



## Tribal Marine Multi-Species Conservation Plan Workshop held in Anchorage

Helen M. Aderman, Marine Mammal Program Manager

First of all, a hearty *Quyana!* to the participating tribes from Chignik Lagoon, Port Heiden, Togiak, and others for attending the January 2016 Bristol Bay Imapriim Ungungsiit Marine Conservation Workshop in Anchorage. At the meeting, we wrote a Regional and Tribal Draft Marine Multi-Species Conservation Plan purpose. We discussed structure and format considerations, what the plan should reflect, food security, concerns and priorities regarding cultural preservation, as well as Tribal Plan components such as Piciryarait (traditional way of life) and Unyuallgeteksaggulluta (Become one mind to become stronger). Our Tribal Vision states “Indigenous peoples living harmoniously within our ecosystem as our ancestors have done since time immemorial. Providing for our cultural way of life through tribal stewardship of resources and traditionally utilized lands and waters, through traditional ecological knowledge and western science methodologies, that ensures access to tribal resources for future generations.”



Pictured at the Imapriim Ungungsiit Marine Conservation Workshop are Myra Olsen, Mike Knapp, Thomas Dock, Margie Coopchiak, Gerda Kosbruk, Helen Aderman, Delissa McCormick, and Jaclyn Christensen.

In the next phase of this project, Moderator Darlene Wright will travel to Chignik Lagoon, Port Heiden and Togiak to work with tribes in drafting the Tribal Marine Multi-Species Conservation Plan. She will conduct community meetings to document tribal marine multi-species resources, tribal lands and waters, and regulatory mapping overlays. The BBNA Marine Mammal Program will work with the tribal councils to set dates as early as late February or early March 2016.

We want to thank the following participants of the Marine Multi-Species Conservation Tribal Regional Advisory Council meeting:

### **Tribal Regional Advisory Council Representatives**

Chanda Billeadeau, Chignik Lagoon  
Gerda Kosbruk, Port Heiden  
Thomas Dock, Togiak.

### **Local Research Assistants**

Margie Coopchiak, Togiak  
Jaclyn Christensen, Port Heiden  
Delissa McCormick, Chignik Lagoon Tribal Administrator

### **BBNA Staff**

Michael Knapp, BBNA Subsistence Resource GIS Database Manager.  
Helen Alderman, Marine Mammal Program Manager

### **Others**

Lianna Peterson, Executive Director of the Alaska Sea Otter & Steller Sea Lion Commission  
Ilona Kemp-Noordolis, Alaska Sea Grant Cultural Anthropology Graduate Research Assistant  
Darlene Wright, Moderator  
Myra J. Olsen, Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council Chair

# BBNA Prisoner Reentry Project

The BBNA Prisoner Reentry Project is moving forward on its goal to produce a strategic plan that proposes culturally sound service and support methods that support Alaska Native individuals returning from prison while improving public safety.

The project is a federal Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance-funded project that includes a focus on the often related issue of substance abuse. By the end of the project on Sept 30, 2016, a written proposal for reentry services will have been developed with the recommendations advanced by the 25-member Prisoner Reentry Task Force, a multi-agency, interdisciplinary team of people including tribal representatives dedicated to seeing recidivism reduced in Bristol Bay. About 85% of Alaska Natives return to prison after release.

The team plans to meet for several days over the months of February, March, April, May, June and August to assemble ideas to deliver collaborative, evidence-based, reentry 'supports' & services – services that would materialize in an 'implementation' phase whereby agencies and communities would work together to make positive change. When a network of reentry supports engage the returning citizen before, during, and upon release from incarceration, recidivism is less likely.

The Task Force met January 19, 2016 with facilitation by the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College, the American Parole and Probation Association, and the Center for Court Innovation. Participants included returning citizens, tribal representatives, and agencies including Bristol Bay Native Association, the State of Alaska Department of Corrections, and local law enforcement including a Village Public Safety Officer. Task force members are eager to continue forward and will meet next in February 2016 for a three day meeting focused on collaboration strategies, reentry trends and challenges, and review of two regional surveys – one to gauge availability of reentry-oriented services and one to invite broader community input about reentry needs.

Ex-prisoner reentry remains a pressing issue in Alaska and nationwide. Reentry supports - behavioral health and addiction treatment, housing, employment, training, and family support are services that deserve attention from the vantage point of the 'returning citizen' – the individual whose release from prison symbolizes a restoration of rights and a return home to a community where their rehabilitation should continue. Reentry is a process that begins upon entry into prison and ends when all available and appropriate rights are restored. The rights of all citizens – including crime victims – deserve our attention.



Participants in the Reentry Task Force Meeting, February 2016.

## Natural Resources Department

The Natural Resources Department would like to welcome our new Director Verner Wilson III. Verner started his employment with BBNA on February 1, 2016. Verner recently completed his Master of Environmental Management degree from Yale University in May 2015, and previously obtained a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Brown University in 2008. We are excited for him to join our team and to welcome him back home to Dillingham. You may contact Verner at [vwilson@bbna.com](mailto:vwilson@bbna.com) or by phone at (907) 842-6244.



Verner Wilson III, BBNA's new Natural Resource Department Director.

### **Calendar Reminder Items**

*March 2-4*—Bristol Bay Youth Leadership Symposium 2016 - (Dillingham)

*March 7-11*—Federal Subsistence Board and Regional Advisory Council's Joint Meeting

*March 8-12*—Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference (WAISC) and South West Interagency-Fish Meeting (SWIM) - (Dillingham)

*April 4-11*—Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) – (Bethel)

*April 11-15*—Federal Subsistence Board – (Anchorage)

### **BBNA Natural Resources Department Contacts:**

Verner Wilson III, Director of Natural Resources  
[vwilson@bbna.com](mailto:vwilson@bbna.com) phone (907)842-6244

Susan Flensburg, Environmental Program Manager  
[sflensburg@bbna.com](mailto:sflensburg@bbna.com) phone (907)842-6241

Helen Aderman, Marine Mammal Program Manager  
[haderman@bbna.com](mailto:haderman@bbna.com) phone (907)842-6240

Gayla Hoseth, Subsistence Research Specialist  
[ghoseth@bbna.com](mailto:ghoseth@bbna.com) phone (907)842-6252

CaSander Johnson, Tribal Environmental Response Program Manager  
[cjohnson@bbna.com](mailto:cjohnson@bbna.com) phone (907)842-6248

## Brownfields Program

CaSander Johnson, BBNA's Tribal Environment Response Coordinator has been busy working on multiple tasks - assisting interested tribes in gathering information for environmental assessment applications, researching potential funding sources for cleanup/redevelopment, starting working on the Standard Operation Manual, and listening in on Brownfield-related webinars. Another big accomplishment was CaSander worked hard on finishing the draft grant proposal for the next fiscal year 2016-2017. Also, she updated BBNA's Brownfields Program website with current information about the Brownfields program and contaminated sites in the region!

In the upcoming months, CaSander will start planning village trips for May and look for two tribes interested in accepting the Brownfields Program in their community. The program would work with the local Tribal Environmental Program staff, develop an inventory of potential Brownfield sites in the tribe's community, hold public meetings on their concerns of contaminations, document local environmental and redevelopment interest, provide technical assistance with finding funding and training opportunities, and many other activities. If any tribes are interested in doing a resolution with BBNA's Brownfields Program, please contact CaSander Johnson, Tribal Environmental Response Program Coordinator, by phone at (907)842-5257 or by email [cjohnson@bbna.com](mailto:cjohnson@bbna.com).

## Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Its mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment.

The program empowers eligible applicants with disabilities to become self-sufficient and independent.

Must be enrolled in a Federally Recognized Tribe.

Vocational Rehabilitation is a set of services designed to assist individuals with disabilities to become self-sufficient.

BBNA Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
P.O. Box 310 Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
Phone: (907)842-2262

# BBNA Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Development

## National Tribal Transportation Program Update:

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) was signed into law December 2015. This is a five-year bill that authorizes transportation expenditures through 2020. This includes the Tribal Transportation Program, formerly known as the Indian Reservation Roads Program, the Tribal Transit Program and other opportunities available to the States and Tribes. The FAST Act is funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, the Federal fuel tax you pay when you purchase fuel for your car, truck, ATV, or snowmobile.

Funding for the Tribal Transportation Program has been stagnant since 2009 leveling out at \$450 million per year. The FAST Act includes increases as follows:

- FY2016 \$465 million
- FY2017 \$475 million
- FY2018 \$485 million
- FY2019 \$495 million
- FY2020 \$505 million

The funding distribution formula remains the same, as was provided under the previous Highway Bill, MAP-21. One of the key changes in the FAST Act is the requirement of data to be reported to Congress annually. If a Tribe has a project that is funded through the Tribal Transportation Program, the Tribe is required to provide the following information based upon obligations and expenditures:

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)

Other changes to the Tribal Transportation Program include changing the 2% Bridge Program to a 3% Bridge Program; reduction of the 6% Federal oversight to 5%.

Of great interest is the allowance of a Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program under the US Department of Transportation (US DOT). This change will not have a big impact on the Tribal Transportation Program, but may impact Tribes seeking funds from the other Administrations on the US DOT such as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

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

We had been anticipating the BIA would be releasing

their Federal Register notice on the final TTP Regulations before the end of the year 2015. However, now that the FAST Act has been passed into law, there will need to be tweaks to the proposed TTP Regulations. The delay to new Regulations may be impacted as Congress will often not allow the release of new Regulations during a Presidential election year. We will provide an update in our next newsletter article.

If any Bristol Bay Tribe has questions on what is new in the FAST Act, BBNA is always available to provide technical assistance.

## Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee (TTPCC):

The last meeting of the TTPCC was the week of November 16 in Washington, DC. This was an Executive meeting with the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs and Associate Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Federal Lands. The next meeting of the TTPCC has not yet been set. If you would like additional information on the TTPCC, please contact Julie at (907)842-6219 or by email at [jbaltar@bbna.com](mailto:jbaltar@bbna.com).

## Tribal Transportation Meetings:

The 14th Annual Alaska Tribal Transportation Symposium will be held in Anchorage, AK at the Hilton Hotel the week of March 21st. This year the organizers plan to have presentations that include:

- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
  - Wetlands mitigation options
  - Nationwide permits
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - Tribal Opportunities under FEMA
  - Hazard Mitigation Planning
  - Draft guidance on Tribal Disaster Declarations
- United States Coast Guard
  - Navigable Waters
    - Bridge construction
    - Other
  - Search and Rescue
  - Enforcement (drugs and alcohol)
    - Issues that impact Alaska's coastal communities
- Tribal Transportation (FHWA, FTA, BIA)
  - FAST Act
  - Proposed Regulations
  - Tribal Transportation Programs
    - Coordination
    - Reporting

- Transportation Planning
- How to evaluate and update a tribe's National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory.
- OBM Super Circular – FHWA Presentation and Workshop
- Tribal-State Transportation Task Force
  - Discussion with the State of Alaska on how the tribes and the State may work together in a positive manner.

Information on the 2016 Symposium is updated at [www.attwg.org](http://www.attwg.org).

### **BBNA TTP Training:**

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

### **Projects/Grants:**

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

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

**Day 1-** Travel to community and meet with Tribal Hazard Mitigation Planning Team

**Day 2-** Meeting with Tribal Council;  
Meeting with Tribal Council, City Council, and Village Corporation Board;  
Public Meeting

**Days 3 & 4-** Field Reconnaissance of community

**Day 5-** Travel back to Dillingham

### **Regional Transit Project:**

Our primary goal for this project is the development of a Coordinated Transit Plan for Aleknagik, Dillingham, and Ekwok. The coordinated plan will provide a basis for acquiring future transit grants for full implementation of a coordinated transit system in and between Aleknagik and Dillingham.

BBNA provided assistance to the City of Dillingham in their application to the State for a 49 USC 5310 grant for operation of Dillingham's Senior Van. The City's Van is in desperate need of replacement.

Though we are not doing a full-fledged coordinated plan for the Bristol Bay Region, we are identifying areas of the Region where public transit could be a significant benefit for the respective community. We have been working with each community on a survey to assess each community's public transportation need. The results will be published as part of our coordinated planning efforts. All communities will have an opportunity to review and provide comment to the plan before it is finalized.

### **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

Ugashik River Road survey complete, NEPA process underway, beginning design before summer 2016.

### **Construction Projects:**

Ekwok Klutuk Road and landfill project is near completion. The project is currently in winter shutdown. The new landfill has been completed, and the new bridge is in place but not yet open to the public. The project will be completed summer 2016.

### **Maintenance:**

We have maintenance agreements in place with Pilot Point and Twin Hills. We anticipate having additional agreements entered into in 2016 for Ekwok, Clarks Point, Ekwok, and Portage Creek.

### **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 Tribe's National Transportation Facility Inventory. Working closely with the Village Councils, we will be holding public meetings to identify any new transportation priorities.

### **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 on BBNA's website [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: <http://training.fema.gov/tribal/>. There are also a number of courses offered online.

To learn more about BBNA DOTID check us out on BBNA's website or please contact Julie Baltar, Director at [jbaltar@bbna.com](mailto:jbaltar@bbna.com) or (907)842-6219; Brenda Kerr, Planner at [bkerr@bbna.com](mailto:bkerr@bbna.com) or (907)842-6144; Gusti Akelkok, Technician at [gakelkok@bbna.com](mailto:gakelkok@bbna.com) or (907)842-6143; or Jenifer Wilson at [jwilson@bbna.com](mailto:jwilson@bbna.com).

-WISHING YOU SAFE TRAVEL WHEREVER YOUR DESTINATION-

# Prevent Oil Spills & Save Money Too!!

Susan Flensburg, Environmental Program Manager

**Use this checklist to inspect your heating oil tank.**

**Can you answer YES to all 10 questions?**

1) Does the fill pipe have a cover to keep water out and is the area around it free of stains?  
 NO  YES

2) Is the fuel system protected from overhead damage, such as falling ice, snow or trees?  
 NO  YES

3) If you have a fuel gauge and overfill alarm do they work?  
 NO  YES

4) Is the vent pipe clear of debris and insects?  
 NO  YES

5) Is the tank free of dents and rust? Is it painted to protect it?  
 NO  YES

6) Are the tank legs or stand the right size, in good condition and on a stable foundation? The tank should not be touching the ground.  
 NO  YES

7) Are the fuel lines protected (lines in the ground or concrete are inside liquid-tight conduit) from damage?  
 NO  YES

8) Is the fuel filter protected from damage and free of excess water?  
 NO  YES

9) Is the tank, especially the ends, free of stains or wet spots?  
 NO  YES

10) Is the fuel tank less than 15 years old? If not, you may want to consider replacing it.  
 NO  YES

There are many reasons for preventing oil from spilling or leaking onto the ground. Some basic reasons include:

- ◆ Reduces potential for health problems.
- ◆ Reduces risks to the environment.
- ◆ Saves money from lost product, fines and clean-up costs.
- ◆ Saves reputations.

Fuel oil is a hazardous substance. Every drop of oil spilled has an impact on the environment and costs money. Small spills are more common and happen when a few drops of fuel oil drip out of the tank or pipes. Larger spills often require professional help to clean up and are costly.

Use the above checklist to prevent spills and save money. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Spill Prevention and Response has useful guidance documents and brochures on residential heating oil tanks.

If you answered “yes” to any of the questions above, be sure to visit: [www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/hho.htm](http://www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/hho.htm).

\*\*\*\*\*ELECTION YEAR 2016\*\*\*\*\*

Alaska's GENERAL ELECTION – **August 16, 2016**

**Deadline for voters to register to vote or update an existing registration – 30 DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY**

There are three ballot choices:

- ◆ Alaska Democratic Party, Alaska Libertarian Party and Alaskan Independence Party. Candidate with Ballot Measures ballot - any registered voter may vote this ballot;
- ◆ Alaska Republican Party Candidate with Ballot Measures ballot - voters registered as Republican, Nonpartisan or Undeclared may vote this ballot; and
- ◆ The Ballot Measures Only Ballot - any registered voter may vote this ballot.

The political party affiliation listed on a voter's registration record 30 days prior to the election determines which primary ballot type a voter is eligible to vote.

GENERAL ELECTION - **November 8, 2016**

**Deadline for voters to register to vote or update an existing registration – 30 DAYS PRIOR TO ELECTION DAY**

Who will we be voting for:

- United States President (4-year term)
- United States Vice-President (4-year term)
- ALASKA U.S. Senator (6-year term)
- ALASKA U.S. Representative (2-year term)

**Bristol Bay Region**

**State Representatives seats** (2-yr. terms)

House District 37

**Bristol Bay is covered by:**

Region IV Election Office  
P.O. Box 577  
Nome, Alaska 99762-0577  
(907) 443-5285 Voice (907) 443-2973 Fax

**REMINDER: YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE 30 DAYS BEFORE ANY ELECTIONS**

MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [www.elections.alaska.gov](http://www.elections.alaska.gov)

or call BBNA 1-800-478-5257 DeeDee Bennis, Voter Registrar, or see any registrar in your area.



Bristol Bay Native Association  
P.O. Box 310, Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 537  
Anchorage, AK

ECR WSS

## Postal Customer

### Bristol Bay Calendar Events

| Event/Location   | Date              | Contact Information  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| BBNA Full Board Meeting<br>Location: Dillingham  | March 22-24, 2016 | BBNA (907) 842-5257 or 1-800-478-5257<br>Ask for DeeDee Bennis |
| BBNA Community Services - Presidents & Administrators<br>Workshop - Location: Dillingham | April 19-21, 2016 | BBNA (907) 842-5257 or 1-800-478-5257<br>Ask for Ida Roehl     |
| BBNA Executive Committee Meeting<br>Location: Dillingham                                 | August 12, 2016   | BBNA (907) 842-5257 or 1-800-478-5257<br>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**  
1500 Kanakanak Road  
P.O. Box 310  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
Phone: 907-842-5257  
Toll Free: 1-800-478-5257  
Fax: 907-842-5932

**Family Resource Center / Head Start**  
1500 Kanakanak Road  
P.O. Box 310  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
Phone: 907-842-4059  
Toll Free: 1-800-478-4059  
Fax: 907-842-2338

**BBNA Workforce Development**  
1500 Kanakanak Road  
P.O. Box 310  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
Phone: 907-842-2262  
Toll Free: 1-888-285-2262  
Fax: 907-842-3498

To find out current information about BBNA go to our website at [www.bbna.com](http://www.bbna.com)