



## Natural Resources Department Highlights

### Bristol Bay Salmon Outlook

The forecasted Bristol Bay sockeye salmon run for 2016 is approximately 46.6 million fish. Based on the forecast and using the mid-points of escapement goal ranges, 29.5 million fish are potentially available for commercial harvest. More information can be found at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareabristolbay.salmon>

### Bristol Bay Fish and Game Regulatory and Management Changes

BBNA and BBEDC coordinated bringing Bristol Bay residents to attend the Alaska Board of Fisheries 2015 Bristol Bay Finfish Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Area M Finfish meetings in March 2016 to testify on fisheries proposals with donations from City of Dillingham, Bristol Bay Borough, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and others. The following are some regulations that were adopted or modified at the December 2015 and March 2016 Board of Fisheries meetings in Anchorage:

#### Registration Cards:

Regarding district registration cards: set gillnet permit holders are only required to fill out and return set net registration cards if they fish in the Nushagak District. At the December 2015 Board of Fisheries meeting the regulation regarding registration for drift gillnet permit holders was changed. Drift gillnet permit holders must fill out and return district registration cards prior to commercial fishing in any district in Bristol Bay.

#### Fish Tickets:

Fishermen and processors should be aware of the reporting requirements in 5 AAC 06.377 (b) that state: "Each commercial fisherman shall report, on an ADF&G fish ticket, at the time of landing, the number of Chinook and Coho salmon taken but not sold. "Also, new reporting requirements for 2016 found in 5 AAC 39.130 (c)(2) and (17) require that when fishing as a dual permit operation, both CFEC permit numbers and signatures of the permit holders will be recorded on fish tickets when fish are delivered.

#### Vessel registration

Beginning June 1, all drift gillnet permit holders must register before fishing in any district in Bristol Bay.

#### Set Gillnet Distances

An exemption for minimum distances between units of gear when one set gillnet is operated seaward of another set gillnet that is operated under the authority of the same CFEC permit.

#### Alagnak River Sockeye Special Harvest Area

The board modified the language in the Alagnak River Sockeye Salmon Special Harvest Area (ARSHA) Management Plan that allows for fishing periods to occur concurrently in the ARSHA and the Naknek-Kvichak District after escapement goals for sockeye and Chinook salmon have been met on the Alagnak River. It is unlikely a fishery will occur in the ARSHA in 2016. This was a victory for the village of Levelock and we are excited to see what the future has in store for this special harvest area.

#### Graveyard Point

Closed waters of the Kvichak Section (north line) is now defined by those waters northeast of a line from a point near Graveyard Point at 58°52.07' N lat., 157° 00.80' W. long. to a point on the northwest shore of Kvichak Bay at 58° 53.37' N lat., 157° 04.26' W. long. This accommodated local residents to continue set gillnet fishing in the traditional fishing areas they have done for many years.



Bristol Bay Attendees at the Alaska Board of Fisheries 2015 Bristol Bay Finfish meetings held in Anchorage last December.

# Natural Resources Continued-

## GPS Coordinates

In the Nushagak District the board adopted GPS coordinates for all boundaries in the district. Changes were also made to portions of the Togiak District. Fishermen are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the GPS data points prior to fishing in 2016. District maps are available on the ADF&G website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareabristolbay.salmon#maps> or at the Dillingham and King Salmon offices.

In the Clarks Point area, set gillnets located in the area from 58° 50.10' N lat., 158° 33.52' W long. to 58° 49.29' N lat., 158° 33.10' W long. will be permitted a maximum of 750 feet from the mean high tide mark, or to the minus three foot low tide mark, whichever location is closer to the mean high tide mark.

Nushagak subsistence areas and boundaries have been clarified. **\*\*See map below\*\***

Wood River Special Harvest Area Muklung River upper boundary line has changed for subsistence fishing on the Wood River.

## Management Plans

Nushagak Coho salmon management plan has been changed. Wood River SHA management plan has changed to include an option to open the Wood River to commercial fishing

when the Nushagak District is limited to 4.75 inch mesh to protect Nushagak sockeye salmon.

## Togiak District

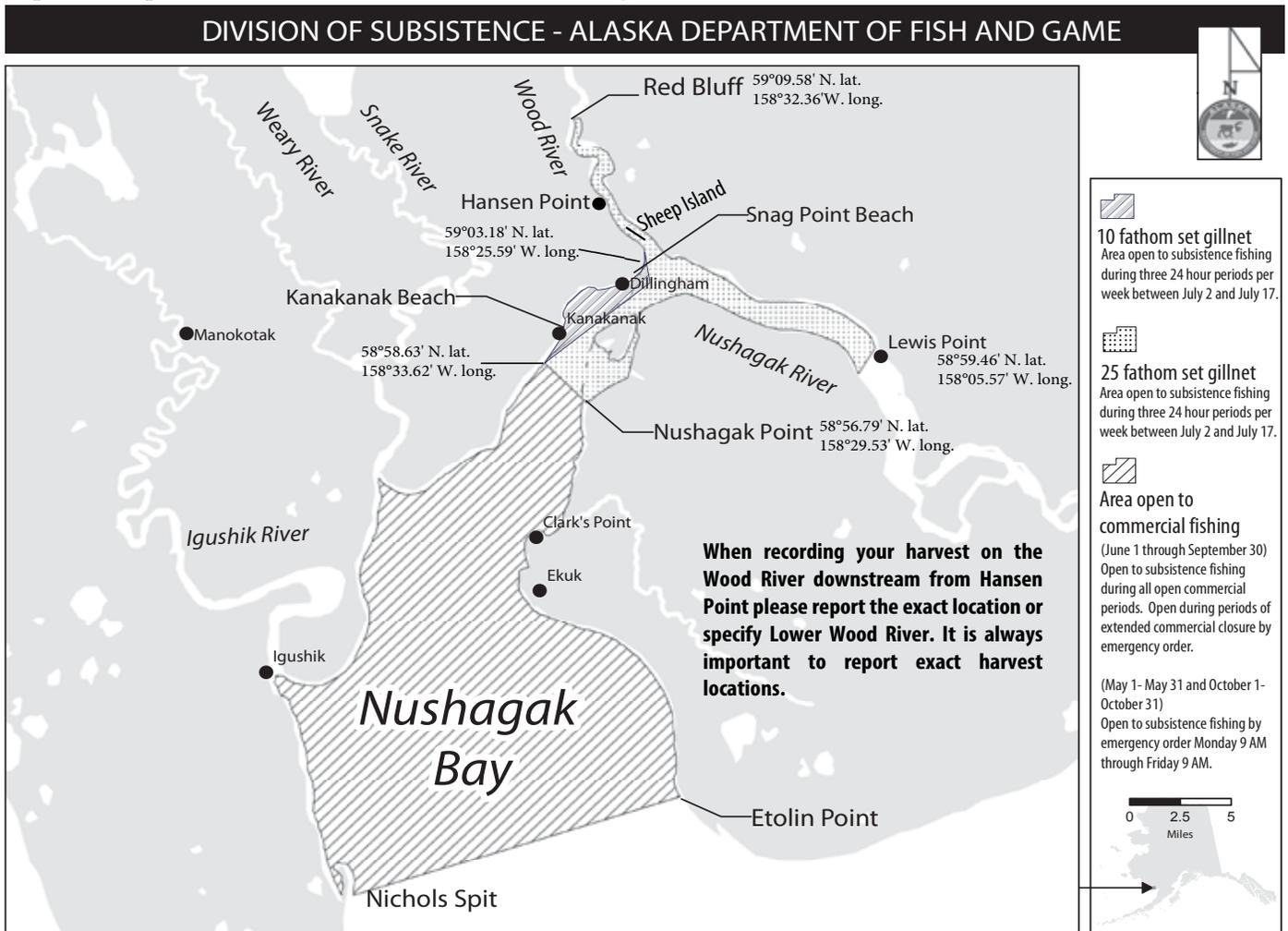
In the Togiak District- Both the permit and the vessel are now restricted from fishing in the Togiak District if they are registered for any other district, and permits and vessels are restricted to Togiak District if they register there.

## Subsistence

A regulation was adopted that continuously opens subsistence salmon fishing above the commercial districts in the Ugashik, Egegik, and Naknek rivers.

Lawful gear, dates, and area descriptions were amended for the subsistence fishery targeting spawning sockeye salmon "redfish" on Naknek Lake.

The board adopted language clarifying the chumming issue that was a concern for subsistence users in the Lake Iliamna region. The new language will apply to all of the fresh waters in Bristol Bay and not only the Lake Iliamna region. This was a victory for local area residents in Bristol Bay. The new language for 5AAC67.022 (k) reads: *In the fresh waters of the Bristol Bay Area where the use of bait is not allowed, a sport fishing guide or guided angler may not apply to fishing gear or place in the water any substance for the purpose of attracting fish by scent.*



The Board of fish adopted amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for herring spawn on kelp in waters of the Togiak District.

5 AAC 01.336 was amended under the customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish stocks and amounts necessary for subsistence uses.

5 AAC 01.336 (b)(3) 4,100 – 12,700 usable pounds of herring spawn on kelp are reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in the Togiak District as described in 5 AAC 27.805(a).



Participants at the 2016 Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands/Chignik Finfish Meetings in Anchorage, February 2016.

“NEW INFORMATION” is a term used at the Board of Fish and Board of Game meetings. The breaking “new information” we have to share with you is the fact that the Igushik counting tower has been funded by a partnership with BBNA, Village of Manokotak, Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute (BBSRI), Trident Seafoods and Peter Pan. The Igushik counting tower was one of several counting projects that wasn’t going to receive funding by the Department of Fish and Game due to a smaller operating budget this year. We are thankful to the tower being funded for this year as the counting tower has been used since the 1950’s and has proven effective, reliable, and relatively cheap. Without the escapement data from the tower, Fish and Game would likely have taken a conservative approach to managing the fishery, meaning less fishing time as it erred on the side of getting enough sockeye up the river. As we face budget cuts in various aspects in the management of our fisheries, we are happy to have worked and collaborated with the entities to continue the counting towers for this year. All four west side counting projects are now back online for this season: the Nushagak River sonar starts operations on June 6; the Wood River tower begins counting on the 13; the Igushik River tower on June 22, and Togiak River tower on July 1.

### Wildlife Updates

#### Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd

Natural Resources Staff were able to attend the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage, AK in April, 2016 and gave public testimony regarding Nushagak Peninsula Caribou herd proposals. The Federal Subsistence Board approved the bag limit of up to 5 caribou, hunting season dates of August 1-March 31, and same day airborne from January 1-March 31. These regulatory changes will go into effect on July 1, 2016. The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou herd is growing substantially on the Nushagak Peninsula, at approximately 1400 caribou. With the high population, the biologists would like to reduce it to around 900 caribou.

The total harvest of caribou was sixty-four (64) for the Fall 2015-Spring 2016 season. The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and ADF&G submitted special action WSA16-02 to uplift the restrictions to the seven communities again and open the hunt for all statewide residents from August 1-March 31, 2016 hunting season. The Federal Subsistence Board has held public comment periods and government to government tribal consultations on this issue. However, The Federal Subsistence Board will still receive written comment on this topic. Please send your information to Orville Lind, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 E. Tudor Rd. MS 121, Anchorage, AK 99503. Call (907) 786-3953 for more information.

#### Walrus Endangered Species Decision

Staff were able to attend the USFWS Government to Government consultation regarding the possible listing of Walrus on the Endangered Species Act. This is a lengthy process, and BBNA Natural Resources encourages tribes, ANCSA corporations, and individuals to take part in it. People are encouraged to provide comments with traditional ecological knowledge of the walrus, sea ice, and related information. The USFWS is planning on making their decision in November 2017. As a reminder tribes are encouraged to contact the USFWS Tim MacCracken at USFWS 1-800-362-5148 or [james\\_maccracken@fws.gov](mailto:james_maccracken@fws.gov) to let them know you would like to have a government to government tribal consultation to ask questions and provide information. There will be another round of public comment meetings starting in November 2016.

#### Upcoming Events of Interest

- June 6-17: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting, Anchorage
- June 7-9: Ice Seal Committee meeting, Anchorage
- June 12-17: Bristol Bay River Academy, Aleknagik
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> week of July: Fishtival, Naknek
- August 5-7: Salmonfest, Ninilchik
- August 10: Alaska Salmon Day, throughout Alaska

# Subsistence Harvest Assessment and Biological Sampling of Chinook Salmon in the Togiak River Drainage

Documenting subsistence harvests, salmon health and local knowledge of Chinook salmon that are important for Togiak River communities.

## WHY CONDUCT THIS RESEARCH

This project will address concerns regarding the health and abundance of Togiak River Chinook salmon and a declining local subsistence harvest. In order to address these concerns, researchers will observe and document the subsistence harvest of Togiak River Chinook salmon by the communities of Togiak and Twin Hills through two years of in-season observations, interviews, and the administration of a post-season harvest survey. Additionally, investigators will conduct a stock assessment of the Chinook salmon through harvest samples for Ichthyophonous and age, sex, and length (ASL) analysis.

This research is funded by the USFWS Office of Subsistence Management to help document reliable estimates of Chinook salmon escapement into the Togiak River. The results from this project will help fill current data gaps by producing up-to-date Chinook salmon harvest estimates and by providing local knowledge to improve current understanding of Chinook salmon runs in the Togiak River drainage.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

This research effort is collaboration between the Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and The Department of Natural Resources, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA). In addition to providing subsistence harvest data, this research will include training of local researchers in each study community and creating partnerships with local governments and regional organizations to support implementation and maintenance of the project. Communities will have the opportunity to review and comment on the data collected before it become final.

## HOW WE USE THIS DATA

The information from this project will assist state and federal managers with their subsistence management responsibilities. Local and regional advisory councils can use this information to make recommendations for regulatory changes, and it will assist the State of Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board to make informed decisions concerning management of fish and wildlife in the region. Final results will be summarized in a technical report as well as included in the Division of Subsistence Information System (CSIS). Both are available online from the Division of Subsistence, ADF&G.

# Brownfields Update!

The Brownfields Program has been very busy working on several projects. First, CaSander Johnson has been assisting several tribes get ready to apply for assessment services. So far one tribe has completed the inventory survey questionnaire and is moving toward gathering last documentation to apply for the EPA Targeted Brownfield Assessment service. While CaSander Johnson has been working with the tribes, she is continuing looking for two more tribes to join the program. She has also been getting the final draft funding request for FY16-17 done. The deadline for the final funding request is June 10<sup>th</sup> and she plans to complete it well before the deadline. Its spring time which means time for site visits to provide public outreach to villages and tribal council and collect information for BBNA's Brownfield Inventory! CaSander Johnson plans to fly to Twin Hills, Togiak, and Naknek.

On another exciting note, CaSander Johnson just returned from attending the State and Tribal Response Program Workshop in Anchorage. This year the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation put on a two day soil/water sampling class. The class taught her all necessary procedures and methods to conduct collect soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater samples. After taking this class CaSander Johnson is a certified sampler and only needs to do three months of on-the-job shadowing with a Qualified Environmental Professional in order to conduct sampling independently. This could potentially mean saving on travel costs, by not bringing other certified samplers from out of region to conduct these services. If anyone has questions about the Brownfields Program, any concerns about contamination in your community or want to join the program, please call CaSander Johnson, Tribal Environmental Response Program Coordinator, at (907)842-5257 or email [cjohnson@bbna.com](mailto:cjohnson@bbna.com).

# Natural Resource Department wants Firearm Safety Training in your Community

The Natural Resources Department at BBNA wants to make sure the Hunter Education and Firearm Safety program is in your community. BBNA, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and community volunteers are collaborating to educate our region's youth in safe hunting practices. To find out how to schedule training in your community or become a volunteer, contact the Natural Resources Department at (907) 842-5257.





The Natural Resources Department is pleased to welcome Cody Larson as the Subsistence Fisheries Scientist at the Bristol Bay Native Association. He coordinates and administers BBNA's Subsistence Fisheries Program activities across the region through cooperative work with Village, State, and Federal entities under the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program, with particular emphasis on subsistence fisheries research and developing local capacity through internships.

Over the past 9 years, Larson has worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on Subsistence, Sport, and Commercial Fisheries projects in the Bristol Bay, Kodiak, and Kuskokwim regions. Larson has assisted in collection of genetics in much of Bristol Bay as part of the Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program (WASSIP). In 2007 and 2010, Larson collected biological samples from Chinook on the Togiak River, and was a lead on Chinook capture and sampling on the Nushagak River from 2010-2015 as part of the Chinook Salmon Research Initiative.

In addition, Larson has trained surveyors and aided in documenting subsistence fisheries harvest data in 27 communities on the Kuskokwim drainage. Having worked extensively throughout the region, and communicating with thousands of individuals about subsistence harvest methods and subsistence concerns, he is excited and proud to be joining the Natural Resources Department team in providing comprehensive services to our tribes and region. Don't hesitate to contact him with any subsistence fisheries information or concerns, he can be reached by phone at 800-478-5257 ext. 343, or email [clarson@bbna.com](mailto:clarson@bbna.com).

## Regional Government Study with Tribes Task Force

The Task Force will have representatives from the all cities, tribes, school districts, and regional organizations in the Dillingham Census Area, which includes the communities of:

- Aleknagik    ▪ Manokotak    ▪ Clarks Point    ▪ Togiak
- Ekuk        ▪ New Stuyahok    ▪ Dillingham
- Portage Creek    ▪ Ekwok    ▪ Twin Hills    ▪ Koliganek

This project provides an important opportunity for these organizations to weigh in on issues surrounding borough governments, annexations of the Nushagak fishing grounds, and other related topics.

Task Force Representatives will attend three meetings to discuss forms of regional governments, options, and feasibility. There will be one inter-governmental consultation meeting at the end of the project to discuss the study's findings and any future actions that the Task Force would like to take. Travel costs will be covered by a grant.

BBNA volunteered to secure funding for this project as a public service and to further the Bristol Bay Regional Vision in regards to increasing collaborations and coordination. The cities of Dillingham and Aleknagik provided financial contributions to this project. BBNA has hired the McDowell Group to facilitate Task Force meetings and complete the final report. This project is expected to be done within a year.

This summer there will be a survey going out to each household. Please take that time to provide your feelings on issues surrounding a borough or annexation.

For more information, contact Patty Heyano at (907)842-6221 or email [pheyano@bbna.com](mailto:pheyano@bbna.com).

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**Ask yourself what tools support all aspects of life-learning, working, communicating, daily tasks, and recreation - not just today, but into the future.**

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## Prisoner Reentry Project

The BBNA Prisoner Reentry Project is in the process of producing a strategic plan to provide services and support methods that are culturally sensitive to Alaska Native individuals returning to the Bristol Bay region from prison as well as improving public safety. The project is federally funded by the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance until September 30, 2016. A written strategic plan for reentry services will be completed before the grant ends in September and grant proposals are being researched and possibly submitted for implementation funding.

The Prisoner Reentry Task Force is a team of people comprised of various regional service agencies, state, tribal representatives, and former prisoners providing recommendations to ensure a sound strategic plan for reentry services. The Task Force is dedicated to reducing recidivism in the Bristol Bay region. The Task Force has met several times since the beginning of the year, collaborating on ideas of how this Reentry Program will work in the Bristol Bay Region. The Task Force discussions have been very interactive and have given recommendations on program goals, program positions, program model, regional needs for reentrants, and solutions to common barriers that reentrants face when being released from prison. The Task Force has heard from various agencies on what services they provide and also from other Reentry programs in Alaska and how they provide services. A few of the Task Force members were able to attend the Reducing Recidivism through Successful Reentry Conference in Anchorage in March and learned how other agencies state and

nation-wide are addressing the recidivism problem. The final Task Force planning meeting will be August 10-11, 2016 in Dillingham.

The reentry project has had assistance from other national agencies; our technical assistance partners include the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College, the American Probation & Parole Association, and the Center for Court Innovations. They have facilitated a few meetings this past year, providing the Task Force with great information about best practices from other reentry programs in the lower 48 states. The local and state agencies that are participating are: BBNA (Workforce Development, Vocational Rehabilitation, VPSO Program, Family Violence Prevention Division, Wellness program, Children Services Program, Community Services), Dillingham Public Health Center, Safe And Free Environment (SAFE), Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center (SAVEC), State of Alaska- (Department of Corrections- Anchorage, Dillingham Adult & Juvenile Probation, Public Defender Agency & District Attorney's Office), Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (Behavioral Health & Jakes Place), Bristol Bay Housing Authority, Curyung Tribal Council, Iliamna Tribal Council, Togiak Traditional Council and the City of Dillingham Police Department.

If anyone would like more information about the Prisoner Reentry Project please contact Gwen Larson, Cultural Programming Coordinator or Annie Golia, Program Assistant at BBNA at (907)842-5257 or toll-free at 1-800-478-5257.



Photo from the Prisoner Reentry Task Force Meeting May 18, 2016.

# BBNA Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Development (DOTID)

## National Tribal Transportation Program Update:

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) FY2016-2020. One of the big changes with the recently passed FAST Act is the new reporting requirement under the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). Reports will be required to be submitted by all tribes or consortia that receive TTP funds and based upon their Tribal TIP (TTIP). As reported in the previous BBNA Newsletter, the reporting criteria include:

1. Names of project(s) and activities carried out in previous year
2. Description of project(s) and activities carried out
3. Current status of project(s) and activities
4. Estimate of number of jobs created and number of jobs retained by the project(s)

This reporting criteria is very similar to what was required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) from 2009.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is in charge of developing the report template. Tribes that have FHWA TTP agreements (BBNA has a FHWA TTP Consortium Agreement) will be starting to report out using the new template now for the first half of FY2016, FHWA is asking their Tribes/consortia to use the report and provide comments so that it can be improved prior to the first mandatory reporting for all tribes for the end of FY2016.

Funding amounts for the FY2016 TTP are now available online either at the BIA or FHWA websites for every federally recognized tribe:

<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/Transportation/index.htm> <http://fh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/ttp/shares.htm>

Estimates are also being made available for TTP funding from FY2017-FY2020. This should enhance the transportation planning process, as tribes will now have information that will allow them to better plan for upcoming years. The types of things that may impact the actual funding amount include:

- Changes in population numbers (a component of the funding distribution formula)
- Obligation limitations (which are annually applied by Congress)
- Annual appropriation (also under Congressional authority, though to date Congress has matched the appropriation with the authorization amount)
- Recessions (if insufficient tax revenue has been generated in the Highway Trust Fund)

## Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program:

Mentioned in the last Newsletter the new Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program under the US Department of Transportation (US DOT). A Federal Register notice was recently issued for the establishment of a negotiated rule-making committee. The committee will be made up mostly of tribal representatives. More information is available from the Federal Register Notice, Document Number 2016-09496.

## 25 CFR 170, Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Regulations:

We are still anticipating that the BIA will be releasing their Federal Register notice on the final TTP Regulations shortly. These will include revisions due to the FAST Act. The FHWA and BIA representatives to the Tribal Transportation Coordinating Committee (TTPCC) indicated they anticipated its release by the end of May 2016. But then, they have made predictions in the past that have not come to fruition.

## Tribal Transportation Coordinating Committee (TTPCC) Update:

The TTPCC (formerly IRRPCC) has been in existence since about 2006. The TTPCC held their most recent meeting May 3-5 in Seneca Territory in western New York State. Julie Baltar, BBNA's Director of Transportation and Infrastructure Development was elected by the committee to serve a 1-year term as their recorder. In this function, Julie's travel is paid for by the BIA's TTPCC budget. The representative for Alaska is Sam Thomas of Craig in SE AK, and the alternate is Clarence Daniels of AVCP. Though not a member of the committee, Julie also provides extensive technical assistance to the Committee as well as to one of the Committee's two workgroups, the Operations Workgroup. The Committee's other workgroup is the Administration Workgroup.

At this most recent TTPCC meeting, the Committee recommended that "Tribally Owned" public roads that are listed in the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI) have at a minimum, an estimated deferred maintenance, and that this information be provided to the Tribal Interior Budget Committee (TIBC) as well as members of Congress. At this time, Alaska tribes are not receiving any BIA Road Maintenance Funds (Dept. of the Interior). However, those tribes in the lower 48 that have BIA ownership roads in their NTTFI, receive some level of BIA Road Maintenance funding. These tribes may expend some of their BIA funds on tribal roads. However, if a tribe does not receive any BIA funds, they don't have that option. The hope is that by showing Congress what the estimated deferred maintenance need is, there may be hope of Alaska's tribes receiving some aid in the future for maintenance of their tribally owned routes. This is something for Alaska tribes to keep watch of.

# DOTID Continued-

Another issue tackled at this meeting was the recommendation for the makeup of a Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) team to monitor what is allowed into the NTTFI. The TTPCC recommendation was that the QA/QC team include:

- 1 representative from FHWA
- 1 representatives from BIA
- 5 representatives that are experienced tribal RIFDS users
- 1 TTPCC member to serve as the chair

Should the Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs approve this recommendation, expect to see a Federal Register notice regarding the QA/QC team, its functions, and a call for nominations.

The next meeting of the TTPCC is tentatively scheduled for Seattle the week of August 22.

## Projects/Grants:

### BBNA's FEMA Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant

We held our first meeting in Ekwok the week of February 1. Our in Village schedule is as follows and will be similar for all communities:

- Day 1 - Travel to community and meet with Tribal Hazard Mitigation (HMP) Planning Team
- Day 2 - Reconnaissance (public facilities and infrastructure) Meeting with Tribal Council, City Council, and Village Corporation Board Public Meeting
- Day 3 or 4 - (if needed) cont. reconnaissance of community, travel back to Dillingham

Villages that are within BBNA's Transportation Consortium will also have discussion on priority transportation needs. Plus, we have a number of communities that are also engaged in our transportation safety planning projects.

We have met with the following communities to date:

- Ekwok
- New Stuyahok
- Perryville

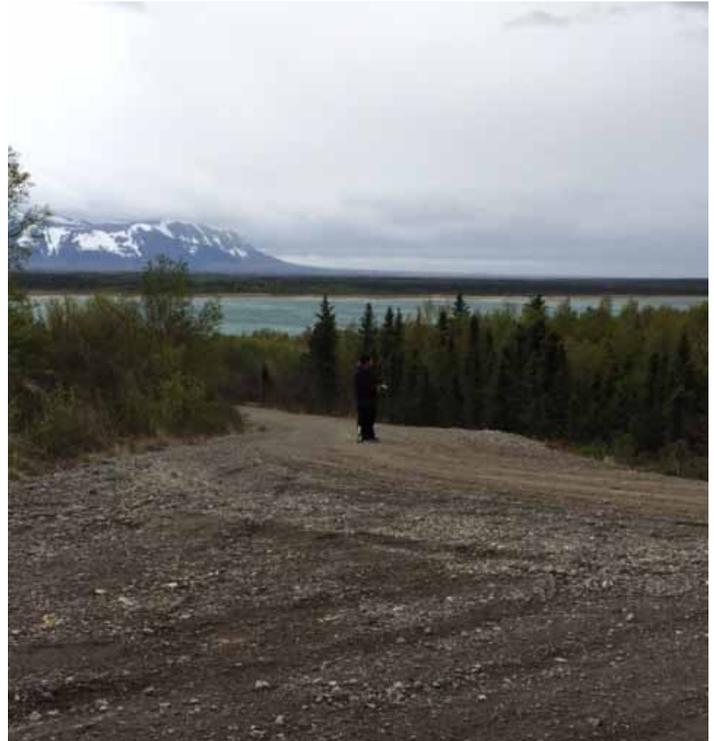


Nushagak River from Ekwok during HMP meeting taken February 2016.

And have the following scheduled for May:

- Nondalton
- Pilot Point
- Ekwok
- Plus discussion on the City of Dillingham's draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

We will be doing some additional reconnaissance over the summer, but this will be limited by the salmon runs and hunting.



Gusty Akelkok using GPS to get position for the HMP project in Nondalton.

## Regional Transit Project:

We will be wrapping up our coordinated transportation planning project for Dillingham, Aleknagik, and Ekwok before the end of summer.

We are also planning on applying for coordinated transit planning projects for Clarks Point, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Pilot Point, Portage Creek, and Twin Hills.

## Tribal Transportation Program Project Development:

We have several projects that are under survey, design, or the NEPA process. These include:

- Ekwok to Clarks Point Road at 95+% complete Plans, Specification, and Estimates.
  - This project includes a wetlands mitigation project which is currently in development.
- Portage Creek Landfill Road, not yet 35% design.
- Pilot Point's Ugashik River Road survey complete, NEPA process underway, beginning design before summer 2016.

### **Construction Projects:**

Work has begun again on Ekwok's Klutuk Road and landfill project. Work is expected to be completed by mid-June.

### **Climate Change issues:**

Last year, New Stuyahok completed its work on their landfill road reconstruction project. This spring with a significant spring melt; portions of the reconstructed road near a stream and lowland area were washed out. One question being asked is this normal spring activity or is this a climate change impact? The next village down the Nushagak River, Ekwok, experienced river flooding associated with an ice jam. In addition, they too had a lowland stream wash over their new road. We are very interested to know if other Bristol Bay Villages had flooding issues this spring. If this is a climate change impact, those of us involved in developing design contracts should be reconsidering our standard roadway designs contract to make adjustments for climate change impacts. FEMA recommends considering an increase of flood plain elevation of up to 3 feet.

### **Transportation Planning:**

We are in the process of working with all members of our transportation consortium to update Long-Range Transportation Plans, this will include a review of the Tribes' National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI). The BIA Department of Transportation out of Albuquerque, NM is currently working with the National Tribal GIS workgroup to develop a GIS environment for the RIFDS process.

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

BBNA is very active in providing information to tribal communities on how to be prepared for an emergency. We have posted and will be providing additional information BBNA's website at [www.bbna.com](http://www.bbna.com) for your benefit. If you are a Village Council representative and are interested in getting training directly from FEMA on Tribal Emergency Management, there are three excellent week long courses that FEMA has to offer. More information is available at:

<https://www.fema.gov/training-1/training-tribal-representatives> There are also a number of courses offered on-line.

### **BBNA TTP Training:**

BBNA is still seeking interested applicants for a week-long Transportation Planning training to be held sometime this Fall (if there is enough interest), please email [jbaltar@bbna.com](mailto:jbaltar@bbna.com) if you are interested.

To learn more about BBNA DOTID check us out on BBNA's website or please contact Julie Baltar, Director at (907)842-6219 or email [jbaltar@bbna.com](mailto:jbaltar@bbna.com).

-WISHING YOU SAFE TRAVEL WHEREVER YOUR DESTINATION-

## **BBNA VPSO Highlights**

### **(8) BBNA Funded position status:**

BBNA has (7) of the (8) funded VPSO positions filled. We have (1) VPSO vacancy being advertised in our region, on a first come first serve position to be stationed in either Egegik, Port Heiden or Chignik Bay. We just filled the Manokotak position with former VPSO Cpl. Colby Alakayak, date of hire 04/07/16. We also filled the New Stuyahok position with VPSO Berton Lillie, date of hire: 05/30/16.

### **VPSO Departing after 18 years of Service:**

VPSO 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Jason Creasey, Sr. has been our VPSO for the community of Aleknagik for 18+ years of service. The community shared that the residents of Aleknagik have benefited from his patience, kindness, unflappability, reliability, honesty, and ability to keep things to himself and abide by the confidentiality. The City of Aleknagik and BBNA would like to thank Jason Creasey, Sr. for his work and dedication all these years and hopes he will enjoy the next phase of his life.



Jason Creasey (pictured left) accepting a plaque for 18 years of service as Aleknagik VPSO from Trooper Nasruk Nay on May 16,2016.

### **2015 USDOJ COPS Hiring and Equipment/Training Grant received-**

BBNA was awarded a USDOJ COPS Hiring and Equipment/Training Grant in the amount of \$331,685.00. These PA1 grant funds will be used to enhance VPSO Training Opportunities during their 2017 VPSO Annual Training scheduled this upcoming 2016 Fall season.

For more information on the VPSO Program, please contact Carla Akelkok, VPSO Program Manager, (907)842-5257, ext. 435 or email [cakelkok@bbna.com](mailto:cakelkok@bbna.com).

# Family Services Community Events

## Science Night

3/30/16 – Family Services / ICWA case workers; Deanna Baier and Jane Gottschalk coordinated a Family Science Night in Aleknagik. Partners from UAF Bristol Bay Campus, US Fish & Wildlife/Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, BBNA Workforce Development, BBAHC (Child Advocacy Center & Health Education), 4-H, Public Health Nurse, community volunteers and Aleknagik school teamed up to provide this fun, educational evening. Stations included Lego challenges, gardening, bicycle powered electricity, exploring wildlife, trapping, creating catapults, exploring carbonation, understanding the benefit of insolation and bubbles.

60 community members participated; a few from Dillingham trekked up to the neighboring village. Most people stayed the entire two hours of the event.



## Aleknagik Children's Fair

4/20/16 – Family Services / ICWA case workers; Deanna Baier and Jane Gottschalk, Aleknagik School, the Imagination Library, BBAHC (Child Advocacy Center, Behavioral Health & Health Education), Public Health Nurse, and community volunteers partnered to provide the Children's Fair in Aleknagik. 53 individuals signed in for this festive event. The two hour fair, for toddlers to teens, included many fun, learning activities for youth. Stations included: bowling, bean bag toss, art center, recycling – making speakers, catcher toys and geometrical shapes, Legos, puzzles, maze challenge, cars and planes, healthy snacks and hopscotch. Partners shared time and resources and spent an enjoyable evening engaged with community members. This event promoted the foster care program. Bristol Bay is always in need of caring individuals willing to foster children in need. Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent please contact OCS Dillingham Children's Services at (907)842-2341 or BBNA Family Services at (907)842-4139.



## Dillingham Young Children's Fair

4/16/16 – Family Services / ICWA case worker Deanna Baier worked with the Early Childhood Interdisciplinary Team to provide the Young Children's Fair in Dillingham. The two hour fair included many educational learning stations for youth ages 0-5. Partners from the Imagination Library, Head Start, BBAHC Child Advocacy Center & Health Education, Public Health Nurse, 4-H, Curyung Tribe and BBNA ICWA worked together to provide this opportunity for the 36 participants that signed in.



Contact Deanna Baier at (907)842-4508 if you are interested in hosting a Children's Fair or Science Night in your community.

# Family Violence Prevention Division

The Family Violence Prevention Division consists of three programs: Wellness, Tribal Response, and Food Bank promoting personal safety, healthy families, and community wellness in Bristol Bay through awareness, prevention, and collaboration.

## Wellness

BBNA Family Services reviewed different curricula to use for a Wellness Program, and although all of the program curricula reviewed provided useful program services, the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), (a tribal consortium representing 56 tribes in the Bethel and Yukon/Kuskokwim of Western Alaska) Healthy Families – Yup'ik Way program curriculum was selected to move forward in development for the BBNA Wellness Program.

The Wellness program has an established Wellness Advisory Committee that meets monthly providing guidance and direction for creating and maintaining the wellness program that will result in a holistic approach to wellness and shift from outside help to people within the region taking responsibility and power for developing healthy attitudes, belief systems and behaviors that will ultimately result in healing for individuals, families, and communities.

BBNA's Wellness: A Circle of Life curriculum consists of twelve adaptable sections: Introduction, Pregnancy, Teachings: (Love, Helping, Hunting/Gathering/Sharing), Boys and Girls Roles, Historical Trauma, Healing, Relationship/Marriage Preparation, Marriage and Family at Home with Parents, Leaving Home with Family, and Celebration.

Mary Jane Kasayulie - BBNA's Wellness Coordinator is in contact with the five villages, established as a pilot project to move forward with development of their Wellness: A Circle of Life program, by adapting the curriculum to fit their community's specific needs. Each village is in different stages of development ranging from organization of a meeting and utilizing the Village Wellness Team Workbook, a Wellness Team to activate a Wellness Team for their community, to curriculum development.

Mary Jane collaborates within BBNA and other agencies within Dillingham in planning prevention, awareness, education, and outreach activities. Activities during the quarter included a Health Fair, Father Figure Dinner/Dance, and Ice Breakers for the Youth Leadership Symposium.



BBNA staff wearing Blue for Go Blue Day on April 1, 2016.

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month - agencies and organizations collaborated organizing a community march to start off the prevention month, every Friday in April was Go Blue Day, a Children's Fair was held and prevention information was handed out at our local Post Office in Dillingham. Mary Jane also organized a planting of Pinwheels for Prevention at BBNA.

## Tribal Response Teams

Barbara Nunn is newly hired as the Tribal Response Team Coordinator and is familiarizing herself with the Tribal Response Team Development Program. Barbara will be working closely with Family Violence Prevention Staff in developing Tribal Response Teams addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Barbara will also continue oversight of the Bristol Bay Regional Food Bank.

## Food Bank

The Food Bank of Alaska (FBA) traveled to Dillingham in January 2016 for a site visit, Barbara Nunn collaborated with FBA in providing outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program along with Food Bank Services.

Barbara attended the Alaska Food Coalition Annual Meeting in Juneau, Alaska. Barbara also attended the SNAP/Food Bank Training in Atlanta, Georgia.

The BBNA Regional Food Bank applied for an American Seafoods grant seeking funds for the Food Bank, and was awarded \$2,500.

The Food Bank has been working in collaboration with SeaShare, BBEDC, City of Dillingham, Peter Pan Seafoods, and Nushagak Cooperative on the planning process of accepting SeaShare products in Dillingham for Food Bank clients.

SeaShare will be placing a freezer container in Dillingham to receive, store, and distribute a traditional source of protein to eligible clients in the Bristol Bay service area. SeaShare has been working on a distribution project for western Alaska and BBNA's Regional Food Bank is one of the first pilot projects for the program. The freezer container arrived in Dillingham mid-April and contains 8400 lbs. of donated frozen seafood to start the project.



Bigfoot Grocery employee loading a pallet of food for the Food Bank.

BBNA would like thank Bigfoot for their generous donations these past months. It has helped feed many clients in the Bristol Bay area.

A Food Bank application is available at your Village Council and also BBNA Family Services. For any questions or concerns please contact Barbara Nunn at (907)842-4139 ext. 362, or email [bnunn@bbna.com](mailto:bnunn@bbna.com).



Bristol Bay Native Association  
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### Bristol Bay Calendar Events

Event/Location	Date	Contact Information
BBNA Executive Committee Meeting Location: Dillingham, AK	August 12, 2016	BBNA (907) 842-5257 or 1-800-478-5257 Ask for DeeDee Bennis
BBNA Full Board Meeting Location: Dillingham, AK	September 28 - 30, 2016	BBNA (907) 842-5257 or 1-800-478-5257 Ask for DeeDee Bennis
BBNA Executive Committee Meeting Location: Fairbanks, AK	October 20 - 22, 2016	BBNA (907) 842-5257 or 1-800-478-5257 Ask for DeeDee Bennis

To see more community events go to BBNA's interactive Community Calendar at <http://plus.calendars.net/bristolbay>

The Mission of BBNA is to maintain and promote a strong regional organization supported by the Tribes of Bristol Bay to serve as a unified voice to provide social, economic, cultural, educational opportunities and initiatives for the benefit of the Tribes and the Native people of Bristol Bay.

#### BBNA Contact Information

**BBNA Main Office**  
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**Family Resource Center / Head Start**  
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**BBNA Workforce Development**  
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To find out current information about BBNA go to our website at [www.bbna.com](http://www.bbna.com)