

WHERE DID YOUR GARBAGE GO?

When you eat or are eating or drinking something, where do you throw your garbage? Did you know it may have ended up in Odiak Pond? Too much garbage hurts the environment and us and that is what I am going to talk to you about. The 7th graders did a monitoring project this year with the Copper River Watershed Project. Groups from the 7th grade class were divided to start the monitoring in November 2010. Odiak Pond is located behind the hospital in Cordova. We found too much garbage in the pond so we want to help all living things in the pond.

We shouldn't be throwing garbage into the environment because there are living things that can be affected by it. Trash that is thrown around Cordova enters the storm drains when it rains and ends up in Odiak Pond. We found a huge amount of trash like candy wrappers, cans of beer, soda and more! The fish might eat little wrappers of candy thinking that it is food and it could make them sick and even die. There are many places to throw our garbage, such as the garbage cans on main street and other places around town. I walk around town and see trash every place that I go. When people's garbage ends up in the pond it makes the pond dirty. During the winter we picked up all of the garbage and wanted to clean it up as well. On Saturday, May 14th, it was clean-up in Cordova and even though our project was over, many 7th graders went to Odiak Pond to clean it up again. We collected almost 20 garbage bags full of trash. After we finished, Odiak Pond actually looked more clean.

I hope you have learned about how much trash is actually getting into the environment in Cordova. Especially the salmon's environment at Odiak Pond. We need your help to get your trash to the garbage can and not into the pond or somewhere else because it affects our life, our salmon and our Earth.

