# Tidal energy technology and ORPC's projects in Cook Inlet

Presented to NOAA/AEA stakeholder





Monty Worthington, Project Development Director,
ORPC Alaska LLC

## Ocean Renewable Power Company Overview

 Developer of technology and projects that convert river, tidal, and ocean currents into emission free electricity



- Founded in 2004 with executive offices in Portland, Maine and project offices in
  - Anchorage, AK (ORPC Alaska, LLC)
  - Eastport, Maine (ORPC Maine, LLC)
- Project sites in Cook Inlet and Nenana, AK, and Eastport, ME
- Beta TldGen™ Power
   System deployed and tested March December
   2010

## **ORPC Philosophy**



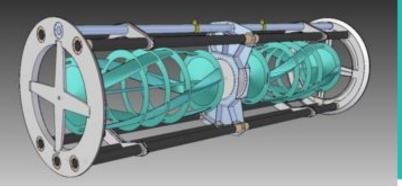
- Community driven and focused
- Technology
   development and
   environmental
   considerations are
   intrinsically
   connected

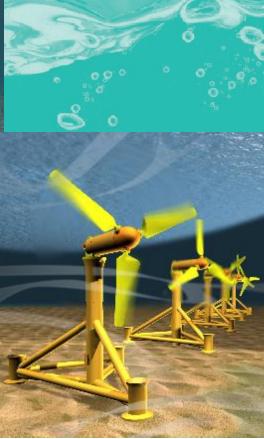


## Tidal energy technology 5- 10 years ago ...

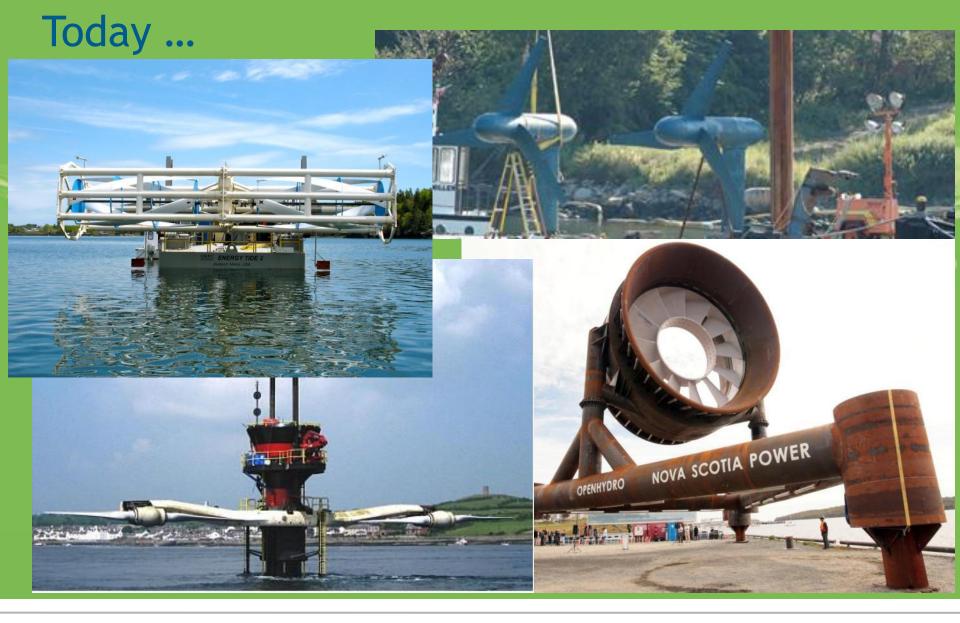










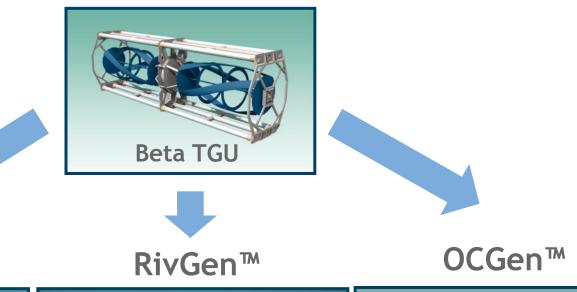






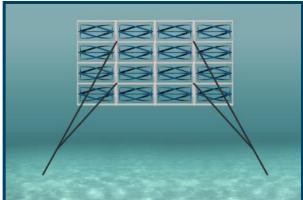


## **ORPC Power Systems**











#### ORPC Alaska's Cook Inlet project sites

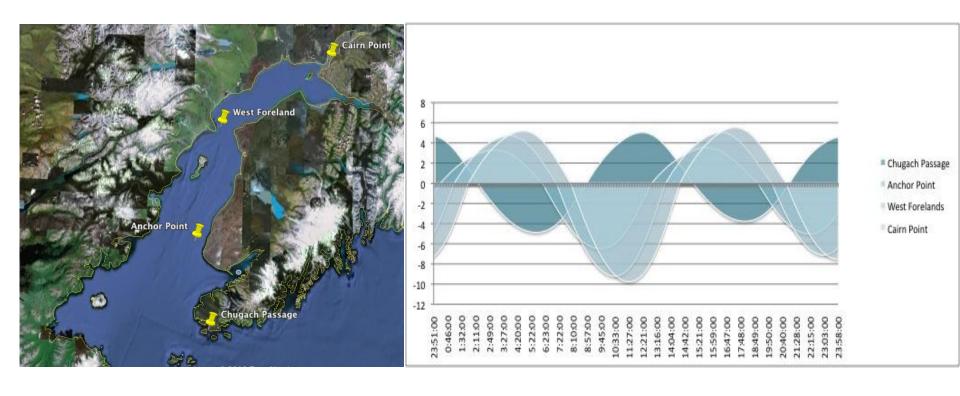


#### Why Cook Inlet?

- 4<sup>th</sup> largest tidal range in the world up to 12 meters (40 feet)
- Current velocities up to 10 knots
- Tidal resource is in the vicinity of electrical infrastructure - the Railbelt Grid

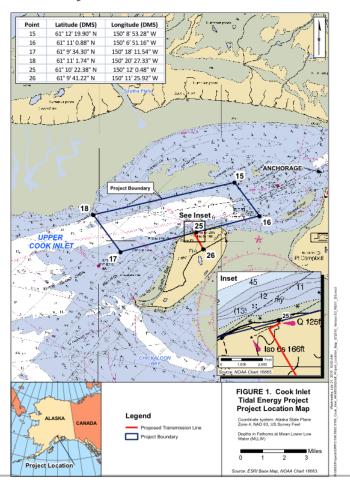


#### **Cook Inlet Tidal Current Phases**

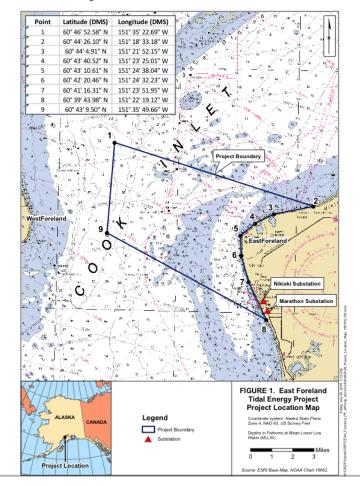




Cook Inlet Tidal Energy Project
 2nd Preliminary Permit issued 10/13/10

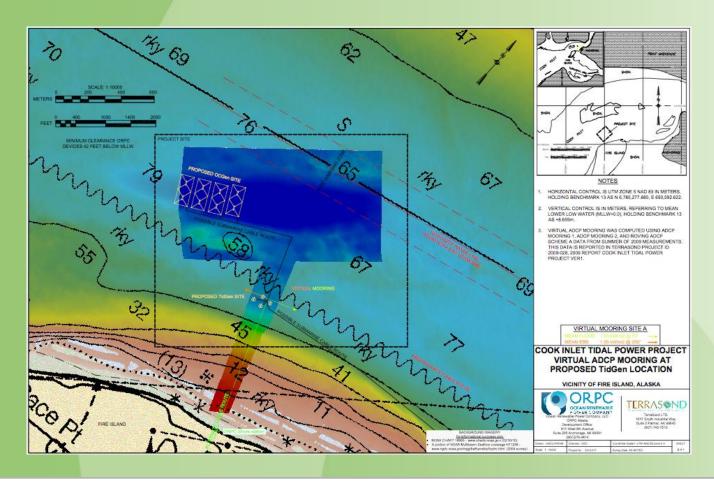


• East Foreland Tidal Energy Project Preliminary Permit issued 3/13/11



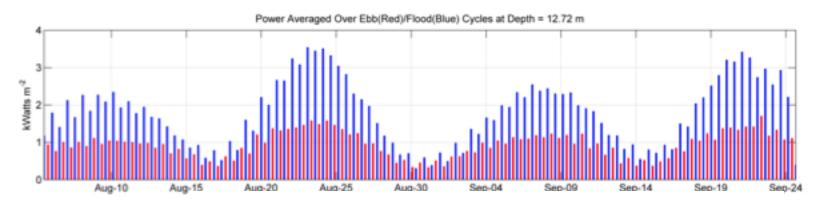


#### Fire Island





#### Resource at Fire Island Site



#### **Summary Statistics**

 $Reported\ at\ middle\ of\ water\ column$ 

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Site	ADM-1	ADM-2	ADM-3	Cook
Velocity				
Mean speed (m/s)	1.05	1.08	1.12	1.28
Max sustained speed (m/s)	2.73	2.93	2.91	2.78
Ebb/flood asymmetry	0.97	0.95	0.96	0.85
Vertical shear (m/s per m)	0.0108	0.0236	0.0178	0.028
Power				
Mean power density (kW/m²)	1.28	1.51	1.34	1.71
Ebb/flood asymmetry	0.91	0.91	0.88	0.55
Direction				
Principle axis (deg)	139	132	137	66
Standard deviation (deg)	11	6	12	4
Ebb/flood asymmetry (deg)	15.1	4.1	26.3	6.2



## East Foreland Cook Inlet Tidal Energy Pilot Project Site -Project Development

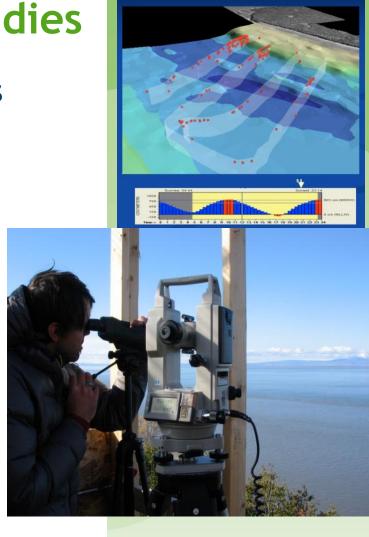






#### **Cook Inlet Environmental Studies**

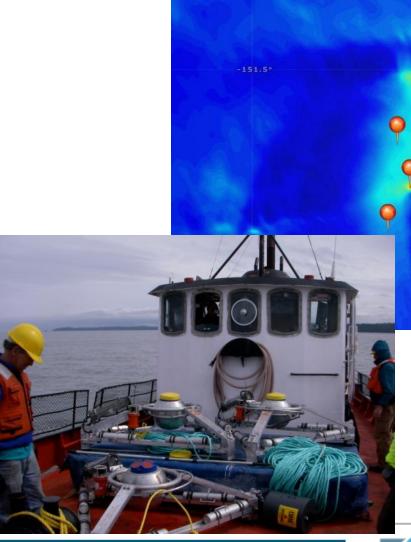
- Pre and post deployment fish studies
- Pre and post deployment Beluga monitoring
  - Visual monitoring
  - Passive Acoustic Monitoring
- Sediment transport modeling
  - Working with UAA researchers to develop modeling and study plan





#### Work Planned for 2011-2012 at East Foreland

- Circulation modeling performed at UAA
- Stationary ADCP survey for full lunar cycle (28 days)
- Scoping and initiation of environmental studies
- Geophysical and geotechnical data collection including detailed multibeam bathymetry, sidescan, sub bottom profiler





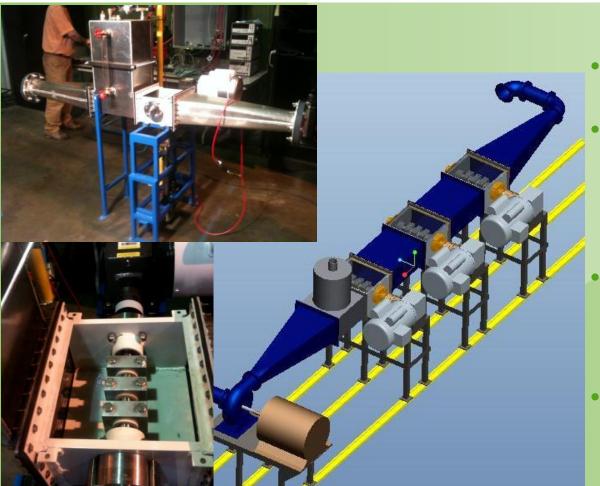
#### **Economic Benefits**



- High quality, sustainable Jobs
- Money to local economies
- Out of state investment
- Exportable expertise
- New materials & fabrication techniques



#### Bringing investment to Alaska



- \$600,000 (DOE): beluga monitoring
- \$240,000 (DOE): Flume at UAA to circulate high silt content water and test critical device components
- \$830,000 (Denali Commission EETG funds): Phase 1 of the Nenena RivGen™ Project
- Over \$1,000,000 private capital invested in ORPC projects in Alaska



#### **Economic Impact** Central Alaska Partners, Contractors, Vendors and Consultants







## Tidal Energy in Alaska is possible, working together we can help make it a reality

**Questions?** 

