



Memorandum

Date: August 8, 2016

To: The Honorable Mayor Mack and Borough Assembly

From: Rick Gifford, Administrator 

Re: **Administrator's Report**

King Cove Access Road

Senator Murkowski held a hearing on April 14, 2016 on the need for the road in front of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. As a result of the hearing, the Mayor, Laura and myself traveled to DC during the week of April 11th. Witnesses in support of the road were Lt. Governor Mallott, Mayor Stanley Mack, NCAI Policy Director Denise Desiderio, Retired Coast Guard Commander John Whiddon, and King Cove Corporation spokeswoman/Agdaagux Tribal member Della Trumble. It was a good hearing. We also visited approximately 22 Senate offices, including the Alaska delegation, providing the information concerning the need for the life-saving road to each office. We had a good, productive week.

In July 2016, Senators Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan and Congressman Don Young introduced identical bills ([S. 3204](#) and [H.R. 5777](#)) in both chambers of Congress which includes an equal value land transfer in exchange for construction of a short, single-lane, non-commercial road linking remote King Cove to the nearby all-weather Cold Bay airport. We will continue to work with Senator Murkowski and the other Alaska delegation to get approval of a land exchange for the road from Congress.

Alaska Governor Bill Walker visited King Cove on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 to see first-hand how critical the need is to link the King Cove community to the nearby all-weather airport in Cold Bay. The Governor also visited Cold Bay and the Izembek Refuge to view the area where an 11-mile single-lane gravel road connection would be built if Congress and the President approve a bill recently introduced by Alaska's Congressional Delegation. The Governor continues to support the project and will work with the Alaska delegation to get the federal approval.

Sale of Hovercraft

We continue to work with Keith Whittemore to market and sell the hovercraft. There continues to be interest in the hovercraft and Keith is providing information about the hovercraft to each party as requested. One of the interested parties traveled to Akutan the second week of February to inspect and take the hovercraft for a test ride. This party is still interested in the hovercraft and has indicated that they are working on an offer. They are in the process of reviewing issues such as, moving the craft, USCG certifications, potential class certification, MCA approvals, engine emissions, etc. We continue to hope that we will have an offer to consider in the near future.

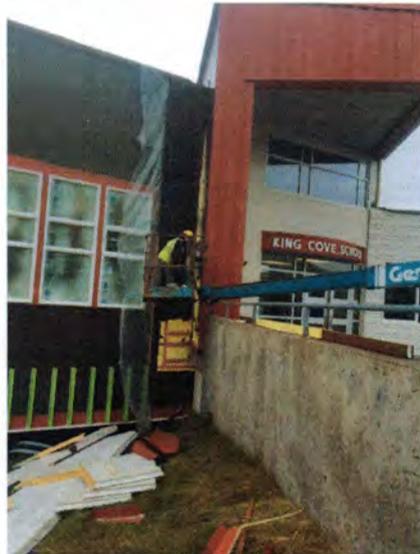
MEMORANDUM

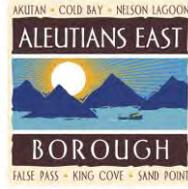
Borough Administrator's Report

Page 2

King Cove School Repairs Project

The King Cove School Repairs project has been progressing through the summer. We get inspection reports from our Project Manager firm, DOWL, on a daily basis. Our architect, Lauri Strauss, has visited the project twice and feels the project is progressing well. This project should be substantially complete by September 1, 2016.





To: Honorable Mayor Mack and AEB Assembly

From: Anne Bailey, Assistant Borough Administrator

Subject: Assembly Report

Date: August 5, 2016

Akutan Harbor

- **Akutan Harbor Floats:**
 - I completed a City of Akutan Land Use Permit for Harbor Float Construction. This was approved on July 8, 2016.
 - The barge arrived in Akutan on July 9, 2016. The Crew started installing Float A immediately upon arrival. The float was completed on July 20, 2016 and is able to accommodate up to 10 vessels up to 165 feet in length and two vessels up to 125 feet in length.
 - At this time, the Borough and City of Akutan have not looked into installing utilities at the harbor. The discussion of logistics and funding for additional services will take place soon.



Photo Courtesy of Matt Balzarini

- **Akutan Harbor Road Report** (Courtesy of Tuna Scanlan, City of Akutan Administrator): Over the past three years, the Akutan Tribe has used the Tribal Transportation Program to move the harbor project along. This work has been coordinated with and supported by the City of Akutan. A detailed design has been finished for the entire project, which calls for a 2 mile, 12' wide, gravel road with

turnouts for town to the new harbor site at the head of the Bay with a price tag of \$22 million. Included in this work is an approved Finding of No Significance Impact (FONSI) under NEPA and all required construction permits.

Given the current funding constraints facing Alaska and the nation, the Tribe and City decided to approach the project on a phased basis, with an intent to develop an affordable first phase of construction, which provides a surface transportation link between the community and the harbor. Phase 1 achieves this goal.

The Akutan Tribe and City had met and agreed to down grade the road design under Phase 1 of the harbor road project to construction of an all-season, 2 mile, 6' wide, gravel "service" road to accommodate four wheeler and small vehicle use. Construction costs for Phase 1 are estimated at \$5.5 million.

The road will be owned by the Tribe and operated and maintained by the City. The complete project is shovel ready. The expectation is that the affected parties will donate the right-of-way and access to the subsurface. Those discussions are underway.

Design and permit modifications to accommodate the decision to phase the project are underway and will be finished by late 2016 or early 2017. Construction could occur in summer 2017 contingent of funding availability.

The City and Native Village of Akutan is putting this project back into STIP. Additional efforts to secure other funding sources will be pursued, including local contributions, state assistance and BIA funds.

- **Akutan Harbor Mitigation Measures:** In order to build the Akutan Harbor, the Aleutians East Borough signed a Project Partnership Agreement that outlined the project's legal obligations. One obligation involves establishing a 41.7 – acre Conservation Easement adjacent to the harbor in the North Creek Drainage, which is compensation for the unavoidable construction-related loss of 43.7 acres of essential and beneficial high-value wetlands and fishery resources in the Central Drainage area. The Borough has been working on establishing this easement for numerous years. Most recently, the Borough sent a letter to the Akutan Corporation President regarding the easement. We have not received a response at this time.
- **Akutan Harbor Management Agreement:** The Borough and City Administrations completed the Akutan Harbor Management Agreement on July 13, 2016. This went before the Akutan City Council on July 26, 2016. They authorized Mayor Bereskin to negotiate and execute the Agreement, which outlines the maintenance and operation requirements needed to run the harbor. The Borough is anticipating getting a signed version from the City soon.

Akutan Helicopter Operations

- Essential Air Service. The Essential Air Service request for proposal went out on May 27, 2016 requesting proposals for service between Akutan, Atka, and/or Nikolski. US DOT recognizes the unique circumstances in Akutan and were willing to entertain proposals for EAS that would contemplate connecting passengers between Dutch and Akun and Akun to Akutan. On July 21, 2016, USDOT received three proposals. The City, State and Borough are in the process of reviewing the proposals and can submit comments by August 12, 2016.
- Effective July 1, 2016, the Borough and City of Akutan entered into a new Memorandum of Agreement for Akutan Airport Helicopter Services. The City agrees to provide various services to support the helicopter services on Akun as part of the Akutan Airport Transportation.
- Helicopter operations are running smoothly even though the weather has prohibited Grant and Maritime from flying quite often over the past month. Since February 17, 2014, the helicopter has moved:

8,569	Passengers
483,998	Mail & Freight
7	Medical Evacuations
40	Charters
428	Charter Passengers

Nelson Lagoon Dock Assessment

Moffatt and Nichol did a site assessment of the Nelson Lagoon Dock from May 3-5, 2016. They provided a draft report in June 2016 outlining the condition of the dock. On June 2, 2016, DOWL, Rick and I met with Moffat & Nichol and discussed the assessment in great detail. Moffatt & Nichol will make a few adjustments and provide a final draft soon. They will also provide information regarding further inspection work that is required prior to any construction occurring.

Cold Bay Clinic

On May 19, 2016, Rick and I met with Jennifer Harrison, EATS Executive Director, and Candace Schaack to discuss the Cold Bay Clinic. The question is whether we continue to search for funding for the new facility or try to repair/remodel the existing clinic. The group decided to contact ANTHC to see if they can do a study on repairing/remodeling the existing clinic with the data that is available.

Cold Bay Airport/Apron Project

The State of Alaska went out to bid on May 25, 2016 for the Cold Bay Airport Improvements Project, which includes the Cold Bay Apron that will connect the Cold Bay Terminal to the airport. Bids were opened on June 28, 2016 and three proposals were received. Knik Construction is the apparent low bidder and the State has issued a Notice of Intent to Award. The

State has not issued a Letter of Award at this time.

Contract Information

A list of active contracts that I am involved in are listed below:

- AECOM, formerly URS
Akutan Harbor Floats
- Harvey Consulting
Planning Commission Contract Labor \$20,000
- HDR, Alaska
Nelson Lagoon Erosion Engineering and Support Services \$80,520.85

Other Items

- On June 6, 2016, Rick and I attended a meeting at DOT to discuss the Airport System Review. The State is discussing the assets the State currently runs, the fiscal challenges that have occurred, especially in rural Alaska, and to determine whether Borough's or communities are interested or capable of owning and operating the local airports.
- On July 13, 2016, I attended a meeting with the Aleut Corporation, EATS, APIA, AHA and the State to discuss how to set up wellness programs within the workplace.
- Attended an Akutan Airport Operations Meeting on July 19, 2016 to discuss airport operations.
- Closed out the Nelson Lagoon Erosion CIAP grant on July 8, 2016. I am preparing to meet with DCCED on August 15, 2016 to review the 4 CIAP grants the Borough received.
- I am travelling to Nelson Lagoon on Monday, August 8, 2016 to observe the erosion project that is taking place out there. I have been working closely with the Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council and HDR on completing this project.
- I will be attending the AML Conference on August 17 and 18, 2016 in Wasilla.
- I am continuously conducting other day to day operations.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please contact me at (907) 274-7580 or abailey@aeboro.org.

To: The Honorable Mayor Mack, Aleutians East Borough Assembly
From: Ernie Weiss, Natural Resources Director
Subj: Summer Report to the Assembly
Date: August 8, 2016

Greetings! I hope everyone has had a safe & prosperous season thus far, and that the rest of your summer turns out great.

May 2016

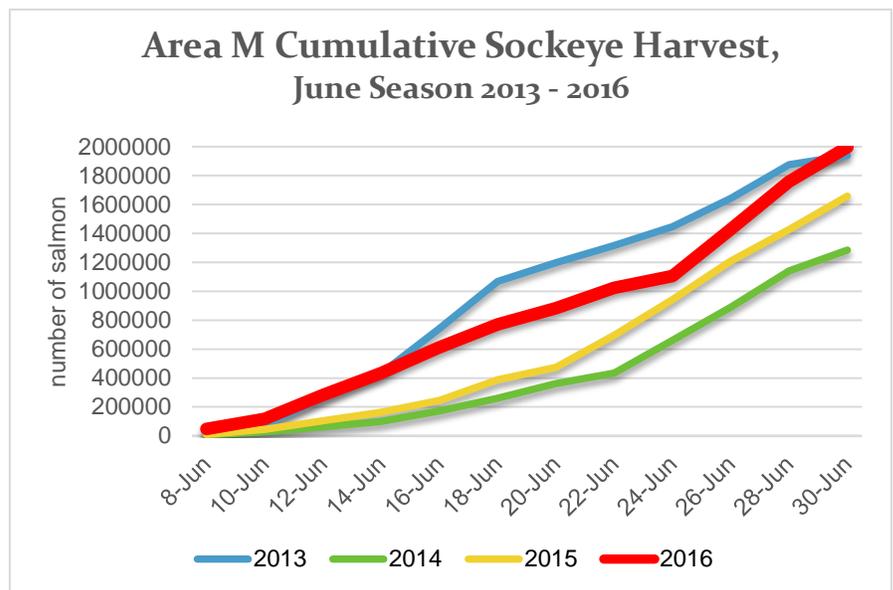
I was in the region twice in May: I attended your May 12th Assembly meeting while I was in King Cove; there I also attended the King Cove HS Graduation, and made several visits to the KC Harbor House for morning coffee & dialogue. During that trip I chartered with Eider Air to Port Moller, to get a close-up look at the AEB Port Moller airstrip and other municipal property surrounding the Peter Pan Seafoods processing plant, including the PPSF landfill and waterline. A brief photo record of that trip is attached at the end of this report.

We are moving forward with the *Borough Property Surveys* project, as approved in your FY17 budget, to start with surveys in the Port Moller area. As you know, before we gain title/conveyance to any of our municipal selections, we must first have them surveyed. We have had ongoing discussions with McClintock Land Associates and have requested the appropriate Survey Instructions from the State (the first step in the process) as of the end of June. We will also be working with PPSF to schedule a property line survey under discussion.

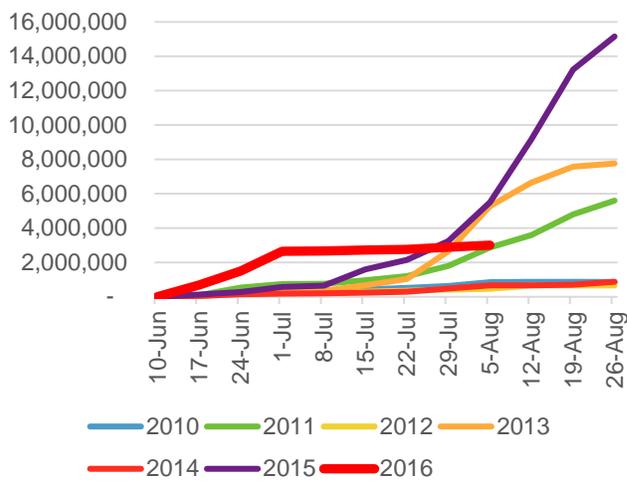
I also attended the South Alaska Peninsula Salmon Pre-season Meeting in Sand Point on May 27th with local fishermen, teleconferenced to King Cove and False Pass, and with our new local fishery manager, Lisa Fox. Lisa moved over this year from the position in Cold Bay, and was the first local manager to have to enforce the June & July closures for the Volcano Bay and Long Beach sections, after the new 191,000 Dolgoi Island area sockeye limit was reached. This new regulation was negotiated at the February 2016 Board of Fisheries meeting.

June 2016

For fishery management Area M, June brought an unusual season, with historically large harvests of both pink & sockeye salmon for the month. For this office, June means a North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meeting, this year in Kodiak June 6-13th. The big agenda item was the Gulf of Alaska Trawl Bycatch Management program. (GOA TBM) The latest version of the Council GOA TBM motion can be found [here](#). A good recap of the meeting in general can be found in the [NPFMC June Newsletter](#). As the 2016 Chair of the NPFMC Advisory Panel, I have been working with NPFMC Deputy Director David Witherell this summer on a new handbook for AP members. We will be meeting with the AP vice-chairs Matt Upton & Jeff Stephens later this month to review the document.



Alaska Peninsula Cumulative Pink Salmon Harvest, Summers 2010 - 2016



July 2016

In July I attended 2 federal fishery workshops. First – I traveled to Seattle to attend a workshop July 21st at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center on Stock Structure & Spatial Management. I was glad that I went. This topic and potential action needs our continued attention. Specifically related to a stock of current ‘strong concern’, blackspotted/rougeye rockfish in the Bering Sea, the action would divide TAC’s – catch limits – into smaller areas or ‘boxes’, making it more and more difficult to fully harvest these fish. This reduction in fishing flexibility could potentially be applied to other stocks and areas in the Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. There will be a full report on this issue at the groundfish plan team meeting this fall, which I plan to attend.

I also attended portions of the electronic monitoring (EM) workgroup meeting July 26-28th in Anchorage. NMFS is

readying for a limited implementation of the program in 2017. Many fishermen in our area hope EM will soon be a viable alternative to human observers on our boats in the future. Craig Faunce of the Observer Program at AFSC, is recommending that the 2017 EM implementation be limited to the GOA only, with participation by no more than 80 hook & line vessels & no more than 6 pot vessels for 2017. The North Pacific Observer Program Annual Deployment Plan will be fully discussed at the October NPFMC meeting in Anchorage.

August 2016

The Board of Fisheries (BoF) 2016/2017 Proposal Book will be published this month for the upcoming meetings on Kodiak, Upper & Lower Cook Inlet finfish and crab issues. The submitted proposals under review include at least 10 crab proposals, one which would limit tanner fishing vessels to 20 pots. There are at least 6 proposals by Chignik fishermen to change the regs for the Cape Igvak fishery in Kodiak. This is of local interest because Cape Igvak is setup similar to the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM) fishery: contingent on sockeye harvest by Chignik fishermen. There is a special BoF teleconference meeting to consider an emergency petition on the use of sablefish pots, August 30th. Agenda Change Request submittals for the October 18-20 BoF Work Session are due August 18th.

I am unable to attend the Aleutian Life Forum in Unalaska August 16-20th, but I am glad to hear that the Borough Clerk and at least one Assembly member plan to attend this important regional event.

September 2016

I will be requesting that the Assembly adopt a resolution at your September meeting, to ask the Alaska Board of Fisheries to change the meeting dates for the Area M meeting within the three year cycle, from February to December. This time period has been recommended to the Board by local fishing groups as convenient for both our local salmon and groundfish fishermen. The deadline to submit comments for the Board Work Session packet is October 4th. A memo & draft resolution will be available for your consideration in the September Assembly meeting packet.

<u>Upcoming Meetings</u>		
Groundfish Plan Team	AFSC	9/16/16
NPFMC meeting	Anchorage	10/3/16
Board of Fish Work Session	Soldotna	10/18/16
Pacific Marine Expo	Seattle	11/17/16

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call.

Port Moller Alaska Lands Including Peter Pan Seafoods Salmon Processing Plant and Aleutians East Borough Municipal Selections. (ADLs 224714 & 229769) Photos by Ernie Weiss, 5/12/16



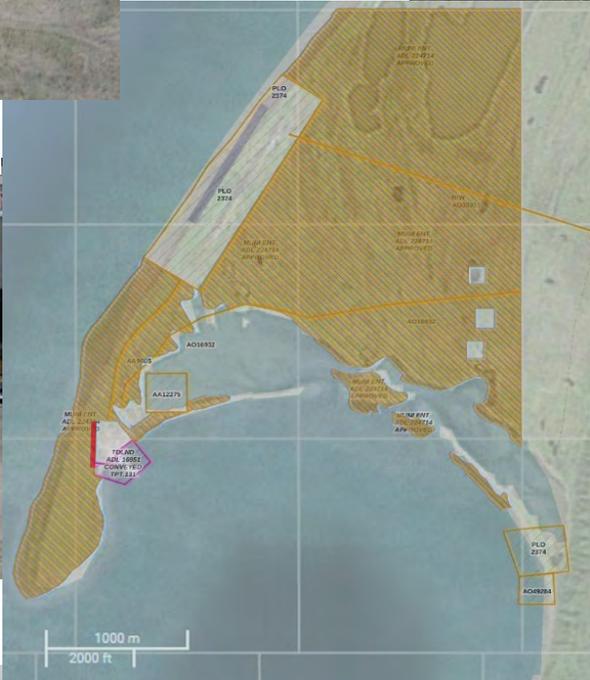
Landfill and road to the airstrip



Port Moller Airstrip



Fox & vessel storage



PPSF water line



View from PPSF property NW corner, shows historical structures encroaching on AEB property



Peter Pan Seafoods seasonal processing plant, Port Moller.

To: Honorable Mayor Mack and Aleutians East Borough Assembly
 From: Laura Tanis, AEB Communications Director
 Through: Rick Gifford, AEB Administrator
 Subject: Communications Director's Report to the Assembly
 Date: Aug. 8, 2016

Since the last regular AEB Assembly meeting, I have worked on a variety of projects including two press releases, 4 In the Loop newsletters, one Fish News and multiple Facebook and Twitter posts regarding AEB communities/issues. In addition, I have also been preparing for the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle in November. One of the biggest events I was involved with recently was the Governor's visit to Cold Bay and King Cove. A large part of that included coordinating with the Governor's press secretary as well as providing the media information and photos.

Press Releases:

- Aug. 4, 2016: Alaska Governor Walker Visits King Cove; Expresses Deeper Appreciation for Road Connection to Nearby Cold Bay Airport.
- July 14, 2016: King Cove Tribal and Community Leaders Thank Alaska Delegation for Legislation to Construct Life-Saving Road.

Headlines from In the Loop – (4 Newsletters: July 29th, June 30th, May 27th & May 6, 2016)

- Construction of Coast Guard's Second Hangar in Cold Bay Nearing Completion
- Association of Alaska School Board of Directors Holds Summer Meeting in Sand Point
- Floats Installed in Akutan Harbor
- King Cove Leaders Praise Alaska Delegation for Legislation to Construct Life-Saving Road
- Officer from Georgia Joins Sand Point Police Department
- QTT Culture Camp in Sand Point Offers New Activities, Classes for Students
- Development of Enhanced Oversight Program and Voluntary Safety Guidelines for Commercial Fishing Industry Vessels
- RFP – Feasibility for Aleutian Pribilof Island Regional High-Speed Broadband Internet
- EAT Monthly Report
- Borough to Install First Phase of Akutan Harbor Float System Next Month

Alaska Governor Bill Walker Visits King Cove; Expresses Deeper Appreciation for Road Connection to Nearby Cold Bay Airport



King Cove, AK – Aug. 4, 2016 – Alaska Governor Bill Walker visited King Cove yesterday to see first-hand how critical the need is to link the remote Aleut community to the nearby all-weather airport in Cold Bay. The Governor also visited Cold Bay and the Izembek Refuge to view the area where an 11-mile single-lane gravel road connection would be built if Congress and the President approve a bill recently introduced by Alaska's Congressional Delegation.

"I have met multiple times with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and on this issue, I know we don't agree," Governor Walker said. "I won't give up, though, on pushing for what the residents of King Cove need – a road to access emergency medical care."

During his visit, the governor was able to get up close and personal to the Cold Bay dock where multiple medevacs via boats have been forced to handle medevac patients in the worst Aleutian weather when air travel was grounded due to foul weather in King Cove.

"Governor Walker was amazed that sick, injured and sometimes elderly patients have had to climb up a 20-foot ladder to the dock or be hoisted up in a crab pot where an air medevac plane was waiting," said Aleutians East Borough Mayor Stanley Mack. "In this day and age, it's frightful and unwarranted that patients have to endure these conditions when a road could so easily solve our transportation access problem. The Governor's hometown of Valdez and Delta Junction, where he was raised, both have life-saving roads. That is all we are asking for in King Cove."

For a couple of hours, it appeared that dense fog and low visibility might prevent Governor Walker from flying into King Cove. However, after spending some time in Cold Bay, the weather improved, allowing the Governor, First Lady Donna Walker and Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Andy Mack, to land in King Cove.

"After the weather delay and visiting our community, Governor Walker understands even more that dense fog, dangerously high winds and fierce Aleutian weather often prevents travel by air or sea as much as one-third of the time," said King Cove Mayor Henry Mack. "When medical emergencies occur, and patients need to be medevaced out to an Anchorage hospital, a simple gravel road would provide a safe, reliable and affordable solution rather than putting our brave Coast Guard personnel at risk. Governor Walker was raised in a small Alaska town, and he has always been a strong advocate for the King Cove road, which we truly appreciate."

"An Alaskan suffering a heart attack should not have to additionally brave the elements just to get to a doctor," Governor Walker said. "After having met community members who have had close calls and having seen for myself the great lengths they have to travel just to be medevaced out, I see the urgent need for a solution."

"We're grateful that the Governor would spend his valuable time in King Cove, Cold Bay and in the Izembek Refuge to get a deeper understanding of the King Cove health and safety issue," said Della Trumbick, spokeswoman for the King Cove (Native) Corporation. "This road is our only answer. The Governor, the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the legislature have all been so supportive in demonstrating that King Cove lives matter. We're hopeful that soon we can have this critical matter resolved before someone loses a life while trying to access emergency medical assistance."



Alaska Governor Bill Walker and First Lady Donna Walker discuss the King Cove road issue with King Cove Mayor Henry Mack.

- Army Corps of Engineers Provides Cold Bay with Update on Formerly Used Defense Site Environmental Restoration Work
- Repairs on Leaks at King Cove School in Full Swing
- AHA Planning to Build Four-Unit Independent Senior Living Center in King Cove
- U.S. Commerce Department Announces 2016 Fishery Appointments for North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Urban Unangax Culture Camp in Anchorage Passes on Traditional Practices to Next Generation
- Tsunami Experts Discuss Vulnerable Areas in King Cove, Cold Bay During Recent Workshop
- Cold Bay Drafts City's Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Japanese Kayakers Planning to Launch their Aleutian Water Adventure from Cold Bay Today
- King Cove Serves up Fishermen's Picnic This Weekend
- False Pass Students Study Octopus in Classroom Aquarium as Part of Tidewater Ecology project
- Akutan Geothermal Project to Drill Confirmation Well This Summer
- Witnesses Provide Compelling Testimony on King Cove Road Issue During Congressional Hearing
- DOE Announces Technical Assistance for Self-Sufficiency, Lower Energy Costs for Rural Alaska Communities
- Tiffany Jackson of Sand Point Elected to National School Boards Association
- City of King Cove Hosts Meeting about How to Stem the Flow of Drugs into the Community
- Akutan to Build Duplex This Summer to House VPSO, Health Professionals
- False Pass, Sand Point, King Cove Student Athletes Compete in Native Youth Olympics
- Sand Point, King Cove High School Juniors See Washington, D.C. & New York Close Up



In the Loop



ALEUTIANS EAST
BOROUGH



AEB SCHOOL DISTRICT



Eastern Aleutian Tribes

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

Construction on Coast Guard's Second Hangar in Cold Bay Nearing Completion

Crews are making major strides toward wrapping up work on the Coast Guard's second hangar in Cold Bay. Construction began nearly a year ago – on Aug. 20, 2015. Now the project manager and workers are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. This month, the focus has been on power and HVAC work, including the heating, boilers, electricity and the lights.



“They finished the doors earlier this month,” said Coast Guard Project Manager Mark McAll. “Currently, they’re working on buttoning up the concrete around the perimeter.”

Construction on the Coast Guard's second hangar in Cold Bay is getting much closer to completion. Photo by Harold "Hap" Kremer.

In the Loop Published by the Aleutians East Borough July 29, 2016 Page 1

Fish News:

- Lisa Fox, ADF&G Area Biologist Bases in Sand Point During Summer Fishing Season
- ADF&G Conducts Preseason Fishing Stakeholders' Meeting in Sand Point

Posts on AEB's and King Cove's Facebook Pages: 69 posts

- “Governor Walker Tours King Cove & Calls for Airport Road” – *Your Alaska Link/ABC News Alaska* – 8/5/16
- “Governor Visits King Cove, discusses road access to Cold Bay” – KTUU – 8/5/16
- Link to press release : Alaska Governor Bill Walker Visits King Cove, Expresses Deeper Appreciation for Road Connection to Nearby Cold Bay Airport – 8/5/16
- Posted 43 photos of Governor Walker’s visit to King Cove – 8/5/16
- “Concern for Golden King Crab Population Sparks Lower Quota in Western Aleutians” – KUCB – 8/2/16
- Link to July 29th In the Loop newsletter – 7/29/16
- “Observatory Increases Threat Level of Aleutian Volcano” – KTUU – 7/28/16
- “Scientists have increased alert level for Pavlof Volcano” – APRN – 7/28/16
- “Coast Guard Medevacs 2 from Vessels in the Gulf of Alaska” – USCGNews.com – 7/28
- “North Alaska Peninsula Has Strong 2016 Sockeye Returns” – KDLG – 7/28/16
- “Alaska Court Sides with Governor Walker, Dismisses UFA Challenge to Changes at CFEC” – SeafoodNews.com – 7/25/16 - etc, etc.



Miscellaneous Projects:

- Made reservations for AEB staff, community and Assembly members at Seattle hotels for the upcoming Pacific Marine Expo.
- Provided media with information, photos regarding recent Governor trip to King Cove, Cold Bay
- Provided Governor’s office with photos regarding the King Cove road issue.

Upcoming projects include:

- Working on stories & interviews for the next In the Loop newsletter.
- PowerPoint Presentation for Assemblyman Alvin Osterback to present to the Harbormasters Association.
- Update flyers and promotional material for Fish Expo.

As always, I’m happy to help get the word out about an event or issue in your community. Please call or email me any time with information. ltanis@aeboro.org.