performed and reported in conjunction with the 2003 receiving water monitoring program, and the bioaccumulation sampling was performed and reported in conjunction with the 2004 monitoring effort. No additional permit required sediment or bioaccumulation monitoring has been conducted since that time, as the ongoing monitoring has been continued at the year-five level of effort under the extension to the NPDES permit.

## **2.4 LABORATORY ANALYSIS**

Laboratory analyses of all samples for this monitoring program followed preservation and analysis procedures described by EPA-accepted protocols as referenced in this document (Table 4 and Table 6). These procedures are fully described by the referenced documents and/or 40 CFR Part 136.

## **2.5 DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES**

All field and sampling data were recorded on appropriate pre-printed project-specific field data collection forms. Field data collection forms included drogue tracking forms, hydrographic field log forms, sample identification/COC forms, and sample labels. These forms were tailored to the monitoring program to facilitate accurate and complete documentation of field activities. The field task leader was responsible for review and approval of all field documentation. This was completed as soon as possible after sampling.

Hydrographic field logs included specific information such as station identification, unique sample identification numbers, navigational data, sampling or visual observations, sampling depths, and collection date and time. Drogue tracking logs included station identification information along with navigational data to allow the track of each drogue to be later determined and plotted. Pre-printed labels included such information as station designation, analysis type, date and time of sample collection, sampling personnel, and a pre-assigned sample identification number to uniquely identify each sample. Field duplicate and field blank QC samples were labeled as were regular environmental samples so as to be blind to the laboratory analysts performing the analyses.

In the field, in addition to unique sample numbers, samples were coded on their labels by location and depth to provide easy identification of the associated water quality measurements. The station designation was represented by: drogue drop location (C=control, E=ebb, and F=flood), the first number represents the drogue number, and the second number represents the sampling station along the drogue's path. The final character represents depth; surface (S), mid-depth (M), or bottom (B) sample (e.g., Station C2-3B).

Sample identification and integrity was ensured by a rigidly-enforced COC program. COC forms documented specific information concerning the sample identification, handling, preservation, shipment, and custody of the samples. Pertinent information from the sample label was transferred onto the COC, along with other information as required. COC forms were completed, signed by field personnel, and copied if needed. The original of each COC form was packed with samples in coolers for shipment to the laboratory. The field task leader retained a copy of each form for field records and for tracking purposes should a shipment become lost or delayed. Upon receipt of

samples at the analytical laboratory, the laboratory sample custodian signed the samples in by checking all sample labels against COC information and noting any discrepancies as well as sample condition (e.g., sample temperature, containers leaking or damaged during shipment). Internal sample tracking procedures at the laboratory were initiated upon receipt of samples as described by each laboratory's procedures.

## **2.6 QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES**

### **2.6.1 OBJECTIVES**

The monitoring program includes a comprehensive quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) component that encompasses all aspects of the monitoring program, from initial sample collection and field observation recording through laboratory analysis and data analysis to reporting. The objectives of the QA/QC program were to fully document the field and laboratory data collected, to maintain and document data quality, and to ensure that the data collected are accurate, representative, and complete and are comparable with data collected through other EPA-regulated NPDES programs. The monitoring program was designed to allow the data to be assessed by the following parameters:

- Precision
- Accuracy
- Comparability
- Representativeness
- Completeness

Precision is a measure of agreement among repeated measurements of the same parameter, which was assessed through duplicate and triplicate sampling and analysis. Accuracy is a measure of the overall agreement of a measurement to a known value and includes a combination of random error (precision) and systematic error (bias) that are due to sampling and analytical operations. For this monitoring program, these were assessed in the field by comparing field instrumentation to known standards and in the laboratory by running standard reference material, performing blank spikes, matrix spikes, and comparing instrumentation performance to calibration standards. Comparability is a measure of the confidence with which one data set or method can be compared to another and was assured by utilizing standard EPA and other accepted sampling and laboratory protocols that could be traced back to known standards and using standard units of measure, such as navigational information that could be traced back to a known datum. Representativeness is the measure of the degree to which data accurately and precisely represents a characteristic of a population, parameter variations at a sampling point, or an environmental condition. This was assessed by determining sampling variability at a location by repeated sampling that could be compared to laboratory variability. Completeness is a measure of the amount of valid data obtained compared to the amount of anticipated data as outlined in the project workplan.

These parameters were controlled by: adhering to EPA-approved and documented methods and procedures; the analysis of QC samples on a routine basis; the use of contract laboratories with existing QA/QC plans; accepted and defined data review and verification procedures; and comprehensive sample documentation procedures. Throughout the monitoring program, KEI coordinated with the subcontracting laboratories to ensure that their in-house QA/QC programs were being implemented to meet the required standards.



Quality control activities in the field involved adherence to documented procedures, including those in the monitoring program workplan, and the comprehensive documentation of sample collection and sample identification information. Sample integrity and identification were ensured by rigidly-enforced COC procedures. The COC procedures document the handling of each sample from the time of collection to arrival at the laboratory.

Analytical methods in use throughout the monitoring program have been approved and documented by EPA. These methods were used as project-specific protocols to document and guide analytical procedures. Adherence to these documented procedures ensures that analytical results are properly obtained and reported.

## **2.6.2 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL**

Quality control activities in the field consisted of the following:

- Adherence to approved and documented procedures in the monitoring program workplan
- Cross-checking of field identifications, measurements, and recording to ensure consistency, accuracy, and completeness of field sampling log forms
- Comprehensive documentation of field observations, sample collection and identification information, and navigation and drogue position information

Sampling procedures utilized for this project have been successfully used for a number of years on the Asplund WPCF monitoring program. Consistent use of documented and well-known procedures provides for greater likelihood of obtaining environmental samples uncontaminated by sampling procedures or apparatus. The use of project-specific field forms and data entry sheets also provided guidance to assure completeness and accuracy of field data. Adherence to these procedures and use of these project-specific documents helped ensure that data collected over the course of the project were complete, comparable, and accurate, and that study results were representative of conditions existing at the sampling sites.

### **Field Documentation**

For observations made in the field, cross-checking between personnel was used as the primary method of quality control. As described in Section 2.5, sample documentation began in the field using pre-printed log forms, labels, COC forms, and pre-determined sample identification numbers designed specifically for use on this project. This extensive field documentation provided a paper trail that exists for each sample or field observation and ensures credibility of the data. All field records were reviewed by the field crew leader as soon as possible after sampling was completed. After review and verification, field logs were copied, electronically scanned, and filed at the KEI Anchorage office upon return from the survey. Electronic backup copies of all field forms and other data were also made and a complete copy of these records has been included in the appendices of this report.

Sample integrity and identification were ensured by the COC program. COC procedures documented the handling of a sample from the time the sample was collected to receipt of the sample at the analytical laboratory. At the time of shipment, field personnel kept a copy of the completed COC form, and the original accompanied the sample to the laboratory. Upon arrival

and completion of the COC at the laboratory, a copy of the final signed COC was returned to KEI for documentation.

### **Sample Handling**

Samples were frozen, chilled, and/or preserved as required by the appropriate methods in the field and until receipt at the laboratory. Samples were packed in coolers along with the completed COC forms for shipment to analytical facilities as previously described. Coolers were securely packed with ice packs as required and custody sealed with signed and dated tamper-evident tape for shipment. Upon receipt by the laboratory the condition of the samples was noted on the COC form including: cooler temperature, broken or missing samples, etc.

### **Navigation**

As described previously, navigation was accomplished with a DGPS. The accuracy of DGPS coordinates was verified by positioning the vessel over the diffuser during a low slack tide when the outfall discharge was evident and comparing DGPS readings with the known outfall location. In addition, the DGPS provides on-going accuracy calculations based on the number of satellites and their positions in the sky. Historical intertidal stations were re-acquired using a hand-held DGPS to determine the distance to the outfall and by visual sightings to known landmarks. All station information was entered on appropriate field logs and reviewed by the field crew leader.

### **Field Instrumentation**

Field equipment used for collection, measurement, and testing was subject to a strict program of control, calibration, adjustment, and maintenance. Care was taken to ensure that instruments used for field measurements of temperature, salinity, DO, and pH were calibrated and checked with a secondary probe system in the field and/or appropriate standards prior to and after each sampling event. The calibration standards used were in accordance with applicable criteria such as the U.S. Bureau of Standards, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), or the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and followed the instrumentation manufacturer's recommended procedures.

For receiving water quality samples, analytical and instrument variability were checked with field and laboratory splits of larger-volume samples into triplicates and the subsamples analyzed for the various water quality parameters that included color, fecal coliform, TRC, and turbidity. Individual measurements and concentration ranges were reported for each parameter of each split. In addition, duplicate analyses of samples split in the laboratory were used as a means to assess laboratory precision.

For other water quality parameters that were analyzed in the field, the following summary of QA/QC procedures applied:

- Turbidity: The instrument was calibrated daily with a series of standards provided by the manufacturer. Due to the high turbidity in Cook Inlet, calibration samples included high range standards to ensure that the measured turbidities were within the range of the instrumentation calibration. In addition, select field samples were run in duplicate.

- Total Residual Chlorine: TRC was quantified with an ion selective electrode probe (SM 4500-Cl I) which requires a blank, blank spike, and a series of laboratory calibration standards. To account for seawater matrix interference issues, additional method blanks and calibration standards were prepared with Cook Inlet background seawater.
- Hydrographic CTD: Sensors are factory or field calibrated and then field checked with either a refractometer or secondary probe system for conductivity, research grade NIST traceable thermometer or secondary probe for temperature, and saturated water or secondary probe for DO. The pH probe was calibrated immediately prior the field sampling effort.

### **Sampling Variability**

Sampling variability was documented by sampling three replicates at one station (C2-2S) for the water quality parameters. This included three replicate grabs at the surface for fecal coliform, color, TRC, and turbidity analyses. In addition, triplicate casts of the CTD for DO, pH, temperature, and salinity were performed at the same station in order to check field variability of the probe's electronic sensors. This field sampling variability check was performed to show the natural variability of receiving water which could then be compared to laboratory variability.

### **Field Check Samples**

Field check samples included trip blanks for volatile organic analyses for EPA Method 624, field blanks and field-generated duplicates or triplicates. With the exception of the trip blanks which are initiated at the laboratory, field blanks were sent to the laboratory as blind samples to ensure unbiased reporting of results.

### **2.6.3 LABORATORY QUALITY CONTROL**

Analytical quality control for this project included the following:

- Adherence to documented and approved procedures, including EPA, Standard Methods, etc., internal laboratory protocols, and respective laboratory QA/QC programs
- Calibration and verification of analytical instruments
- Ability of each analytical laboratory to meet analytical precision, accuracy, limits of detection, and limits of quantification that meet EPA requirements
- Use of quality control samples, internal standards, and surrogate solutions

The analytical laboratories used for this project operate under the quality assurance (QA) programs described in their QA management plans. These programs involve the participation of qualified and trained personnel; the use of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for analytical methodology and procedures; a rigorous system of documenting and validating measurements; maintenance and calibration of instruments; and the analysis of QC samples for precision and accuracy tracking. The pertinent methods' descriptions contained in SOPs that the laboratories are following are comprehensive and provide information concerning proper sample collection, receipt and login, processing, storage, and preservation; required apparatus and materials; analytical procedure; standardization and calibration techniques; quality control samples required; methods of calculating values and assessing data quality; and reporting and performance criteria.

## Laboratory Documentation

Documentation in the laboratory included signing the original COC forms, documenting sample condition upon receipt, and generating the internal documents that track samples through the laboratory (e.g., sample control logs, refrigerator logs, etc.). Any deviations from the prescribed methods or internal laboratory SOPs were documented by the laboratory and included in a case narrative with the analysis report. Data affected by such deviations were appropriately qualified by the laboratory, as were any data that did not meet acceptable quality criteria. Typical data qualifiers included those denoting estimated concentrations (J) with a high (J+) or low (J-) bias, not detected (ND or U), method blank contamination (B), and matrix interference (P or i). For consistency, data qualifiers shown in report tables have been standardized where in some instances a laboratory report may show a different qualifier code. A full list of potential data qualifiers is included with the laboratory data reports in the appendices, and any data qualified by the laboratory have also been qualified where applicable in the data tables in this report.

## Instrument Calibration

Calibration is an integral part of any instrumental analysis. Calibration requirements for each type of analysis to be used on this monitoring project are described in the appropriate methods. Typically, instrument calibration was performed daily or on a per batch basis as required by the laboratory method.

## Laboratory Quality Control Procedures

Internal laboratory QC included the use of surrogate solutions and QC samples such as procedural (or method) blanks, matrix spike/matrix spike duplicates (MS/MSD), standard reference materials (SRMs), method-required QC check samples, and duplicates as specified in EPA approved analytical procedures. In addition, contract laboratories took part in EPA's annual *Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study* program where required for particular analyses to verify data accuracy. Surrogate compounds were spiked into samples as appropriate to assess individual sample matrix effects on sample analysis and reported as percent recovery. Surrogates were also included in other QC samples such as procedural blanks and matrix spike samples. Whenever possible, QC samples such as MS/MSD were run on samples from this program; however, in some cases where insufficient volume existed, laboratories performed standard batch QC (on foreign samples). Results from QC samples allowed the laboratory to assess QA parameters such as accuracy and precision of the data. Any data falling outside the acceptable criteria as defined in the methods were appropriately investigated by the laboratory, qualified, and described in the case narrative.

Method blanks (MBs) are pure, organic- and/or metal-free reagent water that are run through the analysis process and used to verify that analyte concentrations are accurate and do not reflect contamination. Method blanks were analyzed as called for by each method, typically one per sample batch.

Laboratory accuracy was assessed by routine spiking of environmental samples with a standard addition as called for by the appropriate method. These MS/MSD samples were run on the organic analyses collected as part of both the in-plant and receiving water monitoring components of the program. These matrix spike samples were fortified with components of interest as required by the method following the initial analysis to check the ability of the method to recover acceptable levels

and to determine accuracy of the data. Quality control charts were prepared and maintained by the laboratories where applicable to show the range of individual measurements encountered by following standard EPA procedures such as those outlined in EPA method guidance documents or in, *Design of 301(h) Monitoring Programs for Municipal Wastewater Discharges to Marine Waters* (EPA, 1982b) and other data review guidance documents (e.g., EPA, 2020a and 2020b).

Trace metals analyses for the monitoring program were supported through the use of either certified SRMs or laboratory control samples (LCSs) and duplicates (LCSDs), which are QC reference materials with known metals values that are obtained from the National Bureau of Standards and other sources or prepared by the laboratory. These SRMs or LCSs were analyzed by the laboratory at the same time as the program samples in order to ensure laboratory accuracy. Results of these analyses should fall within acceptable limits and can be expressed as percent recovery and relative percent difference (RPD) for duplicates.

### **Method Detection Limits**

Depending on each laboratory's adopted terminology, the method detection limits (MDLs), method reporting limits (MRLs), or practical quantitation limits (PQLs) for the various analytes were determined using the appropriate method as described in EPA methods for a particular analysis. These MDLs and MRLs/PQLs were reported with the data (see appendices) and are included in summary data tables as appropriate. Concentrations below the MDL or MRL were typically qualified with an "ND" code for not detected or "J" when reported as an estimated value that was above the MDL and below the MRL or PQL.

### **2.6.4 DATA REVIEW AND VALIDATION**

Data were validated by comparing final data against original documentation, including the workplan, field logs and data sheets, and analytical reports. Any discrepancies were fully documented in the program files and described where necessary in this annual report. Data were validated according to accuracy, precision, and completeness for both the field sample collection and analytical laboratory components of the program. Qualitative evaluation and statistical procedures were used to check the quality of the field and laboratory data as appropriate. The primary goals of these review and validation procedures were to ensure that the data:

- Were representative of conditions in the study area
- Were accurate
- Demonstrated the required level of precision
- Were comparable with data from other NPDES programs
- Were acceptable for use as a tool to evaluate permit compliance
- Were useful in applying for reauthorization and renewal of 301(h) variance
- Allowed independent technical appraisal of the program's ability to meet the monitoring program objectives.

Analytical data were subjected to review upon receipt from the laboratory following guidelines such as those published in *U.S. EPA Contract Laboratory Program National Functional Guidelines for Inorganic Superfund Methods Data Review* (EPA, 2020a), or *U.S. EPA Contract Laboratory Program National Functional Guidelines for Organic Superfund Methods Data Review* (EPA, 2020b). Items reviewed during data validation included sample holding times, results for laboratory MBs, MS/MSDs or LCS/LCSDs, check standards or SRMs, field and

laboratory duplicates, field and laboratory triplicates, field and trip blanks, report completeness, and laboratory performance (i.e., ability to achieve MDLs and adherence to QA/QC criteria established for this program). Items failing to meet such validation and review procedures were noted and corrected, if possible. Items that could not be corrected and fell outside of acceptable limits (e.g., a sample analyzed outside holding time) have been noted in data tables and in the appendices of this annual report if they occurred. For example, if matrix interference was noted by the laboratory in their analysis of the influent and effluent samples, it is appropriately qualified in the data tables; it was also addressed by the laboratory in their case narrative on how or whether it impacted the data quality.

A full summary of the data review and validation performed for the program is provided in Appendix D in a QA/QC evaluation report. Data presented in the Results and Discussion sections of this report utilize the final data validation results that in some cases were the result of qualification of the data originally reported by the laboratory.

## 3.0 RESULTS

### 3.1 INFLUENT, EFFLUENT, AND SLUDGE MONITORING

#### 3.1.1 MONTHLY DISCHARGE MONITORING DATA

Results of AWWU's daily, weekly, and monthly sampling of influent and effluent for non-metals are presented as monthly summaries in Table 8. Averages are based on the 12-month period from January through December 2022.

The percent removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS as determined by subtracting the effluent (Eff) concentration from the influent (Inf) concentration divided by the influent concentration ( $[(\text{Inf} - \text{Eff}) / \text{Inf}] \times 100$ ) averaged 36% for BOD<sub>5</sub> and 76% for TSS in 2022. On a monthly average basis, BOD<sub>5</sub> removal ranged from 24 to 41%. On a monthly average basis, removal of TSS ranged from 64 to 82%. Dischargers with 301(h) variances are required to remove 30% of BOD<sub>5</sub> and 30% of TSS on a monthly basis. With no exceptions seen in 2022, percent removals for TSS met minimum values required by CWA amendments (40 CFR Part 125.60). BOD<sub>5</sub> percent removal met the 30% standard except for the month of November when the removal rate fell to 24%. The low percent removal seen in November appeared to be the result of a few anomalously low influent values rather than an increase in effluent concentrations which may have been caused by an influent sampling issue such as a temporary obstruction in the sampling line. The average effluent BOD<sub>5</sub> in November of 152 mg/L was well within the typical range seen in 2022. All other BOD<sub>5</sub> values (daily, weekly, and monthly averages) reported for calendar year 2022 met permit limitations. The highest monthly average effluent BOD<sub>5</sub> was 183 mg/L, substantially less than the permit limitation of 240 mg/L. Concentrations of TSS in the effluent were low and typical of those seen historically at the Asplund WPCF, with the highest monthly average effluent concentration of 72 mg/L compared to the permit limit of 170 mg/L, and a daily maximum concentration of 156 mg/L compared to the permit limit of 190 mg/L. Weekly average TSS concentrations also met permit requirements of 180 mg/L for all sampling events in 2022.

The highest geometric mean monthly fecal coliform value was seen in March 2022 at 28 FC/100 mL. All months in 2022 met the permit limitation of 850 FC/100 mL, based on a geometric mean of at least five samples. Monthly geometric means ranged from 2.8 to 28.0 FC/100 mL, well below the permit limitation and similar to that seen over the past few years. The criterion of not more than 10% of samples analyzed exceeding 2,600 FC/100 mL was met in 2022. In general, better plant performance trends in terms of more effective chlorine disinfection have resulted in lower fecal coliform bacteria concentrations in recent years.

The TRC daily maximum concentration did not exceed the permit-required limitation of 1.2 mg/L for the entire year, with a maximum daily value of 0.898 mg/L and a monthly maximum daily range of 0.446 to 0.898 mg/L. The monthly average TRC concentration ranged from 0.26 in July to 0.34 mg/L in September, with an overall annual average of 0.29 mg/L. The permit requirement that effluent pH remain between 6.5 and 8.5 standard units was always met, exhibiting a daily minimum and maximum range of 6.9 to 7.7 pH units for the year. This indicates a very consistent level of treatment and close adherence to operational goals and procedures.

Although other parameters such as DO, temperature, and ammonia do not have permit limitations, ranges were typical of those seen historically. DO in the effluent exhibited monthly averages ranging from 1.8 to 4.0 mg/L, with a yearly average of 3.0 mg/L. Temperature showed yearly

**Table 8. Discharge Monitoring Data for Influent and Effluent Non-Metals.**

Month	Average EFF Flow Rate (MGD)	Temperature Average (°C)		pH Minimum/ Maximum (pH) <sup>a</sup>		TRC Average (mg/L)		DO Average (mg/L)		BOD <sub>5</sub> Average (mg/L)			TSS Average (mg/L)			Fecal Coliform Geometric Mean (FC/100 mL)		Total Ammonia <sup>c</sup> (mg/L)	
		INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	REM (%) <sup>b</sup>	INF	EFF	REM (%) <sup>b</sup>	INF	EFF	INF	EFF
01/22	26.96	12.9	10.9	7.2/7.7	7.1/7.5	NT	0.27	NT	2.8	289	177	39	328	60	82	NT	4.8	NT	24.2
02/22	28.10	12.3	10.4	7.0/7.5	7.1/7.7	NT	0.27	NT	3.6	265	169	36	288	60	79	NT	18.3	NT	27.6
03/22	28.67	12.2	10.4	7.2/7.5	7.0/7.4	NT	0.27	NT	3.7	272	163	40	319	64	80	NT	28.0	NT	26.2
04/22	32.31	12.0	10.2	7.1/7.5	7.2/7.5	NT	0.29	NT	4.0	248	166	33	255	63	75	NT	10.8	NT	22.2
05/22	29.03	12.6	11.7	7.1/7.6	7.0/7.4	NT	0.27	NT	2.5	268	183	32	309	70	77	NT	19.0	NT	28.1
06/22	27.27	14.9	14.0	7.1/7.5	7.0/7.3	NT	0.31	NT	3.2	285	180	37	355	64	82	NT	6.9	NT	26.8
07/22	29.23	15.5	15.3	7.1/7.5	6.9/7.3	NT	0.26	NT	1.8	289	172	41	360	68	81	NT	2.6	NT	28.2
08/22	34.74	15.5	15.3	7.1/7.4	6.9/7.4	NT	0.30	NT	2.4	245	150	39	284	63	78	NT	3.9	NT	23.6
09/22	35.74	14.7	14.8	6.9/7.3	7.0/7.3	NT	0.34	NT	3.5	212	130	39	234	62	74	NT	6.2	NT	25.1
10/22	33.57	14.2	13.7	7.0/7.5	7.0/7.3	NT	0.27	NT	2.1	229	141	38	261	67	74	NT	3.2	NT	19.8
11/22	29.07	13.7	12.4	7.2/7.7	6.9/7.5	NT	0.32	NT	3.0	201	152	24	198	72	64	NT	3.7	NT	19.9
12/22	28.00	12.1	11.5	7.2/7.7	7.1/7.5	NT	0.30	NT	3.6	243	157	35	235	67	72	NT	4.4	NT	30.4
<b>Average</b>	30.23	13.6	12.6	6.9/7.7	6.9/7.7	NT	0.29	NT	3.0	254	162	36	286	65	76	NT	9.3	NT	25.2

*a* Monthly or yearly (minimum/maximum).

*b* Monthly removal percentages are based on monthly influent and effluent averages. Value is rounded to nearest whole number.

*c* One sample per month for ammonia.

INF Influent.

EFF Effluent.

MGD Million gallons per day.

NT Not tested (tested in effluent only).

REM Percent removal.



averages of 13.6 degrees Celsius (°C) and 12.6 °C in the influent and effluent, respectively. Monthly values for total ammonia in the effluent ranged from 19.8 to 30.4 mg/L, with a yearly average of 25.2 mg/L, similar to that seen historically. Average effluent flow for the year was 30.23 mgd, which is about 10% higher than that seen for average flow over the past five years.

### **3.1.2 TOXIC POLLUTANTS AND PESTICIDES ANALYSES**

Toxic pollutant and pesticide monitoring for influent, effluent, and sludge was conducted from 14-16 June 2022 for summer-dry weather and 8-11 August 2022 for the summer-wet weather sampling. Sampling was performed over 24-hr periods by AWWU personnel.

Results of the toxic pollutant and pesticide analyses are provided in Table 9 (June 2022) and Table 10 (August 2022). For semi-volatile organic compounds, volatile organic compounds, PCBs, and pesticides, only those pollutants that were detected in the influent, effluent, or sludge are listed. All other compounds were not detected above their respective MDLs. Refer to Appendices A and B for laboratory reports and a complete listing of pollutants analyzed. Also, refer to Appendix D for the QA/QC evaluation report that summarizes the analytical data validation results that in some cases resulted in further qualification of the data reported by the laboratory. Pollutants found in the influent were usually detected in the effluent and vice versa and were also often present in the sludge. In general, pollutant concentrations were very low and many of the concentrations for the two sampling events were estimates (denoted with a "J" qualifier) that fell below the MRLs but above the MDLs.

Percent removal values shown in these tables were computed from influent and effluent concentrations. Percent removal was only calculated for compounds where a concentration in the influent and effluent was reported at a level above the MRL. Compounds with estimated concentrations denoted with a "J" qualifier or those reported as ND were not used for percent removal calculations. For summed values, such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylenes (BETX), non-detects or "U" qualified values were replaced by the MDL or MRL, as appropriate.

Percent removal calculations for some contaminants may not truly represent treatment plant efficiency due to several factors that influence removal rates. Most notable is the fact that influent and effluent autosamplers do not produce parallel samples over the same required 24-hr time interval due to the approximate 6-hr hydraulic residence time of wastewater flow through the treatment process prior to being discharged as final effluent. The percent removal calculation is also affected by the addition of more than 1 million gallons of fresh water from the city's drinking water supply and/or on-site well water to the treatment process (makeup water). Thickened sludge from both the Girdwood and Eagle River WWTFs is also processed at the Asplund WPCF, resulting in additional wastewater from the belt filter press. Finally, incinerator scrubber and in-plant wash-down waters are added back into the treatment process, which only impact the effluent composite sample. Also, the percent removal calculation is performed on pollutant concentrations that are near the MRL. As a result of these factors, calculation of negative pollutant removals is possible, in spite of all evidence supporting an efficient and effective treatment process indicated by very high removal efficiencies seen for TSS and BOD<sub>5</sub>.

Types and concentrations of measured volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds were fairly consistent between the two sampling periods. Volatile compounds detected in both the influent and effluent during both sampling events included: acetone, 2-butanone (MEK), carbon disulfide,

**Table 9. Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in the Influent, Effluent, and Sludge, Sampled 14, 15, and 16 June 2022.**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Influent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Effluent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Sludge (mg/kg)</b>	<b>Percent Removal</b>
<b>DISSOLVED METALS</b>				
Antimony	0.386	0.554	NT	-44
Arsenic	1.73	2.26	NT	-31
Beryllium	<0.005	<0.005	NT	---
Cadmium	0.027	0.100	NT	-270
Chromium	0.78	1.03	NT	-32
Copper	6.46	24.1	NT	-273
Lead	0.252	0.812	NT	-222
Mercury	0.00219	0.00095	NT	57
Molybdenum	1.15	1.85	NT	-61
Nickel	3.44	4.24	NT	-23
Selenium	0.4 J	0.6 J	NT	---
Silver	0.015 J	0.056	NT	---
Thallium	0.018 J	0.013 J	NT	---
Zinc	23.8	81.0	NT	-240
<b>TOTAL METALS</b>				
Antimony	0.593	0.651	1.34	-10
Arsenic	3.07	2.51	4.1	18
Beryllium	0.011 J	0.006 J	0.052 J	---
Cadmium	0.329	0.189	0.972	43
Chromium	2.56	1.57	13.5	39
Copper	62.3	37.1	236	40
Lead	2.31	1.62	10.5	30
Mercury	0.0309	0.0191	0.256	38
Molybdenum	2.18	1.91	4.08	12
Nickel	5.34	4.50	11.3	16
Selenium	0.7 J	0.7 J	2.4 J	---
Silver	0.219	0.148	1.77	32
Thallium	<0.009	0.052	0.031 J	---
Zinc	171	115	580	33

**Table 9. Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in the Influent, Effluent, and Sludge, Sampled 14, 15, and 16 June 2022. (continued)**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Influent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Effluent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Sludge (mg/kg)</b>	<b>Percent Removal</b>
<b>VOLATILE ORGANICS - detected substances only</b>				
Acetone	200	270	71	-35
Benzene	0.39 J	0.31 J	<0.00018	---
2-Butanone (MEK)	8.6 J	18 J	8.4 J,E	---
Carbon Disulfide	0.28 J	0.70	0.028	---
Chloroform	2.2	3.3	0.0062 J	-50
Chloromethane	<0.060	1.4	<0.00059	---
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.45 J	0.41 J	0.019 *	---
Ethylbenzene	0.83	0.55	0.018 *	34
2-Hexanone	<0.80	5.7 J	0.110 *	---
4-Methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK)	<2.0	<2.0	0.018 J	---
Methylene Chloride	0.84 J	0.99 J	<0.032 U	---
Styrene	0.39 J	0.37 J	<0.00046 *	---
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	0.59	0.57	0.025 *	3
Toluene	9.8	8.5	0.420	13
Trichloroethene (TCE)	0.18 J	<0.080	<0.00049	---
m,p-Xylenes	3.7	2.3	0.068 *	38
o-Xylene	1.7	0.99	0.027 *	42
<b>SEMI-VOLATILE ORGANICS - detected substances only</b>				
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate	<29	<15	55 J	---
Diethyl Phthalate	<3.3	2.1 J	7.0 J	---
Phenol	20	9.7	<10	52

**Table 9. Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in the Influent, Effluent, and Sludge, Sampled 14, 15, and 16 June 2022. (continued)**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Influent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Effluent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Sludge (mg/kg)</b>	<b>Percent Removal</b>
<b>HYDROCARBONS</b>				
Oil & Grease (EPA 1664A-HEM)	101,000	42,400	NT	58
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons as BETX from EPA Method 624 <sup>a</sup>	16.4	12.6	0.533	23
TPAH	NT	4.204	NT	---
TAqH <sup>b</sup>	NT	16.8	NT	---
<b>PESTICIDES, PCBS, &amp; DIOXINS – detected substances only</b>				
Heptachlor	<0.0050	<0.016 i	0.032 P	---
<b>ENTEROCOCCI BACTERIA</b>				
Enterococci <sup>c</sup>	NT	<10/<10	NT	---
<b>OTHER COMPONENTS</b>				
Asbestos <sup>d</sup>	<15	<7.4	ND	---
Cyanide	0.5 J	1.1 J	0.39 J	---

*a* Summation of BETX values using MDL for non-detected compounds.

*b* Summation of BETX/TAH plus TPAH

*c* Enterococci reported in MPN/100 mL; two replicates (sample and duplicate).

*d* Asbestos reported in million fibers/L (influent and effluent) or percent (sludge).

*i* The MRL / MDL are elevated due to chromatographic interference.

*E* Concentration exceeded the instruments calibration range. The result is an estimated value.

*J* Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

*P* GC or HPLC confirmation criteria exceeded. The relative percent difference between analytical results is greater than 40%.

ND Not detected.

NT Not tested.

*U* Detection limit raised to MRL level during QC validation due to blank result.

--- Not applicable (not calculated).

< Not detected, followed by MDL.

\* Internal standard recovery outside control criteria due to matrix interference.

**Table 10. Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in the Influent, Effluent, and Sludge, Sampled 8, 9, and 11 August 2022.**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Influent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Effluent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Sludge (mg/kg)</b>	<b>Percent Removal</b>
<b>DISSOLVED METALS</b>				
Antimony	0.628	0.654	NT	-4
Arsenic	2.09	2.58	NT	-23
Beryllium	<0.005	<0.005	NT	---
Cadmium	0.056	0.093	NT	-66
Chromium	1.31	1.00	NT	24
Copper	9.67	15.6	NT	-61
Lead	0.421	0.573	NT	-36
Mercury	0.0216	0.00872	NT	60
Molybdenum	1.45	1.75	NT	-21
Nickel	3.67	3.88	NT	-6
Selenium	0.3 J	0.5 J	NT	---
Silver	0.039	0.046	NT	-18
Thallium	<0.009	<0.009	NT	---
Zinc	30.2	52.4	NT	-74
<b>TOTAL METALS</b>				
Antimony	0.833	0.785	1.51	6
Arsenic	4.23	3.22	6.4	24
Beryllium	0.022	0.011 J	0.089	---
Cadmium	0.269	0.193	1.23	28
Chromium	3.90	2.24	21.7	43
Copper	64.0	32.1	262	50
Lead	2.76	1.90	14.0	31
Mercury	0.0893	0.0215	1.370	76
Molybdenum	2.30	1.90	5.54	17
Nickel	7.19	4.76	17.4	34
Selenium	0.6 J	0.6 J	2.5 J	---
Silver	0.278	0.191	2.38	31
Thallium	<0.009	<0.009	0.055 J	---
Zinc	166	97.7	692	41

**Table 10. Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in the Influent, Effluent, and Sludge, Sampled 8, 9, and 11 August 2022. (continued)**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Influent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Effluent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Sludge (mg/kg)</b>	<b>Percent Removal</b>
<b>VOLATILE ORGANICS - detected substances only</b>				
Acetone	140	210	84	-50
Benzene	0.060 J	<0.060	<0.00018	---
2-Butanone (MEK)	11 J	19 J	13 J, E	---
Carbon Disulfide	0.20 J	0.29 J	0.043	---
Chloroform	1.3	2.0	<0.00036	-54
Chloromethane	<0.060	0.53	<0.00058	---
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.42 J	0.39 J	0.0098 J*	---
Methylene chloride	0.37 J	0.39 J	<0.032 U	---
Ethylbenzene	0.20 J	0.17 J	0.0050 J	---
2-Hexanone	<0.80	<0.80	0.086	---
4-Methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK)	<2.0	<2.0	0.011 J*	---
Styrene	0.37 J	0.38 J	<0.00045	---
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	0.12 J	0.080 J	0.0059 J	---
Toluene	8.2	5.7	0.360	30
m,p-Xylenes	0.83 J	0.52 J	0.018	---
o-Xylene	0.44 J	0.33 J	0.0082 J	---
<b>SEMI-VOLATILE ORGANICS - detected substances only</b>				
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate	<29	<12	13 J	---
Phenol	11	6.0	<2.5	45

**Table 10. Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in the Influent, Effluent, and Sludge, Sampled 8, 9, and 11 August 2022. (continued)**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Influent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Effluent (µg/L)</b>	<b>Sludge (mg/kg)</b>	<b>Percent Removal</b>
<b>HYDROCARBONS</b>				
Oil & Grease (EPA 1664-HEM)	47,700	29,000	NT	39
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons as BETX from EPA Method 624 <sup>a</sup>	9.7	6.8	0.391	30
<b>PESTICIDES, PCBS, &amp; DIOXINS – detected substances only</b>				
Heptachlor	0.024 P	0.014	<0.0012 H	42
Heptachlor Epoxide	0.014 P	<0.0050	<0.0020 H	---
PCB (Aroclor 1254)	<0.024	<0.024	0.013 P	---
PCB (Aroclor 1260)	<0.024	<0.024	0.040 P	---
<b>ENTEROCOCCI BACTERIA</b>				
Enterococci <sup>b</sup>	NT	<10 / <10	NT	---
<b>OTHER COMPONENTS</b>				
Asbestos <sup>c</sup>	<15	<7.4	ND	---
Cyanide	<0.5	0.9 J	<0.20	---

*a* Summation of BETX values using MDL for not-detected compounds.

*b* Enterococci reported in MPN/100 mL: two replicates (sample and duplicate).

*c* Asbestos reported in million fibers/L (influent and effluent) or percent (sludge).

H Exceeded analysis holding time.

E Concentration exceeded the instruments calibration range. The result is an estimated value.

J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

ND Not detected.

NT Not tested.

U Detection limit raised to MRL level during QC validation due to blank result.

--- Not applicable (not calculated).

< Not detected, followed by MDL.

\* Surrogate recovery outside acceptable range due to matrix interference.

P GC or HPLC confirmation criteria exceeded. The relative percent difference between analytical results is greater than 40%.

chloroform, 1,4-Dichlorobenzene, ethylbenzene, methylene chloride, styrene, tetrachloroethene (PCE), toluene, and xylenes. Most of these compounds were estimated values as they were detected in concentrations below their MRLs and were therefore qualified with a "J."

Of the semi-volatile compounds, only phenol was detected in both the influent and effluent during both the June and August sampling events. Semi-volatile influent and effluent concentrations were mostly ND as they fell below their MDLs when analyzed due to their complex matrices.

Fewer volatile compounds were detected in the sludge as compared to those seen in the influent or effluent for either the June or August sampling efforts, whereas more semi-volatile compounds were seen in the sludge as compared to either the influent or effluent for both sampling events. Of those compounds detected in the sludge, not all were also detected in either the influent or effluent during the same sampling event. As with the influent and effluent samples, many sludge concentrations were estimated and qualified with a "J" as they fell below MRLs. Several volatile compounds that were detected in the influent and effluent were ND in the sludge (Table 9 and Table 10). Semi-volatile compounds seen in sludge during either the June or August sampling effort included bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, and diethyl phthalate.

The oil and grease concentration measured in the effluent in June 2022 was found to be at the high end of the range seen over the previous five years with an effluent concentration of 42.4 mg/L, compared to a 5-year range of 24.2 to 42.7 mg/L. The effluent concentration of oil and grease in August was 29.0 mg/L. Effluent BETX values were 12.6 and 6.8 µg/L in June and August samplings, respectively. Refer to Sections 4.1 and 4.2 for further discussion of the significance of hydrocarbon concentrations.

The AWQS include site-specific criteria for the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet and the Point Woronzof area along with state-wide criteria that are based on dissolved metals. These AWQS were utilized to determine the MAEC, defined as the receiving water AWQS criteria multiplied by the initial dilution of 142:1 for conservative substances (e.g., metals) and 180:1 for non-conservative substances (TRC, ammonia, cyanide, TAH, and TAqH) after taking into account any natural background concentration. Both total and dissolved concentrations of metals in the effluent were then compared to the MAECs. With the exception of BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, fecal coliform, and TRC that have permit limits, MAECs are not permit-specified limits but are used in this report as indicators to determine whether the effluent approached AWQS criteria after taking into account the permit-allowable dilution within the ZID/mixing zone.

Dissolved metals concentrations were also found to be low in influent and effluent during both sampling events. Dissolved beryllium was not seen in either the influent or effluent during any of the six sampling efforts (Table 11). The other metals tested (antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc) were typically measured at low levels above their MDLs and, for the most part, above their MRLs.

Total recoverable metals concentrations in both influent and effluent were also found to be low. Antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, silver, thallium, and zinc were seen in the influent or effluent during both sampling events, all at very low levels when compared to their respective MAECs. The concentration for total copper in effluent was found to be the highest of any metal with respect to its MAEC, with the highest measured level of 37.1 µg/L nearly an order of magnitude lower than the MAEC of 317 µg/L.



**Table 11. Pretreatment Monitoring Data for Influent and Effluent Metals and Cyanide.**

Parameter	June 2022						August 2022					
	Influent			Effluent			Influent			Effluent		
Sample Date	15	16	17	15	16	17	9	10	11	9	10	11
<b>Dissolved Metals (µg/L)</b>												
Antimony*	0.386	0.386	0.423	0.554	0.500	0.512	0.628	0.446	0.411	0.654	0.547	0.484
Arsenic	1.73	1.47	1.44	2.26	2.18	1.98	2.09	1.89	1.51	2.58	2.60	2.56
Beryllium*	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005
Cadmium	0.027	0.028	0.045	0.100	0.091	0.085	0.056	0.012 J	0.015 J	0.093	0.042	0.062
Chromium	0.78	1.21	1.05	1.03	1.03	0.91	1.31	0.81	0.96	1.00	0.83	0.94
Copper	6.46	6.60	9.80	24.1	16.0	15.9	9.67	3.75	6.18	15.6	9.78	12.5
Lead	0.252	0.249	0.442	0.812	0.488	0.365	0.421	0.138	0.204	0.573	0.332	0.365
Mercury	0.00219	0.00059	0.00657	0.00095	0.00053	0.00454	0.0216	0.00252	0.00375	0.00872	0.00519	0.00619
Molybdenum*	1.15	1.02	1.43	1.85	1.68	2.44	1.45	1.01	1.75	1.75	1.50	1.74
Nickel	3.44	3.89	3.84	4.24	4.32	4.76	3.67	3.61	4.00	3.88	3.90	4.38
Selenium*	0.4 J	0.3 J	0.4 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.7 J	0.3 J	0.3 J	0.3 J	0.5 J	0.4 J	0.5 J
Silver	0.015 J	0.024	0.028	0.056	0.047	0.055	0.039	<0.009	0.015 J	0.046	0.024	0.031
Thallium*	0.018 J	0.014 J	<0.009	0.013 J	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009
Zinc	23.8	24.8	31.7	81.0	71.8	80.3	30.2	13.3	18.1	52.4	38.7	44.4
<b>Total Metals and Cyanide (µg/L)</b>												
Antimony*	0.593	0.607	0.633	0.651	0.617	0.609	0.833	0.751	0.651	0.785	0.651	0.551
Arsenic	3.07	2.58	2.91	2.51	2.27	2.46	4.23	3.77	3.24	3.22	3.05	2.89
Beryllium*	0.011 J	0.006 J	0.010 J	0.006 J	<0.005	<0.005	0.022	0.017 J	0.012 J	0.011 J	0.010 J	0.008 J
Cadmium	0.329	0.271	0.251	0.189	0.178	0.185	0.269	0.257	0.201	0.193	0.151	0.168
Chromium	2.56	2.44	2.75	1.57	1.58	1.60	3.90	2.87	3.21	2.24	1.73	1.65
Copper	62.3	58.3	67.3	37.1	34.8	35.8	64.0	46.9	56.6	32.1	26.9	33.9
Cyanide	0.5 J	<0.5	0.6 J	1.1 J	0.9 J	0.8 J	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	0.9 J	<0.5	0.8 J
Lead	2.31	1.92	2.76	1.62	1.52	1.84	2.76	2.10	2.74	1.90	1.47	1.48
Mercury	0.0309	0.0477	0.0412	0.0191	0.0230	0.0187	0.0893	0.0513	0.0320	0.0215	0.0207	0.0200
Molybdenum*	2.18	1.98	2.59	1.91	1.85	2.18	2.30	1.94	2.81	1.90	1.68	2.02
Nickel	5.34	5.40	5.72	4.50	4.30	4.63	7.19	6.47	6.22	4.76	4.55	4.75
Selenium*	0.7 J	0.5 J	0.6 J	0.7 J	0.7 J	0.7 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.7 J
Silver	0.219	0.396	0.235	0.148	0.155	0.159	0.278	0.366	0.237	0.191	0.121	0.161
Thallium*	<0.009	<0.009	0.013 J	0.052	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	0.031	0.010 J	<0.009	0.012 J	<0.009
Zinc	171	157	185	115	110	124	166	145	160	97.7	75.4	84.3

< Not detected, followed by MDL or MRL.

\* Not required by permit for "Pretreatment" monitoring. Note, beryllium required by Municipal Code for industrial users.

J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

No pesticide, PCB, or dioxin compounds were detected in either the influent or effluent during the June 2022 sampling. The pesticide heptachlor was detected in sludge during the June sampling event at 0.032 P milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). In August, heptachlor was detected in the influent and effluent at 0.024 P and 0.014 ug/L respectively. Heptachlor epoxide was detected in the influent only; 0.014 P ug/L. The PCB's Arochlor 1254 and Arochlor 1260 were detected in the August sludge sample at the values of 0.013 P and 0.040 P respectively. No other pesticide or dioxin compounds were detected in either influent, effluent, or sludge during the August sampling event. The P qualifier associated with some of these results indicates accurate quantitation was not possible due to a non-target compound preventing adequate resolution of the internal sample surrogates. For a complete list of organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides analytes, refer to Appendices A and B.

The permit calls for analysis of enterococci bacteria in treated final effluent twice per year in conjunction with the summer-dry and summer-wet sampling. Two samples each were analyzed in both June and August of this year. All samples returned values of <10 most probable number per 100 mL (MPN/100 mL).

During the June sampling event, cyanide concentrations were 0.5 J  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in the influent, 1.1 J  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in the effluent, and 0.39 J mg/kg in the sludge. During the August sampling, cyanide concentrations were <0.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in influent, 0.9 J  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in effluent, and <0.20 mg/kg in sludge. All effluent cyanide concentrations were well below the MAEC of 181  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

### **3.1.3 PRETREATMENT MONITORING DATA**

As part of the NPDES permit, AWWU is required to conduct pretreatment monitoring twice per year in conjunction with toxic pollutant and pesticide analyses. This monitoring includes three consecutive days of 24-hr composite sampling of influent and effluent and one day of sludge sampling. Pretreatment analyses include total cyanide and a suite of metals that are analyzed as both total and dissolved. Results of the pretreatment monitoring are presented in Table 11.

Collection of samples for trace metals analysis performed as part of the toxic pollutant and pesticide sampling events in 2022 coincided with the first day of the pretreatment monitoring for the Asplund WPCF in June and August. Individual metals concentrations for the 3-day pretreatment sampling event were generally found to be very similar, with little variation between sampling days, particularly for the effluent.

Of all the metals in the effluent, copper, mercury, nickel, and zinc concentrations were the highest relative to AWQS criteria. However, concentrations of these metals were still well below their respective MAECs. For example, dissolved copper concentrations in the effluent ranged from 15.9 to 24.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during the three days of pretreatment sampling in June and from 9.78 to 15.6  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during the August sampling effort, as compared to the MAEC of 317  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Total copper in the effluent was found to range from 26.9 to 37.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for the six pretreatment samples compared to the MAEC of 317  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Dissolved mercury results in the effluent ranged from 0.00053 to 0.00872  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in the six pretreatment samples, as compared to the MAEC of 2.73  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Total mercury samples ranged from 0.0187 to 0.0230  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , well below the MAEC. Dissolved nickel in the effluent ranged from 3.88 to 4.76  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during pretreatment samplings, while total nickel ranged from 4.30 to 4.76  $\mu\text{g/L}$  as compared to the MAEC of 978  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . Dissolved zinc in the effluent ranged from 38.7 to 81.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during both pretreatment samplings, while total zinc ranged from 75.4 to 124  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during these samplings as compared to the MAEC of 11,249  $\mu\text{g/L}$ . All other

metals were also found to be substantially less than their respective MAECs. Influent total recoverable metals values were generally higher and more variable than those seen in the effluent, as would be expected. Cyanide concentrations in the effluent ranged from <0.5 to 1.1 J µg/L as compared to the MAEC of 181 µg/L.

### 3.1.4 WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY TESTING RESULTS

Quarterly WET testing for 2022 was initiated during February, April, July/August, and October and consisted of 24-hr flow based composite effluent samples as required by the permit. Results included the determination of lowest observed effect concentration (LOEC), no observed effect concentration (NOEC), and the calculation of chronic toxicity units (TUc) for each test.

Annual re-screening for the most sensitive species in 2022 was performed during the third quarter, with detailed laboratory results supporting the recommendation that the purple sea urchin be continued in subsequent WET testing until the annual three-species comparison is again performed in 2023. First, second, and fourth quarter WET tests were performed successfully using the purple urchin fertilization test method (refer to Section 2.1.4).

Results of all the tests performed in 2022 are summarized below in Table 12 as the LOEC, NOEC, and TUc, where  $TUc = 100/NOEC$ . Detailed results in the form of descriptive laboratory reports that present all data in tabular form along with statistical analyses, QA/QC information, and reference toxicant test results have previously been submitted to ADEC and EPA with Asplund WPCF’s monthly discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) and are not duplicated in this report. All TAC were met for all tests performed in 2022 in both the effluent and reference toxicant bioassays.

First quarter testing was performed on a single 24-hr composite sample collected on 16 February 2022. This was a gamete fertilization test performed with the previous year’s most sensitive species, the echinoderm *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*. The LOEC concentration was 2.8% effluent with a NOEC concentration of 1.4% effluent. Chronic toxicity was 71.4 TUc.

**Table 12. Summary of WET Test Data from 2022.**

Toxicity Test	LOEC (%)	NOEC (%)	TUc
<b>1st Quarter</b>			
Echinoderm (fertilization)	2.8	1.4	71.4
<b>2nd Quarter</b>			
Echinoderm (fertilization)	5.6	2.8	35.7
<b>3rd Quarter</b>			
Bivalave (development)	5.6	2.8	35.7
Topsmelt (survival)	>11.2	11.2	8.9
Topsmelt (growth)	>11.2	11.2	8.9
Echinoderm (fertilization)	0.175	<0.175	>571.4
<b>3rd Quarter Echinoderm Retest</b>			
Echinoderm (fertilization)	2.8	1.4	71.4
<b>4th Quarter</b>			
Echinoderm (fertilization)	2.8	1.4	71.4

Note: Toxic trigger in permit for additional testing is a TUc of >143.

The second quarter WET echinoderm fertilization bioassay was performed on a single 24-hr composite sample collected on 11 April 2022. The LOEC concentration was 5.6% effluent with a NOEC concentration of 2.8% effluent. Chronic toxicity was 35.7 TUc.

Third quarter WET testing included the annual rescreening for the most sensitive species and was conducted on samples collected between 27 July – 1 August 2022. The WET tests included: the bivalve (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) larval development; topsmelt (*Atherinops affinis*) survival and growth; and echinoderm (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*) fertilization.

Results of the topsmelt bioassay showed no toxicity at any effluent test concentration for either the survival or growth endpoints. The LOEC for survival and growth was >11.2% effluent, the NOEC was 11.2%, and the TUc was 8.9. For the bivalve larval development test, some toxicity was observed at the second highest effluent concentration tested resulting in an LOEC of 5.6%, a NOEC of 2.8%, and a TUc of 35.7. The concurrent reference toxicant test results for these two species were within laboratory control chart limits and indicated typical sensitivity of the test populations.

Results of the echinoderm fertilization test showed that the LOEC for fertilization was 0.175%, the NOEC was <0.175%, and TUc was >571.4, exceeding the permit trigger level of 143. The reference toxicant's 50% effected concentration (EC<sub>50</sub>) for this test was consistent with the typical response range established by the laboratory for this species, indicating that these organisms were responding to toxic stress in a typical and consistent fashion. However, the percent survival on both laboratory and saltwater controls were atypically low indicating a potential problem with the organisms. No Asplund facility operational or pretreatment issues were identified during the performance review, however as a result of the laboratory control inconsistencies, the effluent was retested as required by the permit.

A new 24-hour composite sample was collected on 7 September 2022. This urchin fertilization test exhibited a LOEC concentration of 2.8% effluent with a NOEC concentration of 1.4% effluent. Chronic toxicity was 71.4 TUc, well within the permit limit indicating that additional retesting was not required. Based on the results of the three-species testing and past years' results, it was determined to continue to use the echinoderm as the most sensitive species for the toxicity testing until the three-species comparison is repeated in 2023.

Fourth quarter WET testing was performed on a single 24-hr composite sample collected on 25 October 2022. The LOEC concentration was 2.8% effluent with a NOEC concentration of 1.4% effluent. Chronic toxicity was 71.4 TUc.

### **3.1.5 PART 503 SLUDGE MONITORING DATA**

AWWU operates a sludge incinerator at the Asplund WPCF for which the NPDES permit requires sludge monitoring twice per year as part of the Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides/Pretreatment monitoring. In addition, 40 CFR Part 503 regulations require the testing of sludge every 60 days. During 2022, the Part 503 sludge monitoring was performed a total of six times. These data will be submitted along with other incinerator operational information to EPA by 19 February 2023 as a separate report; however, for completeness and comparison purposes, this information is included here as well. Results of the 2022 sludge metals monitoring are presented in Table 13.

**Table 13. Part 503 Discharge Monitoring Data for Metals Concentrations in Sludge in mg/kg.**

Parameter	Arsenic	Beryllium <sup>b,d</sup>	Cadmium	Chromium	Lead	Mercury <sup>c,d</sup>	Nickel
Site Specific Limit <sup>a,e</sup>	2168	2014	1267	28452	741	129	355647
02/10/22	2.9	<0.13	0.67	10.4	8.7	0.18	8.7
03/20/22	2.59 J	<0.172	0.967	9.57	6.69	<0.515	7.87
05/15/22	3.79	<0.157	0.854	11.5	9.23	0.491 J	9.84
06/16/22	4.1	0.052 J	0.972	13.5	10.5	0.256	11.3
07/20/22	4.94	<0.153	1.04	18.3	12.5	<0.459	14.6
08/11/22	6.4	0.089	1.23	21.7	14.0	1.370	17.4
09/18/22	4.41	<0.163	0.951	12.5	10.2	0.490 J	11.6
11/13/22	3.70	<0.161	0.869	11.8	12.9	<0.481	10.7
MINIMUM	2.59 J	0.052 J	0.67	9.57	6.69	0.18	7.87
MAXIMUM	6.4	0.089	1.23	21.7	14.0	1.370	17.4
AVERAGE <sup>f</sup>	4.1	0.13	0.94	13.7	10.6	0.53	11.5

*a* Site-specific sludge limits calculated by AWWU. Based on evaluation provided by Montrose Environmental Group, Inc., July 2015, Asplund Incinerator Source Test.

*b* Beryllium emissions shall not exceed 10 grams per day. With a control efficiency of 0.9998 at the maximum sludge feed rate, a sludge concentration of 2014 milligrams per dry kilogram of sludge will not result in a violation of the limit.

*c* Mercury emissions shall not exceed 3,200 grams per day. With a control efficiency of 0.0 at the maximum sludge feed rate, a sludge concentration of 129 milligrams per dry kilogram of sludge will not result in a violation of the limit.

*d* Monitoring frequencies required by 40 CFR Part 503 for incineration are once per 60 days for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and nickel. Mercury is at least once per year. Frequency for beryllium is not specified. AWWU has chosen to test mercury and beryllium more frequently than required to be consistent with the other metals.

*e* Concentrations are in mg/kg dry weight and reported as total metals.

*f* Calculation of averages utilize the MDL value where concentrations were found to be ND.

J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

< Not detected, followed by MDL.

All sludge metals concentrations were extremely low compared to allowable limits. Maximum results for all metals tested (arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and nickel) were within their historic ranges. As mentioned previously, no actual sludge limits exist in the current NPDES permit. Allowable limits are site specific and were recalculated in 2015 by AWWU per Part 503 regulations. EPA may issue “sludge only” permits in the future; in the interim, 40 CFR Part 503 regulations are “self-implementing.”

## **3.2 RECEIVING WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS**

Water quality sampling of the receiving water was conducted on 16-17 June 2022, concurrent with the summer-dry influent, effluent, and sludge toxic pollutant and pesticide sampling.

### **3.2.1 PLUME DISPERSION SAMPLING**

#### **Drogue Tracking Results**

Drogues were released on 16 June 2022 at the within-ZID station for both the ebb and flood tidal cycles. For the control locations, drogues were released on 17 June 2022 at the control station for the flood tidal cycle. Three drogues were deployed during each tidal cycle, and four stations were sampled along each drogue track.

#### **Outfall Site**

The three Point Woronzof ebb drogue tracking cycles were performed during the morning and early afternoon of 16 June 2022. The predicted tidal range during ebb stage was 35.4 ft (Figure 7 and Table 14; NOAA/NOS, 2022). Table 14 also lists the individual drogue travel times as well as average drogue speed.

A composite of ebb drogue deployments is depicted in Figure 8, with drogue tracks very similar to those seen in previous years. Ebb drogues traveled from approximately 1.6 to 2.9 nautical miles (nm), with all three drogues traveling in a west-southwesterly direction. No eddies were observed during these drogue tracks, nor did any of the drogues become grounded. The first ebb (E1) drogue was released at 09:06 Alaska Daylight Time (ADT), 16 minutes after the tide turned from flood to ebb, and the drogue initially traveled in a westerly direction before turning toward the west-southwest paralleling the shoreline at an average speed of 90 centimeters per second (cm/s) over its entire track of approximately 2.4 nm. The second ebb drogue (E2) was released at 10:49 ADT and moved west-southwest following a very similar path to the first drogue with an average speed of 141 cm/s, traveling approximately 2.9 nm. The third drogue (E3) was released at 12:46 ADT, about 4 hours (hrs) after high slack. The third drogue traveled mostly parallel to but south of the two previous drogues at an average speed of 84 cm/s over its track of 1.6 nm before hooking a bit south toward the Woronzof Shoal which shows at low tide about a mile and a half south west of the outfall. Relationships of the ebb drogue tracks, and water quality stations sampled along each drogue track with respect to the tide are shown in Figure 7.

The three Point Woronzof flood drogue tracking cycles were performed beginning in the late afternoon of 16 June 2022. The tidal range during flood stage was 33.3 ft (Figure 7 and Table 14). Flood drogue tracks are depicted in Figure 9. The first flood drogue (F1) was deployed on 16 June at 16:58 ADT, near low slack water over the outfall. This drogue initially traveled east-northeast before veering to the east and then button hooked northwest away from shore before assuming a

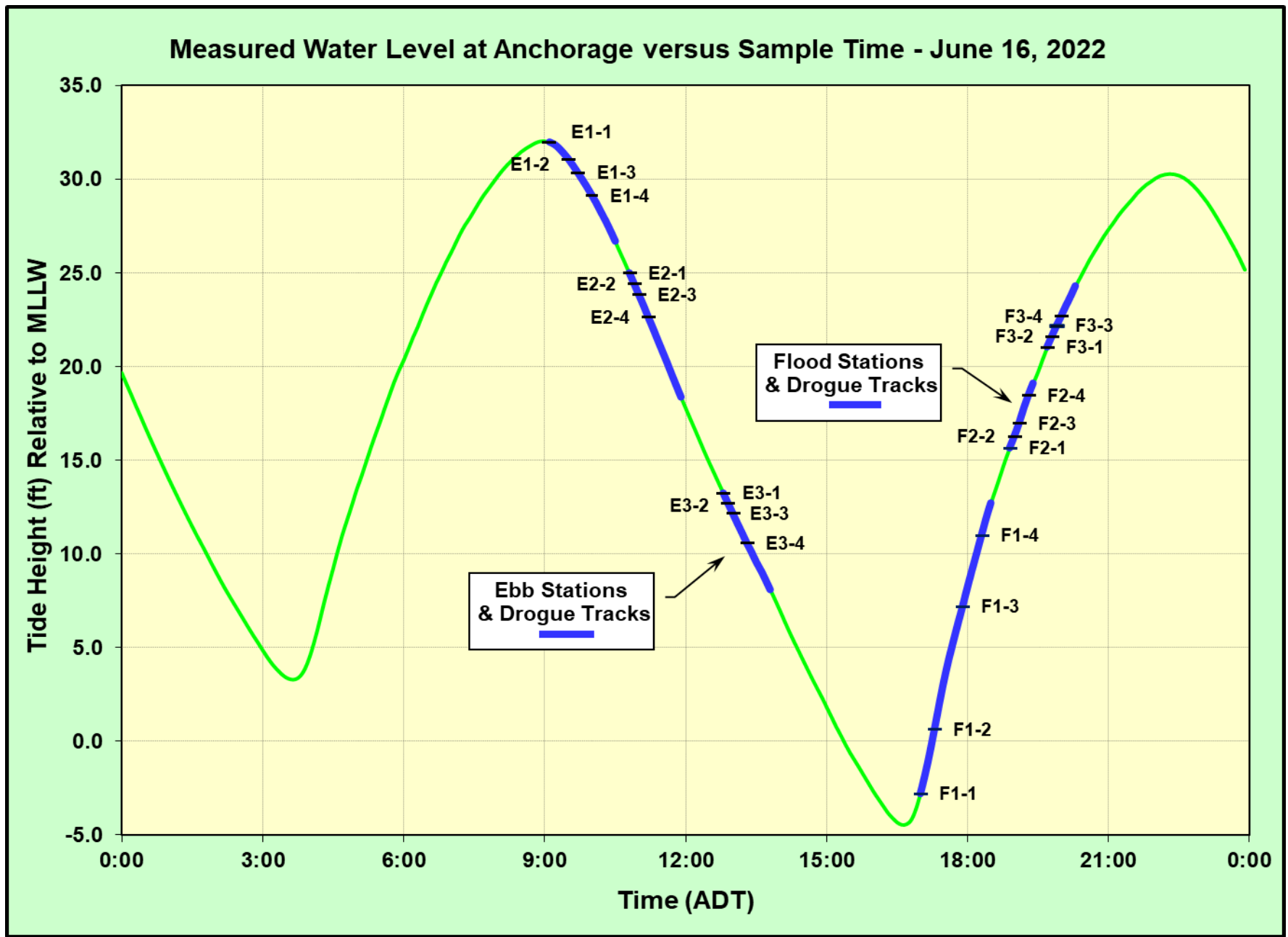


Figure 7. Tidal Information for Receiving Water Sampling, Ebb and Flood Tide.

**Table 14. 2022 Drogue Tracking Information.**

Date	Station	Tidal Information			Drogue No.	Release Time After Slack (Hr:Min)	Drogue Track Time (Hr:Min)	Drogue Track Distance (nautical miles)	Average Drogue Speed (cm/s)	
		Slack Water (Alaska Daylight Time <sup>a</sup> ; Stage)	Direction	Range (Feet)						
16 June 2022	Outfall	08:50	HIGH	EBB	35.4	E1	00:16	1:24	2.4	90
16 June 2022	Outfall	08:50	HIGH	EBB	35.4	E2	01:59	1:03	2.9	141
16 June 2022	Outfall	08:50	HIGH	EBB	35.4	E3	03:56	0:59	1.6	84
16 June 2022	Outfall	16:24	LOW	FLOOD	33.3	F1	00:34	1:29	1.2	40
16 June 2022	Outfall	16:24	LOW	FLOOD	33.3	F2	02:30	0:31	1.8	175
16 June 2022	Outfall	16:24	LOW	FLOOD	33.3	F3	03:16	0:34	1.9	169
17 June 2022	Control	17:09	LOW	FLOOD	32.8	C1	00:01	1:20	3.3	128
17 June 2022	Control	17:09	LOW	FLOOD	32.8	C2	01:44	0:48	3.1	200
17 June 2022	Control	17:09	LOW	FLOOD	32.8	C3	02:52	1:07	5.3	244

<sup>a</sup> NOAA/NOS Tides and Currents 2022 (Port of Anchorage, Alaska).



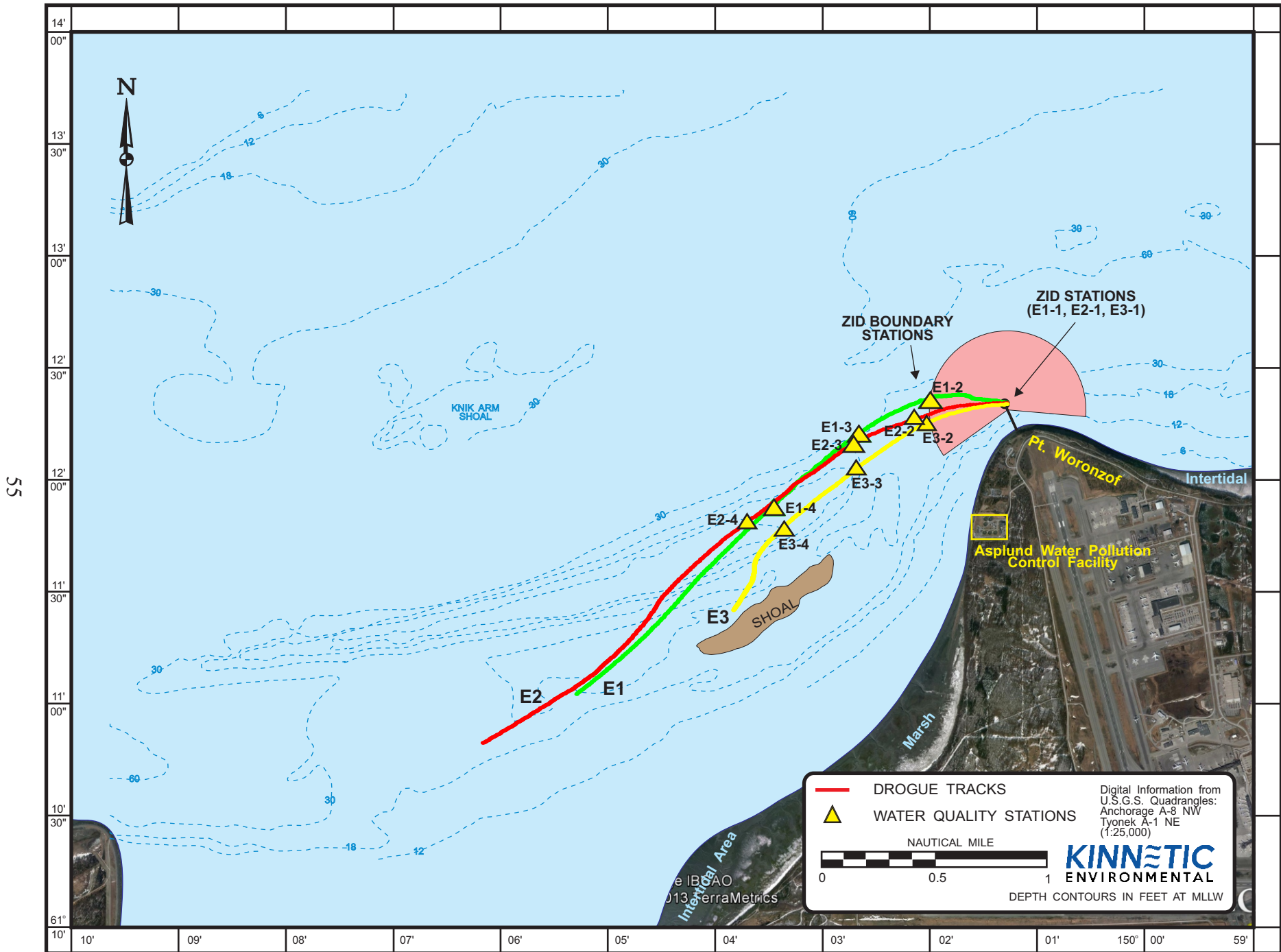


Figure 8. Summary of Ebb Drogue Tracks and Receiving Water Sampling Locations at Point Woronzof, 16 June 2022.

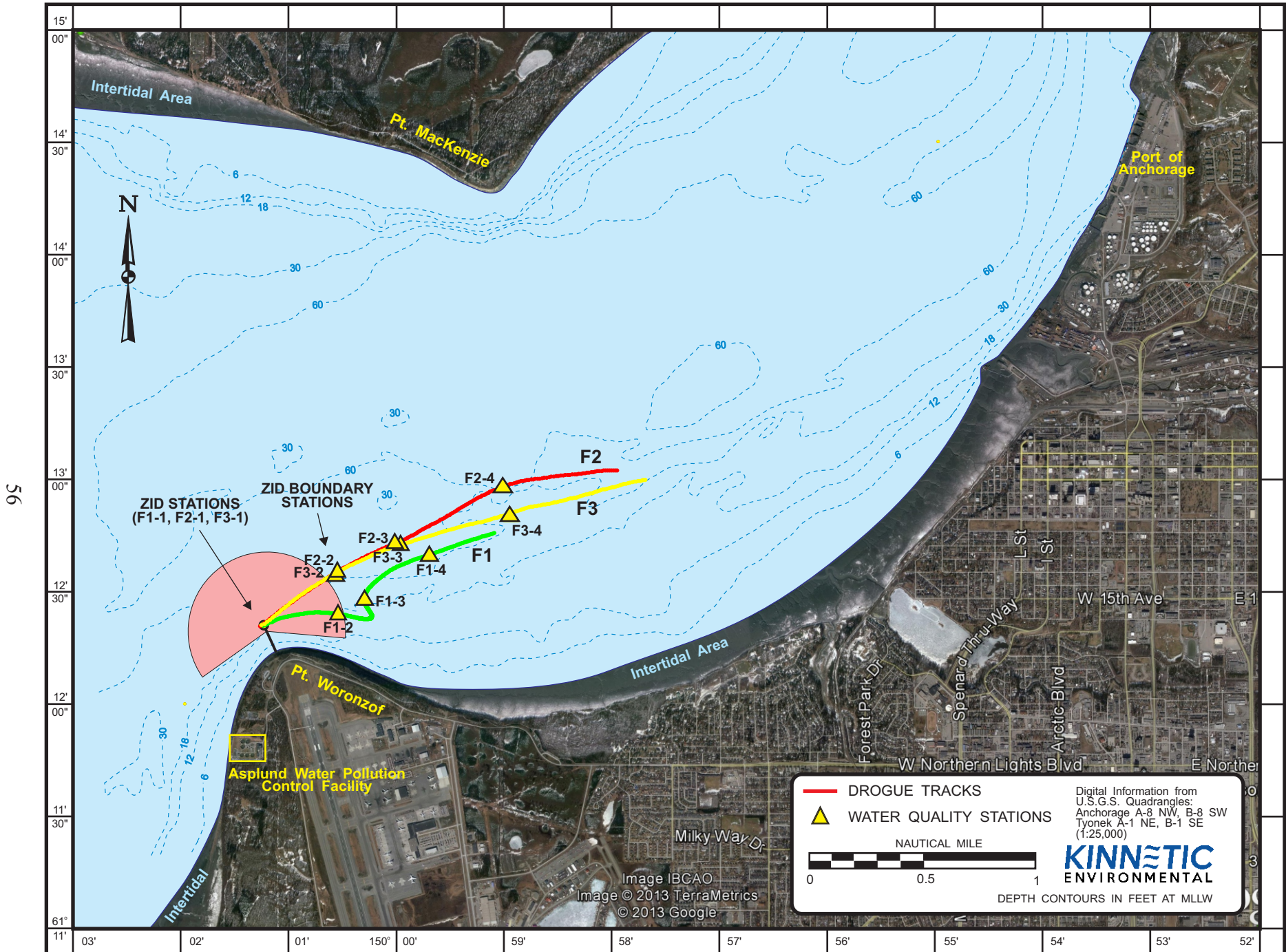


Figure 9. Summary of Flood Drogue Tracks and Receiving Water Sampling Locations at Point Woronzof, 16 June 2022.

more traditional northeasterly course toward the Port of Anchorage. This is unlike many prior years where the first drogue would encounter a clockwise eddy in this area that would cause it to loop back towards shore and reverse its course. Drogue F1 traveled approximately 1.2 nm at an average speed of 40 cm/s.

The second flood drogue (F2) was deployed at 18:54 ADT, about 2 and a half hours after low slack. This drogue was transported to the northeast, then moved easterly, about one nautical mile nm offshore. The drogue was tracked for about 1.8 nm at an average speed of 175 cm/s before it was retrieved. The third flood drogue (F3) was deployed at 19:40 ADT, 3 hrs after low slack water and tracked for 34 minutes. This drogue traveled northeast in the Knik Arm Channel mimicking the path of the F2 drogue. The third drogue traveled at a speed of 169 cm/s and was tracked for 1.9 nautical miles before being recovered approximately one nautical mile offshore.

### **Control Site**

The Point MacKenzie control drogues were deployed and tracked on 17 June 2022. The predicted tidal range during the flood tide was 32.8 ft. Tidal information is provided in Figure 10 and Table 14 (NOAA/NOS, 2022). A composite of the three drogue trajectories at the control site is presented in Figure 11. The relationship of drogue tracks with respect to the tide and when sampling took place are shown in Figure 10.

The first drogue (C1) was released at 17:10 ADT at low tide; it traveled to the east before swinging northeast and then to the north as it passed Port MacKenzie paralleling the shoreline along its entire track, approximately 0.5 nautical miles from shore. This drogue was tracked for 1 hr and 20 min traveling 3.3 nm at an average speed of 128 cm/s before being retrieved. The second drogue (C2) was released at 18:53 ADT, 1 hr and 44 min into the flood tidal cycle and tracked for 48 minutes. This drogue had an average speed of 200 cm/s over the entire track and moved towards the northeast. This second drogue was eventually retrieved east of Port MacKenzie after traveling 3.1 nm. The third control drogue (C3) was released at 20:01 ADT, approximately 3 hrs after low slack water. The drogue moved northeast on a nearly identical track to that seen for both of the first two control drogues (C1 and C2). Drogue C3 traveled at an average speed of 244 cm/s and traveled 5.3 nm before it was retrieved offshore and well north of Port MacKenzie.

### **Summary of Receiving Water Quality Data**

The receiving water quality sampling for all analysis types was conducted concurrently with the drogue tracking studies on 16-17 June 2022. As discussed previously, three drogues were released at the ZID for both the ebb and flood tide cycles and three were released at the control site for the flood tide. Water samples and CTD measurements were obtained at four stations along each drogue's track prior. As specified in the permit, the ZID boundary is located at a distance of 650 m from the outfall diffuser. To successfully sample at the ZID stations, the vessel was positioned directly up current from the diffuser and allowed to drift down across it. Upon reaching the outfall diffuser, the drogue was deployed and the within-ZID station was immediately sampled. The distance from the outfall diffuser to the drogue was monitored with the DGPS, and upon reaching a 650-m distance from the diffuser, the ZID-boundary station was sampled adjacent to the drogue. The third and fourth stations were then sampled along the drogue's path. Due to high current speeds, anchoring the vessel and sampling at each station was not practical or desirable, since anchoring would result in large wire angles for sampling gear, would reduce safety, and would not allow subsequent sampling along the drogues path.

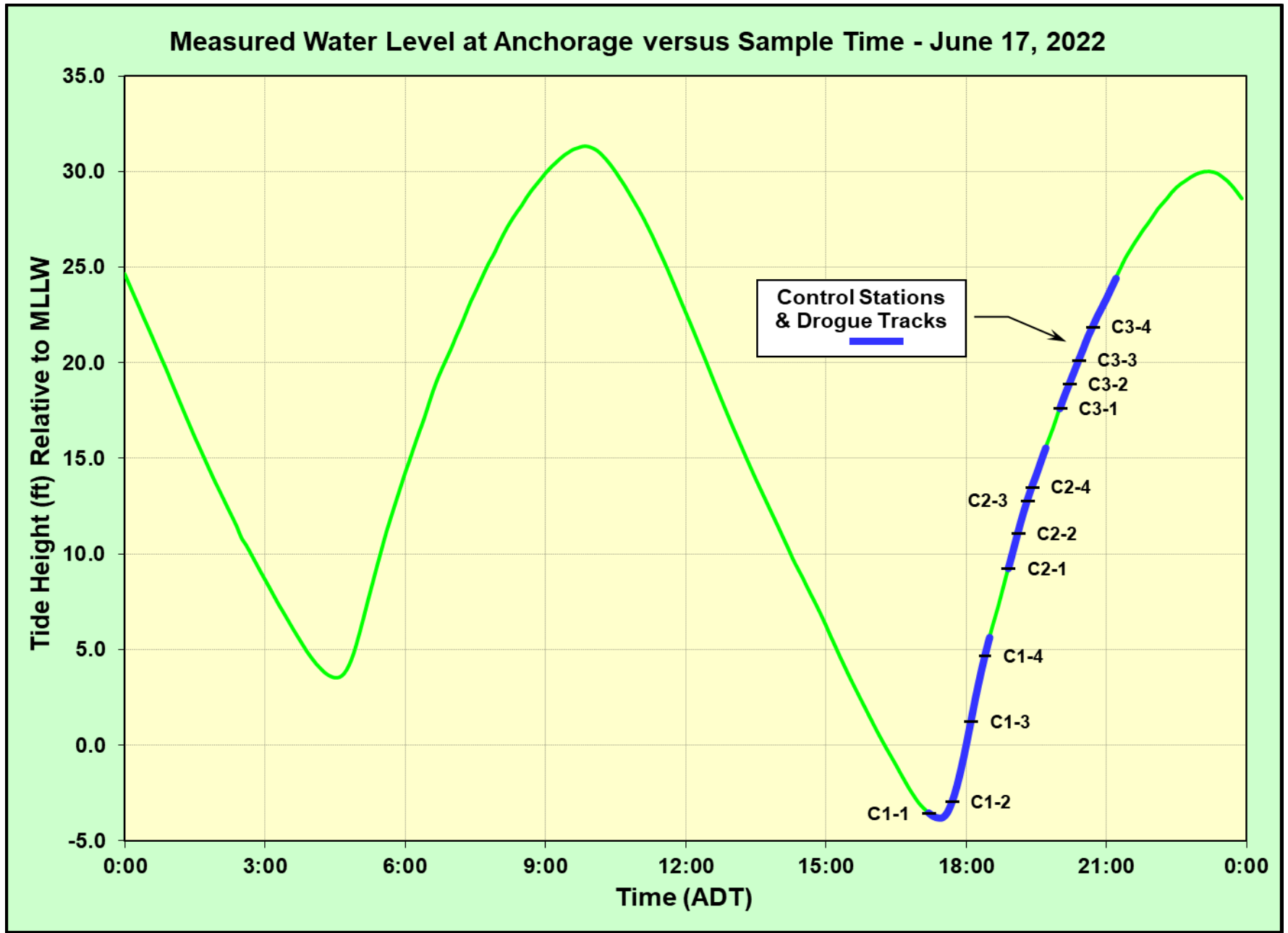


Figure 10. Tidal Information for Receiving Water Sampling, Control Tide.



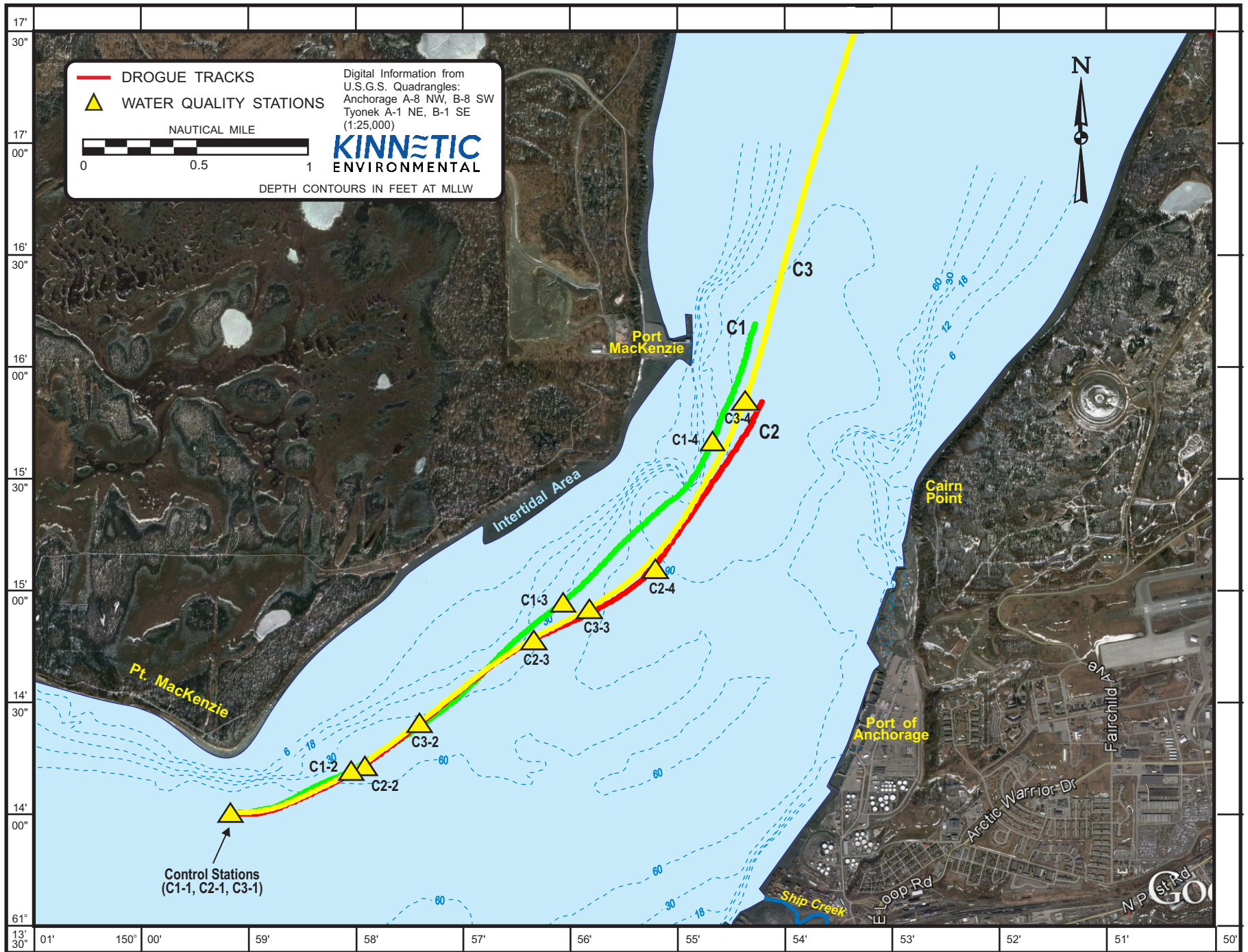


Figure 11. Summary of Control Drogue Tracks and Receiving Water Sampling Locations at Point MacKenzie, 17 June 2022.

The waters of the Inlet are extremely well-mixed both vertically and horizontally, as indicated by CTD data. During the survey, water temperatures seen in the surface, middle, and bottom samples were in a narrow range with a minimum of 13.54 °C and a maximum of 15.12 °C, with warmer temperatures generally seen at the control station locations and closer to the surface (Table 15). Salinities were found to vary from a minimum of 10.21 parts per thousand (‰) practical salinity units (psu) to a maximum of 15.41 psu. Salinities were generally found to increase slightly during the flood and decrease on the ebb, as is typical for estuaries. As has been often seen in the past, the control stations were found to be slightly warmer and less saline due to a greater influence from river runoff on the north side of Knik Arm. Also, some sites exhibited a lower salinity water lens at the surface that was evident in the CTD data. Values for pH ranged from a low of 7.87 seen at Station E1-1 to a high of 7.95 with little to no vertical stratification at most locations and slightly higher levels at the control stations, which is also probably due to greater riverine influences. The DO concentrations measured in situ with the CTD ranged from 8.18 to 9.22 mg/L with most concentrations being at or near 100% saturation (UNESCO and National Institute of Great Britain, 1973).

Representative hydrographic profiles of water quality are presented for a ZID-boundary station during ebb tide, Station E1-2, and a typical control station, Station C2-4 (Figure 12). The water column was found to be fairly well mixed from the surface to the bottom at all stations, although some stations did exhibit some stratification, particularly in the temperature and salinity structure. This stratification was not attributed to the outfall but was primarily due to freshwater influences from local river inputs and was most evident at the outfall ebb and control locations. Refer to Appendix C8 for CTD profile plots and detailed data from each water quality station.

Discrete water samples were obtained at the surface of each station and analyzed for color, TRC, fecal coliform bacteria, and turbidity. Color values registered  $\leq 5$  color units on the platinum-cobalt scale at all locations other than Station F1-1 over the outfall at low slack tide which tested at 20 color units. Turbidity values for water samples collected during the monitoring ranged from a low of 91.8 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) to a high of 1906 NTU. Lower values were seen at the surface and near slack tide; as in the past, generally higher levels overall were seen at control locations although high levels were also seen during the flood due to wind-induced turbulence.

During 2022, all measured receiving water TRC concentrations were below the MDL of 0.01 mg/L except Station F1-1 located directly over the outfall at low tide which tested at 0.040 mg/L. The effluent TRC concentration measured by AWWU staff during the outfall receiving water sampling was 0.229 mg/L on 16 June as documented in their monthly monitoring report, which is substantially lower than maximum daily permit limit of 1.2 mg/L. It should be noted that the lowest achievable MDL due to seawater matrix interferences for TRC analysis was between the AWQS 1-hr average acute limit of 0.013 mg/L and the 4-day chronic limit of 0.0075 mg/L. Also, the MDL that was achieved is an order of magnitude less than the 0.10 mg/L limit that ADEC considers achievable in seawater for regulatory purposes. The ion selective electrode method (SM 4500-Cl I) was used for the receiving water sampling to reduce interferences from common oxidizing agents, temperature, turbidity, and color; however, all TRC methods are subject to positive interferences in estuarine or marine waters.

Fecal coliform values in 2022 were again found to be low, ranging from <1.8 to a high of 7.8 FC/100 mL. The overall median for fecal coliform at all of the outfall stations (both ebb and flood) was 2.0 FC/100 mL, and the median for the control stations was <1.8 FC/100 mL.

**Table 15. Hydrographic and Water Quality Data, 16 and 17 June 2022.**

Station Number	Time (ADT)	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)	Depth (M)	Temp <sup>a</sup> (°C)	Salinity <sup>a</sup> (psu)	pH <sup>a</sup> (units)	DO <sup>a</sup> (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	Color (units)	TRC (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform <sup>b</sup>
16 June 2022												
E1-1S	09:06	61° 12.343'	150° 01.276'	0.5	14.17	13.59	7.87	8.75	130	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-1M				5.5	13.96	14.33	7.88	8.96	538			
-1B				11.0	13.70	15.34	7.89	9.04	324			
E1-2S	09:29	61° 12.358'	150° 01.998'	0.5	14.30	13.50	7.88	8.68	131	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-2M				8.5	14.02	14.09	7.88	9.10	352			
-2B				16.5	13.74	14.78	7.89	9.19	219			
E1-3S	09:44	61° 12.206'	150° 02.661'	0.5	14.03	14.11	7.88	8.84	160	5	<0.01	2.0
-3M				9.5	13.83	14.51	7.89	9.02	389			
-3B				18.5	13.59	15.41	7.89	9.06	361			
E1-4S	09:59	61° 11.877'	150° 03.465'	0.5	14.31	13.66	7.88	8.58	91.8	2.5	<0.01	7.8
-4M				8.5	13.71	14.80	7.89	9.05	324			
-4B				17.0	13.54	15.34	7.89	9.11	358			
E2-1S	10:49	61° 12.348'	150° 01.280'	0.5	14.05	14.36	7.89	8.69	382	5	<0.01	2.0
-1M				5.0	14.02	14.40	7.89	9.06	459			
-1B				10.0	14.01	14.41	7.89	9.06	364			
E2-2S	10:55	61° 12.272'	150° 02.145'	0.5	14.02	14.34	7.89	8.40	385	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-2M				6.5	14.01	14.43	7.89	9.08	431			
-2B				13.0	14.01	14.44	7.89	9.08	430			
E2-3S	10:59	61° 12.160'	150° 02.716'	0.5	14.04	14.19	7.89	8.18	360	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-3M				7.5	14.01	14.44	7.89	9.07	422			
-3B				15.0	14.00	14.47	7.89	9.06	426			
E2-4S	11:09	61° 11.812'	150° 03.714'	0.5	14.00	14.50	7.89	8.62	334	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-4M				7.5	13.97	14.55	7.89	9.09	394			
-4B				15.0	13.96	14.57	7.89	9.09	406			

**Table 15. Hydrographic and Water Quality Data, 16 and 17 June 2022. (continued)**

Station Number	Time (ADT)	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)	Depth (M)	Temp <sup>a</sup> (°C)	Salinity <sup>a</sup> (psu)	pH <sup>a</sup> (units)	DO <sup>a</sup> (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	Color (units)	TRC (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform <sup>b</sup>
E3-1S	12:46	61° 12.339'	150° 01.288'	0.5	14.34	13.30	7.91	8.32	599	5	<0.01	<1.8
-1M				3.0	14.34	13.32	7.91	8.68	665			
-1B				6.0	14.34	13.30	7.91	8.66	655			
E3-2S	12:54	61° 12.249'	150° 02.040'	0.5	14.34	13.40	7.90	8.53	574	2.5	<0.01	4.5
-2M				4.0	14.33	13.41	7.90	9.02	644			
-2B				8.0	14.33	13.39	7.91	9.05	644			
E3-3S	13:02	61° 12.052'	150° 02.687'	0.5	14.35	13.43	7.90	8.76	586	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-3M				4.0	14.29	13.61	7.90	9.01	617			
-3B				7.5	14.26	13.71	7.91	9.04	586			
E3-4S	13:16	61° 11.782'	150° 03.372'	0.5	14.38	13.59	7.90	8.57	525	2.5	<0.01	6.8
-4M				2.0	14.31	13.71	7.90	9.01	565			
-4B				3.5	14.29	13.76	7.90	9.02	591			
F1-1S	16:24	61° 12.342'	150° 01.278'	0.5	14.83	11.92	7.92	8.72	455	20	0.040	7.8
-1M				1.0	14.77	11.93	7.93	8.88	485			
-1B				1.5	14.76	11.93	7.92	8.86	405			
F1-2S	17:15	61° 12.406'	150° 00.571'	0.5	14.76	11.87	7.90	8.71	191	5	<0.01	4.0
-2M				2.0	14.70	11.96	7.92	8.90	952			
-2B				3.5	14.70	11.96	7.92	8.91	1092			
F1-3S	17:55	61° 12.470'	150° 00.309'	0.5	14.88	11.95	7.91	8.48	458	2.5	<0.01	4.5
-3M				3.0	14.72	12.00	7.92	8.95	615			
-3B				6.0	14.72	12.01	7.92	8.88	1024			
F1-4S	18:16	61° 12.664'	149° 59.725'	0.5	14.91	11.77	7.92	8.83	320	2.5	<0.01	4.5
-4M				6.5	14.94	12.69	7.93	9.00	805			
-4B				12.5	15.12	13.12	7.94	8.85	735			



**Table 15. Hydrographic and Water Quality Data, 16 and 17 June 2022. (continued)**

Station Number	Time (ADT)	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)	Depth (M)	Temp <sup>a</sup> (°C)	Salinity <sup>a</sup> (psu)	pH <sup>a</sup> (units)	DO <sup>a</sup> (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	Color (units)	TRC (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform <sup>b</sup>
F2-1S	18:54	61° 12.348'	150° 01.258'	0.5	14.53	13.74	7.91	8.69	572	5	<0.01	2.0
-1M				4.0	14.51	13.76	7.91	9.04	533			
-1B				7.5	14.51	13.77	7.91	9.09	584			
F2-2S	19:00	61° 12.579'	150° 00.558'	0.5	14.65	13.35	7.91	8.64	593	5	<0.01	<1.8
-2M				6.0	14.56	13.61	7.91	9.09	616			
-2B				12.0	14.51	13.70	7.91	9.12	556			
F2-3S	19:05	61° 12.708'	150° 00.028'	0.5	14.86	12.09	7.91	8.68	488	5	<0.01	4.5
-3M				8.5	14.41	13.93	7.91	9.11	530			
-3B				16.5	14.42	13.87	7.91	9.09	514			
F2-4S	19:17	61° 12.967'	149° 58.775'	0.5	14.67	12.99	7.91	8.81	556	5	<0.01	4.5
-4M				7.5	14.37	13.74	7.90	9.06	618			
-4B				15.0	14.36	13.78	7.91	9.07	637			
F3-1S	19:40	61° 12.350'	150° 01.253'	0.5	14.31	14.24	7.90	8.70	553	5	<0.01	<1.8
-1M				5.0	14.31	14.24	7.90	9.08	612			
-1B				9.5	14.31	14.23	7.91	9.10	598			
F3-2S	19:45	61° 12.570'	150° 00.599'	0.5	14.31	14.19	7.90	8.60	620	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-2M				6.5	14.31	14.17	7.90	9.07	604			
-2B				13.0	14.31	14.17	7.91	9.07	600			
F3-3S	19:50	61° 12.713'	150° 00.003'	0.5	14.30	14.07	7.91	8.75	553	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-3M				8.5	14.30	14.04	7.91	9.07	665			
-3B				16.5	14.30	13.95	7.91	9.07	678			
F3-4S	20:00	61° 12.840'	149° 58.963'	0.5	14.62	12.78	7.91	8.63	475	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-4M				7.5	14.31	13.96	7.90	9.07	579			
-4B				15.0	14.31	13.92	7.91	9.07	726			

**Table 15. Hydrographic and Water Quality Data, 16 and 17 June 2022. (continued)**

Station Number	Time (ADT)	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)	Depth (M)	Temp <sup>a</sup> (°C)	Salinity <sup>a</sup> (psu)	pH <sup>a</sup> (units)	DO <sup>a</sup> (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	Color (units)	TRC (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform <sup>b</sup>
<b>17 June 2022</b>												
C1-1S	17:10	61° 14.003'	149° 59.128'	0.5	15.04	11.26	7.95	8.43	150	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-1M				8.0	14.54	11.04	7.94	8.79	187			
-1B				15.5	14.54	10.99	7.94	8.80	1422			
C1-2S	17:40	61° 14.197'	149° 58.039'	0.5	15.02	11.54	7.94	8.60	97.7	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-2M				3.0	14.56	10.75	7.94	9.12	780			
-2B				6.0	14.54	11.07	7.93	9.11	1906			
C1-3S	18:04	61° 14.947'	149° 56.052'	0.5	14.61	11.09	7.94	8.79	1210	5	<0.01	2.0
-3M				3.5	14.63	11.27	7.93	9.08	998			
-3B				6.5	14.63	11.31	7.94	9.10	1804			
C1-4S	18:22	61° 15.666'	149° 54.646'	0.5	14.64	10.28	7.94	9.08	833	2.5	<0.01	4.5
-4M				8.5	14.57	10.44	7.94	9.20	1244			
-4B				16.5	14.50	10.21	7.94	9.22	1602			
C2-1S	18:53	61° 14.001'	149° 59.151'	0.5	14.61	11.56	7.93	8.56	834	2.5	<0.01	4.5
-1M				7.5	14.61	11.60	7.94	9.06	755			
-1B				14.5	14.62	11.63	7.94	9.08	940			
C2-2S (A)	19:04	61° 14.220'	149° 57.896'	0.5	14.60	11.43	7.94	8.97	670	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-2S (B)				0.5	14.60	11.35	7.94	9.06	649	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-2S (C)				0.5	14.60	11.40	7.94	8.59	663	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-2M				4.0	14.61	11.50	7.94	8.98	842			
-2B				7.5	14.60	11.46	7.94	9.01	832			
C2-3S	19:16	61° 14.780'	149° 56.329'	0.5	14.60	11.33	7.94	8.90	612	2.5	<0.01	4.5
-3M				3.5	14.61	11.57	7.94	9.07	858			
-3B				7.0	14.62	11.50	7.94	9.07	940			

**Table 15. Hydrographic and Water Quality Data, 16 and 17 June 2022. (continued)**

Station Number	Time (ADT)	Latitude (North)	Longitude (West)	Depth (M)	Temp <sup>a</sup> (°C)	Salinity <sup>a</sup> (psu)	pH <sup>a</sup> (units)	DO <sup>a</sup> (mg/L)	Turbidity (NTU)	Color (units)	TRC (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform <sup>b</sup>
C2-4S	19:26	61° 15.101'	149° 55.198'	0.5	14.61	11.63	7.93	8.83	710	2.5	<0.01	1.8
-4M				12.5	14.60	11.56	7.93	9.08	1114			
-4B				25.0	14.56	11.05	7.94	9.13	1022			
C3-1S (A)	20:01	61° 14.006'	149° 59.155'	0.5	14.68	12.88	7.93	8.75	502	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-1S (B)				---	---	---	---	---	465	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-1S (C)				---	---	---	---	---	525	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-1M				6.0	14.68	12.85	7.93	9.02	898			
-1B				11.5	14.67	12.80	7.93	9.04	999			
C3-2S	20:15	61° 14.411'	149° 57.385'	0.5	14.69	12.81	7.93	8.56	641	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-2M				4.0	14.68	12.78	7.93	8.86	911			
-2B				7.5	14.66	12.62	7.93	8.85	893			
C3-3S	20:26	61° 14.923'	149° 55.796'	0.5	14.65	12.80	7.93	8.85	519	2.5	<0.01	<1.8
-3M				11.0	14.67	12.68	7.93	9.05	898			
-3B				22.0	14.67	12.35	7.93	9.05	958			
C3-4S	20:41	61° 15.851'	149° 54.342'	0.5	14.67	12.43	7.92	8.48	765	2.5	<0.01	2.0
-4M				15.5	14.61	12.09	7.93	9.06	1034			
-4B				30.5	14.57	11.69	7.94	9.09	1832			

*a* Values from CTD for 0.5 m depth taken as close to surface as possible.

*b* Fecal coliform reported as FC/100 mL.

< Not detected, followed by the Method Detection Limit.

--- Samples not collected.

### Outfall Station

### Control Station

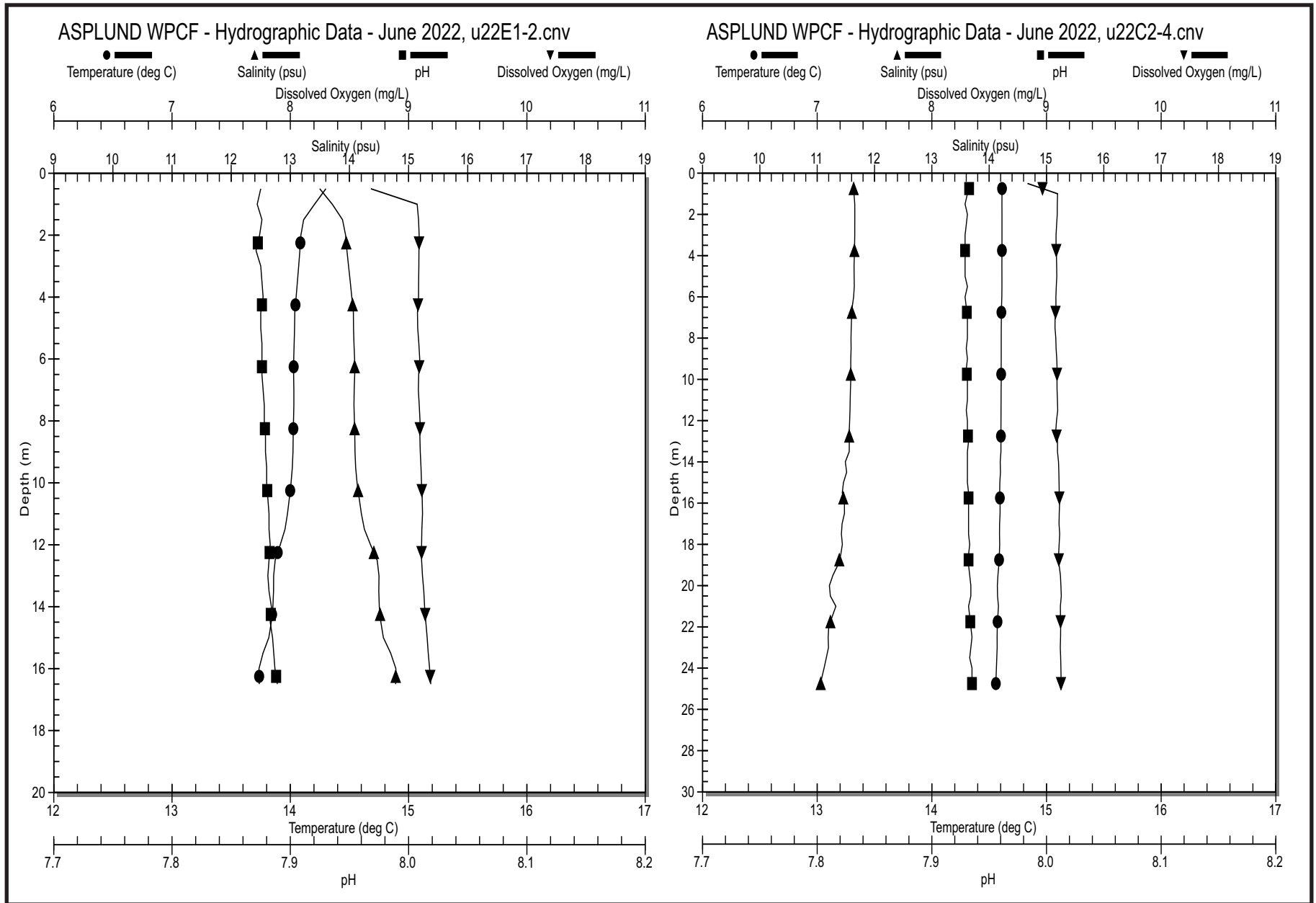


Figure 12. Sample Hydrographic Profiles from Outfall and Control Stations, June 2022.

In addition to routine water quality monitoring, supplemental surface samples were collected at the first three stations along the first flood drogue trajectory at both the outfall (diffuser, ZID-boundary, and near-field) and control sites that represented worst-case low water and low-flow conditions. These supplemental samples were analyzed for BETX, PAHs, dissolved and total recoverable metals, cyanide, and TSS. The supplemental analyses in 2022 also included volatile and semi-volatile organics, organochlorine pesticides (POCs), organophosphorus pesticides (POPs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and dioxins.

Dissolved metals concentrations were found to be anomalously high this year which is believed to be the result of an inadequate field filtration step due to high sediment loads; field filtration utilized high volume certified cartridge filters in conjunction with a peristaltic pump. Of the seven samples analyzed, (4) outfall and (3) control; five dissolved copper concentrations including two at control stations, four values for mercury including one control station, and one value for nickel at a control station tested above AWQS chronic criteria. Control Station C1-3 which had the highest TSS value of 1483 mg/L was the source of three of those exceedances; specifically copper, mercury and nickel. The total recoverable metals sample results for C1-3 were also the highest for each of the metals tested this year which clearly indicates that TSS is the primary source for total metals. The highest dissolved metals concentrations appeared to be correlated with high TSS in those same samples which seems to indicate that a small amount of very fine glacial material was passing through the filters and affecting dissolved metals concentrations.

Total recoverable metals concentrations were quite variable with the highest total metals concentrations corresponding closely to high ambient TSS levels as noted above. The highest levels of all metals tested including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, nickel, lead, silver, and zinc occurred at Station C1-3, which had the highest TSS concentration at 1483 mg/L. TSS concentrations ranged from 460 to 927 mg/L at the outfall stations and from 168 to 1483 mg/L at the control stations. Effluent TSS on this date tested at 64 mg/L.

Cyanide testing is prone to interference issues when testing at very low concentrations, especially in seawater. Station F1-1 returned a value of 4.7 J ug/L while effluent cyanide sample tested as part of the pretreatment monitoring program this date was determined to be 1.1 J ug/L. All other receiving water cyanide samples tested less than the MDL of 0.9 µg/L.

Hydrocarbon analyses results are presented in Table 17. TAH defined by the AWQS as BETX (EPA Method 624.1) was determined by summing benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and total xylenes. Benzene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes were not detected at any of the receiving water stations. Low levels of toluene were seen at the within ZID station over the diffuser. The TAH summation concentrations ranged from a low of <0.31 µg/L to a high of <0.92 µg/L at Station F1-1 within the ZID. All TAH concentrations were below the AWQS of 10 µg/L. The effluent sample had a TAH concentration of 12.6 µg/L (Table 9), slightly higher than the AWQS of 10 µg/L and significantly less than the MAEC of 1,810 µg/L.

All concentrations of individual PAHs were summed and reported as total PAHs (TPAH) in Table 17. TPAH concentrations were low at both control and outfall stations. TPAH values ranged from 0.017 to 0.190 µg/L at the control stations and from 0.067 to 0.737 µg/L at the outfall stations. The TPAH concentration measured in the effluent sample was 4.204 µg/L. TAqH as determined by the summation of PAHs plus BETX were calculated for the six stations and effluent (Table 10 and Table 17). All receiving water concentrations of TAqH were below the AWQS of 15 µg/L. Overall,

**Table 16. Concentrations of Dissolved Metals, Total Recoverable Metals, Cyanide, and Total Suspended Solids in Receiving Water and Effluent Samples.**

Station	Arsenic	Cadmium	Chromium	Copper	Cyanide	Mercury	Nickel	Lead	Silver	Zinc	TSS
	µg/L										mg/L
<b>Dissolved Metals</b>											
F1-1S (WITHIN ZID)	2.54	0.070 J	2.30 J	4.17	NA	0.00777	2.89 J	0.335	<0.050	<7.00	NA
F1-2S (ZID BOUND) <sup>a</sup>	3.52	0.090 J	4.56 J	5.81	NA	0.0313	4.71	0.940	<0.050	9.19 J	NA
F1-2S (ZID BOUND) <sup>b</sup>	3.42	0.092 J	4.44 J	5.40	NA	0.0328	5.34	0.824	<0.050	8.76 J	NA
F1-3S (NEAR FIELD)	2.19	0.063 J	1.94 J	2.90	NA	0.0287	2.31 J	0.250	<0.050	<7.00	NA
C1-1S (CONTROL)	2.53	0.072 J	3.30 J	3.69	NA	0.00252	3.39 J	0.513	<0.050	<7.00	NA
C1-2S (CONTROL)	1.89	0.066 J	2.06 J	1.97	NA	0.00081	2.08 J	0.123	<0.050	<7.00	NA
C1-3S (CONTROL)	6.21	0.101 J	11.9	12.1	NA	0.0285	11.2	2.43	<0.050	25.1	NA
EFFLUENT	1.97	0.129 J	2.35 J	23.2	NA	0.00242	2.88 J	0.772	0.082 J	53.5	NA
<b>Total Metals</b>											
F1-1S (WITHIN ZID)	11.9	0.157 J	22.9	33.1	4.7 J	0.0358	24.1	5.77	0.098 J	67.4	460
F1-2S (ZID BOUND) <sup>a</sup>	21.5	0.246	43.1	52.5	<0.9	0.0500	43.6	10.8	0.153	104	927
F1-2S (ZID BOUND) <sup>b</sup>	20.8	0.213	42.4	51.4	<0.9	0.0494	43.0	11.7	0.142 J	102	560
F1-3S (NEAR FIELD)	13.0	0.144 J	25.4	29.4	<0.9	0.0391	24.9	6.48	0.077 J	61.4	510
C1-1S (CONTROL)	4.85	0.072 J	9.06	9.30	<0.9	0.0133	8.70	1.95	<0.050	18.9 J	168
C1-2S (CONTROL)	6.47	0.100 J	12.2	13.8	<0.9	0.0165	11.7	2.80	<0.050	26.8	328
C1-3S (CONTROL)	29.2	0.282	59.4	69.5	<0.9	0.132	57.8	17.4	0.227	161	1483
EFFLUENT	2.13	0.149 J	2.40 J	28.8	1.1 J	0.0138	2.83 J	1.27	0.080 J	69.5	64

<sup>a</sup> Field sample value

J

Result is an estimated value between MDL and MRL.

<sup>b</sup> Field duplicate value.

NA

Not applicable / not available.

< Not detected followed by MDL.

**Table 17. Supplemental Receiving Water Analyses.**

Parameter	Control Flood Samples			ZID Flood Samples		
	C1-1S	C1-2S	C1-3S	F1-1S	F1-2S <sup>c</sup>	F1-3S
<b>Volatile Organics in µg/L (BETX plus other detected substances)</b>						
Acetone	<20 U	<20 U	<20 U	34	<20 U / <20 U	<20 U
Benzene	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06 / <0.06	<0.06
Chloroform	<0.07	<0.07	<0.07	0.49 J	<0.07 / <0.07	<0.07
Chloromethane	<0.06	<0.06	<0.06	0.24 J	<0.06 / <0.06	<0.06
Ethylbenzene	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03	<0.03 / <0.03	<0.03
Tetrachloroethene (PCE)	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	0.06 J	<0.05 / <0.05	<0.05
Toluene	<0.5 U	<0.5 U	<0.07	0.68	<0.5 U / <0.5 U	<0.07
m,p-Xylenes	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1 / <0.1	<0.1
o-Xylene	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05 / <0.05	<0.05
Xylenes (Total)	<0.15	<0.15	<0.15	<0.15	<0.15 / <0.15	<0.15
TAH (as BETX) <sup>a</sup>	<0.31	<0.31	<0.31	<0.92	<0.31 / <0.31	<0.31
<b>Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH) by GC/MS in µg/L</b>						
TPAH	0.017	0.022	0.190	0.737	0.183 / 0.176	0.067
<b>Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons (TAqH) in µg/L</b>						
TAqH <sup>b</sup>	<0.33	<0.33	<0.50	<1.66	<0.49 / < 0.49	<0.38
<b>Semi-Volatile Organics - detected substances only</b>						
Acenaphthylene	<0.052	<0.052	<0.052	<0.052	0.091 J / <0.052	<0.052
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate	<0.58	<0.58	<0.58	0.67	<0.58 / 0.59	<0.58
Diethyl Phthalate	<0.065	<0.065	<0.065	0.29	<0.065 / <0.065	<0.065
Isophorone	<0.17	2.0	<0.17	<0.17	<0.17 / <0.17	<0.17
Naphthalene	0.040 J	<0.039	<0.039	<0.039	0.37 / <0.039	<0.039
N-Nitrosodi-n-propylamine	<0.14	0.72	<0.14	<0.14	<0.14 / <0.14	<0.14
Pentachlorophenol	<0.49	<0.49	<0.49	<0.49	<0.49 / 1.2	<0.49
Phenol	0.024 J	<0.022	<0.022	1.6	0.25 / 0.028 J	<0.022
<b>Pesticides, PCBs, &amp; Dioxins</b>						
Organochlorine Pesticides	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND / ND	ND
Organophosphorus Pesticides	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND / ND	ND
Polychlorinated Biphenyls	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND / ND	ND
Dioxins	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND / ND	ND

<sup>a</sup> Defined by the State of Alaska as the summation of BETX analytes where the MDL was used for ND values.

<sup>b</sup> TAqH defined as the summation of TAH plus PAH analytes from EPA Method 625 SIM analysis; these calculated values include the full suite of PAH analyte values measured by TDI Brooks.

<sup>c</sup> Duplicate sample analyses performed at F1-2S to assess field variability.

J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

ND Not detected U Detection limit raised to MRL level during QC validation due to blank result.

< Below MDL or MRL (U qualifier) for individual analytes or for summations where one or more analytes was ND.

TAqH concentrations ranged from <0.33 to <1.66 µg/L. The concentration of TAqH in the effluent was 16.8 µg/L, compared to the MAEC of 2,715 µg/L and the AWQS of 15 µg/L.

In addition to BETX that was already discussed, volatile organic analyses also detected acetone in all samples that were analyzed which is a probable laboratory contamination issue, and low levels of chloroform, chloromethane, and tetrachloroethene (PCE) that were detected at Station F1-1 directly over the outfall at low slack tide. Semivolatile analyses detected low levels of two hydrocarbons (acenaphthylene and naphthalene) at the ZID boundary and naphthalene at one control location. Other semivolatile compounds that were detected included bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, diethyl phthalate, pentachlorophenol, and phenol that were seen at either Station F1-1 or F1-2. A few other semivolatile compounds, isophorone, n-nitrosodi-n-propylamine, and phenol, were also detected at one of the control stations. The source of these compounds at the control site is unknown, however, overall, the concentrations were quite low and not a concern with respect to aquatic toxicity.

Other analyses included POCs, POPs, PCBs, and dioxin which were all found to be below their respective detection limits for all samples and analytes. Refer to Appendix C3 for complete results and a list of analytes for which analyses were conducted.

### **3.2.2 INTERTIDAL ZONE AND STREAM BACTERIAL SAMPLING**

Intertidal zone bacterial sampling was performed on 17 June 2022. Sampling began at 13:48 ADT approximately three hours and twenty-one minutes prior to low tide and was completed at 14:22 ADT (Table 18). Effluent grabs and area streams were sampled near low tide on 16 June 2022. Refer to Figure 5 and Figure 13 for maps of the intertidal station and stream sampling locations. Two replicates were taken at all intertidal and stream locations. All stream samples were collected above any tidal influence to represent only stream inputs.

As seen over the last five years, fecal coliform concentrations at the intertidal stations were low and ranged from <1.8 to 14 FC/100 mL. The highest intertidal fecal replicate concentration (14 FC/100 mL) was seen at Stations IT-1, which is located 2000 m east of the diffuser. Overall, the intertidal fecal coliform bacteria levels were very low at all locations in 2022 with a median of 2.0 FC/100 mL and a geometric mean of 3.1 FC/100 mL. Fecal concentrations of 17 and 13 FC/100 mL were found in the replicate effluent samples taken on the prior day. Fecal coliform concentrations found in Fish, Chester, and Ship Creeks ranged from a low of 2.0 FC/100 mL in one sample collected at Ship Creek to highs of 79 and 170 FC/100 mL in the two replicate samples collected from Chester Creek and 79 and 79 FC/100 mL in the two replicate samples from Fish Creek.



**Table 18. Summary of Bacterial Analyses, June 2022.**

<b>Station and Replicate</b>	<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Sample Time (ADT)</b>	<b>Fecal Coliform FC/100 mL</b>
IT-1 Replicate 1	17 June	14:02	7.8
IT-1 Replicate 2	17 June	14:02	14
IT-2 Replicate 1	17 June	14:06	2.0
IT-2 Replicate 2	17 June	14:06	4.5
IT-3 Replicate 1	17 June	14:08	4.5
IT-3 Replicate 2	17 June	14:08	6.8
IT-4 Replicate 1	17 June	14:12	<1.8
IT-4 Replicate 2	17 June	14:12	4.5
IT-5 Replicate 1	17 June	14:15	2.0
IT-5 Replicate 2	17 June	14:15	4.5
IT-6 Replicate 1	17 June	14:18	<1.8
IT-6 Replicate 2	17 June	14:18	2.0
IT-7 Replicate 1	17 June	14:22	<1.8
IT-7 Replicate 2	17 June	14:22	<1.8
IT-C Replicate 1	17 June	13:48	<1.8
IT-C Replicate 2	17 June	13:48	<1.8
Asplund Effluent Replicate 1	16 June	16:13	17
Asplund Effluent Replicate 2	16 June	16:13	13
Fish Creek Replicate 1	16 June	14:24	79
Fish Creek Replicate 2	16 June	14:24	79
Chester Creek Replicate 1	16 June	14:07	79
Chester Creek Replicate 2	16 June	14:07	170
Ship Creek Replicate 1	16 June	13:33	2.0
Ship Creek Replicate 2	16 June	13:33	33

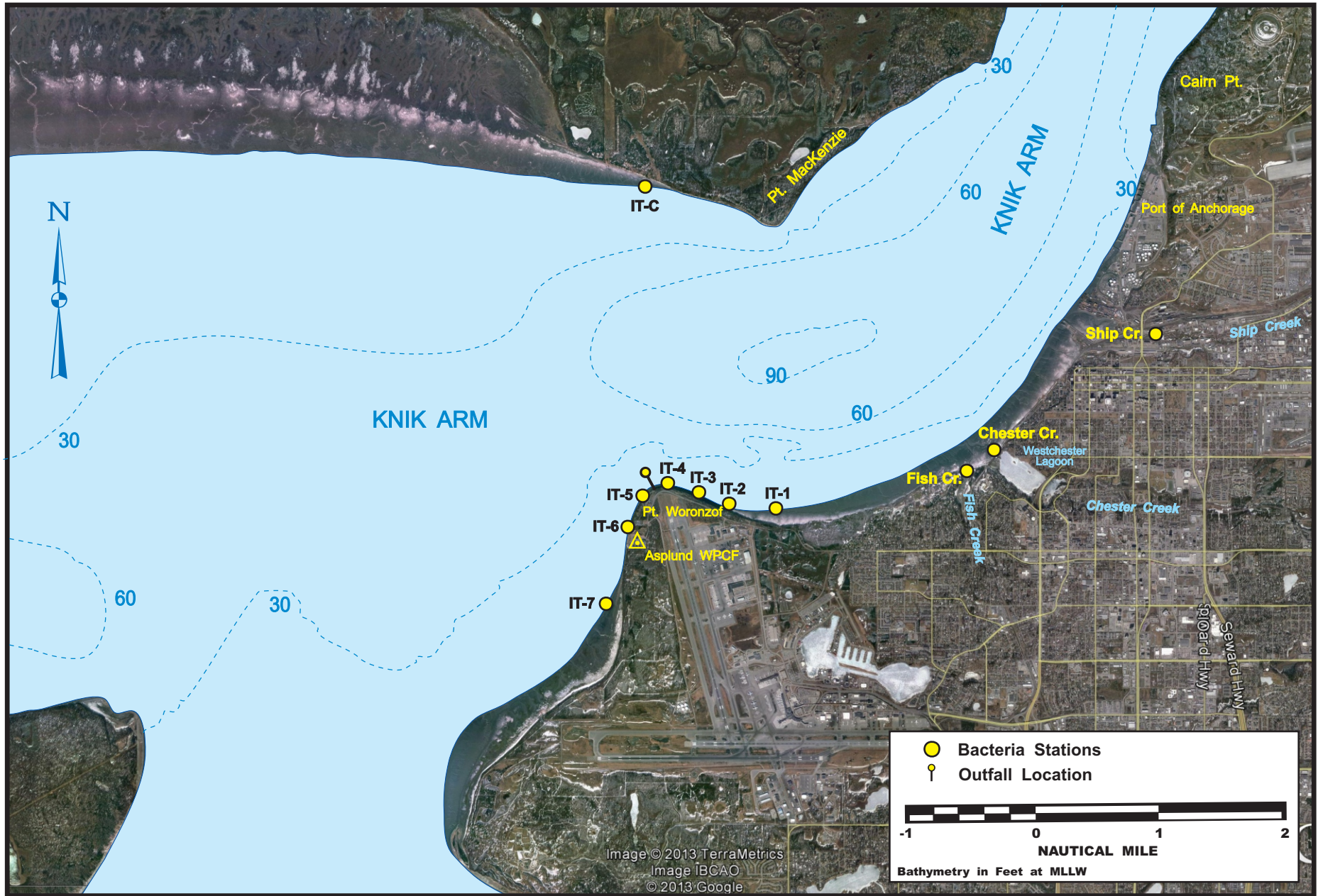


Figure 13. Stream and Intertidal Fecal Coliform Bacterial Sampling Locations.

## 4.0 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 INFLUENT, EFFLUENT, AND SLUDGE MONITORING

The NPDES permit for the Asplund WPCF requires compliance with applicable Alaska State water quality standards as promulgated in Chapter 70 of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) entitled *Water Quality Standards* (18 AAC 70; ADEC, 1999). This chapter requires that criteria outlined in "EPA Quality Criteria for Water" (also known as "The Red Book"; EPA, 1976), the revised quality criteria for water (EPA, 1986b), and other applicable criteria as referenced in the AWQS be met in applicable receiving waters at every point outside of the ZID boundary. Also, as noted in Section 1.1.1, the State of Alaska water quality regulations include site-specific criteria for the Point Woronzof area for turbidity and the dissolved fractions of arsenic, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, silver, and zinc.

Since issuance of the current permit, EPA has approved the use of dissolved metals for all of the State's marine water quality criteria, approved all of ADEC's proposed SSWQC for Upper Cook Inlet, and removed Alaska from the National Toxics Rule list (EPA, 2006). Except for dissolved cadmium and mercury, where the chronic cadmium standard changed from 9.3 µg/L in the SSWQC to 8.8 µg/L in the AWQS and the marine chronic mercury standard changed from 0.025 µg/L in the SSWQC to 0.94 µg/L in the AWQS, all other dissolved chronic metals criteria are the same in the two standards. Even though EPA has approved the use of dissolved metals criteria for the AWQS, the current SSWQC will most likely remain in effect for the Point Woronzof area for permit renewal as those are also listed in the current AWQS. To be conservative, we have used the more restrictive criteria for dissolved cadmium and mercury to evaluate the data in this report. For other parameters such as TRC, we have utilized the current AWQS (ADEC, 2022), since those criteria will be utilized for the permit renewal process. Finally, the permit itself includes some effluent limitations that must be met. The following sections discuss parameters "of concern" in regard to requirements of the permit or AWQS, as well as historical data from the Asplund WPCF, other POTWs, and other EPA data.

#### 4.1.1 INFLUENT AND EFFLUENT MONITORING

Table 19 lists permit effluent limitations and the most restrictive marine water quality criteria applicable to the current NPDES permit; it includes each required monitoring parameter. Since chronic toxicity criteria concentrations are lower than acute toxicity criteria concentrations, the more stringent of the two values was used here for comparison. For a majority of pollutants, the most restrictive AWQS are based on the chronic toxicity criteria for saltwater aquatic life, although a few are based on human-health criteria.

The MAEC for each parameter was calculated from the outfall design dilution factor of 142:1 (conservative substances: metals, organic pollutants, WET, etc.) or 180:1 (non-conservative: ammonia, fecal coliform, and TRC), the water quality criteria, and where available, the natural background concentrations as determined historically at the control site near Point MacKenzie. Inclusion of natural background levels into this calculation is necessary since it lowers the MAEC as a result of natural concentrations in the receiving water as required by EPA and ADEC reasonable potential analysis calculation procedures. It was assumed that the final effluent would be diluted by a minimum factor of 143 by the time it reached the boundary of the ZID. For most metals, the MAECs were calculated from the SSWQC for dissolved metals contained in the AWQS for the Point Woronzof area.

**Table 19. NPDES Requirements, State of Alaska Water Quality Standards, and AWWU 2022 Maximum Concentrations for Effluent Comparisons.**

Parameter	Receiving Water Quality Standard <sup>a</sup>		Maximum Allowable Effluent Concentration <sup>b</sup> (MAEC)	AWWU 2022 Maximum Effluent Concentration <sup>c</sup>
	Limit	Criterion		
Antimony (µg/L)	14	Human health, not listed for saltwater aquatic life	2,002	0.785 <sup>d,e</sup>
Arsenic (µg/L)	36	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	4,882	3.22 <sup>d,e</sup>
Beryllium (µg/L) <sup>f</sup>	5.3	For the protection of aquatic life in soft fresh water	758	0.011 J <sup>d,e</sup>
Cadmium (µg/L)	9.3 (8.8) <sup>g</sup>	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	1,322 (1,250)	0.193 <sup>d,e</sup>
Chromium (VI) <sup>h</sup> (µg/L)	50	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	7,038	2.40 J <sup>i</sup>
Copper (µg/L)	3.1	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	317	37.1 <sup>d,e</sup>
Lead (µg/L)	8.1	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	1,140	1.90 <sup>d,e</sup>
Mercury (µg/L)	0.025 (0.05) <sup>i</sup>	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	2.73	0.023 <sup>e</sup>
Nickel (µg/L)	8.2	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	978	4.76 <sup>d,e</sup>
Selenium (µg/L)	71	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	10,136	0.7 J <sup>d,e</sup>
Silver (µg/L)	1.9	Acute toxicity, measured as dissolved	257	0.191 <sup>d,e</sup>
Thallium (µg/L)	1.7	Human health, not listed for saltwater aquatic life	243	0.052 <sup>d,e</sup>
Zinc (µg/L)	81	Chronic toxicity, measured as dissolved	11,249	124 <sup>e</sup>

**Table 19. NPDES Requirements, State of Alaska Water Quality Standards, and AWWU 2022 Maximum Concentrations for Effluent Comparisons. (continued)**

Parameter	Receiving Water Quality Standard <sup>a</sup>		Maximum Allowable Effluent Concentration <sup>b</sup> (MAEC)	AWWU 2022 Maximum Effluent Concentration <sup>c</sup>
	Limit	Criterion		
Cyanide (µg/L)	1	For marine aquatic life	181	1.1 J <sup>d,e</sup>
Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons (TAqH) (µg/L)	15	Growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, aquatic life, and wildlife including seabirds, waterfowl, and furbearers	2,715	16.8 <sup>j</sup>
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons as BETX (µg/L)	10	Same as above	1,810	12.6 <sup>d</sup>
pH (pH units)		<i>k</i>	6.5 - 8.5	6.9 -7.7 <sup>l</sup>
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) (mg/L)	0.013 0.0075	<i>k</i>	Daily Max. 1.2	Daily Max. 0.898 <sup>l</sup>
BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/L)		<i>k</i>	Monthly Avg. 240 Weekly Avg. 250 Daily Max. 300 Monthly Removal Rate ≥30%	Monthly Avg. 183 <sup>l</sup> Weekly Avg. 221 <sup>l</sup> Daily Max. 224 <sup>l</sup> <b>Monthly Avg. Removal ≥24%<sup>l</sup></b> Annual Avg. Removal 36% <sup>l</sup>
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)		<i>k</i>	Monthly Avg. 170 Weekly Avg. 180 Daily Max. 190 Monthly Removal Rate ≥30%	Monthly Avg. 72 <sup>l</sup> Weekly Avg. 83 <sup>l</sup> Daily Max. 156 <sup>l</sup> Monthly Avg. Removal ≥64% <sup>l</sup> Annual Avg. Removal 76% <sup>l</sup>
Total Ammonia (mg/L) <sup>m</sup>	8.1 1.2	Acute Chronic	1,466 217	Monthly Max. 30.4 <sup>l</sup>
Fecal Coliform (FC/100 mL)		<i>k</i>	Monthly geometric mean of at least five samples shall not exceed 850. Not more than 10% of samples shall exceed 2600.	Monthly geometric mean maximum was 28.0 <sup>l</sup> The criterion of not more than 10% of samples exceeding 2600 was met in 2022. <sup>l</sup>

**Table 19. NPDES Requirements, State of Alaska Water Quality Standards, and AWWU 2022 Maximum Concentrations for Effluent Comparisons. (continued)**

Parameter	Receiving Water Quality Standard <sup>a</sup>		Maximum Allowable Effluent Concentration <sup>b</sup> (MAEC)	AWWU 2022 Maximum Effluent Concentration <sup>c</sup>
	Limit	Criterion		
<b>Other Detected Effluent Constituents with Specific Alaska Water Quality Criteria (µg/L)</b>				
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	400	Human Health	57,200	0.41 J <sup>d</sup>
Diethyl Phthalate	23,000	Human Health	3,289,000	2.1 J <sup>d</sup>
Ethylbenzene	3100	Human Health	443,300	0.55 <sup>d</sup>
Phenol	21,000 <sup>i</sup>	Human Health	3,003,000	9.7 <sup>d</sup>
Toluene	6,800 <sup>i</sup>	Human Health	972,400	8.5 <sup>d</sup>

*a* Alaska Administrative Code, 2022. Water Quality Standards, Chapter 70, 18 AAC 70.020(b)

*b* For conservative substances, effluent water quality criteria were determined by assuming a dilution of 142:1 at the ZID boundary, where: MAEC = 142 \* (Criteria - Natural Background Concentration) + Criteria; pollutant concentrations in the effluent should not exceed these values. For non-conservative substances, a dilution of 180:1 was utilized in the MAEC calculation.

*c* For metals, the maximum effluent concentration was determined from both total and dissolved concentrations.

*d* Values from June or August 2022 toxic pollutant and pesticide samplings.

*e* Values from AWWU's industrial pretreatment monitoring program.

*f* Suggested criteria from EPA *Quality Criteria for Water*, 1986b (Gold Book). No Alaska Water Quality Standard for Aquatic Life or Human Health.

*g* Standard based on revised EPA level that was approved for State of Alaska (2001).

*h* All samples tested as total chromium.

*i* Alaska water quality Human Health criteria for consumption of water & aquatic organisms (ADEC, 2008).

*j* TAqH value is sum of effluent PAHs sample run by TDI Brooks as part of the receiving water sampling effort and effluent BETX summation from June priority pollutants sampling.

*k* MAECs are not based on water quality criteria but instead are specified in MOA's 2000 NPDES permit.

*l* Values from AWWU's in-plant monitoring.

*m* Ammonia receiving water criteria based on pH of 8.0, temperature of 15.0°C, and salinity of 20 psu.

*n* Effluent sample run by Brooks Applied Labs as part of the receiving water sampling effort.

J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

To determine compliance with AWQS, effluent limits were compared with effluent values found in Table 8 through Table 11 as well as those in Table 16. The 2022 maximum effluent concentrations shown in Table 19 were the maximum encountered during the calendar year, either during AWWU's in-plant monitoring, the toxic pollutant and pesticide monitoring events, pretreatment monitoring, or the supplemental effluent monitoring that was performed as part of the receiving water sampling. For metals, both total and dissolved concentrations in the effluent were compared against their MAEC, since to be conservative it is assumed that all of the metals contained in the effluent are potentially bioavailable upon entering the receiving water. All effluent concentrations were found to be much lower than the MAECs specified in the permit or computed from the AWQS criteria. In addition, permit limitations for all chemical parameters were met for the 2022 program year.

All effluent metals concentrations, both dissolved and total, were substantially less than their respective MAECs. The metal that most closely approached its MAEC was copper, where the maximum concentration of total copper detected in effluent in 2022 was 37.1 µg/L compared to the MAEC of 317 µg/L. The highest dissolved effluent copper concentration was 24.1 µg/L. Of the metals analyzed, beryllium does not have either an SSWQS or an AWQS for either human health or marine aquatic life criteria, although a suggested EPA criterion is provided in Table 19 for comparison (EPA, 1986b).

Total recoverable metals detected in the influent and final effluent were also compared with data from an EPA study of 40 POTWs in Table 20 (EPA, 1982a). Without exception, all metals and cyanide values were lower than or within the range of those detected in other POTWs from across the nation, even though the Asplund WPCF provides only primary treatment as compared to secondary treatment provided at the other plants that were examined in this study.

Historic influent and effluent total recoverable metals and cyanide concentrations collected as part of AWWU's monitoring program are presented in Table 21 and Table 22. Concentrations are very low and fairly consistent over time. Concentrations of dissolved metals usually fell within the range of concentrations seen over the prior five years during the summer-dry and summer-wet toxic pollutant sampling (Table 21), although one antimony concentration seen during the August sampling did exceed the five-year range. A similar pattern was seen in total recoverable metals concentrations in the effluent during 2022, with slightly elevated concentrations of thallium in June, and antimony in August compared to the range of concentrations seen during the prior five years. Overall, the long-term results for metals have always been well within their MAECs and have always met AWQS and permit criteria.

Historic trends for three total recoverable metals (copper, mercury, and zinc) concentrations that most closely approached their MAECs and for total cyanide are presented in graphical form in Figure 14 and Figure 15. Presented data are annual averages with high and low ranges along with a polynomial regression trend from the time of permit reissuance in 2000 through the current year. In general, copper, mercury, and cyanide concentrations had been showing a slight downward trend but have since leveled off over the past 5 years indicating that the effluent has not increased in pollutant concentrations, and in all cases, it can clearly be seen that all concentrations are well within their respective MAECs. Total zinc concentrations in final effluent have increased over the last five years compared to the prior five years with greater variability seen between individual measurements (Figure 15). The effluent maximum total zinc concentration seen during 2022 was 124 µg/L, compared to the AWQS of 81 µg/L and an MAEC of 11,249 µg/L (Table 19).

**Table 20. Comparison Between Influent/Effluent Results for Anchorage and 40 POTWs<sup>a</sup>.**

Parameter	Anchorage Values				40 POTW Study Values				
	2022 Concentration (µg/L)				Frequency of Detection (%)		Range Detected (µg/L)		Influent Median
	Summer-Dry		Summer-Wet		Influent	Secondary Effluent	Influent	Secondary Effluent	(µg/L)
	INF	EFF	INF	EFF					
<b>VOLATILES<sup>b</sup></b>									
Benzene	0.39 J	0.31 J	0.060 J	<0.060	61	23	1-1560	1-72	2
Chloroform	2.2	3.3	1.3	2.0	91	82	1-430	1-87	7
1,4- Dichlorobenzene	0.45 J	0.41 J	0.42 J	0.39 J	17	3	2-200	3-9	NA
Ethylbenzene	0.83	0.55	0.20 J	0.17 J	80	24	1-730	1-49	8
Methylene Chloride	0.84 J	0.99 J	0.37 J	0.39 J	92	86	1-49000	1-62000	38
Tetrachloroethene	0.59	0.57	0.12 J	0.080 J	95	79	1-5700	1-1200	23
Toluene	9.8	8.5	8.2	5.7	96	53	1-13000	1-1100	27
Trichloroethene	0.18 J	<0.080	<0.080	<0.080	90	45	1-1800	1-230	28
<b>SEMI-VOLATILES<sup>b</sup></b>									
Diethyl Phthalate	<3.3	2.1 J	<3.3	<1.3	53	13	1-42	1-7	3
Phenol	20	9.7	11	6.0	79	29	1-1400	1-89	7
<b>TOTAL METALS &amp; CYANIDE</b>									
Antimony	0.593	0.651	0.833	0.785	14	13	1-192	1-69	NA
Arsenic	3.07	2.51	4.23	3.22	15	12	2-80	1-72	NA
Beryllium	0.11 J	0.006 J	0.022	0.011 J	3	1	1-4	1-12	NA
Cadmium	0.329	0.189	0.269	0.193	56	28	1-1800	2-82	3
Chromium	2.56	1.57	3.90	2.24	95	85	8-2380	2-759	105
Copper	62.3	37.1	64.0	32.1	100	91	7-2300	3-255	132
Lead	2.31	1.62	2.76	1.90	62	21	16-2540	20-217	53
Mercury	0.0309	0.0191	0.0893	0.0215	70	31	0.2-4	0.2-1.2	0.517
Molybdenum	2.18	1.91	2.30	1.90	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Nickel	5.34	4.50	7.19	4.76	79	75	5-5970	7-679	54
Selenium	0.7 J	0.7 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	9	10	1-10	1-150	NA
Silver	0.219	0.148	0.278	0.191	71	25	2-320	1-30	8
Thallium	<0.009	0.052	<0.009	<0.009	3	2	1-19	1-2	NA
Zinc	171	115	166	97.7	100	94	22-9250	18-3150	273
Cyanide	0.5 J	1.1 J	<0.5	0.9 J	100	97	3-7580	2-2140	249

<sup>a</sup> Source: EPA, 1982a. *Fate of Priority Pollutants in POTWs*. Final Report, Volume I, EPA 440/1-82/303.

<sup>b</sup> Only analytes detected in either the influent or effluent and in the 40 POTW study are included.

< Not detected, followed by MDL or MRL.

J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).

NA Not available



**Table 21. Comparison of Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in Anchorage’s Final Effluent to the Previous Five Years.**

Pollutant	2017		2018		2019	
	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet
	6/6-7	8/7-8	6/26-27	8/20-21	6/18-19	9/9-10
<b>ORGANICS (µg/L)</b>						
Acetone	160	300	NT	NT	NT	NT
Acrolein	<0.98	<0.98	<140	<28.0	<140	<140
Benzene	0.11 J	0.28 J	<1.05	<0.210	<1.05	<1.05
Benzo(a)anthracene	0.25 J	<1.3	<5.16	NT	NT	NT
Bis-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	7.8 J	<50 B	<7.74	77.1	95.0 J	<150
Bromodichloromethane	0.080 J	0.070 J	<1.10	<0.220	<1.10	<1.10
Bromomethane	<0.034	<0.034	<1.15	<0.230	<1.15	<1.15
2-Butanone (MEK)	7.0 J	68	NT	NT	NT	NT
Butyl benzyl phthalate	2.3 J	<2.8	5.62 J	NT	NT	NT
Carbon disulfide	<0.50 B	0.69	NT	NT	NT	NT
Chlorobenzene	<0.031	<0.031	<0.800	<0.160	<0.800	<0.800
Chloroethane	0.18 J	<0.054	<2.60	<0.520	<2.60	<2.60
Chloroform	2.7	2.9	3.95 J	2.68	3.25 J	2.80 J
Chloromethane	0.37 J	1.1	<1.80	<0.360	<1.80	<1.80
*1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.84	0.71	<4.70/<0.800	<0.160	<0.800	<0.800
1,2-Dichloroethane	<0.036	0.080 J	<1.10	<0.220	<1.10	<1.10
cis 1,2-Dichloroethene	0.040 J	0.050 J	<1.80	<0.360	<1.80	<1.80
Diethyl phthalate	2.2 J	3.7 J,D	<8.77	<17.0	<34.0	<170
Dimethyl phthalate	<0.71	<3.6	<6.71	NT	NT	NT
Di-n-butyl Phthalate	0.56 J	<2.3	<11.4	<22.0	<44.0	<220
Di-n-octyl Phthalate	<0.38	<1.9	18.9 J	NT	NT	NT
1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	<0.23	<1.2	<6.19	NT	NT	NT
Ethylbenzene	0.63	0.49 J	1.20 J	0.290 J	<1.05	<1.05
Fluoranthene	<0.45	<2.3	<7.22	<14.0	<28.0	<140
2-Hexanone	<2.5	<2.5	NT	NT	NT	NT
Isophorone	<0.35	<1.8	<9.28	<18.0	<36.0	<180
Methylene Chloride	3.1	4.0	1.05 J	<0.210	6.85 J	3.25 J
Naphthalene	<0.31	<1.6	<2.74	<5.30	<10.6	<53.0
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	9.6 J	<8.5	<4.95	NT	NT	NT
Pentachlorophenol	6.3 J	<1.9	<5.68	NT	NT	NT
Phenanthrene	0.42 J	<1.2	<7.22	<14.0	<28.0	<140
Phenol	20	34 J,D	13.7 J	<5.90	54.5 J	<59.0
Pyrene	0.47 J	<2.4	<3.82	<7.40	<14.8	<74.0
Styrene	5.5	0.16 J	NT	NT	NT	NT
Tetrachloroethene	0.39 J	0.32 J	<1.10	0.250 J	<1.10	<1.10
Trichloroethene	0.060 J	<0.044	<1.80	<0.360	<1.80	<1.80
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	0.61 J	<0.95	<4.59	NT	NT	NT
Toluene	7.2	8.0	14.7	6.68	6.65	5.20
Vinyl chloride	<0.031	<0.031	<1.80	<0.360	<1.80	<1.80
* Total Xylenes	3.49	2.44	<2.80 J	<2.31 J	<2.35 J	<2.25
Total Hydrocarbons as O&G	36500	28200	29100	35800	24200	29000
TAH as BETX	11.4	11.2	22.2	9.49	11.1	9.55

**Table 21. Comparison of Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in Anchorage's Final Effluent to the Previous Five Years. (continued)**

Pollutant	2020		2021		2022	
	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet
	6/23-24	8/10-11	6/8-9	7/27-28	6/15-16	8/9-10
<b>ORGANICS (µg/L)</b>						
Acetone	270	130	160	200	270	210
Acrolein	1.3 J	1.0 J	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0
Benzene	0.17 J	0.040 J	0.060 J	0.080 J	0.31 J	<0.060
Benz(a)anthracene	<0.18	<0.090	<0.60	<1.2	<1.5	<1.2
Bis-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate	4.3 J	5.6	7.2	<12	<15	<12
Bromodichloromethane	0.050 J	<0.010	<0.20	<0.20	<0.20	< 0.20
Bromomethane	<0.010	0.090 J	<0.090	<0.090	<0.090	<0.090
2-Butanone (MEK)	24	21	20	20 J	18 J	19 J
Butyl benzyl phthalate	2.3	1.2	<7.8	<16	<20	<16
Carbon disulfide	0.62 J+	0.61 J+	0.42 J	0.69 J	0.70	0.29 J
Chlorobenzene	<0.010	0.030 J	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050	<0.050
Chloroethane	0.44 J	0.36 J	<0.10	0.69 J	<0.10	<0.10
Chloroform	2.7	1.9	2.3	2.9 J	3.3	2.0
Chloromethane	1.9 J+	1.6 J+	0.91 J+	1.9 J	1.4	0.53
* 1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.38 J	0.27 J	0.38 J	0.75 J	0.41 J	0.39 J
1,2-Dichloroethane	<0.010	<0.010	<0.060	<0.060	<0.060	<0.060
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	<0.010	<0.010	0.050 J	0.070 J	<0.050	<0.050
Diethyl phthalate	1.9 J	1.9	2.1 J	1.5 J	2.1 J	<1.3
Dimethyl phthalate	<0.21	0.12 J	<0.68	<1.4	<1.7	<1.4
Di-n-butyl phthalate	0.80 J	0.36 J	<7.3	<15	<19	<15
Di-n-octyl phthalate	<0.33	<0.17	1.5 J	<2.7	<3.3	<2.7
1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Ethylbenzene	0.22 J	0.080 J	0.19 J	0.16 J	0.55	0.17 J
Fluoranthene	0.26 J	0.15 J	<0.69	<1.4	<1.8	<1.4
2-Hexanone	<0.010	<0.010	<0.80	<0.80	5.7 J	<0.80
Isophorone	0.38 J	<0.080	<1.7	<3.3	<4.1	<3.3
Methylene chloride	2.8	<2.0	5.2	3.0 J	0.99 J	0.39 J
Naphthalene	<0.22	<0.11	<0.39	<0.77	<0.96	<0.77
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT	NT
Pentachlorophenol	<3.4	<1.7	<4.9	<9.8	<13	<9.8
Phenanthrene	0.44 J	0.22 J	0.45 J	<0.67	<0.84	<0.67
Phenol	30	6.9	8.4	15	9.7	6.0
Pyrene	0.26 J	0.10 J	<0.90	<1.8	<2.3	<1.8
Styrene	0.070 J	<0.010	0.060 J	0.090 J	0.37 J	0.38 J
Tetrachloroethene	0.31 J	0.050 J	0.23 J	0.17 J	0.57	0.080 J
Trichloroethene	<0.010	<0.010	<0.080	<0.080	<0.080	<0.080
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	0.59 J	1.2 J	<3.0	<6.0	<7.5	<6.0
Toluene	7.9	4.4	6.0	6.5	8.5	5.7
Vinyl chloride	<0.010	0.020 J	<0.090	<0.090	<0.090	<0.090
* Total Xylenes	1.13 J	0.31 J	1.03 J	0.91 J	3.29	0.85 J
Total Hydrocarbons as O&G	30000	25700	42700 J-	40700	42,400	29,000
TAH as BETX	9.4	4.8	7.3	7.6	12.6	6.8

**Table 21. Comparison of Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in Anchorage's Final Effluent to the Previous Five Years. (continued)**

Pollutant	2017		2018		2019	
	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet
	6/6-7	8/7-8	6/26-27	8/20-21	6/18-19	9/9-10
<b>TOTAL METALS (µg/L)</b>						
Antimony	0.731	0.675	0.700	0.678	0.612	0.657
Arsenic	2.46	2.42	2.72	2.62	2.47	3.32
Beryllium	<0.006	<0.006	<0.005	0.004 J	<0.005	0.017 J
Cadmium	0.209	0.202	0.210	0.248	0.170	0.207
Chromium	1.51	2.07	1.57	1.53	2.27	3.28
Copper	52.0	33.7	36.2	33.6	42.0	60.8
Lead	1.87	1.39	2.21	1.81	1.51	2.10
Mercury	0.0397	0.0224	0.0310	0.0255	0.0236	0.0347
Molybdenum	5.30	5.52	3.99	2.47	3.57	1.98
Nickel	4.96	4.63	4.72	4.39	6.11	5.83
Selenium	1.2	1.1	0.8 J	1.0 J	0.8 J	0.7 J
Silver	0.382	0.335	0.490	0.327	0.237	0.201
Thallium	<0.002	<0.02 B	0.009 J	0.018 J	0.015 J	0.020 J
Zinc	113	106	105	95.0	116	98.2
<b>DISSOLVED METALS (µg/L)</b>						
Antimony	0.608	0.521	0.642	0.590	0.601	0.581
Arsenic	2.00	2.03	2.22	2.38	2.39	2.74
Beryllium	<0.006	<0.006	<0.005	<0.002	<0.005	<0.005
Cadmium	0.080	0.086	0.128	0.157	0.140	0.126
Chromium	0.59	1.01	1.02	0.95	1.92	1.66
Copper	21.7	15.2	23.7	22.8	36.3	20.8
Lead	0.432	0.319	1.10	0.848	1.19	0.782
Mercury	0.0047	0.00537	0.0185	0.0199	0.0192	0.0147
Molybdenum	4.99	5.09	4.59	2.22	2.72	1.75
Nickel	4.41	4.18	4.39	4.08	6.29	4.72
Selenium	0.9 J	0.7 J	0.7 J	0.8 J	0.7 J	0.6 J
Silver	0.054	0.054	0.368	0.145	0.213	0.061
Thallium	<0.002	<0.02 B	<0.008	<0.008	<0.009	0.032
Zinc	59.3	55.8	69.2	61.4	104	73.5
<b>PESTICIDES (µg/L)</b>						
Aldrin	<0.0021	<0.0021	<0.027	<0.028	<0.020	<0.025
Demeton-O,S	<0.34	<0.050	<0.0029	<0.0028	<0.15	<0.027
Endrin ketone	<0.0063	<0.0063	<0.025	<0.025	<0.020	0.0096 J
Heptachlor	<0.0023	<0.0023	<0.027	<0.027	<0.0020	<7.0
Malathion	<0.052 i	<0.062 i	<0.0028	<0.0027	<0.050	<0.050
<b>OTHER</b>						
Cyanide (µg/L)	7.1 J+	6.2 J+	<2.7 U	1.0 J	<0.5	0.8 J
Asbestos (million fibers/L)	93	<1.5	<2.6	<2.5	9.3	8.2

**Table 21. Comparison of Toxic Pollutants and Pesticides in Anchorage's Final Effluent to the Previous Five Years. (continued)**

Pollutant	2020		2021		2022	
	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet
	6/23-24	8/10-11	6/8-9	7/27-28	6/15-16	8/9-10
<b>TOTAL METALS (µg/L)</b>						
Antimony	0.655	0.644	0.641	0.702	0.651	0.785
Arsenic	2.54	2.52	2.44	2.74	2.51	3.22
Beryllium	<0.005	0.006 J	<0.005	<0.005	0.006 J	0.011 J
Cadmium	0.205	0.187	0.192	0.188	0.189	0.193
Chromium	1.42	1.59	1.66	1.86	1.57	2.24
Copper	36.2	33.8	52.8	52.5	37.1	32.1
Lead	2.75	1.56	4.80	2.11	1.62	1.90
Mercury	0.0245	0.0219	0.0651	0.0239	0.0191	0.0215
Molybdenum	6.95	1.69	1.72	3.92	1.91	1.90
Nickel	4.96	5.02	5.37	5.03	4.50	4.76
Selenium	0.7 J	0.8 J	0.6 J	0.8 J	0.7 J	0.6 J
Silver	0.330	0.231	0.144	0.185	0.148	0.191
Thallium	0.011 J	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	0.052	<0.009
Zinc	105	99.5	119	165	115	97.7
<b>DISSOLVED METALS (µg/L)</b>						
Antimony	0.685	0.538	0.535	0.567	0.554	0.654
Arsenic	2.25	2.31	2.02	2.38	2.26	2.58
Beryllium	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005
Cadmium	0.103	0.091	0.102	0.123	0.100	0.093
Chromium	0.81	0.89	0.83	0.93	1.03	1.00
Copper	15.6	17.9	17.0	21.1	24.1	15.6
Lead	0.927	0.548	0.693	0.667	0.812	0.573
Mercury	0.0112	0.00938	0.0348	0.0223	0.00095	0.00872
Molybdenum	6.76	1.50	1.59	3.75	1.85	1.75
Nickel	4.74	4.86	9.49	4.71	4.24	3.88
Selenium	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.5 J	0.6 J	0.6 J	0.5 J
Silver	0.193	0.065	0.024	0.065	0.056	0.046
Thallium	0.016 J	<0.009	<0.009	<0.009	0.013 J	<0.009
Zinc	68.0	62.5	66.0	71.9	81.0	52.4
<b>PESTICIDES (µg/L)</b>						
Aldrin	0.0068	<0.056	<0.048 <sup>Δ</sup>	<0.0077	<0.0050	<0.092 i
Demeton-O,S	<0.062	<0.027	<0.14	0.038 J,H	<0.027	<0.027
Endrin ketone	<0.0055	<0.056	<0.048 <sup>Δ</sup>	<0.0070	<0.0050	<0.0050
Heptachlor	<6.8	<0.056	<0.048	<0.016	<0.016 i	0.014
Malathion	0.013 J	0.012 J	<0.025	<0.0050	<0.0050	<0.0050
<b>OTHER</b>						
Cyanide (µg/L)	<0.5	<0.5	<0.9	<0.5	1.1 J	0.9 J
Asbestos (million fibers/L)	<9.3	<3.7	<9.3	<7.4	<7.4	<7.4

* Non-priority pollutant	<	Not detected, followed by MDL or MRL.
B Compound also detected in method blank.	D	Sample diluted for analysis.
i Matrix interference results in elevated MRL/MDL.	J	Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).
J+ Estimated high bias due to MB result.	NT	Not tested.
U Reported at the MRL due to blank result.	Δ	Reported at MRL
	H	Exceeded extraction holding time.
	J-	Matrix interference may have resulted in low bias.

**Table 22. Historical Pretreatment Discharge Monitoring Data (1986 - Present) for Influent and Effluent Total Metals and Cyanide Concentrations in µg/L.**

Year	Average Monthly EFF Flow (MGD)	Arsenic		Beryllium		Cadmium		Chromium		Copper		Lead		Mercury		Nickel		Silver		Zinc		Cyanide	
		INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF	INF	EFF
1986-2016 Min	23	<1	<1	0.006	<0.003	0.197	0.14	<1	<1	30	10	<1	<1	0.05	0.02	<1	<1	<0.002	0.13	54	38	<0.4	<0.9
1986-2016 Max	34	26	16	0.6	0.3	20	30	112	120	280	150	149	50	3.0	1.5	77	60	30.4	98	1520	407	85	59
2017 Avg	26.8	2.7	2.4	0.009	<0.006	0.314	0.206	3.30	1.78	63.1	43.0	5.04	2.04	0.173	0.029	6.00	4.57	0.56	0.32	218	111	10.2	5.0
2017 Min	24.5	2.4	2.4	<0.006	<0.006	0.276	0.183	2.53	1.48	59.1	33.7	2.47	1.33	0.121	0.022	4.78	3.85	0.26	0.27	152	103	<0.9	1.1 J
2017 Max	31.5	3.1	2.6	0.013 J	<0.006	0.330	0.240	4.38	2.11	65.4	52.0	11.6	4.61	0.264	0.040	7.84	5.00	0.80	0.38	281	118	26.2	7.1 J+
2018 Avg	26.3	3.1	2.7	0.009	0.006	0.447	0.206	2.89	1.63	62.9	32.6	3.01	1.68	0.130	0.032	6.08	4.48	0.56	0.37	179	98	1.9	1.9
2018 Min	24.5	2.8	2.6	<0.005	0.004 J	0.236	0.126	2.57	1.00	52.8	24.4	2.30	0.78	0.057	0.026	5.44	4.20	0.31	0.29	148	68	1.0 J	<0.9
2018 Max	28.5	3.5	2.8	0.015 J	0.008 J	1.26	0.252	3.45	2.18	74.6	36.5	3.77	2.21	0.303	0.053	6.76	4.72	0.94	0.49	221	110	<2.7	<2.7
2019 Avg	27.1	4.11	2.87	0.030	0.010	0.314	0.190	5.19	2.62	61.8	42.6	4.93	1.81	0.127	0.029	8.82	5.52	0.454	0.215	210	118	<0.5	0.6
2019 Min	24.9	3.22	2.47	<0.005	<0.005	0.273	0.170	3.44	1.99	16.9	33.2	2.26	1.51	0.0121	0.0234	5.09	3.76	0.298	0.174	178	98.2	<0.5	<0.5
2019 Max	29.6	5.36	3.32	0.066	0.018 J	0.448	0.207	7.89	3.46	81.3	60.8	12.5	2.10	0.270	0.0347	13.8	6.70	0.541	0.255	247	142	<0.5	0.8 J
2020 Avg	26.8	3.30	2.56	0.016	0.007	0.329	0.196	3.45	1.64	78.2	42.0	4.47	1.86	0.108	0.024	7.01	5.35	0.514	0.226	202	118	<0.5	<0.5
2020 Min	25.4	2.79	2.33	0.010 J	<0.005	0.243	0.165	2.62	1.39	65.8	33.8	2.28	1.48	0.009	0.022	6.09	4.92	0.278	0.136 J+	170	99.5	<0.5	<0.5
2020 Max	30.8	3.99	2.89	0.023	0.011 J	0.425	0.229	4.68	1.95	93.9	50.2	8.40	2.75	0.323	0.027	8.00	6.19	0.802	0.330	259	143	<0.5	<0.5
2021 Avg	27.4	2.63	2.48	0.010	<0.005	0.243	0.199	2.56	1.51	50.8	43.2	3.76	2.45	0.061	0.030	5.51	4.22	0.198	0.174	170	119	0.7	1.0
2021 Min	24.9	2.23	2.33	0.006 J	<0.005	0.190	0.188	2.10	1.26	24.9	35.4	1.65	1.71	0.028	0.018	3.54	3.23	0.014 J	0.137	120	102	<0.5	<0.5
2021 Max	32.2	3.12	2.74	0.013J	<0.005	0.305	0.212	3.05	1.86	69.4	52.8	8.71	4.80	0.100	0.065	6.47	5.37	0.307	0.217	196	165	1 J	2 J
2022 Avg	30.2	3.30	2.73	0.013	0.008	0.263	0.177	2.96	1.73	59.2	33.4	2.43	1.64	0.0487	0.0205	6.06	4.58	0.288	0.156	164	101	0.5	0.8
2022 Min	27.0	2.58	2.27	0.006 J	<0.005	0.201	0.151	2.44	1.57	46.9	26.9	1.92	1.47	0.0309	0.0187	5.34	4.30	0.219	0.121	145	75.4	<0.5	<0.5
2022 Max	35.7	4.23	3.22	0.022	0.011 J	0.329	0.193	3.90	2.24	67.3	37.1	2.76	1.90	0.0893	0.0230	7.19	4.76	0.396	0.191	185	124	0.6 J	1.1 J

INF Influent.  
 EFF Effluent.  
 Avg Mean, calculated using MDL for ND compounds, or MRL for U qualified compounds.  
 Min Minimum.  
 Max Maximum.  
 < Not detected, followed by MDL or MRL when qualified with a U.  
 J Estimated value (below MRL but above MDL).  
 J+ Estimated value, potentially biased high.

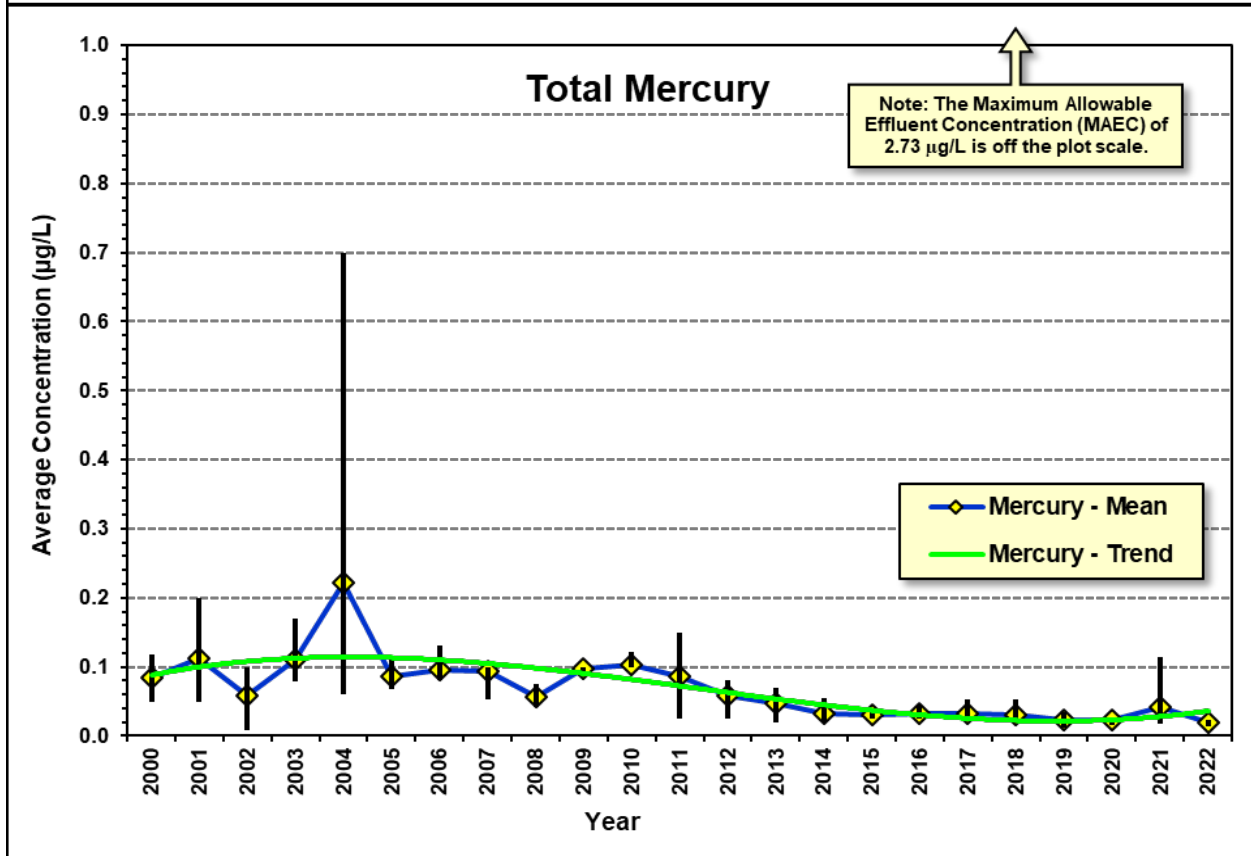
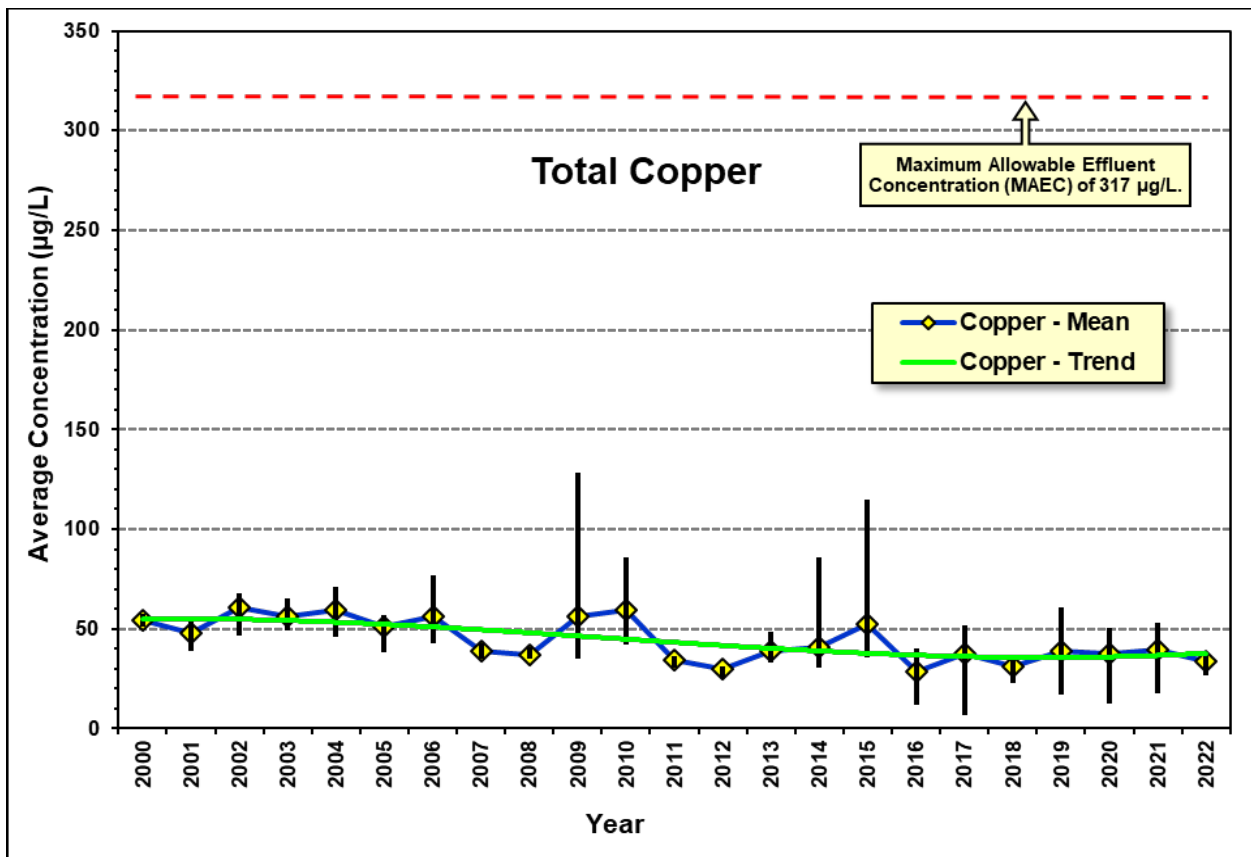


Figure 14. Historic Effluent Mean, Range, and Trend for Total Copper and Mercury.

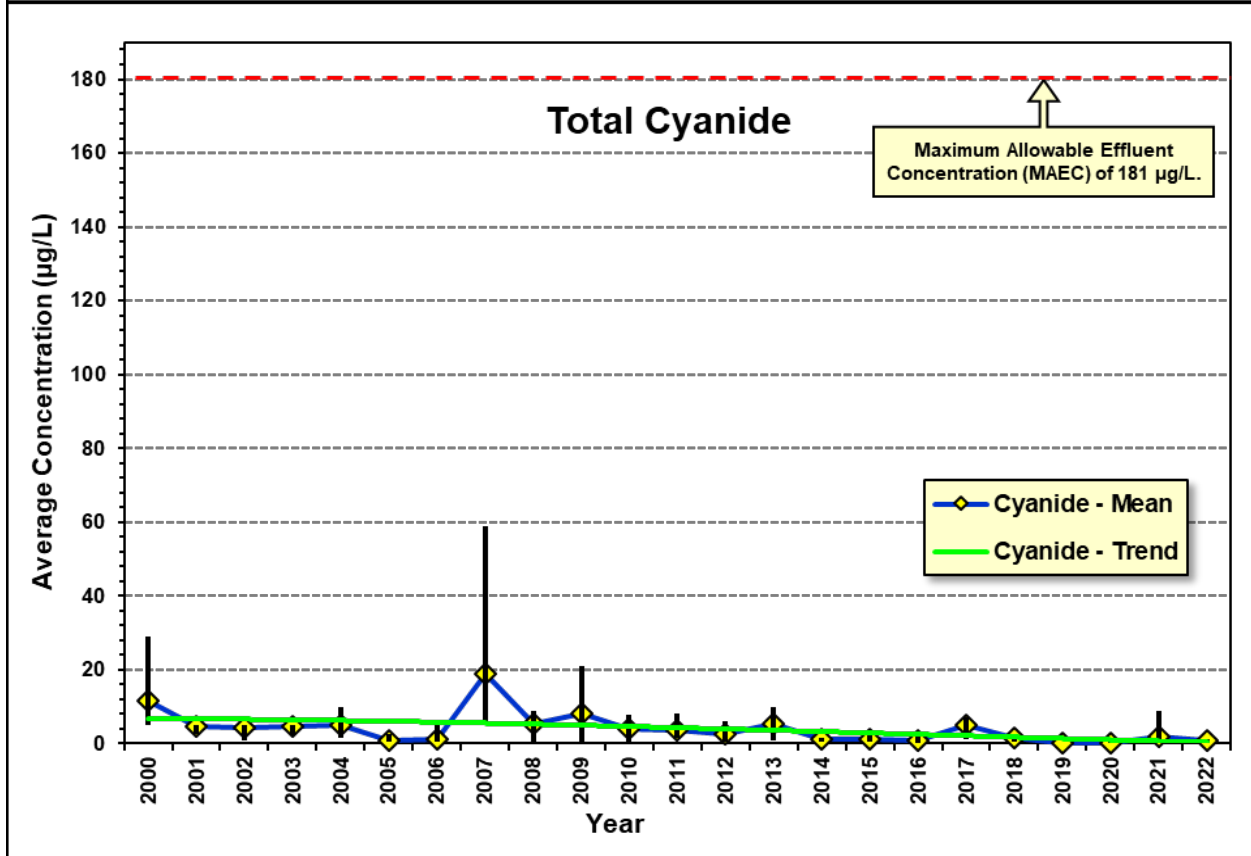
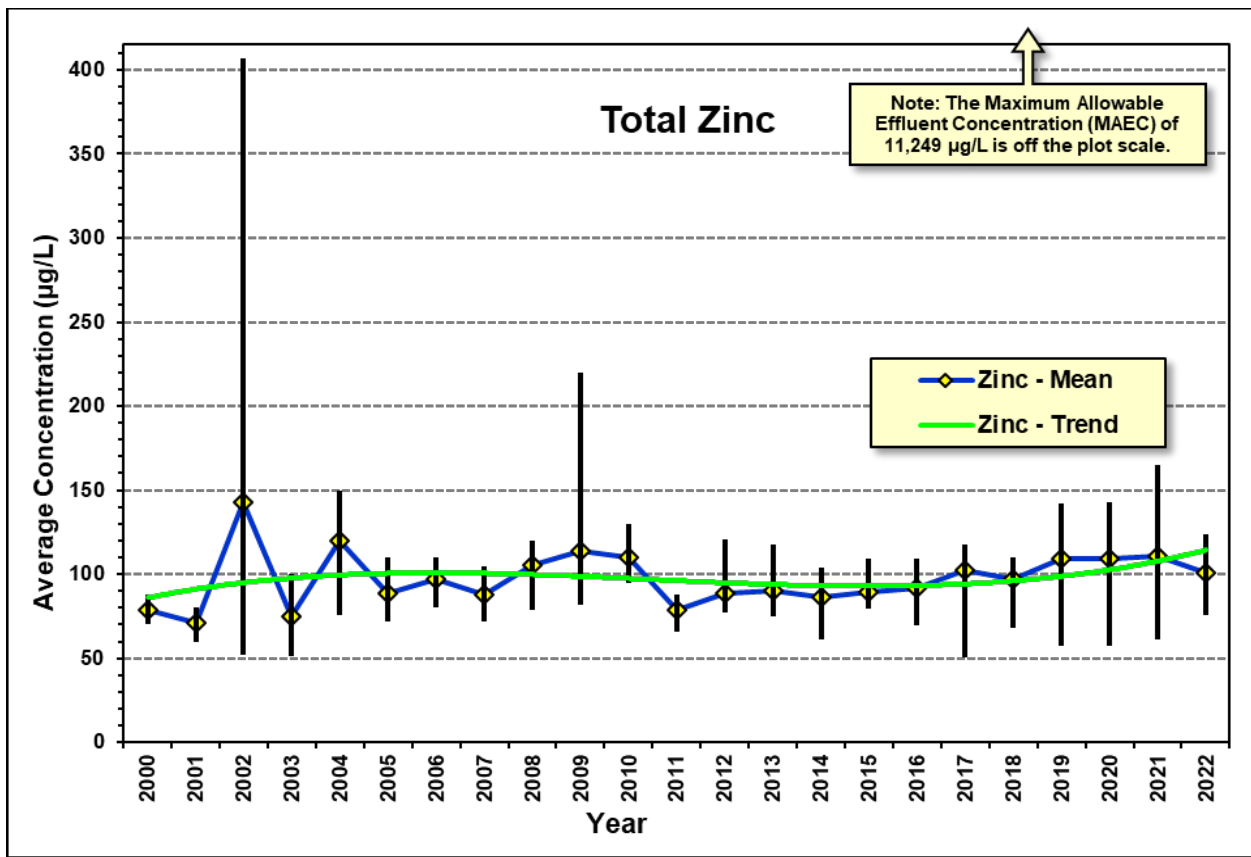


Figure 15. Historic Effluent Mean, Range, and Trend for Total Zinc and Cyanide.

During 2022, cyanide concentrations in the effluent ranged from <0.5 to 1.1 J µg/L, all samples were well below the MAEC of 181 µg/L. In general, total cyanide concentrations have remained relatively low since 2000 and have shown a downward trend over the last ten years, although there was a slight uptick in both 2017 and 2021 along with a few elevated numbers that were seen in 2007, 2009, and 2013 (Figure 15). In all cases, concentrations have been well below the MAEC since reissuance of the permit in 2000.

The most restrictive criteria for the growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife was used for the hydrocarbon limits presented in Table 19. As seen in all prior years, concentrations of TAqH and TAH as BETX were all found to be substantially below their MAECs. TAqH was analyzed in effluent, only during the receiving water quality sampling with a concentration of 16.8 µg/L as compared to the AWQS for 15 µg/L and a MAEC of 2,715 µg/L. The maximum TAH value of 12.6 µg/L occurred during the June 2022 toxic pollutant sampling which is slightly higher than the AWQS of 10 µg/L and well below the MAEC of 1,810 µg/L.

Consistent with prior results, the MAEC for total ammonia was met in 2022, with effluent concentrations exhibiting a monthly maximum of 30.4 mg/L as compared to the MAEC of 217 mg/L for the chronic limit and an MAEC of 1,466 mg/L for the acute limit. These MAECs are based on saltwater acute ammonia criteria of 8.1 mg/L and saltwater chronic criteria of 1.2 mg/L, which are a function of temperature, salinity, and pH in AWQS. For comparison in this report, ammonia criteria were based on a salinity of 20 psu, temperature of 15 °C, and a pH of 8.0 units.

In addition to MAECs based on AWQS criteria, a number of other effluent limitations are specified in the permit. These daily, weekly, and monthly limitations for effluent concentrations and loading include pH, TRC, BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, and fecal coliform (Table 19). All concentrations for these parameters met permit limitations for 2022. A historical perspective of effluent flow rate, fecal coliform counts, and TRC concentrations is presented in Figure 16. The effluent flow rate has remained fairly consistent since 2000 with a slight downward trend attributable to improvements in I&I, since the general population in Anchorage that is serviced by the Asplund WPCF has increased over that time period. The flow, however, did trend upward in 2022 which may have been the result in a substantial increase in precipitation that was seen last year. A vast improvement in fecal coliform levels can also be seen as a result of the improved disinfection system installed in 2002, resulting in both lower TRC levels and lower fecal coliform counts. Although there was an upward trend in TRC annual average levels between 2010 and 2015, TRC has since decreased over the past seven years with a large decline in 2020 from approximately 0.5 mg/L over the prior five years to a range of 0.25 to 0.29 mg/L over the most recent three years (Figure 16).

Permit limitations for monthly and weekly averages and daily maximums were met for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS for the year. Monthly removal rates for both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS were also met for the entire year with one exception. The BOD<sub>5</sub> monthly removal rate in November fell to 24% (Figure 17). Amendments to the CWA require at least 30% average monthly removal for both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. TSS met this requirement on both an average monthly and annual basis with the lowest monthly removal of 64% which also occurred in November. Removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> averaged 36% for the calendar year with a minimum monthly removal rate of 24%, which is lower than that seen during the previous five years where average annual removals ranged from 36 to 44%. The low percent removal seen in November appeared to be the result of a few anomalously low influent values rather than an increase in effluent concentrations which may have been caused by an influent sampling issue such as a temporary obstruction in the sampling line rather than an issue with plant



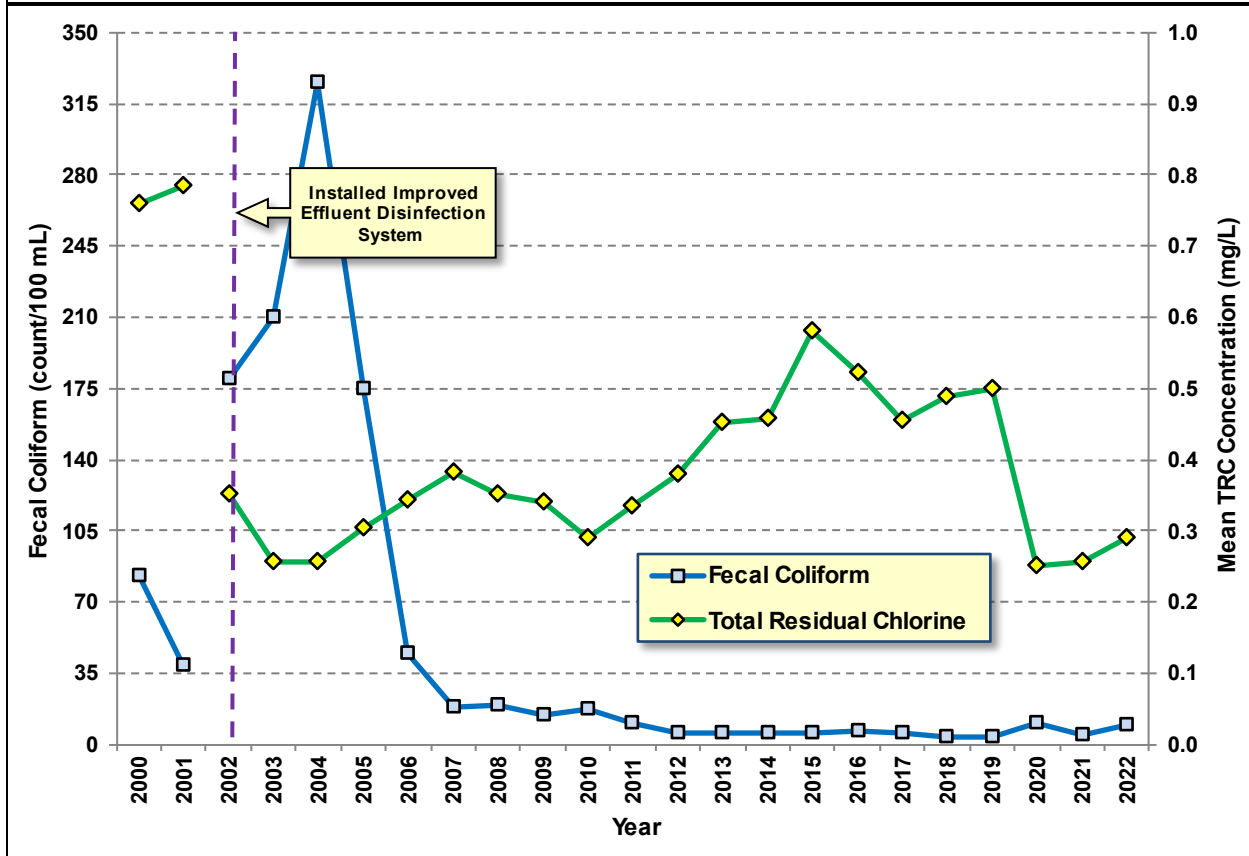
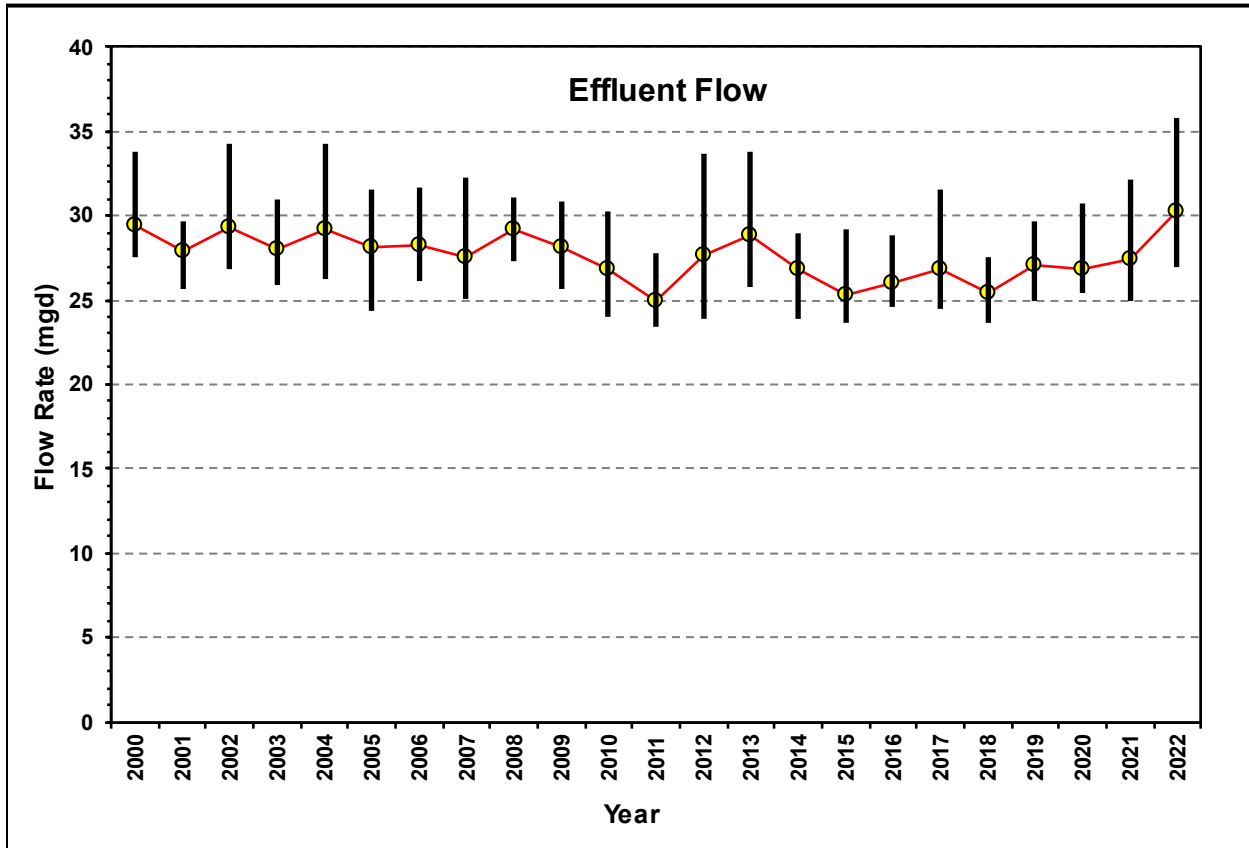


Figure 16. Historic Effluent Flow Rate, Fecal Coliform, and TRC Concentration.

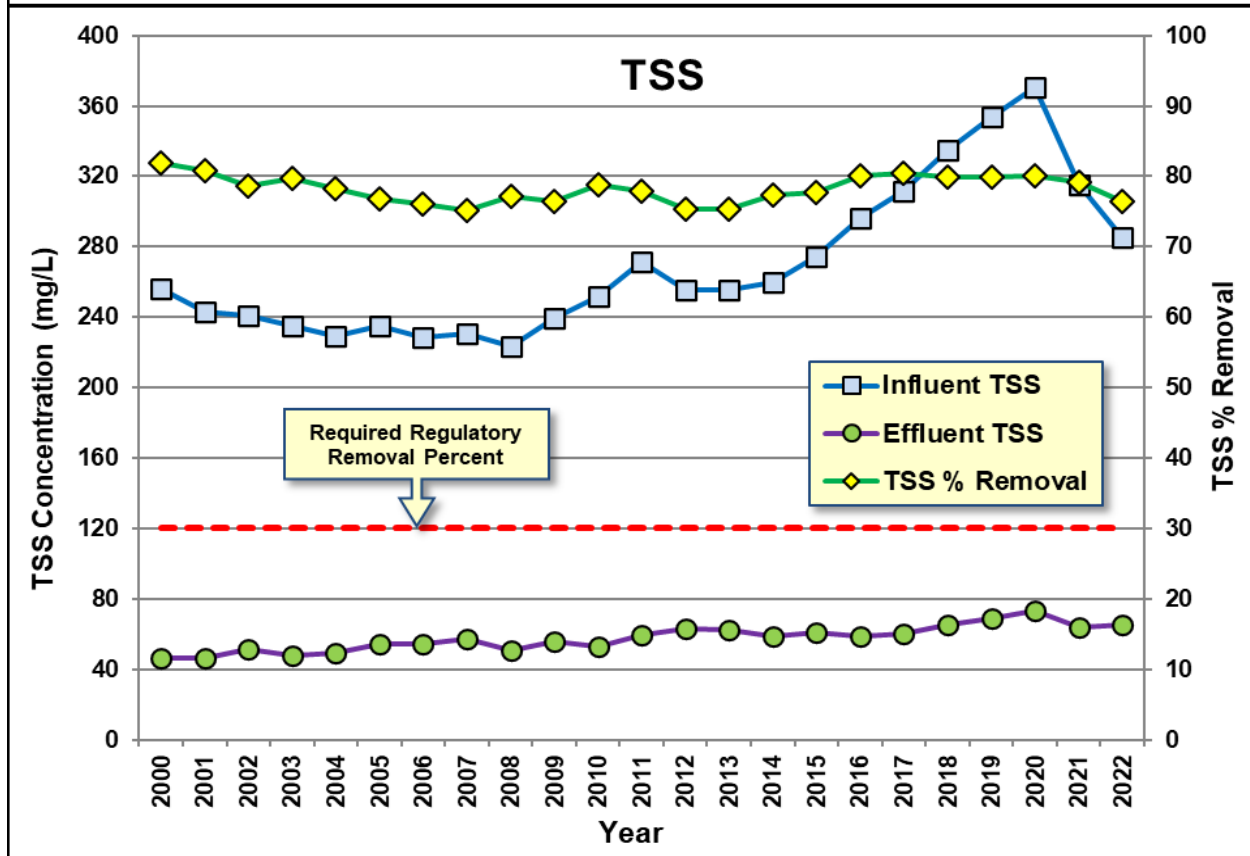
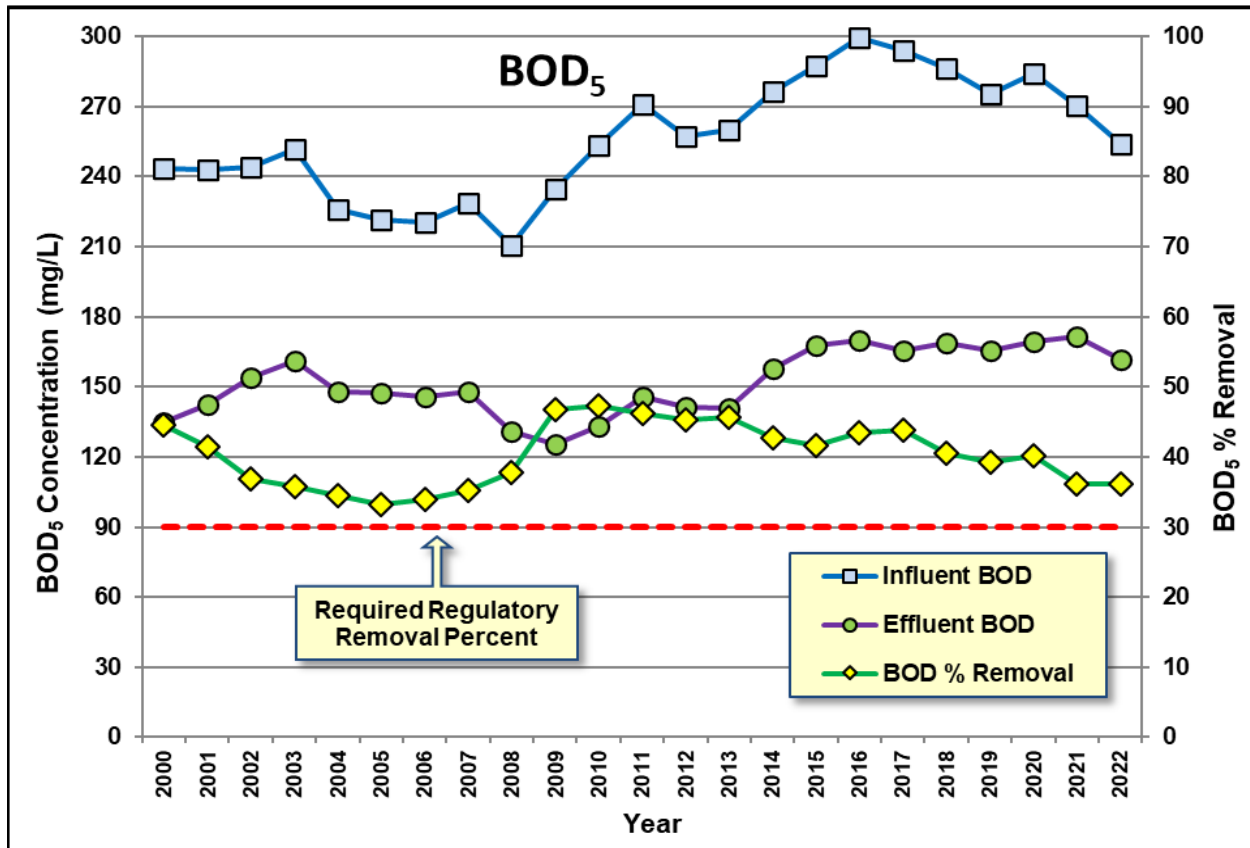


Figure 17. Historic Influent, Effluent, and Percent Removals for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS.

performance. The effluent BOD<sup>5</sup> concentration for the month was 152 mg/L, well within the 2022 monthly range of 130 to 183 mg/L, whereas the influent BOD<sup>5</sup> was the lowest for the year.

Monthly removal for TSS ranged from 64 to 82% with an annual average of 76%, about the same as reported since permit issuance in 2000 and well above the required average monthly criteria of 30%. TSS had been showing a consistent increase in influent concentrations between 2014 and 2020 and then showed a substantial drop beginning in 2021 (Figure 17). Due to effective removal during treatment, a similar increase in effluent TSS has not been seen. Although influent and effluent BOD<sub>5</sub> had crept upwards during 2013-2016 (Figure 17), this appears to have leveled off and declined in 2022 with an annual average BOD<sub>5</sub> effluent concentration of 162 mg/L compared to the annual average range of 165 to 172 mg/L seen during the prior five years (Table 23).

All fecal coliform criteria were met each month in 2022. The permit limitation of a monthly geometric mean (of at least five samples) of  $\leq 850$  FC/100 mL was met; maximum monthly geometric mean in 2022 was 28.0 FC/100 mL (Table 8 and Table 19). Fecal coliform also met the monthly criteria "that not more than 10% of the effluent samples shall exceed 2600 FC/100 mL during any month" for all months in 2022. The yearly average effluent fecal coliform bacteria concentration, reported at 9.3 FC/100 mL for 2022, was within the previous five-year average range of 3.2 to 10.8 FC/100 mL. The fecal coliform monthly average rose from 39 FC/100 mL in 2001 to a high of 325 FC/100 mL in 2004; since then, it has steadily fallen. The 2004 fecal levels were the highest yearly average seen to date and were attributed to a program to optimize chlorine usage as described below. Since that time, fecal coliform values, including the most recent ten-year time period, have stabilized more in line with prior data, indicating that disinfection efficacy at the WPCF has been optimized (Figure 16).

As described in earlier reports, a project to improve the efficiency of the Asplund WPCF effluent disinfection system was implemented during 2001-2002. The chlorine injection process was improved by installation of rapid mixing equipment (the "Water Champ" installed in November 2001) to mix chlorine gas directly with the effluent. Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) technology using a *Stranrol 890 Controller* was installed in December 2001 to adjust the chlorine dosage rate in response to both flow and oxidation reduction potential of the wastewater. Prior to this improvement, it was never possible to determine an exact correlation between TRC and coliform kill. Dosage control by the ORP resulted in adequate coliform kills with far lower chlorine residuals and substantially reduced annual chlorine usage, but optimization of the disinfection process continues to be an on-going process.

In 2016, the Asplund WPCF discontinued use of gaseous chlorine for disinfection, replacing it with 12.5% sodium hypochlorite. The new on-site sodium hypochlorite generation equipment was manufactured by Electrolytic Technologies LLC and incorporates the Klorigen™ chlor-alkali process to primarily produce 12.5% sodium hypochlorite using ultra-pure salt. The Klorigen™ process employs ion-selective membrane cells that produce chlorine gas and sodium hydroxide when electrical current is passed through the cells. The chlorine gas and sodium hydroxide are combined to form sodium hypochlorite that is stored on-site and dosed into the plant effluent for disinfection. A small amount of excess chlorine gas produced in the process is fed directly to plant effluent. Sodium hypochlorite disinfectant is added to the plant effluent at the same location previously used for the gaseous chlorine injection. In 2022, TRC averaged 0.29 mg/L, which is within the yearly average range of 0.25 to 0.50 mg/L seen during the prior five years and well within historic ranges; although TRC concentrations trended upwards between 2010 and 2015,

**Table 23. Historical Mean Monthly Discharge Monitoring Data (1986 - Present) for Influent and Effluent Non-Metals.**

Year	Temperature (°C)		pH <sup>a</sup> (pH units)		TRC (mg/L)		DO (mg/L)		BOD <sub>5</sub> (mg/L)		TSS (mg/L)		Fecal Coliform (FC/100 mL)		Ammonia (mg/L)	
	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent	Influent	Effluent
1986-2016 Min	8.9	9.0	6.4	6.4	NT	0.07	NT	1.2	98	69	117	37	NT	2	NT	13.8
1986-2016 Max	17.0	18.0	8.5	8.5	NT	1.00	NT	8.6	325	201	349	86	NT	1213	NT	40.2
2017 Avg	13.3	12.9	NA	NA	NT	0.45	NT	3.0	294	165	312	60	NT	5.6	NT	26.5
2017 Min	10.0	9.5	7.00	7.00	NT	0.36	NT	1.6	243	128	244	51	NT	2.7	NT	23.5
2017 Max	16.5	16.3	9.07	7.48	NT	0.52	NT	4.3	327	190	364	66	NT	9.6	NT	28.6
2018 Avg	13.4	13.3	NA	NA	NT	0.49	NT	2.8	287	169	335	65	NT	4.0	NT	27.5
2018 Min	11.7	10.6	7.01	7.09	NT	0.43	NT	2.1	249	157	258	60	NT	2.5	NT	24.0
2018 Max	15.4	16.1	7.88	7.87	NT	0.53	NT	3.5	352	182	470	71	NT	8.1	NT	30.8
2019 Avg	13.9	13.5	NA	NA	NT	0.50	NT	2.5	275	166	354	69	NT	3.2	NT	25.4
2019 Min	11.8	10.5	6.7	7.0	NT	0.44	NT	1.3	240	147	269	60	NT	2.0	NT	22.1
2019 Max	16.5	17.0	7.9	7.8	NT	0.56	NT	3.8	334	183	497	76	NT	6.4	NT	28.6
2020 Avg	13.6	13.0	NA	NA	NT	0.25	NT	2.2	284	170	371	73	NT	10.8	NT	26.1
2020 Min	10.6	10.2	6.5	6.6	NT	0.03	NT	1.4	244	147	303	60	NT	2.5	NT	21.7
2020 Max	15.6	16.4	7.7	7.6	NT	0.59	NT	3.7	324	189	441	79	NT	49.0	NT	31.4
2021 Avg	14.3	12.8	NA	NA	NT	0.26	NT	2.2	270	172	315	64	NT	4.8	NT	26.6
2021 Min	12.7	10.3	2.4	6.8	NT	0.21	NT	1.1	210	147	234	58	NT	2.0	NT	24.5
2021 Max	16.4	15.6	8.3	8.5	NT	0.33	NT	3.2	295	187	378	74	NT	8.9	NT	30.1
2022 Avg	13.6	12.6	NA	NA	NT	0.29	NT	3.0	254	162	286	65	NT	9.3	NT	25.2
2022 Min	12.0	10.2	6.9	6.9	NT	0.26	NT	1.8	201	130	198	60	NT	2.6	NT	19.8
2022 Max	15.5	15.3	7.7	7.7	NT	0.34	NT	4.0	289	183	360	72	NT	28.0	NT	30.4

<sup>a</sup> Values represent monthly pH minimum and maximum.

- Avg Mean.
- Min Minimum.
- Max Maximum.
- NA Not applicable.
- NT Not tested.

they have declined since 2016 (Figure 16). Note that average annual fecal coliform levels did increase slightly in 2020 but levels have since declined in 2021 and 2022.

Historic discharge monitoring data (1986 - 2022) for other parameters of concern measured in influent and effluent are presented in Table 23. Most parameters have remained fairly steady over time. Dissolved oxygen levels increased from 1986 with a peak of 8.6 mg/L in 1992, and then generally decreased over the next ten years. Monthly mean levels of DO over the past five years have remained fairly consistent, ranging from 2.2 to 3.0 mg/L with an average of 3.0 mg/L in 2022.

Concentrations of other toxic pollutants and pesticides detected in influent and final effluent were generally lower than or within the range of those detected in other POTWs from across the nation, even though Asplund WPCF provides only primary treatment as opposed to secondary treatment at these other facilities (Table 20). Toxic pollutants and pesticides also generally fell within the historical range of values seen in past years; levels of toxic pollutants and pesticides detected in Anchorage effluent this year and over the previous five years are shown in Table 21. Data indicates some variability over time, but a generally similar pattern overall: levels are low, often below minimum reporting levels. Also, types and concentrations of measured organic compounds varied between sampling periods. Furthermore, in some instances, differences in pollutant concentrations occurred between influent and effluent. Inconsistencies can be explained by looking at sampling methodology and plant operation in the case of point-source contaminants. If contaminant spikes occur in the influent, these might or might not be captured during the sampling. On the other hand, an effluent sample could contain the contaminant as a result of clarifier mixing. Contaminant concentration differences between influent and effluent samples can also be caused by lower TSS in the effluent and residence time within the facility. This can be seen in Table 9 and Table 10, where greater variability usually occurs in influent concentrations. Also, only the effluent includes contributions from both the Eagle River and Girdwood WWTFs, a result of belt filtrate inputs because sludge from those facilities is processed at the Asplund WPCF.

Quarterly WET testing results from 2022 were below the permit-specified trigger level of 143 TUC for all species and events except for the third quarter sea urchin fertilization test which had a TUC of >571 which necessitated retesting. The subsequent WET retest was found to be within permit limits with the test exceedance ascribed to low percent survival in both the laboratory and saltwater controls. WET tests in 2022 included the annual three-species screening performed in the third quarter, and the sea urchin fertilization test performed during the first, second, and fourth quarters.

***In summary, effluent chemistry monitoring showed that with no exceptions, concentrations of toxic pollutants and pesticides, metals, cyanide, and conventional parameters were much lower than their applicable permit limits and their MAECs. The percent removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> for November was lower than the 30% as required by the CWA which is considered a permit exceedance. All toxic pollutant and pesticide concentrations, including metals and cyanide, were lower than or within the range of those detected at secondary treatment plants from across the nation. WET testing indicated final effluent was within the permitted WET acceptance range for 2022 except for one WET test conducted in the third quarter which triggered retesting.***

#### **4.1.2 SLUDGE MONITORING**

While the current permit does not contain sludge limits for levels of toxic pollutants and pesticides, comparisons can be made to other treatment facilities' monitoring results and to the site-specific allowable limits for metals determined for Asplund WPCF (Table 24). In all cases, sludge metals

**Table 24. Comparison Between Sludge Results for Anchorage and Typical and Worse Case Concentrations Used by EPA in Developing Median or Mean Environmental Profiles<sup>a</sup>.**

Pollutant (mg/kg)	2022 Anchorage Values			Typical Concentration	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile "Worse Case"
	June <sup>b</sup>	August <sup>b</sup>	2022 AVG <sup>c</sup>		
Aldrin/Dieldrin	<0.064 i/<0.00073	<0.0018*/<0.00067*	---	0.07	0.81
Arsenic	4.1	6.4	4.1	4.6	20.77
Benzene	<0.00018	<0.00018	---	0.326	6.58
Benz(a)anthracene	<4.8	<1.2*	---	0.68	4.8
Benzo(a)pyrene	<8.4	<2.1*	---	0.14	1.94
Beryllium	0.052 J	0.089	0.13	0.313	1.168
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	55 J	13 J	---	94.28	459.25
Cadmium	0.972	1.23	0.94	8.15	88.13
Carbon Tetrachloride	<0.00031	<0.00031	---	0.048	8.006
Chlordane	<0.016	<0.015*	---	3.2	12
Chloroform	0.0062 J	<0.00036	---	0.049	1.177
Chromium	13.5	21.7	13.7	230.1	1499.7
Copper	236	262	---	409.6	1427
Cyanide	0.39 J	<0.20	---	476.2	2686.6
DDT/DDE/DDD	<0.2 i/<0.0014/<0.0071i/<0.0019*/<0.0023/<0.0019*		---	0.28	0.93
3,3-Dichlorobenzidine	<15	<3.5	---	1.64	2.29
Endrin	<0.0011	<0.00097*	---	0.14	0.17
Heptachlor	0.032	<0.0012*	---	0.07	0.09
Hexachlorobenzene	<8.4	<2.1*	---	0.38	2.18
Hexachlorobutadiene	<5.8	<1.5	---	0.3	8
Lead	10.5	14.0	10.6	248.2	1070.8
alpha/gamma-BHC	<0.012 i	<0.00094*	---	0.11	0.22
Malathion	<0.0074	<0.0063	---	0.045	0.63
Methylene chloride	0.0075 J	0.020 J	---	1.6	19
Mercury	0.256	1.370	0.53	1.49	5.84
Molybdenum	4.08	5.54	---	9.8	40
Nickel	11.3	17.4	11.5	44.7	662.7
PCBs (Arochlor 1254/1260)	<0.025 i/<0.054 i	0.013 P/0.040 P	---	0.99	2.9
Pentachlorophenol	<34	<8.2	---	0.0865	30.434
Phenanthrene	<5.8	<1.5*	---	3.71	20.69
Phenol	<10	<2.5*	---	4.848	82.06
Selenium	2.4 J	2.5 J	---	1.11	4.848
Tetrachloroethene	0.025	0.0059 J	---	0.181	13.707
Trichloroethene	<0.00049	<0.00048	---	0.46	17.85
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	<7.4	<1.9*	---	2.3	4.6
Vinyl Chloride	<0.00059	<0.00058	---	0.43	311.942
Zinc	580	692	---	677.6	4580

- <sup>a</sup> Source: EPA 1985c. *Summary of Environmental Profiles and Hazard Indices for Constituents of Municipal Sludge: Methods and Results*. Office of Water Regulations and Standards, Appendix F.
- <sup>b</sup> Data from NPDES 2022 toxic pollutant and pesticide monitoring.
- <sup>c</sup> Average from 2022 Part 503 monitoring events.
- i MRL/MDL is elevated due to chromatographic interference.
- J Estimated value (between MDL and MRL).
- P GC or HPLC confirmation criteria exceeded. The relative percent difference between analytical results is greater than 40%.
- Not monitored in-plant for Part 503.
- < Not detected, followed by MDL or MRL.
- \* Internal standard recovery outside control criteria due to matrix interference.

were found to be substantially lower than site-specific limits (Table 13). Again, data indicate that average concentrations of toxic pollutants and pesticides in Anchorage's sludge are generally lower than "typical" concentrations seen at other treatment facilities (Table 24; EPA, 1985c).

Part 503B sludge metals sampling in 2022 included seven metals, six of which were always seen at less than the typical concentrations from other municipal sludge, while all were at less than 95<sup>th</sup> percentile values. Concentrations of beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, and nickel were always less than the typical concentration seen at other POTW facilities from across the nation. The one metal that exceeded the typical range was arsenic, which ranged from 2.59 J to 6.4 mg/kg with an average of 4.1 mg/kg compared to a typical value of 4.6 mg/kg and a 95<sup>th</sup> percentile value of 20.77 mg/kg seen at other facilities across the nation (Table 13 and Table 24).

Other metals analyzed, although not a requirement of the Part 503 regulations, were copper, molybdenum, selenium, and zinc. Copper concentrations were below typical concentration during both the June and August samplings. Molybdenum concentrations were below the typical concentration during both the June and August sampling efforts. Zinc concentrations were below the typical concentration of 677.6 mg/kg during the June sampling effort and slightly higher than the typical concentration during August with concentrations of 580 and 692 mg/kg, respectively. Selenium values reported for the June and August 2022 sampling events were 2.4 J and 2.5 J mg/kg, respectively, which exceeded the typical concentration of 1.11 mg/kg but were less than the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile concentration of 4.848 mg/kg at other treatment plants (Table 24).

Table 25 provides an overview of historical sludge data for total metals. In general, 2022 data, though variable, indicated similar concentrations of arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, lead, and nickel compared to historical data over the last few years. Mercury exhibited a single high value of 1.370 mg/kg yet the annual average was still within the average range seen in the prior five years. Yearly averages for chromium and lead had been driven up by single high results in June 2016 and have now dropped back to historical norms. As discussed in previous reports, similar spikes in both chromium and nickel were found during June 2009, but these had dropped down to concentrations that were similar to the historic range for the remainder of that year and for all subsequent sampling since 2010. As with the anomalously high values seen in 2009, the cause of the high concentrations of chromium and lead seen in June 2016 are unknown and no elevated results have been seen in any of the subsequent sampling efforts in 2016 through 2022.

## **4.2 WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

### **4.2.1 PLUME DISPERSION SAMPLING**

To test the hypothesis that conventional water quality parameters at the ZID boundary were not degraded with respect to water quality at near-field and control stations, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis (KW) test (one-way analysis of variance [ANOVA] by ranks) and Dunn's multiple pairwise comparison test was used to determine whether significant differences occurred among the four site groups ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ; Zar, 1999). The results of these tests for the conventional water quality parameters are presented in Table 26. The non-parametric Mann-Whitney (MW) test (Zar, 1999) was used to evaluate differences between medians for metals and hydrocarbons at the Outfall (F1) versus Control (C1) drogue stations. The results for these tests are also presented in Table 26. When ND values were present, software designed specifically for handling left-censored ND data was used in the statistical analyses (Helsel, 2012 and 2016). This software contains versions of the KW and MW tests tailored specifically for handling censored data.

**Table 25. Historical Discharge Monitoring Data (1986 - Present) for Metals in Sludge in mg/kg Dry Weight.**

Year	Arsenic	Beryllium	Cadmium	Chromium	Lead	Mercury	Nickel
1986-2016 Min	0.78	0.017 J	0.21	2.7	2.5	<0.02	2.6
1986-2016 Max	151	1.75	10.0	122	468	7.3	400
2017 Avg	4.1	0.15	0.93	11.2	11.7	0.57	9.8
2017 Min	0.98	0.058	0.32	3.7	3.9	0.200	3.0
2017 Max	5.8	0.114	1.41	16.5	18.4	1.100	14.6
2018 Avg	4.2	0.14	1.32	18.0	14.5	0.349	13.9
2018 Min	0.98	0.070	0.301	3.58	4.77	0.0385	2.70
2018 Max	10.3	0.266	2.94	57.1	37.9	0.836	42.1
2019 Avg	2.8	0.09	0.80	10	8	0.23	9
2019 Min	0.816	<0.0228	0.235	3.04	2.52	0.0918	3.07
2019 Max	4.91	0.154	1.83	18.5	16.5	0.505	17.2
2020 Avg	2.9	0.064	0.72	8.8	8.4	0.23	7.2
2020 Min	0.990	0.0253	0.293	2.81	4.18	0.0389	2.47
2020 Max	5.3	0.0995	1.28	14.4	14.4	0.363	11.4
2021 Avg	2.9	0.13	0.6	10.3	9.9	0.38	8.1
2021 Min	0.841	0.047	0.199	4.03	3.57	0.0498	2.52
2021 Max	5.0	0.200	1.1	15.1	16.6	0.851	13.3
2022 Avg	4.1	0.13	0.94	13.7	10.6	0.53	11.5
2022 Min	2.59 J	0.052 J	0.67	9.57	6.69	0.18	7.87
2022 Max	6.4	0.089	1.23	21.7	14.0	1.370	17.4

< Not detected, followed by Method Detection Limit.

Avg Mean.

Min Minimum.

Max Maximum.

Note: Results for years 1986-1999 represent the range of historical results for monthly Min and Max as available. Results for 2000-2022 represent Part 503 sludge monitoring values.

Receiving water survey data showed statistically significant differences in both salinity and pH at the surface, middle, and bottom depths between the control stations and the outfall stations (within-ZID, ZID-boundary, and near-field stations) that all grouped together. For temperature, the control stations at the middle and bottom depths were found to be significantly higher than the Point Woronzof near-field stations with the within-ZID and ZID-boundary grouping with both the control and near-field stations separately. For DO, no significant differences were seen for any station depths or groupings. For turbidity, the control middle and bottom samples were statistically higher than the outfall stations. For color, statistical differences were seen between the control and within ZID locations as a result of one elevated value seen at Staton F1-1 within the ZID. No statistical differences were seen for fecal coliform for any station groupings. No statistical analyses were computed for TRC concentrations since more than half of the results were non-detected values.



**Table 26. 2022 Water Quality Station Group Differences at the 5% Significance Level as Determined by Nonparametric ANOVA and Two-Sample Tests.**

Water Quality Parameter	Water Column Depth		
	Surface	Middle	Bottom
<b>Conventional Analyses*</b>			
Temperature	NS	<b><u>3 1 2 4</u></b>	<b><u>3 2 1 4</u></b>
Salinity	<b><u>4 2 1 3</u></b>	<b><u>4 2 1 3</u></b>	<b><u>4 2 1 3</u></b>
Dissolved Oxygen	NS	NS	NS
pH	<b><u>2 1 3 4</u></b>	<b><u>2 3 1 4</u></b>	<b><u>2 1 3 4</u></b>
Turbidity	NS	<b><u>1 3 2 4</u></b>	<b><u>1 3 2 4</u></b>
Color Units	<b><u>1 2 3 4</u></b>	---	---
Fecal Coliform	NS	---	---
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)	NA	---	---
<b>Metal, Cyanide, Hydrocarbon, and TSS Analyses**</b>			
Arsenic	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Cadmium	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Chromium	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Copper	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Mercury	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Nickel	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Lead	NS <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Silver	NA <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Zinc	NA <sup>D</sup> , NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Cyanide	NA <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons (as BETX)	NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons (TAqH)	NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Total Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (TPAH)	NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	NS <sup>TR</sup>	---	---

\* Kruskal-Wallis tests were performed on four station groups (Group 1: Within-ZID Sites; Group 2: ZID Boundary Sites; Group 3: Nearfield Sites; and Group 4: Control Sites). Results from the Dunn Test procedure (Two-tailed test) have been **bolded** where significant pairwise differences were found among groups. Underlined groups (arranged left to right, from lowest to highest rank) are NOT significantly different from each other at  $p > 0.05$ ; see: Zar, 1999, Ed. 4.

\*\* Mann-Whitney U Tests were performed on two station groups: Drogue F1 stations at the outfall site and Drogue C1 stations at the control site.

--- Not Applicable (surface samples only)

NS Not Significant Kruskal-Wallis or Mann-Whitney Test Result ( $p > 0.05$ )

NA Statistical analyses not conducted because the number of non-detected values were  $>50\%$  for one or more groups.

D Dissolved Fraction.

TR Total Recoverable Fraction

Statistical differences for temperature and salinity were the result of the control stations being slightly warmer and less saline than those near the outfall. Though significant differences were found for some parameters, variations between station groupings were small and were attributed to greater riverine influences at the control stations and not to any influence from the Pt. Woronzof discharge. This is similar to that seen in prior years, where the control stations were often found to be warmer and less saline as a result of greater riverine influence on the north side of Knik Arm as a result of freshwater inputs from the Matanuska and Knik Rivers that also sometimes affect DO and pH levels since the water is from a different source. Control sites have also been typically more turbid, probably due to higher currents in the area.

All pH values at both the outfall and control stations fell well within AWQS of 6.5 - 8.5 and did not vary more than 0.2 pH units as required by AWQS (Table 27). For color, all receiving water values were  $\leq 5$  color units, well below the AWQS of 15 color units, except for Station F1-1 which returned a value of 20 color units which was taken within the ZID directly over the outfall diffuser at low slack water.

In addition to standard water quality sampling, concentrations of TAH as BETX and TPAH were measured at the surface at six stations (three at the control site and three at the flood tide outfall site, along the first drogue track at each location). For TPAH, TAqH, and BETX, the outfall stations were not found to be statistically significantly different than the control locations. All BETX summations were below the AWQS of 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  with the highest value of  $<0.92$   $\mu\text{g/L}$  seen at Station F1-1 within the ZID. All TPAH levels were relatively low with a maximum of 0.737  $\mu\text{g/L}$  at Station F1-1. TAqH concentrations were calculated for all six stations using the MDL for all ND values, yielding a maximum of  $<1.66$   $\mu\text{g/L}$  at Station F1-1, far below the AWQS of 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .

The State's receiving water quality standard for the "growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, aquatic life, and wildlife including seabirds, waterfowl, and furbearers" is 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for TAqH and 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  for TAH as seen in Table 27. These standards were met during receiving water sampling at any outfall locations. In addition, for contact recreation, AWQS for hydrocarbons is as follows: "May not cause a film, sheen, or discoloration on the surface or floor of the waterbody or adjoining shorelines. Surface waters must be virtually free from floating oils." No film, sheen, or discoloration was observed at any station during the 2022 receiving water-sampling program, and none was observed on adjoining shorelines.

A comparison of water quality data listed in Table 15 with marine receiving water quality criteria for the State of Alaska (Table 19 and Table 27) indicates that all of the parameters listed in Table 15 met AWQS outside of the ZID. Only one TRC concentration was above the PQL of 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ; (F1-1 tested at 40  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). Based on the maximum daily effluent TRC concentration of 0.898  $\text{mg/L}$  (898  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) for the entire year and a dilution credit of 180:1 in the NPDES permit, the highest potential estimate of TRC concentration at the ZID boundary would be 5.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , which meets AWQS at all receiving water locations outside of the ZID. Also, although TRC analyses were only able to achieve a PQL of 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  that is slightly higher than the 7.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  chronic limit, ADEC considers a PQL of 100  $\mu\text{g/L}$ , which is 10 times higher, to be the reasonable and achievable limit for regulatory purposes.

**Table 27. State of Alaska Water Quality Standards for Receiving Water.**

Parameter	Most Restrictive Marine Water Quality Standards								
Fecal Coliform	Based on a 5-tube decimal dilution test the fecal coliform median most probable number (MPN) may not exceed 14 FC/100 mL (harvesting for consumption of raw mollusks or other raw aquatic life); a geometric mean of 20 FC/100 mL (for aquaculture of products not normally cooked and seafood processing); and not more than ten percent (10%) of the samples may exceed 40 FC/100 mL (aquaculture of products not normally cooked and seafood processing).								
Dissolved Oxygen	Dissolved oxygen concentrations in estuaries and tidal tributaries may not be less than 5.0 mg/L except where natural conditions cause this value to be depressed.								
pH	pH may not be less than 6.5 or greater than 8.5, and may not vary more than 0.2 pH unit outside of the naturally occurring range.								
Turbidity	Turbidity may not exceed the natural conditions.								
Temperature	May not cause the weekly average temperature to increase more than 1°C. The maximum rate of change may not exceed 0.5°C per hour. Normal daily temperature cycles may not be altered in amplitude or frequency.								
Salinity	<p>Maximum allowable variation above natural salinity:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 1003 1024 1213"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="544 1003 808 1073">Natural Salinity (‰)</th> <th data-bbox="808 1003 1024 1073">Human-induced Salinity (‰)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1073 808 1123">0 to 3.5</td> <td data-bbox="808 1073 1024 1123">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1123 808 1173">&gt;3.5 to 13.5</td> <td data-bbox="808 1123 1024 1173">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1173 808 1213">&gt;13.5 to 35.0</td> <td data-bbox="808 1173 1024 1213">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Natural Salinity (‰)	Human-induced Salinity (‰)	0 to 3.5	1	>3.5 to 13.5	2	>13.5 to 35.0	4
Natural Salinity (‰)	Human-induced Salinity (‰)								
0 to 3.5	1								
>3.5 to 13.5	2								
>13.5 to 35.0	4								
Sediment	No measurable increase in concentrations above natural conditions.								
Color	Color may not exceed 15 color units or the natural conditions, whichever is greater.								
Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Oils and Grease	Total aqueous hydrocarbons (TAQH) in the water column may not exceed 15 µg/L. Total aromatic hydrocarbons (TAH) in the water column may not exceed 10 µg/L. May not cause a film, sheen, or discoloration on the surface or floor of the water-body or adjoining shorelines. Surface waters must be virtually free from floating oils.								
Total Residual Chlorine	May not exceed 13 µg/L (one-hr average) acute and 7.5 µg/L (four-day average) chronic; for marine aquatic life.								
Toxic and Other Deleterious Substances	See Table 19.								

TSS and total recoverable and dissolved metals samples collected at the outfall and control sites were also subject to statistical testing. No statistically significant differences were noted for any of these parameters.

Some of the dissolved metals tested in receiving water (Table 16) as part of this 2022 monitoring program (copper, mercury, and nickel) exceeded AWQS at some locations as a result of field filtration problems previously described. As a result of the filtration issues, all of the receiving water dissolved metals concentrations were elevated compared to the historic range and should not be utilized for natural background determinations. Testing of antimony, beryllium, selenium, and thallium in receiving water is not required by the permit and was not performed in 2022. Since the adoption of more appropriate SSWQC for dissolved metals in May 1999 and the adoption of dissolved metals in the AWQS, the receiving waters of Cook Inlet near the Asplund WPCF discharge have always been in compliance with the AWQS with the exceptions noted above.

Cyanide results in receiving water samples tested as ND ( $<0.9 \mu\text{g/L}$ ) except for one sample taken at Station F1-1 directly over the outfall that had a concentration of  $4.7 \mu\text{g/L}$ . The AWQS for cyanide (tested as free cyanide) is  $1.0 \mu\text{g/L}$  although the permit requires testing of total cyanide. The cyanide concentration in the effluent sample collected in conjunction with the priority pollutant sampling was  $1.1 \mu\text{g/L}$ , well below the MAEC of  $181 \mu\text{g/L}$ . Also, it should be noted that cyanide detection in seawater is prone to interference.

***In summation, statistical analyses of 2022 receiving water quality data indicated that water quality outside the ZID was not degraded in comparison to control stations for any parameter as a result of the outfall. Differences noted in some parameters such as temperature, salinity, pH, and turbidity were attributed to riverine influences and were not caused by the Asplund WPCF discharge. All AWQS were met in 2022 for the receiving water quality monitoring at all locations in the vicinity of the outfall with the exception of a few dissolved metal parameters that were slightly elevated due to field filtration issues and not to Asplund discharge related influences. No statistically significant differences between the outfall and control site were seen for any dissolved or total recoverable metal, TSS, or hydrocarbons.***

#### **4.2.2 FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA**

In the past, ADEC has indicated that one of their primary concerns is bacterial contamination of the shoreline by the Asplund WPCF discharge, as indicated by fecal coliform bacteria concentrations. Because Knik Arm's water uses have not been classified, regulations provide that the most restrictive standard must apply.

State marine water quality standards for contact recreation require that the geometric mean fecal coliform concentration taken within a 30-day period not exceed 100 FC/100 mL and that not more than one sample, or more than 10% of the samples if there are more than 10, exceed 200 FC/100 mL. Criteria for secondary recreation and for industrial water supply require that mean fecal coliform concentration not exceed 200 FC/100 mL and that not more than 10% of samples exceed 400 FC/100 mL. State marine water quality criteria for harvesting for consumption of raw mollusks or other raw aquatic life require that, based on a 5-tube decimal dilution test, the median shall not exceed 14 FC/100 mL and that not more than 10% of the samples shall exceed 43 FC/100 mL. For seafood processing and aquaculture water supply for products not normally cooked, criteria are that the geometric mean may not exceed 20 FC/100 mL and not more than 10% of the samples shall exceed 40 FC/100 mL. For aquaculture processing water supply for products normally

cooked, criteria are that the geometric mean may not exceed 200 FC/100 mL and not more than 10% of the samples shall exceed 400 FC/100 mL.

Since harvesting of shellfish and other raw aquatic life is not performed in these waters and there is no aquaculture or seafood processing, it seems that criteria for secondary recreation is most applicable; however, secondary recreation criteria are not the most restrictive. Taking into account all potential water uses, the most restrictive criteria are the following: median shall not exceed 14 FC/100 mL (consumption of raw shellfish and other aquatic life); the geometric mean shall not exceed 20 FC/100 mL (seafood processing and aquaculture for raw consumption); and not more than 10% of samples shall exceed 40 FC/100 mL (seafood processing and aquaculture for raw consumption; Table 27).

Statistical analyses performed for fecal coliform on station groupings for the ZID, ZID-boundary, or near-field stations as compared to the control locations indicated no statistical differences between locations. Fecal coliform concentrations ranged from <1.8 to 7.8 FC/100 mL at outfall stations (including the within-ZID stations) and <1.8 to 4.5 FC/100 mL at control stations. The median of all outfall stations was 2.0 FC/100 mL (including stations both within and outside the ZID for both ebb and flood tides), well within the 14 FC/100 mL criterion; the median at control stations was <1.8 FC/100 mL. Outfall stations (inside and outside the ZID) had a geometric mean 2.8 FC/100 mL, while the control site had a geometric mean of 2.3 FC/100 mL, both well below the criterion of 20 FC/100 mL. All samples taken at either outfall or control station locations met the criteria of not more than 10% of the measurements may exceed 40 FC/100 mL.

The range of fecal coliform concentrations for all intertidal samples collected during 2022 was similar to that seen in prior years, ranging from a low of <1.8 to a high of 14 FC/100 mL at Station IT-1, with a median of 2.0 FC/100 mL and a geometric mean of 3.1 FC/100 mL. These values met the most restrictive water quality criterion of a median of 14 FC/100 mL and a geometric mean of 20 FC/100 mL. Intertidal samples also met the criterion of not more than 10% of the samples may exceed 40 FC 100/mL. While high concentrations were not seen in 2022 or during the last few years, in the past, elevated fecal concentrations sometimes occurred in the intertidal area that were attributed to heavy waterfowl use and were not believed to be the result of the effluent discharge. The area is also heavily used in summer by hikers accessing the beach at Point Woronzof to walk their dogs.

Elevated fecal coliform bacteria concentrations were seen in all three area creeks sampled in 2022, where sampling was performed in fresh water prior to its entering marine waters in Knik Arm. Historical data indicated that these three streams have had much higher levels of fecal coliform than marine waters that were tested in the vicinity of Point Woronzof. Two replicate fecal coliform concentrations in Fish Creek were measured at 79 and 79 FC/100 mL (refer to Table 18). Replicate concentrations in Ship Creek measured 2.0 and 33 FC/100 mL, while those at Chester Creek were 79 and 170 FC/100 mL. Fecal coliform concentrations from Chester, Fish, and Ship Creeks that discharge into Knik Arm were on average much greater than those measured in receiving water at the intertidal, outfall, or control locations, and more importantly, exceeded concentrations seen in Asplund WPCF's effluent discharge.

Fecal coliform concentrations in effluent samples collected in conjunction with receiving water, intertidal, and stream sampling were 13 and 17 FC/100 mL. These values were similar to geometric mean monthly effluent values reported in 2022 for the Asplund WPCF, which ranged from 2.6 to 28.0 FC/100 mL with an overall annual mean of 9.3 FC/100 mL.

*In summary, fecal coliform concentrations in 2022 were found to be very low in the receiving waters. Statistically analyses performed for fecal coliform on station groupings for the ZID, ZID-boundary, or near-field stations as compared to the control locations indicated no statistical differences between station groupings. Fecal coliform samples collected during the receiving water sampling program met all AWQS criteria, including all outfall stations both within and outside the ZID. Fecal concentrations in area creeks in 2022 were again found to be elevated but within the historical range for fecal coliform concentrations seen in prior years. It is clear that area streams are an important source of fecal coliform loading to the receiving waters of Knik Arm and that waterfowl use of the intertidal areas may cause elevated fecal coliform levels that are higher than those being discharged by the Asplund WPCF.*

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions were based on results from the 2022 monitoring effort as compared to the current NPDES permit and State of Alaska water quality standards:

- Influent, effluent, and sludge monitoring showed that the Asplund WPCF met the NPDES requirements and complied with all applicable CWA and AWQS limits with only one exception in 2022. The percent removal for BOD<sub>5</sub> was found to be lower than the 30% monthly requirement during November. AWWU's self-monitoring of TRC, BOD<sub>5</sub>, pH, fecal coliform, and TSS showed compliance with all permit effluent limitations.
- AWWU's self-monitoring of effluent TRC and pH showed that the permit limit for daily maximum TRC was met, and pH was always within permit limitations.
- Fecal coliform concentrations in the effluent were low; neither the permitted limit of 850 FC/100 mL as a monthly maximum geometric mean, nor the monthly criterion “that not more than 10% of the effluent samples shall exceed 2600 FC/100 mL” were exceeded.
- AWWU's self-monitoring of TSS and BOD<sub>5</sub> showed compliance with all regulatory and permit effluent limitations except the required removal rate of  $\geq 30\%$  as stipulated by the amendment to the CWA. The BOD<sub>5</sub> removal rate during November fell to 24%. Effluent concentrations of TSS and BOD<sub>5</sub> were otherwise well below the daily, weekly, and monthly permit limits for the entire year. Average annual removals were 76% for TSS and 36% for BOD<sub>5</sub>, indicating a high level of primary treatment was typically achieved.
- Effluent TAH and TAqH were below their MAECs during 2022 as calculated from AWQS and the mixing zone dilution credit.
- Concentrations of metals, cyanide, and total ammonia in the effluent never exceeded their MAECs at any time during any of the 2022 monitoring events.
- Concentrations of toxic pollutants and pesticides, including metals and cyanide, in the influent and effluent were all within the established range or lower than values from a national study of secondary treatment plants (EPA, 1982a).
- Toxic pollutant sludge concentrations were found to be very low compared to the limits established by 40 CFR Part 503. Sludge metals were similar in range or lower than values from a national study of secondary treatment plants with all metals well below the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile worst-case values (EPA, 1985c).
- With the exception of one urchin fertilization test performed during the third quarter, results of quarterly WET testing met the permit limit and all were below the permitted trigger level for all species and events in 2022. The third quarter urchin test was reperformed as required by the permit returning acceptable results.
- Little variation among stations was observed for most hydrographic parameters indicating that the receiving water environment is uniform and well mixed near the outfall.
- To test the hypothesis that water quality at the ZID boundary was not degraded with respect to water quality at near-field and control stations, statistical comparisons were made. Some statistical differences were noted in water characteristics (e.g., temperature, salinity, pH,

and turbidity); however, these were not ascribed to the outfall but were due to riverine influences and higher currents at the control stations.

- Fecal coliform concentrations in receiving water and intertidal samples were found to be low at all locations. AWQS criteria of a median of not more than 14 FC/100 mL, a geometric mean of not more than 20 FC/100 mL, and of not more than 10% of the samples exceeding 40 FC/100 mL were met at all receiving water and intertidal locations including stations located within the mixing zone boundary.
- Supplemental receiving water samples obtained as part of the plume monitoring indicated total metals were elevated compared to dissolved metals due to the naturally high suspended sediment load in Cook Inlet. Dissolved metals were generally higher than those seen historically at all locations with the high results ascribed to a problem with inadequate field filtration due to high sediment loads. No statistically significant differences between the outfall and control station groupings were seen for any dissolved or total recoverable metal.
- Supplemental receiving water samples demonstrated that TAH and TAqH met the AWQS at all locations and were not statistically different between the control and outfall stations.
- Supplemental receiving water cyanide samples met AWQS at all locations with the exception of one sample taken within the ZID directly over the outfall.
- TRC was only detected at a single receiving water location in 2022, Station F1-1 directly over the outfall at low slack tide. All other measurements were <10 µg/L compared to the marine AWQS of 7.5 µg/L for chronic, 13.0 µg/L for acute, and ADEC's PQL of 100 µg/L. Based on the highest daily effluent TRC concentration (898 µg/L) and a 180:1 dilution credit, the maximum TRC at the ZID boundary was estimated to be 5.0 µg/L, meeting all AWQS.
- Turbidity did not exceed natural conditions and color met AWQS and did not exceed 5 color units at any receiving water station other than at Station F1-1 within the ZID directly over the outfall at low slack tide.

## **SUMMARY**

In summary, results from the past year of the monitoring program confirm years of previous studies, data in the NPDES permit and 301(h) variance renewal application, and the decision by EPA to reissue the NPDES permit with a 301(h) variance. The Asplund WPCF operated within regulatory requirements during 2022 with few exceptions and has shown no measurable impacts to the marine environment. In addition to the good performance seen in 2022, the Asplund WPCF received the distinguished Platinum Award for exceptional plant performance and permit compliance from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for 2018, after four consecutive years of Gold Awards given from 2014 through 2017. In addition, the Asplund WPCF received another Gold Award in 2021 for exceptional performance and permit compliance.



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