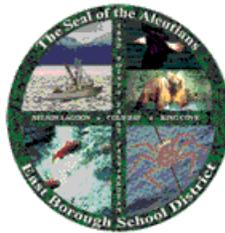
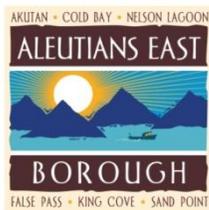


In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Alaska Supreme Court Approves Amended Proclamation Plan for 2012 Elections

The Alaska Supreme Court ruled this week that the ‘Amended Proclamation Plan’, adopted by the Redistricting Board on April 5th, 2012, will be the interim plan in place for the 2012 elections until a final plan can be approved by the Board/Courts.

The interim plan keeps the Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands and Nunivak Island together with all of the Alaska Peninsula. That area stretches from Egegik to the northeast, along with Bethel, and as far as to the coastal communities east of Kuskokwim Bay, including Eek, Quinhagak, Goodnews and Togiak in House District 37 (HD 37) .

The Aleutians East Borough is kept wholly within HD 37, yet is senate paired with a non-contiguous house district, HD 38. That area spans from Norton Sound and the Bering Sea, to the outskirts of Fairbanks.

The Lake & Peninsula Borough (LPB) is split between two house districts, HD 37 & HD 36. House District 36 is senate paired with HD 35, which spans from Kodiak to east of Yakutat. LPB was also split in the 2001 redistricting plan. LPB manager Lamar Cotten is satisfied with the result, saying that the arrangement has worked well for LPB, and that having two representatives and two senators equal better representation for the LPB communities.

Throughout the redistricting process, including public comment and court filings, the AEB has consistently advocated for a plan that keeps the Borough intact and maintains the status quo for HD 37 as much as possible. However, the interim HD 37 does not include Dillingham, hometown of Representative Bryce Edgmon, which means he will not be representing the AEB in the Alaska House for 2013.

Meanwhile Riley and Dearborn, plaintiffs in the Redistricting Case, have asked the Supreme Court to stay the Court's own order implementing the Interim Plan until the Department of Justice gives pre-clearance to the plan

A process to come up with a Final plan, for use in subsequent elections, has not yet been addressed by the Court.

[Read more - Bristol Bay Times article](#)

Murkowski Takes Frankenfish Fight to Senate Floor

Senator's Amendment Seeks Greater Scrutiny of Genetically-Engineered Fish



Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R – Alaska)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, Senator Lisa Murkowski filed an amendment to require a comprehensive analysis of the environmental and economic impacts of genetically-engineered fish by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The legislation would mean the same NOAA analysis and standards in place for federal fisheries would be required before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves genetically-modified salmon.

The FDA is presently evaluating the scientific and biological risks of so-called “Frankenfish” – but the agency is not required to evaluate how a worst-case scenario of fish escaping into the ocean ecosystem could adversely impact the seafood industry. Senator Murkowski’s amendment would require NOAA’s

research staff to prepare a review of potential drawbacks of genetically-engineered salmon becoming a reality, using the public review process Alaska's fishermen are used to.

“We need to look before we leap here, and make that a long hard look,” Murkowski said. “This means that we not only make sure that genetically-engineered salmon is healthy to put in our bodies and doesn't endanger our fishery resources, but also that it is healthy to our coastal environments and economies. Alaska produces over half of the nation's seafood, and constructing fish in a lab is a science experiment that adds a new variable to the equation – we need to fill in all the blanks before we put Frankenfish on our plates.”

Senator Murkowski's legislation has been co-sponsored by Senators Begich, Cantwell (D-WA), Leahy (D-VT), Merkley (D-OR) and Sanders (I-VT).

AEB Residents Provide Heartfelt Testimony at DEIS Izembek Land Exchange Public Meetings

Their testimony was heartfelt and at times, emotional. Many people had personal stories to share about sick or injured family members and friends who were medevaced from King Cove to Cold Bay in stormy, harrowing weather conditions.

“I lost two children because I couldn't get out of King Cove,” said resident Brenda Wilson, during a packed meeting in King Cove earlier this month (May 10, 2012). “I don't think it's right for our people to have to go through hurtful experiences like these because we're not allowed to have a road for safe travel. This is really important.”

Earlier this month, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conducted public meetings on the draft environmental impact statement on the Izembek land exchange and road leading from King Cove to the Cold Bay Airport. The meetings were held in Anchorage, Sand Point, Cold Bay and King Cove. The Service held a teleconference for residents in False Pass and Nelson Lagoon because poor weather prevented government officials from traveling to those communities. Residents in the AEB communities were overwhelmingly in favor of the land exchange and road corridor.



**King Cove resident Brenda Wilson.
Photo by Chris Babcock.**



About 70 people attended the King Cove DEIS public meeting on May 10th.

“On February 7th, my grandma was medevaced to Cold Bay by the U.S. Coast Guard,” said 14-year-old King Cove resident Dustin Newman. “She almost died. If the road was there, she would have made it sooner to Cold Bay. We are giving the federal government 56,000 acres of land for a simple 206 acres. Why is this decision so hard to decide on?”

Several years ago, Lonnie Brandell’s dad, Seward, who

was later diagnosed with double

pneumonia, was medevaced on a friend’s fishing boat to Cold Bay because bad weather prevented planes from flying. Getting to Cold Bay was only half of the battle.

“We helped him up the ladder to the Cold Bay dock. I pushed him up with three other guys,” said Lonnie. “It was tough for my dad. Nobody should have to go through something like that. We need that road to Cold Bay to save lives.”

“I’ve lost family members during medical emergencies because they couldn’t get out of here during bad weather,” said Dolores Kochuten. “My sister had a baby born on a boat in Cold Bay, and she lost the child.”

“In 2011, My ankle was broken in three places,” she added. “I

was sitting here waiting for the weather to calm down before crawling into a boat. Then, trying to climb a ladder with a broken ankle was really scary. We need this road.”

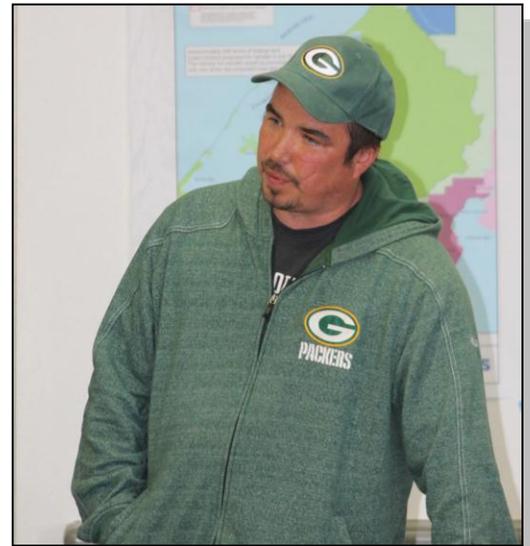


King Cove resident Rita Uttecht

“My son had meningitis when he was two months old,” said King Cove resident Rita Uttecht. “It was foggy and no planes were flying, so my dad took us over on a boat. It took a couple of hours to get there. When we got to Cold Bay we put him in a car seat and hoisted him up the ladder with a rope. Being a first-time mom, it was disturbing as I watched him sway back and forth

in his car seat while he was being pulled up the ladder.”

John Dickens of Bethel, testified that he and his family sympathize with the plight of King Cove residents.



King Cove resident Lonnie Brandell. Photo by Chris Babcock.

“How many good people are going to die? How many tears are going to be shed?” he asked. “How many people are going to suffer needlessly before this road is built? It must be built now. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should hang its head in shame for resisting this road and stalling.”

Anchorage resident Betty Smith, who used to live in Cold Bay, agreed.

“You would have to be heartless not to realize the terrible conditions the residents of King Cove find themselves in when they’re unable to travel back and forth to their village,” she said. “It’s ridiculous to think that a narrow road across the Izembek Refuge is going to affect wildlife in any way. God gave bears and caribou legs. They can walk across the road like any other road. God gave birds wings. They can fly without crashing into anything. It’s a huge refuge there.”



Anchorage resident Betty Smith.



AEB Mayor Stanley Mack. Photo by Chris Babcock.

During the Anchorage public meeting, several environmentalists testified in opposition to the proposed road corridor and land exchange.

“We’ve heard the environmental community say putting a road in the wilderness is like cutting a baby in half,” said AEB mayor Stanley Mack. “Never once have they realized that just up the hill here a ways, several little babies never got a chance in this world.”

“We lose lives. We lose family members,” said King

Cove resident Arnold Newman. “When you lose somebody, the whole town hurts. If you guys were in our shoes, if you lost a family member, you’d be in favor of this road.”



The DEIS public meeting in Anchorage was packed.

“The people who are against the road don’t even live there,” said Anchorage resident Marvin Moser. “I feel that the people who live there should have the road to protect their lives. Give them the quality of life that we, who live in Anchorage, have.”



King Cove resident Liza Mack.

King Cove resident Liza Mack is currently pursuing her PhD in indigenous studies at UAF. She testified in Anchorage that one of the things they talk about in her classes is how the human dimension is often taken out of the ecosystem.

“The Aleut people have been in this ecosystem for 20,000 years,” she said. “We’ve been there longer than the Defenders of Wildlife, longer than the Audubon Society, longer than the Sierra Club and longer than a lot of the hunters that have been flying in. We have been stewards of this land, and we have taken care of it for our people. We are resilient. So is our land. So are our

animals. We will respect that.”

King Cove resident Jackie Brandell testified that the children in this community are going to fight for this road as long as it takes for it to happen.



King Cove resident Jackie Brandell. Photo by Chris Babcock.

“We are important. We are more important, I would say, than the proposed harm to a bird that no one knows for sure would even happen if a road is built. We care about our people, and we care about the wildlife. We will take care of the animals because we need them to survive.”

“I’ve heard from opponents that building a road in the wilderness would set a dangerous precedent,” said Della

Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Corporation and the Agdaagux Tribal

Council. “I’m there to say that a terrible precedent has already been set by the federal government who failed completely to consult with us when this refuge was created. I’m here to testify that no refuge would ever have been possible without the ways of the Aleut people who walk lightly on these lands. We have given up too much already. We were told by the government that we would get back the lands we subsisted on during WWII,

lands important to our culture that were designated as wilderness. We are giving back lands to the government in exchange for a simple easement. That’s more than any other



Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Corporation and the Agdaagux Tribal Council.

environmental group or organization in this nation.”

King Cove Mayor Henry Mack testified that more than 50 years ago, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service didn't bother to contact the community's founding families about making the Izembek wilderness a refuge.

"Prior to 1960, when the Service wanted to make it a refuge, not one of those families was ever contacted saying they were going to come and take this piece of property that you folks are hunting and living on, and burn your cabins down, which they did. This forum that you folks are having is a forum that they were denied, and it hurts us that the Service has done that to us."

AEB Mayor Stanley Mack said either alternative 2 or 3, as described in the draft EIS, would be an acceptable alternative.

“Alternative 2 is the most inexpensive road corridor and it could be maintained at a very moderate cost,” he said.

King Cove resident Warren Wilson said keeping the road clear would be a fairly simple matter with the equipment that we have today.

“As far as the Steller’s eiders and the swans, we see 150

to 200 of them right here in the bay and that’s right next to our village. We’re driving by them every day. We’re the Native people and they’re the native bird, and we’re living together.”



King Cove resident Warren Wilson. Photo by Chris Babcock.

King Cove Administrator Gary Hennigh testified that the draft environmental impact statement that the public is responding to isn't fair to the people of King Cove.



King Cove City Administrator Gary Hennigh. Photo by Chris Babcock.

“It protects the things that they want to protect – the Tundra swans, the Black brant, the Steller’s eider, the bears and the caribou,” he said. “We have more than 100 pages of comment going back to the government, saying here are mistakes. The draft EIS is sub-standard, biased in many cases, and is either scientifically or factually incomplete or inadequate. It is unfair for the residents of King Cove, the Izembek region and the American public for the Secretary of the Interior to use this document to

make this public interest finding. I must also comment that being listed as a cooperating agency should be taken with a grain of salt. The Service knows that the cooperating agencies were not involved in all of those bogus impact evaluations they’re talking about. We’re very upset about

being excluded from that process. My primary purpose is to do everything possible to help the federal government make the final EIS as fair, factual and honest as possible. This is about you, the people of King Cove. Don't lose sight of that. We're not losing sight of that. We're working hard to insure this is understood."

Amberly Weiss, the AEB's former hovercraft captain, said she continues to hear environmentalists bring up that 32 medevacs were successfully completed by the Borough's hovercraft.

"More than half of those were completed in near perfect weather conditions," she said. "In other words, those patients were lucky. The other half of those medevacs were completed in pretty rough weather – weather bad enough to keep my crew and I from returning home for more than a week. But we were glad to do it to save a life. One time, it took us more than 4 hours to get to Cold Bay, which is usually a 20-minute ride. The patient had severe trauma and is very lucky to be alive."

"I don't hear anyone talking about the medevacs that could not be completed," Amberly added. "I can testify to at least one during my employment with the Aleutians East Borough. We could not complete this medevac due to extreme cold temperatures and winds upward of 70 miles per

hour. It is the worst feeling in the world to tell someone, 'No. I'm sorry. We can't save you.' But we had no choice. I pray to God that you, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, don't say the same thing – that we can't help you, because you can. You have a choice. Make the choice to save a life."

In November 2011, the AEB announced that it was no longer financially feasible to continue hovercraft operations between King Cove and Cold Bay, so the Borough ended service between the two communities. The craft faced frequent obstacles such as severe and unpredictable weather combined with excessive costs. That means unless a road is built, small plane travel is the community's only option, weather-permitting.

Orin Seybert, founder of PenAir, testified in Anchorage that he believes the proposed road from King Cove to



The DEIS public meeting in Anchorage was held on May 3rd.



PenAir founder Orin Seybert

Cold Bay is absolutely necessary.

“I’m asked once in a while why I support this road if it’s going to take business away from the airline. There’s a much larger picture here,” he said. “We built our company by helping people and working with them. We’d be glad to be rid of that route (from Cold Bay to King Cove).”

Former AEB Administrator Sharon Boyette said that although she will miss the Borough residents, she will not miss flying in and out of King Cove.

“It truly is a terrifying flight,” she said. “And even when it’s not a terrifying flight, you’re ready for it to be a scary flight. I also won’t miss having to jump from a bucking fishing vessel onto an icy ladder to get off on the Cold Bay dock when poor weather won’t allow planes to fly. People shouldn’t have to do that. This road is really needed. It’s the right thing to do.”



Retired AEB Administrator Sharon Boyette

“It just amazes me that we have waited this long to give the people of King Cove a road that they need,” added Betty Smith of Anchorage.



AEB Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten

“The reluctance of the United States government to provide a road is a good example of bad decisions that assumes a one size fits all land designation should trump the logic and merits of this project,” said Sam Cotten, AEB Fisheries Consultant and former Alaska lawmaker.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is planning to release the final EIS in the fall. The Secretary of the Interior is expected to make a decision on whether the land exchange and road corridor is in the public interest by the end of this year.

Visit AEB’s Facebook link below to read more testimony from the DEIS public meetings.

<http://www.facebook.com/AleutiansEastBorough>



AEB Mayor, Natural Resources Director Attend ASMI/Alaska Railroad's Great Alaska Cook-Off

By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director



The Great Alaska Cook-Off, held Monday, May 14th, was sponsored by ASMI and the Alaska Railroad. Photos by Ernie Weiss.

AEB Mayor Mack and I attended the ASMI/Alaska Railroad-sponsored Great Alaska Cook-Off Monday, May 14th. The evening began as we boarded the train at the Historic Anchorage Train Depot near Ship Creek, less than an hour after Stanley arrived in Anchorage from Sand Point. The train traveled down Turnagain Arm as far as Indian Valley, before returning to Anchorage, this time to the Bill Sheffield Train Depot at the Ted Stevens Intl. Airport. Once the

train arrived, the Cook-off began, and Stanley and I sat down to eat

with Senator Lyman Hoffman and his wife Lillian.

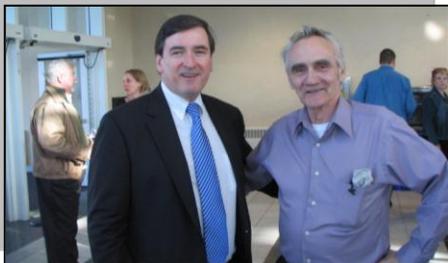
We were able to see many friends and acquaintances during the evening. The mood was particularly upbeat, as the Governor had just signed the capital budget earlier in the day, leaving all our area projects intact. That meant congratulations and thanks for the Senator and

members of the Governors team, including John Moller.



The cook-off was held at the Bill Sheffield Train Depot at the Ted Stevens International Airport.

Earlier in the day at the ASMI Board meeting, I gave a quick presentation to the Board about our fishing communities and transportation hub, Cold Bay, that we hope will be used for live crab shipments directly to China. Bob Tkacz, Asia Correspondent for Pacific Fishing Magazine was interested in this initiative and requested a copy of the packet of materials I had given to the Board. Later at the Cook-Off, Bob told the Mayor and I that we



Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan and AEB Mayor Stanley Mack.

need to go to the China Seafood Expo, if we are serious about this venture.

Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan was at the ASMI Board meeting and the Cook-off, and he and Mayor Stanley Mack acted like old friends, just like everyone who meets Stanley for only the second time. We left the event an hour early, not waiting for the 9 p.m. train back downtown, instead hailing a cab, with full stomachs and tired feet.

Sand Point Gets Ambulance from City of Delta Junction

The City of Sand Point is about to become the proud owner of a “new” ambulance, thanks to the generosity of the City of Delta Junction. Delta Junction recently received a newer model and no longer needed its 2002 vehicle. The interior City of 1,000 residents agreed to transfer the 10 year-old ambulance to Sand Point after making contact with Sand Point’s E.M.T. supervisor Susan Shoemaker.



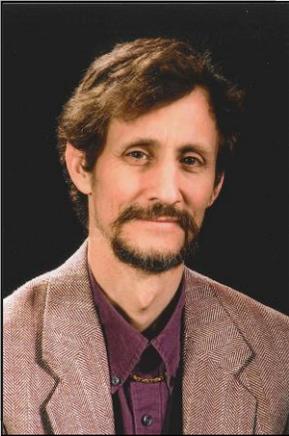
The City of Delta Junction donated an ambulance to the City of Sand Point.

Sand Point City Administrator Paul Day just returned to Anchorage from Delta Junction this week with the donated vehicle. The ambulance is going to Sand Point on the next ferry, due to arrive on Thursday, May 31st.

AEBSD Announces Selection of New Superintendent

The Aleutians East Borough School district is pleased to announce its choice for a new superintendent, beginning July 1, 2012. Mr. Tim Stathis has accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools for the Aleutians East Borough School District.

Mr. Stathis has an extensive background in the field of education. He is currently the Director of Curriculum in the Yukon Flats School District. Previously, he was a principal in Venetie, Alaska. He also worked in the Iditarod, Yukon-Koyukuk, Lower Yukon, Southeast Island and Lower



Mr. Tim Stathis will begin his position as AEBSB Superintendent beginning July 1, 2012.

Kuskokwim School Districts. He was awarded his Master of Arts and undergraduate degrees from the University of Alaska Southeast.

“My wife and I are looking forward to settling in and serving the communities of the Aleutians East Borough,” Mr. Stathis said.

He believes in the empowerment of the people of the communities served by the school district to help drive the direction and advancement of the district’s mission. Mr. Stathis plans to begin his new responsibilities by finding out what the ideas, concerns, goals and highest hopes of the

communities are for the education of their children.

“The children themselves may have ideas,” said Mr. Stathis. “Certainly their teachers shall. Parents, elders and interested citizens all have something to offer and a part to play.”

His goal is to put into action excellence in instruction that is motivating to students. In addition, he plans to enable programs that are responsive to the interest of the communities for the future of their children.

Mr. Stathis visited the Aleutians East Borough School District office in Sand Point on April 27th. He also participated in a community reception and a forum at the school. It was then that he interviewed with the board and accepted the position of Superintendent.

AEB School Board Members Bring Back Innovative Ideas from National School Board Conference



Tiffany Jackson, Hillary Smith and Susie Osterback of the Aleutians East Borough School District joined more than 5,000 school boards and educators in attending the 2012 National School Boards Association’s (NSBA) Annual Conference last month in Boston.

“At NSBA’s Annual Conference, we learned about innovations in education to make our district better and to strengthen student achievement,” said Jackson. “It was a great experience to learn

from experts and our school board member peers about new ideas to provide quality education in these difficult economic times.”

NSBA’s Annual Conference offered leadership development and opportunities for collaboration from a nationwide network of colleagues. With a focus on workable solutions for school districts, the conference featured sessions on current hot topics affecting local school districts, including: increasing student achievement, federal legislation and funding, managing schools during tough economic times, education technology, school law issues, school bullying and cyber bullying and school health and nutrition. The conference also served as one of the largest expositions of education products, technologies and services in the country.



“The conference offered solid strategies to not only weather tight budget times but also to improve academic achievement and better understand the needs of the 21st Century student,” said Jackson. “From what we learned at the conference, we will be exploring new initiatives to lead our district to academic success while saving money.”



Founded in 1940, NSBA is a not-for-profit organization representing state associations of school boards and their more than 90,000 local school board members throughout the U.S. Working with and through our state associations, NSBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership.

For more information on the conference, visit: www.nsba.org/conference .

Winners of the King Cove Writing Contest Announced

The following students are the winners of a writing contest focused on why the land exchange and proposed road corridor from King Cove to Cold Bay is necessary:

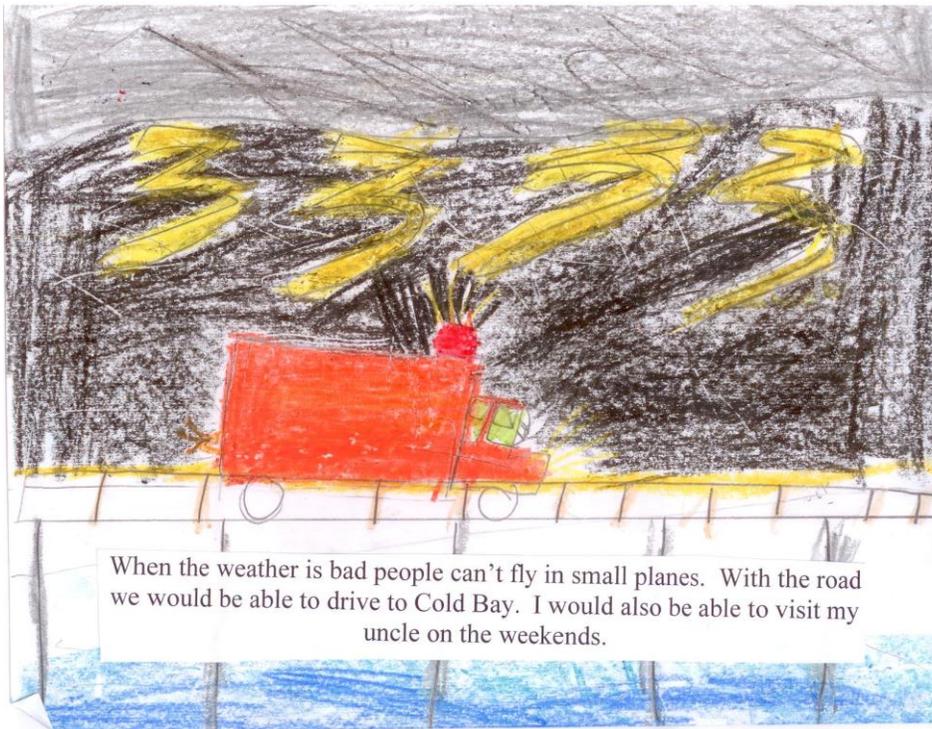
Grades:

K-1: Carter Uttecht and Katie Yatchmeneff (Students won bicycles donated by KCC)

2 – 4: Sierra Rocili and Elijah Gunderson (Students won bicycles donated by KCC)

5 – 7: Sidney Wilson and Elia Lind (Students won bicycles donated by KCC)

8 – 12: Dakota Walker and Dustin Newman (Students won \$150 each)

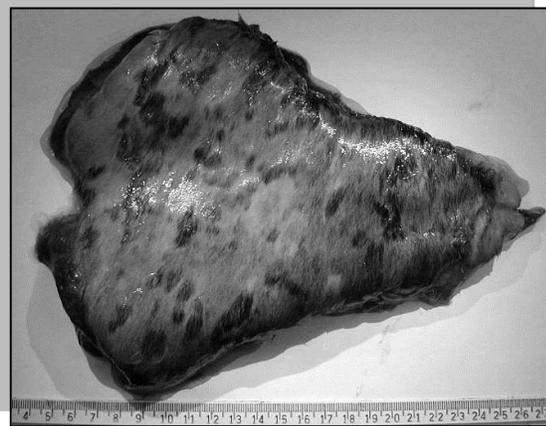


Overall there were more than 50 submissions, and the judges had a tough decision. It was much appreciated and was a lot of work and effort put in by the kids.

Harbingers of Climate Change - Dominance of a Top Predator: Pacific Sleeper Sharks and Greenland Sharks

By Bruce Wright, Senior Scientist, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

The Greenland shark and Pacific sleeper shark are large species inhabiting northern oceans. Their prey includes a long list of species of fish and invertebrates, and they are known for feeding on dead marine mammals including whales. These are large sharks, which can reach 7.3 meters and more than 1,400 kilograms, which may put them in line to become dominant predators in the Arctic Ocean.



Piece of harbor seal found in the stomach of a Pacific sleeper shark.

Global warming is reducing Arctic Ocean ice and critical refuge habitat for ice seals and polar bears. Without ice to haul out on, seals and polar bears may be exposed to these large sharks and shark predation. In the waters near Tromsø, Norway, Greenland, sharks were suspected of killing large numbers of harbor seals. Researchers found the jawbone of a young polar bear in the stomach of a Greenland shark captured in the North Sea. Harbor seals have been reported in stomachs of Pacific sleeper sharks.

The Greenland and Pacific sleeper sharks are the largest fish and are the two shark species that routinely inhabit the Arctic. Greenland sharks have been caught in large numbers in eastern Canadian and western Greenland. It was estimated that 50,000 individual sharks were caught per year in the Baffin Bay region in the 1940s. The full geographic range of these sharks is not known, but they have been documented from the eastern Canadian to the European Arctic and down into the temperate North Atlantic Ocean. The Pacific sleeper sharks are found throughout the north Pacific Ocean.

Nearly every marine species in the Arctic has been found in the stomach of these sharks, making it a very unique vertebrate predator. Although fish appear to be a staple of the sleeper shark diet, ringed seals and other marine mammals have also been found in the stomachs of sleeper sharks. Examination of 12 Greenland sharks from Iceland found that six sharks contained remnants of marine mammals, which accounted for 24.5% of the total mass of stomach contents and likely a majority of the energy ingested. Therefore, marine mammals may be an important energy source for the cold-water Greenland shark and the Pacific sleeper shark.

Stable isotopes (SIs) of nitrogen and carbon and organochlorine contaminants have been used in combination with stomach contents to assess the trophic ecology of Greenland sharks in Cumberland Sound, Nunavut, Canada. A study reported a trophic level of approximately four for the sharks based on SIs, but stomach contents and OC concentrations suggested a trophic level of five, similar to polar bears. Carbon SIs suggested that the carbon source of the Greenland shark was more pelagic than that of ringed seals, a species that feeds on pelagic zooplankton and fish. These results were surprising, given the perception that Greenland sharks (and Pacific sleeper sharks) are reported as primarily benthic feeders.



Fresh great whale tissue found in a Pacific sleeper shark's stomach.

Another potential sleeper shark prey species, the Steller sea lion, has seen a population crash resulting in the species in the North Pacific Ocean as being listed as in

danger of becoming extinct, and no obvious cause has been determined.

Studies provide evidence that sea lion declines are continuing because of predation, especially on the young. Scientists investigated the sleeper shark diet near sea lion rookeries and concluded sleeper sharks were not preying upon the young sea lions. However, their study design stated young sea lions were most vulnerable to Pacific sleeper shark predation at their “first water entrance and weaning.” I believe, however, that the young sea lions are most vulnerable not at the rookeries, but when they are out on their own and trying to learn how to catch prey and avoid predation.

[Click here to continue reading article](#)

News from Eastern Aleutian Tribes

Congratulations to our own Senta Lockett, CHP in Sand Point. Senta was selected by the Association of Alaska Community Health Aide Program Directors’ as an Annual Community Health Aide/Practitioner “Shining Star” for Outstanding Accomplishments in 2012.



EAT CHAP Director Susan Shoemaker, CHP said "Senta is an energetic, dynamic health aide,

an EMS instructor and a mentor of newer health aides. She has been involved in trauma and rescue response, in medical emergencies, and in every kind of drama with all kinds of conditions. She has handled it all with grace, courage, and a sense of humor. Senta fully meets the criteria of being outstanding year after year with an insightful, can-do attitude. She is a real asset to the health aide community, and we are proud to award her the highest honor."

EAT recently received notice of acceptance into the Quality Improvement Learning Network of Indian Health Services. This is an extension of the Improving Patient Care Initiative, which the Indian Health Service has been involved in for the past seven years. Eastern Aleutian Tribes was one of the first tribes in America to participate in this initiative, and have since become very knowledgeable and skilled at implementing this model for improvement. Michael Christensen, EATs Executive Director, was recently asked to present this program for improvement to all the tribes in the United States during the tribal self-governance conference held in New Orleans. Tara Ferguson, Director of Quality Improvement, has also been asked to present information about IPC to other community health centers during the Northwest Regional Community Health Center Association annual spring conference.

Eastern Aleutian Tribes is excited to be part of the Quality Improvement Learning Network. This will give us even more opportunity to learn new methods for improvement and to strengthen other organizations and tribes as they implement the model for improvement.



Dental clinics will be conducted in May and June in Adak, Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point, weather permitting.

May 21 – 25, Erik will be in King Cove, and Dr. Costa, Becky, and Chelsea will be in Akutan.

May 29 – June 1, Becky and Chelsea will be in Sand Point, and Dr. Costa and Erik will be in King Cove.

June 4 – 8, Becky & Erik in King Cove, and Dr. Costa and Chelsea in Sand Point.

June 11 – 15, Dr. Costa in King Cove, Chelsea in

Sand Point, and Erik and Becky in Adak.

June 19 – 22, Dr. Costa in King Cove, Chelsea in Sand Point, and Erik and Becky in Adak.

June 25 – 29, Dr. Costa and Erik in King Cove, and Becky and Chelsea in Sand Point.

Michael Costa DDS-Dentist: Fillings, most extractions, root canals, full dentures, partial dentures, crowns and bridges

Becky Howe RDH-Hygienist: Cleanings, sealants, fluoride application

Chelsea Shoemaker DHAT-Dental Therapist: Fillings, simple extractions, above the gum line cleanings, sealants, and fluoride application

Erik Linduska DHAT - Dental Therapist: Fillings, simple extractions, above the gum line cleanings, sealants, and fluoride application

Please call your clinic to make an appointment:

Akutan: 698-2208, King Cove: 497-2311, Sand Point: 383-3151, Cold Bay: 532-2000

The following Southcentral Foundation providers will be in the Region:

Dr. Rodica Popescu, Dentist will be in Akutan May 19—May 25. Please call the Anesia Kudrin Memorial Clinic at 698-2208 to schedule an appointment.

Sarah Taygan, Certified Nurse Midwife will be in Sand Point May 21—May 25. Certified Nurse Midwives provide gynecological, pregnancy, and post-partum care. Please call the Sand Point Community Health Center at 383-3151 to schedule your appointment.



Dr. Elizabeth Clawson, Family Medicine Provider, will be in King Cove June 4 – 8. Family Medicine provides a full spectrum of primary health care for adults and children. Please call the King Cove Community Health Center at 497-2311 to schedule your appointment.

EAT Behavioral Health Services has begun instituting a program partnering with community members to address issues within their communities. Community Readiness Assessments in addition to educational brochures have been sent to Sand Point community members, and will be sent to all the other communities soon.

On May 16th, the first Substance Abuse Coalition meeting took place at the City Chambers in Sand Point. Gary Williams, Behavioral Health Director, facilitated the meeting. Twenty-five community members attended, three of which were youth, and an open exchange of information ensued. Mr. Williams reported that EAT has already received some of the Community Readiness Surveys and shared some of the results with participants. Mr. Williams informed the participants that the coalition will be organized and facilitated by community members, with strong support from behavioral health and the EAT organization in general.

A community member expressed concern that there had been two months since the last meeting. The participants were informed that EAT had working “behind the scenes”, so to speak, in preparation for the coalition. One of the things shared with the participants was that during this period, EAT applied for a grant from ANTHC which has allowed for the distribution of Community Readiness Surveys, with the remaining money being used for the coalition effort. EAT was the first in the state to apply for this grant, and was delighted to hear the grant had been awarded to our agency.

Community members expressed a desire to meet every two weeks. Laresa Moses was elected Chair-person, and Karen Johansen was elected Vice-Chair.

Several community members volunteered to be on a subcommittee that will plan activities for local children and their families. Some of the suggestions for activities were family movie nights, potlucks, and structured activities such as an exercise classes for the community children.

Community members expressed a desire to have a presentation on commonly used drugs and effects on the body. Mr. Williams assured them that EATs can provide education information to them. The community will be notified as to the date of the presentation.

The next meeting will be on May 23rd, at 6:00 PM at the Sand Point Clinic.

Behavioral Health Director Gary Williams, will engage each community to address identified issues community members wish to overcome with the support of the EAT Behavioral Health team.

If you believe you have a need for Behavioral Health Services, please contact your Community Clinic or call Behavioral Health directly at

Emergency COPE Line—800-478-2673

King Cove Clinic – 907-497-2311

After Hours –907-497-8203

Sand Point Clinic – 907-383-3151

After hours – 907-386-1227

Looking for a job? Several positions are available at EAT. Click [here](#) for more info.

For more information on Eastern Aleutian Tribes, visit the following link: [EAT](#)

News from Hoverlink, LLC



The hovercraft, Suna-X, is currently undergoing refit work in Cold Bay. The hovercraft will relocate to Akutan in August, with ferry service commencing in September. Updates on progress will be provided throughout the summer.

A hovercraft was chosen for the marine link to Akun due to the

lack of docking facilities on Akun. During operation the craft is supported on an air cushion contained by a bag and finger type skirt with flexible cones forming the lower sections of the rear skirt; so the craft can run up the beach at Surf Bay and service the new airport.

HoverLink, LLC (“HoverLink”) is a maritime operating company that has been hired by the Aleutians East Borough to provide the hovercraft ferry service between Akutan Island and Akun Island, Alaska. The hovercraft ferry service vessel will be the Suna-X, a 95’ BHT-130WD owned by the Borough and built by HoverLink’s parent company, Kvichak Marine Industries, Inc. in Seattle, WA. The craft, designed by Hoverwork UK, will complete the run between Akutan and Akun in under 30 minutes. In addition to ferry service in support of flights into Akun, the ferry can perform emergency evacuations. The craft can carry up to 49 passengers, an



ambulance, and 2.3 tons of inbound cargo or outbound fish.

The BHT130 is constructed of marine grade aluminum – fabrication includes MIG, TIG and Friction Stir weld processes. The craft is configured with an open foredeck and enclosed passenger cabin. Access to the foredeck is provided by a 12-foot electro-hydraulic bow ramp.

Power for the 80 ton, 95’ x 45’ craft is supplied by twin MTU 16V2000 engines rated for 1205 BHP @ 1800 RPM each and propulsion is provided by twin 12-foot, 5-bladed propellers. Two MTU 2000 engines will provide power for the cushion lift system and the bow thruster nozzles. SUNA-X has a cruise speed of 35 knots and a top speed of 50+ knots.

HoverLink is currently hiring operators, engineers and deckhands. The job descriptions for these roles can be found on the Borough web-site on the Akutan Marine Link page and on www.hoverlink.us.com.

Spanish Team Wins Living Aleutian Home Design Competition

[Cascadia Green Building Council](#) and the [Aleutian Housing Authority](#) recently announced the winner of its Living Aleutian Home Design Competition. The winning team, Finnesko 13, was selected from among 104 applicants from 24 countries. The team is composed of Julio

Rodriguez Pareja, Ignacio Roman Santiago and Daniel Martinez Diaz from the Madrid-based [Taller Abierto](#), or “Open Studio”, an experimental architecture collective.

Finnesko 13’s winning design will be used to create a new home for Jimmy Prokopeuff, a 32-year-old Aleut man living in Atka, Alaska, whose current house is badly in need of replacement. But the true goal of the project is to re-envision sustainable, affordable housing in one of the world’s harshest locales and possibly revolutionize the industry.

[The Living Aleutian Home Design Competition](#), hosted by Cascadia Green Building Council in partnership with the Aleutian Housing Authority, aims to inspire teams to bring the tenets and principles of the [Living Building Challenge](#)™ to Atka, an Aleutian Island that has been continuously occupied for more than 2,000 years. Currently, Atka has a population of 61 people.

“We were thrilled by both the global interest this contest generated and the incredible caliber of the entries. The overwhelming response is testament to traction that the Living Building Challenge is gaining as a strategy for transforming the built environment,” says Jason F. McLennan, CEO of Cascadia and the International Living Future Institute, and a member of the six-person jury panel that chose the winner. “The design and construction of this home, will demonstrate that the Challenge is a cost-effective and practical approach to construction in any setting.”

Finnesko 13 will receive a \$35,000 cash prize and have the option to work with the Aleutian Housing Authority to bring the design to completion. The second-place entry, “House for a Windy Island”, by Jesse Belknap and Joseph Swain from Seattle, will receive a \$15,000 prize. Tying for third place were teams from Girona, Spain (Universal Serial House by 2SIS Arquitectes Girona) and Saugerties, New York (Orca House by Janus Welton). Honorable mention went to 24 Studio, another team from Madrid.

“The winning design was culturally relevant, incorporating traditional Aleut aesthetics as well as technical, aerodynamic and site specific aspects. Its shape will deal with the wind very effectively” says Dan Duame, Director of the Aleutian Housing Authority, noting that the Aleutian Islands are often referred to as the “birthplace of the wind.” “Most importantly, I can build this house, while at the same time contributing to the sustainability movement in Alaska.”

With the close of the competition, the Housing Authority has a replicable design it can use in all 10 villages where it builds homes. And it will help demonstrate to others, in rural areas everywhere, that there are ways to radically reduce energy consumption and make the switch to renewable energy, in safe, healthy, affordable homes.

Those judging the contest were: Dan Duame, Director at Aleutian Housing Authority; Sebastian Eckmann, Builder at Nordic Constructors; Jack Hebert, President/CEO at Cold Climate Housing Research Center; Bryan Mackay-Lyons, Principal at Mackay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects;

Jason McLennan, Architect and CEO at International Living Future Institute; and
Lauri Straus, Architect at kpb architects

Get Cultural Opportunities by Participating in the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe's Culture Camp 2012



The Qagan Tayagungin Tribe is now accepting applications for Culture Camp 2012. Applications can be picked up at the office, or downloaded from our website at <http://www.qttribe.org/culturecamp>. Click on Culture Camp 2012 to access the application.

Every year this popular and successful camp gets larger as the Tribe tries to serve as many students and provide as many culture learning opportunities as possible. If you or your business would like to support Culture Camp 2012, please contact the Qagan Tayagungin Office at 907-383-5616!

Got News?

If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call AEB Communications Manager Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.





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