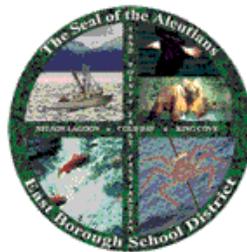
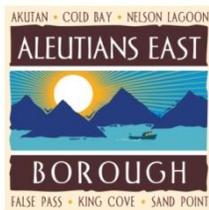


In the Loop



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

DOI Signs Land Exchange Agreement with King Cove Corporation

U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed the much-anticipated land exchange agreement with the King Cove Corporation at the Department of Interior offices in Washington, D.C. on January 22nd as local, state and Congressional officials witnessed the event. The agreement will lead to construction of a life-saving road between the isolated community of King Cove and nearby Cold Bay, with its all-weather airport.

“I stand here today very proud and humbled,” said Della Trumble, spokeswoman of the King Cove Corporation. “Thank you, Secretary Zinke, the Administration, our Congressional Delegation, our Governor and Legislature. This has been an ongoing battle for more than three decades. There are no words I can express on behalf of King Cove, our elders, our children, as to how thankful we are that soon, we will be able to get to the Cold Bay Airport and back safely.”

There have been 18 deaths attributed to the lack of road access, either in plane crashes or the inability to receive timely medical treatment. Residents must travel to Anchorage for most medical procedures, including major injuries, trauma and childbirth. The agreement begins a process between Interior and the King Cove Native Corporation of identifying land of equal value needed for a single-lane gravel restricted access road.

A press conference with national media and then the Alaska media followed the signing ceremony at Senator Lisa Murkowski's office.



Leaders from King Cove, the Aleutians East Borough, the Aleut Corporation, the State of Alaska, the U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska's Congressional Delegation witness King Cove spokeswoman Della Trumble and U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sign a land exchange agreement in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22nd.

Trumble told reporters that as she looked at the signed document in her hands, it was almost hard to believe.



King Cove Corporation spokeswoman Della Trumble shakes hands with U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke after they sign a land exchange agreement. Photo courtesy: DOI.

“After more than 35 years, it actually seems unreal. It hasn't really sunk in yet,” she said. “From the bottom of our hearts, we thank everyone who has supported us for so long and helped us with this battle.”

A small stretch of road, approximately 12 miles long, is all that's needed to connect King Cove to the existing road system within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, located next to Cold Bay's 10,000-foot-long runway built by the military during World War II.

“This is important, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because it's a symbol of this Administration demonstrating that local voices matter,” said U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. “The president has made it clear that our government works for the people, not the other way around. Above all, the federal government's job is to keep our people safe and respect our treaty



Sen. Murkowski showed reporters a Washington Post newspaper with President Trump's writing near a story about the King Cove road, which said, "Lisa, we will get it done. Best, Donald Trump."

commitments with Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Today, I am proudly fulfilling both of those missions. Previous administrations prioritized birds over human lives, and that's just wrong. The people of King Cove have been stewarding the land and wildlife for thousands of years, and I am confident that working together, we will be able to continue responsible stewardship while also saving precious lives."

Senator Lisa Murkowski said she never forgot it when former Interior Secretary

Sally Jewell, under the Obama Administration, rejected the road in 2013.

"I was told to just get over it," she said. "That is not something you just get over when the right is right."

Senator Murkowski said she wrote down Jewell's words, "I need to get past the Izembek thing and get over it" on a piece of paper in a binder she carries with her.

"That has been motivating me now for almost three years to make sure we didn't abandon those who have worked so hard to do the right thing," she said. "Today, I'm officially ripping it out, and it's gone now," she said.

Senator Murkowski thanked Zinke for his determination to get the agreement done. She also thanked the President.

"The President made it very clear that we ought to be able to get this done in a timely manner," she said.

Senator Murkowski said on October 16, 2017, she received a special delivery of the Washington Post, with the headline: "Interior Alaska Land Swap Stirs Worry."

“The scribble at the top said, “Lisa, we will get it done. Best, Donald Trump. So Mr. President, thank you for helping us to get it done,” Senator Murkowski said.



“This is important, not only because it’s the right thing to do, but because it’s a symbol of this Administration demonstrating that local voices matter,” U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said during a press conference.

important because it’s the right principle. People matter most. All of Alaska is unified on this.”

Alaska Governor Bill Walker added his thanks to those who worked for so long to make this happen.

“This is a great day for Alaska and for the residents of King Cove,” Governor Walker said. “This is a huge issue. When I spoke during my state of the state address, nothing I said brought the round of applause like this issue. This is about an attitude that people do matter.”

On the following day, community and tribal leaders from King Cove, the Aleutians East Borough and Cold Bay visited the offices of the Alaska Delegation to thank Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan

Congressman Don Young said he has been working on this issue for 35 years.

“This is a great day, not only for King Cove, but for all of Alaska,” he said. “It’s been accomplished. All my colleagues thank you, my two senators and the people of King Cove. We’re going to build this road, which should have been built a long time ago,” he said.

Senator Dan Sullivan said the King Cove road issue is one that unites all Alaskans.

“The vast majority of Alaskans want to get this done – regardless of political party. Democrats, Republicans, Natives, non-Natives, our legislature and our governor have been fighting with the heroic efforts of the community of King Cove and the leaders you see here,” Sen. Sullivan said.

“This is so



Della Trumble of the King Cove Corporation and King Cove Mayor Henry Mack present Congressman Don Young with a special framed photo collage showcasing the community.



Della Trumble and Sen. Lisa Murkowski serve cake as community leaders from King Cove, the Aleutians East Borough and Cold Bay celebrate the signing of the agreement and enjoy a nice visit.

and Congressman Don Young for their tireless efforts in championing this issue over the years. Those who traveled to Washington, D.C. included Aleutians East Borough Mayor Alvin Osterback, AEB Administrator Anne Bailey, AEB Communications Director Laura Tanis, King Cove Mayor Henry Mack, King Cove Administrator Gary Hennigh, King Cove Corporation spokeswoman Della Trumble, Cold Bay Mayor Dailey Schaack and Cold Bay Administrator Angela Simpson. The City of King Cove presented Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan and Congressman Don Young with a special framed photo collage showcasing pictures of the community.

During visits with the Delegation, Senator Murkowski shared stories with the group about how her mother pointed out to her years ago that one of her daughter’s priorities should be to get the road from King Cove to Cold Bay done. Murkowski said it’s a priority she has kept front and center. During the meeting, Senator Murkowski shared a cake, made by one of her

staff members, with the group to celebrate the signing of the land exchange agreement.

Environmental Groups Sue DOI, USFWS over Plans for Single-Lane Gravel Road through Izembek Refuge

A week and a half after DOI signed a land exchange agreement with the King Cove Corporation that would lead to construction of a life-saving gravel road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, nine environmental groups filed a 22-page complaint in federal court. The lawsuit names U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as defendants.

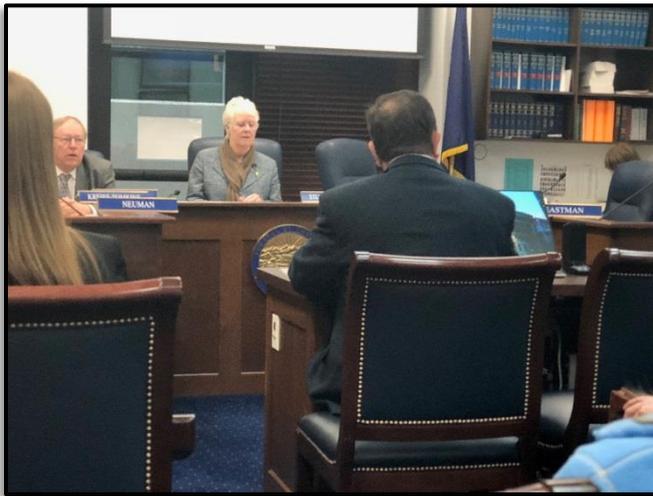
The land trade is authorized by section 1302(h) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation

Act of 1980. However, the environmental groups claim the agreement doesn't meet a legal requirement that such land trades meet ANILCA's purposes.

"It is unfortunate that the special interest groups continue to ignore the health and safety concerns of the residents of King Cove," said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Corporation. "We are thankful that the current administration has listened to our concerns and has agreed to a land exchange that will allow us to better protect our families. We are confident the courts will uphold the agreement."

Borough, Community Leaders Head to Juneau for Meetings

Leaders from the Aleutians East Borough, Cold Bay and King Cove traveled to Juneau immediately after their trip to Washington, D.C. in late January. Their two days on the ground was



AEB Mayor Alvin Osterback testifies in front of the House Fisheries Committee regarding his proposal to change the transferability of limited entry salmon permits. Photo by Anne Bailey.

packed with meetings. Those who participated in the Juneau trip included Aleutians East Borough Mayor Alvin Osterback, AEB Administrator Anne Bailey, King Cove Mayor Henry Mack, King Cove Administrator Gary Henning, King Cove Assistant Administrator Amber Jusefowytch, Cold Bay Mayor Dailey Schaack and Cold Bay Administrator Angela Simpson. AEB Juneau lobbyist Mark Hickey also participated in the meetings.

Borough and community leaders had several projects they needed to discuss with state officials, including supporting the

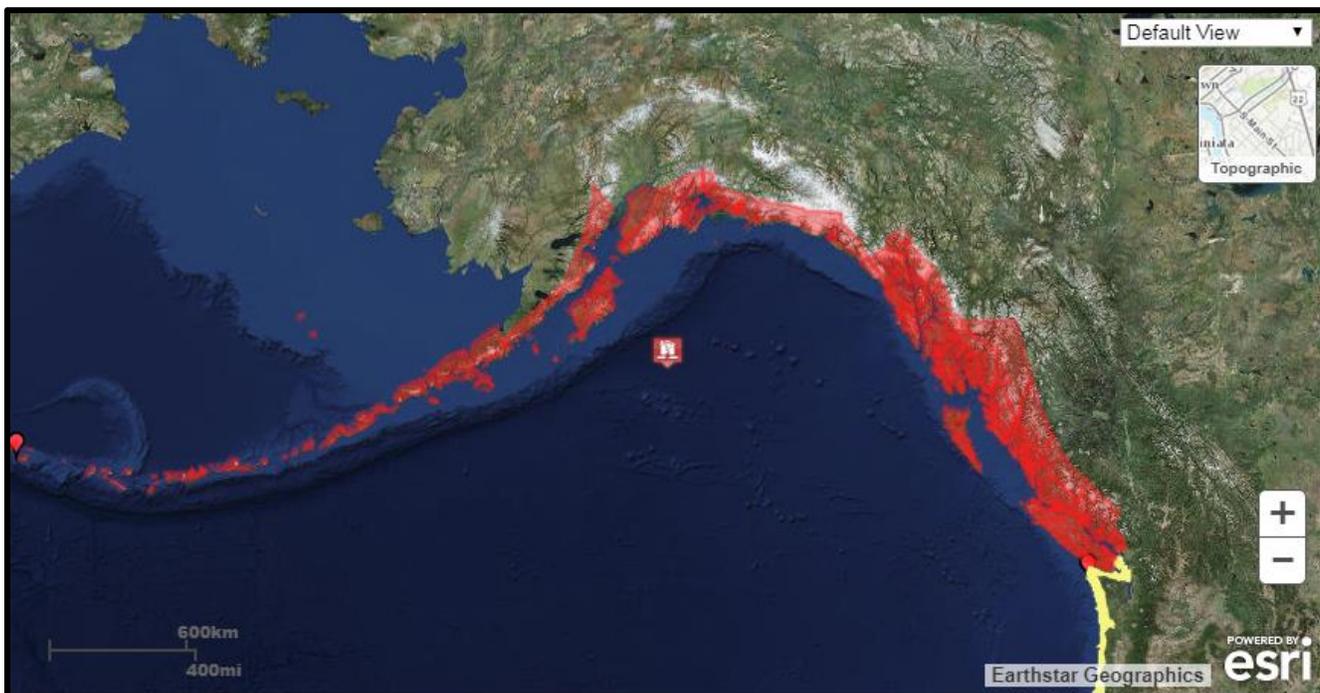
King Cove road to Cold Bay, AEB Mayor Osterback's proposal to change the transferability of limited entry salmon permits, construction of the Cold Bay Clinic and the Akun breakwater project. During their time in Juneau, AEB Mayor Osterback provided testimony about his limited entry salmon permit proposal in front of the House Fisheries Committee.

Meetings were scheduled with Governor Bill Walker, Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon, DOT&PF Commissioner Marc Luiken, ADF&G Commissioner Sam Cotten, Department of Natural Resources Andy Mack, DCCED Commissioner Mike Navarre, Senator Cathy Giessel, Representative Paul Seaton, Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkin’s staff, Senator Lyman Hoffman’s staff and the U.S. Coast Guard.

“The trip was a successful one,” said AEB Administrator Anne Bailey. “The Juneau trips are always a great opportunity to share the Borough’s and communities’ needs and ideas with the Governor, Commissioners, staff, members of the Alaska Legislature and others.”

AEB Communities Respond Remarkably Well to January’s Tsunami Warning

Waking up suddenly in the middle of the night to find out that a tsunami warning is urging residents to evacuate to higher ground is enough to shift anyone’s adrenaline into high gear. That’s what happened to residents living in coastal areas stretching from British Columbia to the Aleutians during the wee hours of the morning on January 23rd. A 7.9 magnitude earthquake located beneath the Gulf of Alaska triggered the warning.



A 7.9 magnitude earthquake triggered a tsunami warning extending from British Columbia to the Aleutians.

“Basically, the alert I got was the earthquake itself,” said Sand Point Chief Hal Henning. “I got up and went into the office. The alerts were going off, and we found out that we had about a two-hour window before the tsunami was scheduled to hit Sand Point.”

Henning said the sirens sounded, but with 60 mile-per-hour winds, they were barely audible.

“At that point, I went outside, turned on the lights in the patrol vehicle, and went street to street with a PA, alerting people,” he said.

Soon afterward, residents got up. Those living in lower elevation areas went to the school, the designated safety point.

“We had pickup truck beds full of people driving up to the school,” Henning said. “The community really chipped in and helped each other out tremendously. I would say about 250 people gathered there. I gave them updates as they came in.”

About half of the town is located above the tsunami risk area.

“A good majority of people just stayed home because they were already located on higher ground,” Henning said.

King Cove Fire Chief Chris Babcock woke up after receiving a call from one of the community’s police officers in Anchorage. Soon afterward, King Cove Police Chief Robert Gould called Babcock about the warning as he was getting ready to head to the police department.

“When I got there, Officer Steve Cochran had confirmed everything,” Babcock said. “There were faxes coming in. My phone was beeping off the hook with text messages.”

They moved quickly to launch an evacuation of residents living in the lower elevations of King Cove.

“We initiated the tsunami warning siren,” Babcock said. “People said they could hear it all the way up on the other side of town where it’s safe.”

Chief Gould, Officer Cochran, Officer Brad Schneider and Babcock went to the homes of elders living in the unsafe zone to make sure they had rides to friends’ or relatives’ homes located in higher elevations and where the school is located.

“We pretty much got the town evacuated within about an hour,” he said.

Most people drove to higher ground while some from Peter Pan Seafoods walked.

“Most of the people walking were helped out by those driving,” Babcock said.

The principal and several teachers unlocked the school to assist anyone needing a safe place to go. Approximately 450 people utilized the school as a shelter. Others gathered at friends' houses located in higher elevations.

Meanwhile, Babcock and the police were trying to separate fact from fiction.

“We were hearing horror stories from Facebook and people calling and texting us, that they heard the harbor in Kodiak was draining. I had people calling me, saying, you hear what’s going on? So I’m trying to decipher all of this. Brad managed to reach Kodiak’s PD Facebook page and that kind of nixed the rumors we were hearing. They just had a little bit of a tide come in.”

In King Cove, nothing of any significance was noted by the police in terms of water rising.

Meanwhile, Cold Bay Vice Mayor Candace Nielsen was fast asleep when the earthquake struck. Soon she heard her husband’s (Matt’s) phone ringing. She noticed text messages on her phone.

“So I looked, and it was actually one of our family members in Anchorage checking on us,” she said. “Then Matt’s brother, Robert saw there was a tsunami warning. We knew the road that goes up the mountain (Frosty Road), our tsunami evacuation route, had snow that had drifted in. We couldn’t just jump in our truck and go, so we collected our thoughts to figure out what the best plan was.”

The thought of waking up her kids (a preschooler and a newborn) in the middle of the night was anything but appealing.

“Dragging them out of the house, in the middle of winter when it’s freezing outside and windy was something I did not want to have to do,” she said.

Soon afterward, Nielsen heard that King Cove’s siren was going off.

“That really got our blood pumping,” she said. “We knew we had to get going and do something.”

Matt Nielsen decided to head to G & K, where he works, and fuel up the loader to help clear a path.

Nielsen called her father, who worked for DOT. She soon learned that he was already out on the plow, and halfway up the mountain, pushing snow out of the way.

“I was packing the diaper bag and thinking, I don’t have anything as far as emergency preparedness,” she said. “It was an eye opener, for sure.”

She jumped into her truck with the kids.

Meanwhile her dad, Paul Schaack, was working his way through the snow drifts.

“The state personnel lead a line to the site where everyone would go, as far as my dad could make it. It was darn near the whole town that convoyed up there and we just parked, waiting for further instructions,” she said. “We were looking to the DOT guys as leaders in this situation because they had stepped up in that role.”

In Akutan, Mayor Joe Bereskin and VPSO Monte Chitty were notified by text and an automated phone message. Bereskin said the siren wasn’t working at the time, so the VPSO did the next best thing.

“Monte went door to door and woke everybody up to tell them there was a warning,” Mayor Bereskin said. “He got them to go to the school. He told them if they wanted to go there and wait, that was an option for them. It’s right next to the hill where everyone could head for the hills, per se, if needed.”

About 20 – 25 people showed up at the school. About 15 people stayed at the 4-plex in town. Bereskin said Chitty also notified the Trident Seafoods plant nearby, which follows its own emergency plan.

In Nelson Lagoon, VPSO Michael Lejarzar received notification telephonically about the alert. “After I’m notified, I get the information I need to proceed with whatever warning is given. Then I proceed to contact the community.”

Lejarzar made a public safety announcement to Nelson Lagoon residents via VHF radio.

“I just continued to pass on information every 30 minutes as I was receiving it from the Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer,” he said. “The community responded that they heard me on VHF. That’s how we dealt with it until it went down to the lowest level.”

In False Pass, residents also received notification by VHF.

“The VPSO texted all the leads on the Incident Command System tree,” said False Pass Mayor Nikki Hoblet. “The community was standing by and preparing for evacuation, if needed. I don’t think there was anyone that wasn’t aware of the alert, but if he had to, the VPSO would have knocked on doors. I didn’t hear of any reports that water was rising here.”

Community and public safety leaders in all the Borough communities said residents responded well to the tsunami alert. It wasn’t long afterward that residents received information that the warning had been cancelled and they could return to their homes.

“Cold Bay always pulls together in these situations,” said Cold Bay Vice Mayor Candace Nielsen. “Everybody calmly followed one another up the mountain. I was proud of my community, as usual.”

“Considering the level of technology on the island, I would say that everything went really well,” Sand Point Police Chief Hal Henning said.

“I’d say the response was very good,” said King Cove Fire Chief Chris Babcock. “Of course, there’s always places where you can improve.”

Babcock said King Cove is looking into conducting a tabletop exercise regarding the community disaster plan soon. Meanwhile, he’s planning to provide information about tsunami preparedness for EAT’s health fair at the end of March.

Akutan Mayor Joe Bereskin said the city is currently updating its plan.

“I think people responded well to the warning,” Bereskin said.

The City of Akutan is in discussions with the village corporation to acquire more land behind the 4-plex for storing trailers and supplies in the event of an emergency.

“I would say that after this event, we are going to be better prepared for a tsunami,” said False Pass Mayor Nikki Hoblet.

She said the community has already discussed stocking a Connex building and storing it on higher ground.

“This event brings disaster preparation and management to the forefront of our minds,” she said. “To think that it will never happen to us is illogical because it can, and we need to fill our toolboxes with any and all resources we can for when it does.”

Change in Structure of Sand Point Police

Department Nets Successful Results

For years, the Sand Point Police Department followed a traditional model of recruiting and hiring police officers. The officers would then move to town and work regular 8 – 10-hour shifts, 5 days per week. However, like many rural Alaskan towns, experience and longevity seemed to be two missing ingredients.

“The community had a difficult time recruiting qualified people that had a lot of experience,” said Sand Point Police Chief Hal Henning.

Most of the officers only had a few years of experience, and they didn’t stay long.

So when Henning was hired last summer, he began the process of rebuilding the department from the ground up. He decided to take a different approach.

“We went from a traditional patrol shift, and having everybody live in town, to two weeks on, two weeks off shifts,” he said. “When fully staffed, we have two people on at a time. It’s more like a firefighter shift, where we’re on for 24 hours a day, seven days a week for fourteen days, and we’re subject to call at any time. We could work five hours one day and 20 hours the next, just depending on call loads.”



Sand Point Police Chief Hal Henning.

This concept isn’t a new one.

“I got the idea working in Kotzebue,” Henning said. “When I was an investigator there, our officers were all two weeks on, two weeks off. They’ve got one guy that’s commuting from Georgia, and he’s been there for four years.”

Henning said after Kotzebue changed to this model, their turnover plummeted. Several other Alaska communities follow a similar model.



Sgt. Brent Nierman (left) and Officer Dave Anderson of the Sand Point Police Department.

To make this work in Sand Point, the city increased the pay and benefits, including free housing. Another benefit the department offers is paying for officers’ round-trip flights between Sand Point and Anchorage. Three of the law enforcement officials have families in Washington. One is from Colorado and the other has a home in Anchorage.

“I think the biggest thing was the fact that they really like the two-week on, two-week off schedule,” Henning

said. “After 14 days of working straight, you’re ready to go home. Then you you’ve got two weeks off that you can do anything that you want to do. So basically, you get a two-week vacation every month.”

Because of the change, the Sand Point Police Department has been able to attract very qualified officers. Henning has about 23 years of law enforcement experience. He has served as a patrol

officer, a K9 officer, a public information officer, community services officer and Chief of Police. Sgt. Brent Nierman had previously been the Chief of Police in Kittitas, Washington for ten years before accepting a position with the Sand Point Police Department. Officer Dave Anderson retired from the Washington State Patrol after 26 years on the job.

“Officer Anderson had retired for about 7 or 8 months, and then decided he wanted to come here and work because he had heard how great a position it is,” said Henning.

Mark Chandler, who was recently hired, had been a military police officer in the Air Force for 20 years in Colorado. He will begin work in Sand Point on June 1st.

Thomas Slease, who worked as a police officer in Kotzebue for 5 years, is a drug officer for Sand Point through the Western Alaska Alcohol and Narcotics Team (WAANT).

“Four of the 5 officers have more than 20 years of experience,” said Henning. “It’s a whole different type of officer compared to what Sand Point had in the past as far as the caliber and experience. The people that we have left good jobs to come here.”

Henning said at first, there were concerns that this would just be a job to officers who have families and homes elsewhere. However, the Sand Point officers are very much a part of the community.

“We’re doing more community-oriented policing,” he said. “We’re at every event. We go to the high school and we hang out at the ball games. We go to have lunch with the kids at the school.”

Henning said periodically, the Sand Point Police Department will also be working with the kids and teaching them about public safety issues.

“We’re going to be doing community night out, where we’ll have board games and floor games,” he said. “We’ll do a little talk about whatever the topic will be for that month, and get the community involved.”

Henning said the community has really embraced the change in the department’s structure.



Mark Chandler will start working for the Sand Point Police Department on June 1st.

“I always ask the mayor whether he has heard of any gripes or complaints,” said Henning. “I have yet to hear of any complaints about our department or our officers and that they’re not part of the community. It has actually been quite the opposite.”

Another benefit is the type of policing the department currently does is based on a greater depth of law enforcement experience instead of focusing on minor traffic violations.

“We know how to take a major crime and run with it,” he said. “The felonies that we’ve had have pretty much all been solved, recovered or charged out because we have veteran officers who know how to run with an investigation and follow the proper steps.”

Other changes with the police department includes Thomas Slease’s position on the state’s drug task force.

“There’s no other community our size in the state of Alaska that has an officer dedicated full-time to the drug task force,” he said. “So this community has really stepped up and said we want to fight this opioid crisis.”



Sand Point Police Chief Hal Henning said the community has embraced the change in the police department’s structure.

In addition, the Sand Point Police Department became a Department of Veterans Affairs on-the-job certified site for the military two months ago.

“Officer Mark Chandler is going to be the first one in the State of Alaska to be hired under this program (the Career Skills Program),” Henning said. “He retired from the military in December. On June 1st, he will trigger into this program, where we have made him a job offer. He will go through training, and will start working for the department.”

The PD is also excited about a recent grant it received from the state for an electronic fingerprinting system. In addition, the Sand Point Police Department will utilize the Alaska Records Management System so police can run license plates and drivers’ licenses through the system when the need

arises. That will enable them to write tickets electronically, something they were unable to do previously. All this technology requires a stable internet system, which has been a struggle for Sand Point, as well as other Borough communities. So DRS Global Enterprise Solutions, Inc., which serves the school district and provides Internet for the Teen Center, is installing that service for the Sand Point PD at no cost.

“I thought that was really great because we just don’t have the budget to do it otherwise,” Henning said.

All the changes within the Sand Point Police Department have resulted in positive changes – both for the community and for the department.

“We found the right puzzle pieces that we were looking for to serve this community,” Henning said. “I anticipate many of our officers will be staying for several years or longer.”

Aleutians East Borough Assembly Approves Strategic Plan

On Feb. 8th, the AEB Assembly approved the projects and initiatives identified in the Borough’s Strategic Plan. The process for the plan began in mid-December with a strategic agenda when the Borough conducted a planning work session, led by Professional Growth Systems. The Borough Assembly, community leaders and Borough staff participated in the process to brainstorm on the Borough’s vision, purpose and initiatives.

“They said, big picture, here’s what we want to accomplish next year,” said John Gregoire, consultant with Professional Growth Systems (PGS).

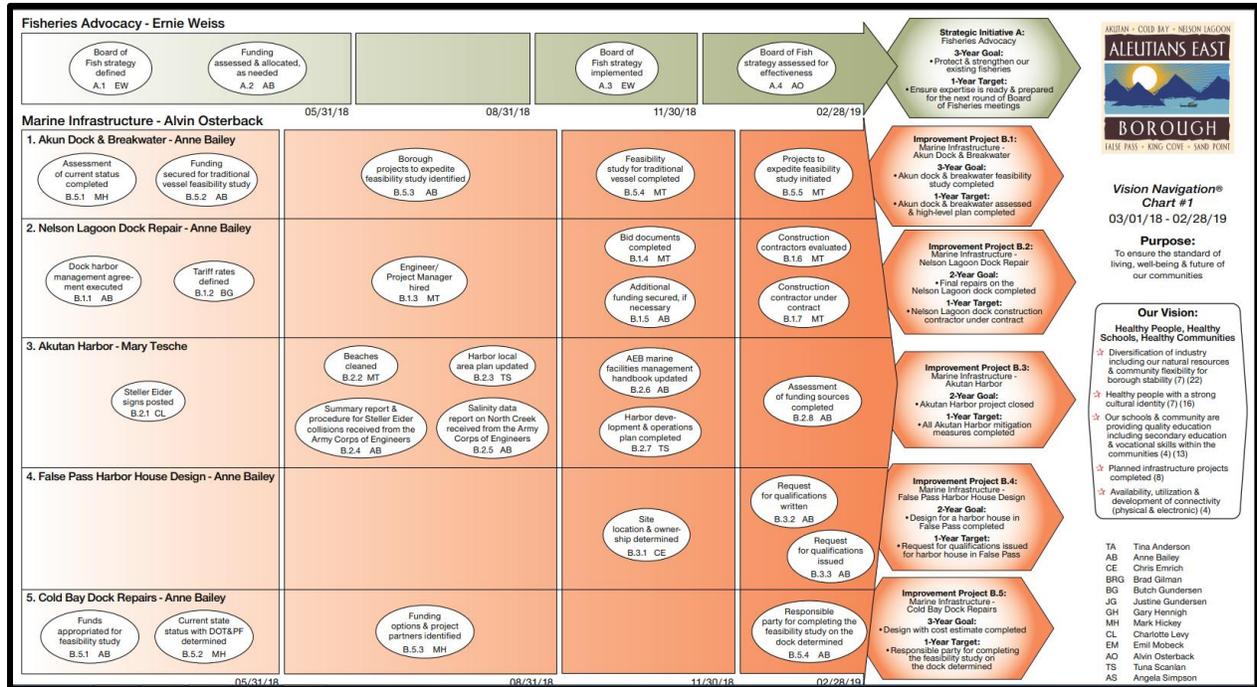
Following the planning session, PGS got together with Borough staff to map out the details of the projects, quarter by quarter.

“So we said this is a big strategic goal that we want for the next three to five years,” he explained, “and this is what we want it to be in one year. These are the steps we’re taking to get there.”

During December’s planning session, those participating drafted the Borough’s purpose, which is: To ensure the standard of living, well-being and future of our communities. The Borough’s vision is: Healthy People, Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities. Underneath that heading, categories

include: Diversification of industry, including our natural resources and community flexibility for borough stability; Healthy people with a strong cultural identity; Our schools and community are providing quality education including secondary education and vocational skills within the communities; Planned infrastructure projects completed; Availability, utilization & development of connectivity (physical & electronic).

The chart also details the various Borough’s projects, broken down in three-month quarters, and shows the progress points of each.



“For communities, where they want to pay attention is what’s the one-year target?” said Gregoire, “and what can they do to help drive any of these initiatives forward? What can they be part of? How can they partner with the Borough or take some of the work off the Borough’s plate? Or they could create a project that matches the project that the Borough is working on to maximize the value of what’s being done in their community.

The Borough has several projects to tackle within one to three-year increments.

“Fisheries advocacy is a cornerstone of what the Borough does,” Gregoire said. “It’s strategically placed at the top of the chart because it’s how the Borough exists and gets its funding. It’s the future of your Borough. Fish are the heart and blood of the communities. The Borough is taking new steps with the way it advocates for fisheries, and protect its resources and industry. This is a really big deal, and it’s something that Mayor Osterback is very passionate about.”

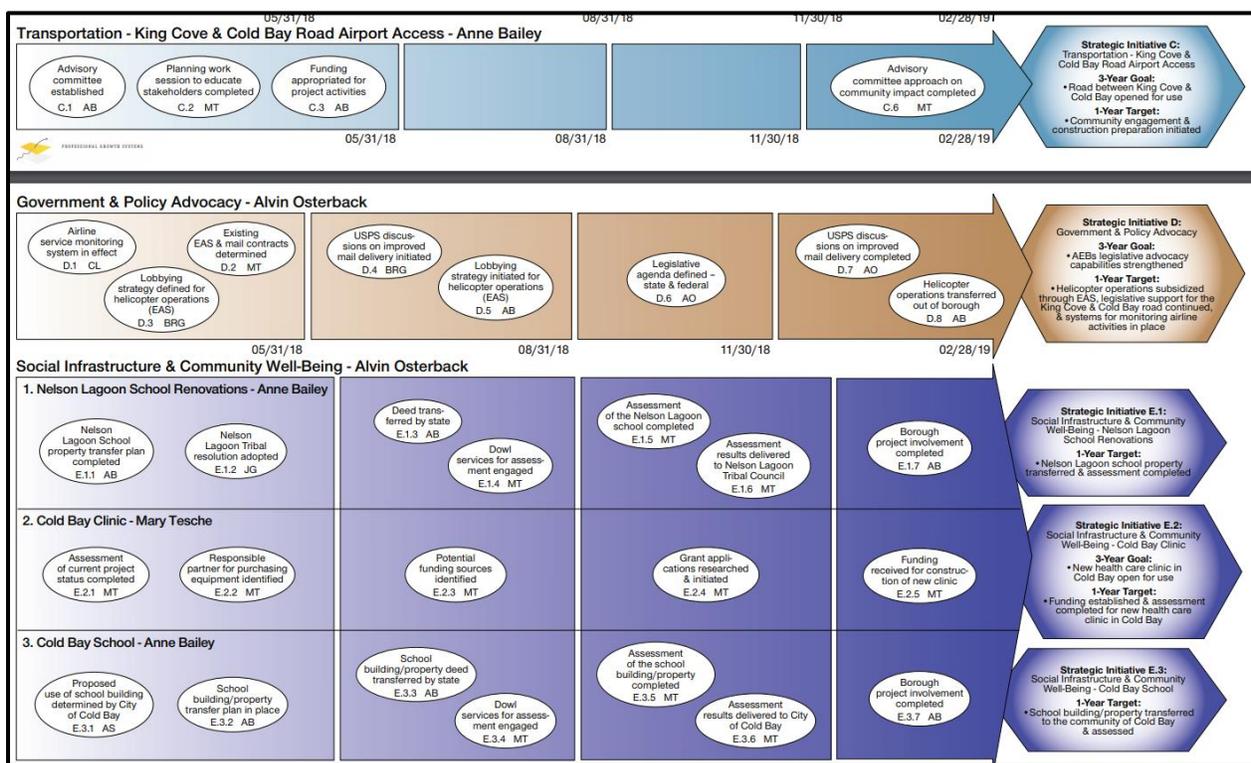
Marine infrastructure is also a large initiative.

“Marine infrastructure seems to be a major function of the Borough: to support, encourage and develop transportation infrastructure, particularly marine, docks, harbors and harbor houses,” said Gregoire. “So that’s a big development track section, and I think the goals are very reasonable.”

Projects under the Marine Infrastructure heading include: the Akun Dock & Breakwater; Nelson Lagoon Dock Repair; Akutan Harbor; False Pass Harbor House Design; and Cold Bay Dock Repairs.

“The way the project is broken down is very doable, and you can see a clear path to completion,” Gregoire said. “The communities can see how they can encourage, how they can support and how they can guide that process.”

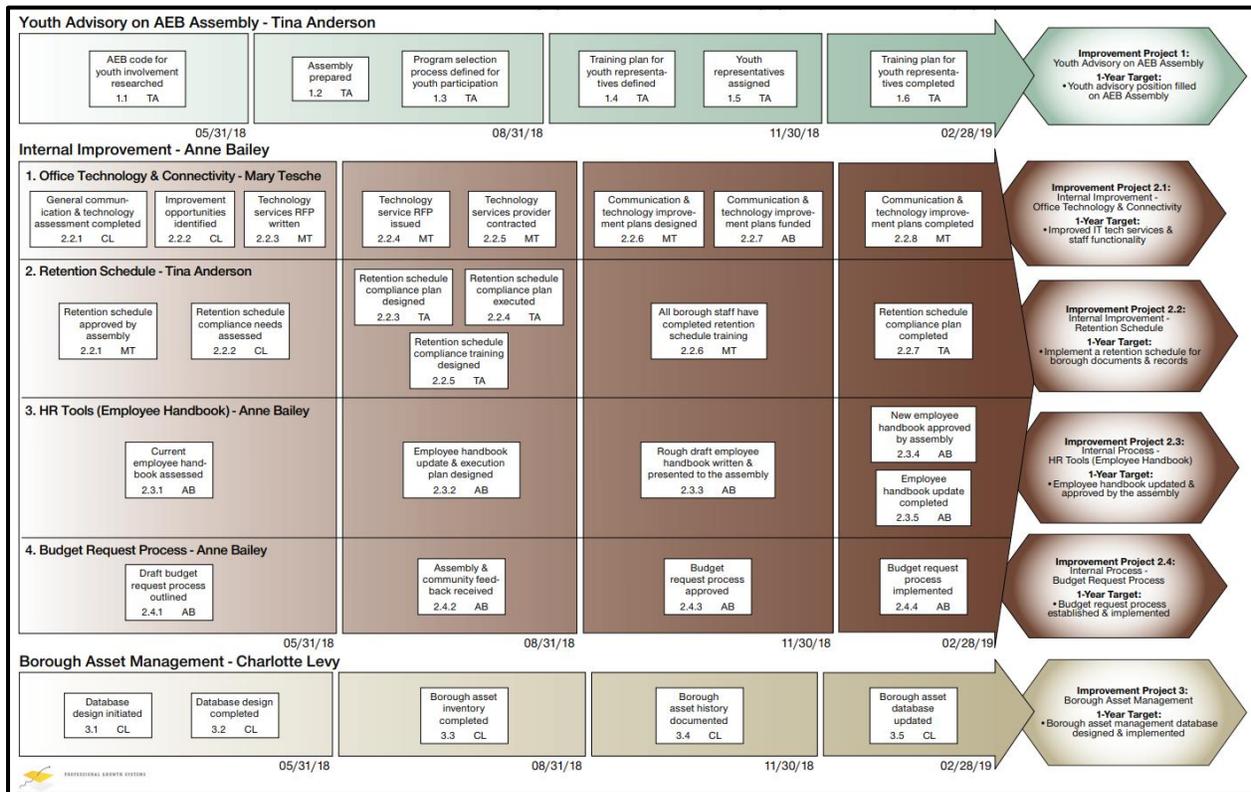
The next project on the chart is Transportation: King Cove & Cold Bay Road Airport Access.



“This is one that is a huge win and very exciting because it represents years and years of highly diligent work,” Gregoire said. “The progress that could be made within this year is pretty good. In addition, the hope to have an advisory committee, and bringing alignment around what this will mean for King Cove, Cold Bay and the Borough would be a huge step.”

Other projects include Government and Policy Advocacy. That initiative includes having an airline service monitoring system in effect, the existing essential air service, mail contracts, and a lobbying strategy defined for the helicopter operations (between Akun and Akutan).

The Internal Improvements section (to the Borough’s administrative function) is another important initiative. This project includes four areas: the human resources tools, the budget request process, office technology and connectivity and the retention schedule.



“Improving the operations of the Borough team and improving the functionality of the administrative offices will save money,” said Gregoire. “It will also mean more satisfaction from employees, and will result in more getting done because there’s more space to get things done. Sometimes I think the internal improvements aren’t given the love they deserve, but they’ll have a really big impact.”

The last project on the chart is Borough Asset Management. This initiative includes initiating a database design, completing an asset inventory and documenting the history of Borough assets.

A manual will also go along with the chart, providing more detail and explanation about what is in the plan. It will also provide in-depth detail about the mission and the vision. Project managers will use outcome definition worksheets to break the projects down.

“That’s for the person managing the project to have clarity on what they planned,” Gregoire said. “They show what the managers committed to doing, how they’re going to do it and helps them stay on track with the proposed projects.”

The AEB Strategic Planning Chart can be found on the Borough’s website:

http://www.alutianseast.org/vertical/sites/%7BEBDABE05-9D39-4ED4-98D4-908383A7714A%7D/uploads/AEB_strategic_planning_chart.pdf

“Right now, this is probably the prettiest you’re ever going to see the strategic planning chart, as the work begins,” PGS Consultant Theo Hunt said.

“I am very excited about this plan,” Gregoire said.

Tiffany Jackson Travels to Nation’s Capital to Participate in NSBA Equity Symposium

National School Board Association (NSBA) board member Tiffany Jackson flew to Washington, D.C. earlier this month to attend the organization’s Equity Symposium on February 3rd. The event focused on building the knowledge and skills of school board members and centered on issues of access, equity and diversity in public education.

Symposium topics included mental healthcare for students of color, including trauma sensitivity; parental and community engagement – an inclusive approach; supporting immigrant students; and the impact of Pre-K gaps on high school graduation gaps.



Jackson said after participating in the Equity Symposium, it became even more apparent how important it is to be intentional in addressing equity in education, and recognize how current policies can prevent that from occurring.

“This occurs at many different levels, not just in education,” she said. “When we look at how voting districts across the country are drawn, how housing issues are addressed, we can start to see patterns where different populations are segregated from others, differences based on race, socioeconomics and more, all of which impact education. Different is inherently unequal.”

Jackson said her main takeaway from the Symposium is that it’s essential for educators to be

unapologetic in advocating for students at the local, state and federal level to obtain what's necessary in providing them with an excellent education every day.

"This doesn't end with just advocating in the educational arena," she said. "It's going to take advocating for housing, healthcare, infrastructure – across the board changes in policy to address equity issues."

Jackson said a student participating at the symposium provided one of the best definitions of education equity she had ever heard.

"Educational equity is recognizing that every student has a dream and is passionate about something, and giving them the resources to achieve that dream."

"That's our call to action -- giving them the resources to achieve their dreams," she said.

NSBA Advocacy Institute Highlights Educational Priorities; Provides Training on Effective Advocacy

The following day, NSBA board member Tiffany Jackson attended the organization's three-day 2018 Advocacy Institute entitled, "Elected. Engaged. Empowered: Representing the Voice in



From left to right: Current AASB President Michael Swain, Senator Dan Sullivan, NSBA board member Tiffany Jackson and AASB Executive Director Norm Wooten.

Public Education." The conference brings together members of Congress, national thought leaders, state association executives and well-known political experts.

"We talked about priorities NSBA identified for public education when advocating to our Congressional Delegation," Jackson said. "Most of the Institute was spent educating board members on key issues public education is facing, and how to be effective advocates for our students."

Participants also heard from education and policy experts, including Senator Boozman (R – AR), Senator Fischer (R – NE) and political commentator Cokie Roberts.

“They provided their perspective on needs for public education and on public policy in our country,” Jackson added. “Cokie Roberts reminded us that we cannot have the American dream without good public schools.”

Meetings conducted with the Alaska Delegation and staff members followed. Alaska’s delegates, Michael Swain from the Bristol Bay school district and Jackson, along with AASB’s executive director Norm Wooten, chose to focus on three main items: reauthorization of the Carl Perkins act, full funding of IDEA, support for Title I and Title II programs, as well as support for the E rate program, which many Alaska schools depend upon.

“All meetings went very well,” Jackson said, “and I would say our congressional delegation is very supportive of public education.”

AASB Leadership Fly-in to Juneau Feb. 10 – 13th

AEBSD educators and students took part in the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Leadership Fly-in to Juneau earlier this month. AASB president elect and AEBSD school board member Tiffany Jackson, AEBSD board member Hillary Smith, King Cove teacher/chaperone Mark Ingram and Sand Point student Justin Mobeck headed to the state capital for training and meetings with legislators.



Sand Point student Justin Mobeck participated in the AASB Fly-in to Juneau Feb. 10 – 13th.

Part of the Juneau trip involved advocating for several AASB priority areas. Those priorities include ensuring Alaska’s future by investing in public education funding; providing a culturally responsive education for every student; delivering equitable access to educational infrastructure for every student; preparing students to enter school and be ready to learn; and increase recruitment and training of highly qualified teachers.

The first day provided training on parliamentary procedures.

“While I realize that sounds dry, it was actually amazing,” Jackson said. “It was the most entertaining and informational parliamentary procedures training I’ve ever taken. In the first ten minutes, I had already learned things about running a more efficient and effective meeting according to Robert’s Rules of Order.”

The second day was packed with meetings. The group discussed bills related to education that are being considered in Juneau this year, and what they might want to support. They also heard from Senator Gary Stevens and attended a House hearing focusing on increasing the base student allocation (BSA) by \$100 and what the impacts could be if this increase is not implemented.

“We emphasized the need for an increase to the BSA, hand in hand with a sustainable fiscal plan, support for increased broadband, and advocated for bills that would help us recruit and retain high-quality teachers,” Jackson said.

The group also attended a Senate Education Committee question and answer session with school board members and students.

Next, they met with Speaker of the House Rep. Bryce Edgmon and Alaska Commissioner of Education Michael Johnson regarding educational priorities and needs.

“While the attitude at the capital was reserved, given the financial challenges of the state, I think we were pleasantly surprised to hear about how much support we did have in advocating for the needs of our districts,” Jackson said.

Students Shine During AEBSD National Geographic Bee Competition

The Aleutians East Borough School District National Geographic Bee Competition was held Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. Congratulations to the participants and School Bee winners. Lennie Brandell of the King Cove School and Joshua Faunillan of the Sand Point School both did a great job competing fiercely through all seven rounds and representing their schools. Congratulations to Joshua Faunillan for winning first place in the competitive and challenging Aleutians East Borough School District National Geographic Bee.

Congratulations to Lennie Brandell for earning Second Place in our Aleutians East Borough School District National Geographic Bee and winning his school bee.

Next, Joshua Faunillan will take a written test to qualify for the State Geographic Bee competition. If he is successful in placing in the top 100 in the state, he will have the opportunity to participate in State held on April 6, 2018. If Mr. Faunillan were to be successful at state, he would then move on to compete in nationals in Washington, D. C., on May 20 - 23, where he would become eligible for scholarships up to \$50,000 and prize trips.

Thank you to all our Aleutians East Borough School District and School National Geographic Bee competitors, their teachers and families. Your dedication to improving our students' global knowledge is wonderful. Keep up the great work. Thank you also to our Judges, Mrs. Annette Calver and Mrs. Ingrid Cumberlidge.

Sand Point Fifth Graders Launch Fundraiser for NICU Babies

Sand Point Fifth Graders are putting their creativity to work by using their talents to raise money for a great cause. The students are selling homemade bracelets to raise money for the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage.

“They have a little business going, making and selling bracelets and rings made from a Wonderloom,” said Jerri Nyberg, secondary special education teacher.

The students initiated the jewelry-making project right after Christmas. Their goal is to raise \$100. As of today, they are very close.

“They have learned about marketing and how much work it actually is,” Nyberg said. “It started as a hobby for a few of them.”

The students are also learning about the importance of compassion. The idea to donate the proceeds came from student Keira Galovin. The fifth grader spent several months in the NICU at Providence after she was born.



Left to right: Summer Walls, Keeley Dushkin, Morgan Gundersen, Azia Walls, Vivian Browning, Ava Holmberg, Keira Galovin and Matthew Hadraki at the Popof Market, one of the locations where the students sold their homemade bracelets.

“She’s very thankful for how many babies are saved there,” said Nyberg.

For the past couple of months, the students have been selling the bracelets at school and around town. The fundraiser will wrap up in mid-March. Keira plans to deliver the money raised to Providence herself when her family travels to Anchorage next month.

“The community, as always, has been very supportive,” said Nyberg. “This is a great cause.”

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) 2017 Report

By Bruce Wright, Senior Scientist - Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association



With Spirit and Strength

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) has been working for over a decade to understand the risks from paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), both to people and the ecosystem. Our work at APIA on harmful algal blooms began in 2005 with 20 monitoring stations from Ketchikan all along the Gulf of Alaska coast, all of it, all the way to Russian where we also trained technicians on the Commander Islands to collect monthly samples and test for PSP. The initial monthly sampling effort lasted just over a year and established a necessary PSP baseline for future PSP work in Alaska.

What We Have Learned:

Over the years we have learned that PSP is found all along the Gulf of Alaska coast and into the Bering Sea and the Arctic Ocean. The APIA PSP research effort resulted in uncovering the risk of eating the hepatopancreas (guts) from crab and shrimp from our research in Haines, Alaska (*Tiayasanka Harbor*, Lutak Inlet, Dungeness crab PSP results at 1,055 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$ when the FDA limit for PSP in bivalves is 80 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$). We also secured the unfortunate honor of recording the highest PSP level ever measured in Alaska, blue mussels from Viking Cove, Haines had PSP at 21,600 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$. At Pt. Louisa, Juneau, Alaska, we had a baseline from 2006 with low PSP levels for several years. The highest levels we recorded for Pt. Louisa in summer 2014 when the PSP

levels increased to 151 µg/100g and in summer 2015 to 148 µg/100g. That's the same beach where a woman consumed cockles in summer 2010 and subsequently died from PSP.

The data sets for some of our monitoring stations reveal an obvious shift in persistence of PSP and especially in the Aleutian Islands and Pribilof Islands. For example, the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point, Alaska data suggests two shifts of increasing PSP, in 2010 and 2014 (see at http://www.qtribe.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B12BC3FE9-E8ED-4E09-B3F6-6D6254E121B1%7D). After the May 2014 jump in PSP in Sand Point, the levels have not dropped below the FDA limit for PSP in bivalves (80 µg/100g).

Akutan Forecast Station?

We have seen that high levels of PSP in Akutan seem to forecast region-wide (Aleutian Islands) PSP events. In July 2010, the Akutan PSP levels were 390 µg/100g and in 2015, the levels reached 221 µg/100g, both were years of region-wide PSP events. These region-wide PSP events occur during years we measured high ocean temperatures (collected at Akutan, King Cove and Unalaska). Usually Adak, Alaska (further out the Aleutian Islands chain) has low PSP levels, but the PSP levels reached 94.3 µg/100g on 6/18/15, the highest level ever recorded for Adak. Also in 2015, Pauloff Harbor, Sanak Island butter clam collected 5/16/15 had a PSP level of 336 µg/100g and Unalaska mussels on 6/12/15 had PSP levels of 784 µg/100g. The 2017 Akutan PSP levels were low, only reaching 40.5 µg/100g in August.

Northern Shift of PSP Events

The northern shift of high PSP levels is of great concern. The monitoring station of St. George in the Pribilof Islands of the Bering Sea indicated PSP was below 80 µg/100g until 2014 when the levels in September 2014 were at 240 µg/100g, then in July 2016 jumped to 1,590 µg/100g. The levels measured in August 2017 were 575 µg/100g.

Fall, Winter, Spring PSP Events and Food Safety Concerns:

King Cove, Alaska is very important for its valuable subsistence butter clam resource in the Lagoon, but PSP events beginning in 2008 have increased the risk of subsistence harvests. In July 2008, the PSP levels in butter clams was 1084 µg/100g, in July 2010 it was 641 µg/100g, June 2016 it was 481 µg/100g, but some of the PSP events also occurred during the colder months, the months with an 'r' in them.

King Cove PSP events during fall, winter and spring:

| Date | PSP level |
|------|-----------|
|------|-----------|

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| 3/27/09 | 152 µg/100g |
| 4/30/10 | 106 µg/100g |
| 12/28/10 | 138 µg/100g |
| 12/9/11 | 99 µg/100g |
| 10/22/13 | 108 µg/100g |
| 4/6/14 | 98.1 µg/100g |
| 4/16/15 | 89 µg/100g |
| 11/16/16 | 88.9 µg/100g |
| 2/1/17 | 93.6 µg/100g |
| 10/16/17 | 99.2 µg/100g |

Monitoring beaches for PSP leads to some understanding of the dynamics of PSP levels, but in no way does it offer a mechanism for food safety. The APIA project is not a food safety program. We would be foolish to make harvest recommendations based on these data. However, there is a way. The State of Alaska has approved the harvest-hold-test. That is simply to hold your harvested clams or other bivalves (out of the ocean of course) until the test results come back from the lab. If the PSP levels are high, discard the clams. This procedure is the only way to protect people from PSP who harvest bivalves from Alaska beaches for personnel use. Bivalves found in your stores are tested for PSP and are considered safe to eat.

PSP and the Ecosystem:

Reports of dead and dying seabirds, sand lance (a forage fish) and large fish have led us to focus on the ecological effects of PSP. Windrows of tons of dead sand lance across from Sand Point on Unga Island, and near False Pass, and the sick and dying birds (gulls and eagles were noted) feeding on the sand lance resulted in our asking fishers, elders and others in the Aleutian Island communities about these events and about their thoughts. The survey reveals a link with the dead sand lance and sick or dead birds. A dead gull recovered from False Pass in July 2015 had elevated PSP levels (13.4 µg/100g), but without controlled experimenting and testing we cannot determine if the PSP was the cause of death. The False Pass technician who collected the gull described that during the 2015 event, many gulls and eagles lacked coordination, had difficulties in flying and some died.

The Hypotheses:

The Steller sea lion population is depressed in much of the Aleutian Islands, and as low as 95% below historic levels. Judging from the data we have gathered over more than a decade in the Aleutian Islands and the local knowledge shared with us, we see a strong link to PSP events and the 95% decline in the endangered sea lion population and seabird die offs in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea.

Some species are at risk from direct poisoning from PSP by consuming the organism that makes the PSTs (paralytic shellfish toxins), *Alexandrium sp.*, or feeding on the toxic organisms further up the food web. For example, copepods and euphausiids feed on *Alexandrium sp.*, become toxic with the PST and pass these toxins up the food web to other forage species such as the common forage fish in the region, sand lance. The toxins can incapacitate the forage species at which time they are easy prey for top predators such as sea lions. We have measured PSP from samples collected from dead sea lions' stomachs in the Aleutian Islands.

A delayed response occurs after the forage species (copepods, euphausiids, sand lance) die and are thus removed from the food web, leaving other marine predators without food. Accordingly, this can explain why, after several months, we see starving marine life, especially sea birds, washing up on beaches, most starved to death. The birds didn't die from PSP toxicity. They died because the PSTs disrupted the ecosystem. Months after the massive 2015 harmful algal bloom in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA), thousands of murrelets, starved or starved to death, washed up on GOA beaches. And, months after the record 2016 PSP levels in the Pribilof Islands (St. George PSP levels 1,590 µg/100g), starving and starved puffins washed up on the islands' beaches. The PST didn't kill the puffins, as erroneously reported in some news articles. They died from starvation because the PST disrupted the ecosystem.

We recorded high levels of PSP in sand lance collected near Homer, Cook Inlet, Alaska. Live sand lance collected in Taiysanka Harbor, Haines, Alaska in July 2014 had whole body PSP level of 34.8 µg/100g

(composite sample). Dead sand lance with the highest PSP levels we measured were from our most northerly monitoring site near Deering, Norton Sound, Alaska. The Deering sand lance had PSP levels of 758 µg/100g (whole body). Samples of sand lance recovered from a 2017 Deering, Alaska king salmon's stomach are in the ADEC-EHL queue with HPLC results expected soon.

Other species at risk in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea include Yukon River's king salmon, walrus, fur seals and sea otters. They all could feed on PSP-contaminated prey. Hundreds of sea otters tested for PSP had detectable levels of the toxin. A dead sea otter collected in southeast Alaska on 8/7/14 had a PSP level of 541 µg/100g in pleural fluid (around the lungs) and another had domoic acid (another harmful algal bloom toxin found in Alaska) of 595 PPM in its urine (FDA legal limit for domoic acid is 20 PPM).

During the 2015 Gulf of Alaska harmful algal bloom (HAB) event, several monitoring stations, reported from plankton tows, had high concentrations of the dinoflagellate *Alexandrium sp.* (responsible for PSP) and *Pseudo-nitzschia*, the marine planktonic diatom genus containing some species capable of producing the neurotoxin domoic acid. We did not detect any domoic acid in the biological samples sent to the ADEC-EHL.

Caution Advised:

Shellfish harvesters should be advised that PSP is a serious health risk when consuming personally harvested shellfish. Crabs feeding on toxic mussels, clams or fish (sand lance) can accumulate PSP toxin in their digestive system, so I recommend that before cooking, remove the back shell of the crab and clean out and discard all the dark soft tissues that comprise the digestive system and crab butter. The same may be true for shrimp; clean them before cooking. Bivalves (clams, mussels, oysters, scallops) sold at wholesale and retail markets require PSP testing and are considered safe for human consumption, but crabs or shrimp are not regularly tested for PSP. Forage fish, such as sand lance (AKA needle fish, candle fish, sand eels) can become toxic with PSP, too. I recommend not eating dead or sick looking forage fish found on Alaska beaches and report these events to me.

Partners:

APIA is working with the University of Alaska Sea Grant Program, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association) and others, and is funded by the North Pacific Research Board, to develop a field test for PSP. A poster was presented at the January 2018 Alaska Marine Science Symposium that describes our progress on that endeavor and the associated studies. Pay special attention to the information we have on reducing the risk of PSP toxicity by carefully selecting the safer parts of butter clams and discarding the siphon and siphon tip. Of course, the only way to insure a safe meal of subsistence clams is to test them before you eat them. Really, that's the only way!

The samples for this project are all analyzed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Health Laboratory (ADEC-EHL) using approved analytical methods (HPLC or mouse bioassay), and/or the NOAA, *National Ocean Service* Beaufort Laboratory, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Beaufort, NC. Over 95% of our analyses have been analyzed using HPLC (high performance lipid chromatography).

The samples from Sand Point were collected by the Qagan Tayagungin Tribe and analyzed at ADEC-EHL (http://www.qttribe.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B12BC3FE9-E8ED-4E09-B3F6-6D6254E121B1%7D). The King Cove samples were collected by the Environmental Coordinator, Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Alaska. In Adak, USFWS collects PSP samples. In Unalaska, the SeaGrant Agent collects and ships samples to the lab, and in Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, and St. George, the APIA Village Protection Safety Officers make the

collections. In Chignik Lagoon, the Environmental Coordinator collects the samples and in Deering, Norton Sound the samples are collected by another friend. APIA makes the collections from Amchitka, Nikolski and Sanak Island in the Aleutian Islands.

APIA will continue its harmful algal bloom studies, and continue to work to understand risks of PSTs to people and the marine ecosystem.

2018 SWAMC Energy Workshop Kicks off Tomorrow



SWAMC is hosting an Energy Workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 28th. It will be an all-day event in the Hotel Captain Cook ballroom in Anchorage. The link to register and

draft agenda is posted on our energy website at www.southwestAKenergy.org. Attendees should register, but there is no cost to attend, and we will provide breakfast and lunch.

2018 SWAMC Economic Summit & Membership Meeting

The 2018 SWAMC Conference will be held March 1st and 2nd at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. The theme this year: Resilient Communities Meeting the Challenge of Tomorrow.

To register, visit this link: <https://form.jotform.us/SWAMC/Conference>



To view the agenda, visit this link: <https://swamc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018-Final-Agenda.pdf>

Job Opening:

One of the State DOT members retired recently, leaving a void on the Cold Bay DOT team.

If interested in applying for employment, please contact Harold (“Hap”) Kremer at email:
harold.kremer@alaska.gov.



Isanotski Corporation

P.O. Box 9
101 Isanotski Drive
False Pass, AK 99583
907-548-2217 PHONE ~ 548-2317 FAX

RFP

The Isanotski Corporation is soliciting Request for Proposals for Repair and Rehabilitation of their existing Triplex building. It will require prospective proposers to review the anticipated work to be done.

SCOPE OF WORK

Requests for specifications and related proposal documents may be obtained through the Isanotski Corporation Office P.O. Box 9, False Pass, Alaska 99583 or via telephone 907-548-2217 or via email isanotskicorp@justemail.net

PROPOSALS

Sealed Repair/Rehabilitation proposals must be received at the Corporation Office as specified in the information for Proposal Document by close of business 5:00PM, March 30, 2018. The proposals will be opened March 31, 2018 in the Isanotski Office located at 101 Isanotski Drive, False Pass, Alaska beginning at 11:00am. The selection of the qualified proposals will be at the sole discretion of the Isanotski Board of Directors and the Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or not award the contract if deemed in the best interest of the Corporation. Price is only one of the factors to be used to evaluate the proposals as described in the specification documents. This solicitation does not commit the Corporation to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal or to award any contract.

William Shellikoff Jr., President

Published: February 26, 2018 – March 12, 2018

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



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