



NSED news

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Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

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NSED Mission Statement

"NSED will participate in and encourage the clean harvest of all Bering Sea fisheries to promote and provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to member communities and Western Alaska, while protecting subsistence resources."

1999—2000 NSED Board Members

Brevig Mission • Walter Seetot

Diomedes • Mary Menadelook

Elim • Oscar Takak

Gambell • Gilbert Ungott

Golovin • Dean Peterson

Koyuk • Danny Adams

Nome • Donald Stiles

Saint Michael • Victor Joe

Savoonga • Truman Kava

Shaktolik • Harvey Sookiayak

Stebbins • Wilfred Katcheak

Teller • Isaac Oleasik

Unalakleet • Henry Ivanoff

Wales • Luther Komonaseak

White Mountain • Daniel Harrelson

New Faces and New Roles at NSED

New staff, individuals with new responsibilities, and community liaisons were all added to the NSED staff during the latter part of 2000. These individuals increase NSED's capacity to serve its communities and further economic development efforts in the Norton Sound region.

New staff include **William (Middy) Johnson** and **Willa Eckenweiler** in NSED's Unalakleet Office. They are joined by individuals who have moved from internships or seasonal employment to permanent employees, and by part-time contract Community Outreach Liaisons in each of NSED's communities.

Middy Johnson began working for NSED as a contractor, examining the market for potential sellers of IFQ's. In late summer he was hired as the Fisheries Development Coordinator, responsible for developing a plan for conducting fisheries development activities. In the fall, he began a crab tagging survey in Wales to determine the potential of a crab fishery in that area.



Middy Johnson

Willa Eckenweiler joined NSED in the summer as the Community Outreach Coordinator. Willa oversees the Community Outreach Liaison positions in each of NSED's communities. Willa is from Unalakleet and graduated from Covenant High School in 1981. She graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1987 with a B.A. in Rural Development. She worked in the airline industry for 13 years and worked seasonally for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a fisheries technician. Willa is married to Gary Eckenweiler and has two daughters, Giaana, 10, and Kira, 8.



Willa Eckenweiler

Willa says that she has met a lot of Norton Sound residents over the years in her work, and

she looks forward to working with the communities. "I am happy to be working for NSED," she says.

Interns in the NSED Anchorage Office that have moved into permanent positions are **Simon Kinneen**, CDQ Harvest Management /Fisheries Biologist and **Virginia Nashalook**, Assistant Accountant. Virginia began her internship in early 2000 and has continued with permanent responsibilities into the new year. Virginia is from Unalakleet, and her responsibilities include Nssp accounts payable, gear loan, and the Norton Sound Fund. She attended UAF after graduating from high school and is now attending UAA, pursuing a degree in accounting.



Virginia Nashalook



Simon Kinneen

Simon Kinneen of Nome began his internship in March of last year, following graduation from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1999. He attended National Marine Fisheries Observer Training in the spring and assumed his responsibilities in the NSED office during the summer, moving into a permanent position with NSED in January.

Marzianno "Rocky" Piccinich, Nssp Production Manager, recently moved from seasonal employment to a year-round position with Nssp. Rocky is in charge of Nssp processing, working at the Unalakleet Plant and also overseeing production in Nome.



Rocky Piccinich

Rocky is from the Seattle area and has over 35 years of seafood experience, including four seasons with Nssp.

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NSED Staff

Eugene Asicksik
President & Chief Executive Officer

Hannah Jackson
Office Manager

Janis Ivanoff
Community Benefits Director

Carolyn Bragg
Accountant

Rosanna Dotomain
Senior Accountant

Richard "Scott" Dickens
Systems Administrator

Simon Kinneen
CDQ Harvest Management / Fisheries Biologist

Virginia Nashalook
Accounting Assistant

NSED Staff - Unalakleet

Jerry Ivanoff
Employment, Education and Training Coordinator

Janice Dickens
Administrative Assistant

Willa Eckenweiler
Community Outreach Coordinator

William "Middy" Johnson
Fisheries Development Coordinator

Norton Sound Seafood Products Staff

Tom Magwire
NSSP Operations Manager

Marzianno "Rocky" Piccinich
NSSP Production Manager

Richard Ferry
Plant Operations Manager, Unalakleet

Alton "Tunny" Walluk
Nome Plant Operations Manager (seasonal)

Orville Toolie
Savoonga Halibut Plant Operations Manager (seasonal)

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At the end of the year NSED completed the hiring of 14 Community Outreach Liaisons, who serve in part-time contract positions. Community Liaisons help get NSED programs and information to community members. They attend community meetings, contact individuals for NSED, share information on NSED programs with local residents, and provide other support functions for NSED. NSED welcomes the following Community Liaisons:

Toby Anungazuk, Jr.Wales
Shirley Antoghome.....Gambell
Fred Pete, Sr.Stebbins
Vera NiksikSt. Michael
Reuben PaniptchukShaktoolik
Ruby NussukKoyuk
Anna MooreElim
Peggy Gologergen Akeya....Savoonga
Etta Menadelook.....Diomed
Irene Sockpealuk.....Golovin
Matilda Olanna.....Brevig Mission
Alex W. Vaughan.....Teller
Davis Lincoln.....White Mountain
Robin ThomasNome

Norton Sound Remembers Al Nakak

The Norton Sound Region lost a life-long leader and friend in December when Al Nakak from St. Michael passed away after a heart attack. Al was a licensed skipper who had successfully completed the OUPV class at the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward through NSED's Employment and Training Program.

Al received his captain's license from the United States Coast Guard. He was very proud of his accomplishment and was a strong supporter of NSED and NSSP for providing an avenue for him to pursue his dreams. Al will be missed. Condolences to his family and to the St. Michael community.

NSED Contributes to Education, Culture & Research

An important part of NSED's mission is to support education and training efforts for Norton Sound residents. NSED took a number of actions during the past few months to strengthen support for education.

At their third quarter Board meeting in November, the NSED Board of Directors voted unanimously to increase the NSED scholarship to \$1250 per semester, beginning with the spring semester in 2001. Earlier in the year, the Board approved scholarship awards to residents attending classes on a part-time basis, pro-rated, based per credit hour.

NSED made several contributions to education last year, including \$3,125 to the Seafood Technology Program at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka. NSED had contributed \$50,000 to the program for the last two years, but now the At-Sea Processors Association has taken over that

contribution and will continue to support the program.

During the second and third quarters of last year, NSED contributed \$73,000 to the University of Alaska, \$20,000 to Alaska Pacific University, and \$3,000 to the Alaska Sealife Center. Of these contributions, more than \$8,000 is being devoted to research related to the health of Steller Sea Lions, which supports NSED's commitment to university research on the sea lion. NSED also contributed \$5,000 to the Alaska Native Heritage Center, continuing NSED's support of the Center.

NSED staff not only sign checks to contribute to communities, but sometimes take action themselves. During the October North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Sitka, Eugene Asicksik played point guard in a charity basketball game organized by At-Sea Processors Association that raised an additional \$12,000 for the school.

NSED Provides High School Banners

NSED has undertaken a project to provide the Bering Straits School District and Nome Public School with banners displaying the District Basketball Conference schools. The banners will hang in the high school gyms.





Large Vessel Loan Program Studied

The NSEDC Fisheries Development Committee reviewed a draft staff report at the NSEDC Fourth Quarter Board meeting in January on the development of a large vessel loan program, primarily to support the purchase of boats suitable for crab fishing in the Norton Sound Region. NSEDC staff began outlining options for such a loan program this past year, following the addition of a red king crab seasonal operation at Norton Sound Seafood Products.

NSEDC is responding to concerns from local fishermen who are unable to participate in the crab fishery due to lack of appropriate size vessels. During the 2000 harvest, only seven of the 17 vessels that fished for crab were owned and operated by residents of Norton Sound communities. The report states:

“A major factor in the lower participation and harvest levels by fishermen of the Norton Sound communities in the Norton Sound red king crab fishery is the lack of suitable vessels... This is a developing fishery and fishermen have not yet geared up or obtained adequate vessels.”

The report goes on to state “NSEDC is also in the process of constructing the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome,

designed to be the primary receiving, processing and marketing center of NSSP’s red king crab and halibut operations. The success of the center may be directly related to the strength of the fishing fleets for both the Norton Sound red king crab and Norton Sound halibut fisheries.”

Following the review by the Fisheries Development Committee, the NSEDC Executive Committee completed a further review in late February. They recommended that NSEDC staff send a draft Community Development Plan amendment to the State of Alaska for the loan program. A special NSEDC Board meeting will be held on March 29 to finalize the amendment.

Construction to Begin on Nome Plant

NSEDC received approval last year from the State of Alaska and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the plans and construction of the Norton Sound Seafood Center. Construction documents and plans are being completed by Arctic Slope Consulting Group, Inc. and will be sent out to bid during the first quarter of 2001. Construction is expected to begin in the summer, with completion by 2002.

The planned facility of approximately 15,200 square feet will include a processing area, office space, a retail outlet, and storage.

NSEDC will relocate the Nome operations of its Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) division to the new center. All halibut and crab landing operations will be moved from the old barge dock to the new harbor site. In addition to halibut and king crab, the seafood center’s retail store will sell king, coho and chum salmon caught commercially in Norton Sound and processed at the Unalakleet processing facility by NSSP. The Seafood Center will be co-located with the new Nome small boat harbor as a part of a long-term lease agreement with the City of Nome.

Fourth Quarter Fishing Activities

During the fourth quarter of 2000, NSEDC conducted CDQ fishing operations for pollock in the Bering Sea, Pacific cod in the Bering Sea, sablefish in the Aleutian Islands, halibut in Area 4D/4E, Atka mackerel in eastern, central and western Aleutian Islands, and red king crab in Bristol Bay. There were no fishing operations for Greenland turbot, or opilio and king crab, other than in Bristol Bay. Through the end of the fourth quarter, NSEDC harvested a total of 29,805.48 metric tons of groundfish CDQ including both target and bycatch species. This amount of harvest represents approximately 83% of the total allocation of annual groundfish CDQ in 2000.

Norton Sound Fund Supports Training

The Norton Sound Fund board of directors met in January to discuss distribution of funds. Although administered by NSEDC staff, the fund is a separate corporation, funded by a portion of the landing tax contributions from NSEDC’s fishing partners.

The Norton Sound Fund board voted to contribute \$15,000 to the Northwest Campus, University of Alaska Fairbanks (Northwest Community College) in Nome for use in offering a Six-pack Captain’s

course leading to U.S. Coast Guard certification and licensing. The Norton Sound Fund made a \$5,000 plus contribution to Northwest Community College in late 1999 to begin developing the course.

The board then voted to contribute \$37,000 from the Norton Sound Fund to its Fisheries Transportation Loan Program to be used for projects to be approved under the program or under any of the corporation’s other authorized programs.

The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC)

is a private nonprofit corporation representing 15 member communities and over 7,500 people in the Bering Straits Region of Northwestern Alaska. NSEDC is one of six Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations in Alaska.

NSEDC Training • 2000 Highlights



First Quarter

- Forty-two residents received scholarship awards for post-secondary education, and six residents received scholarship awards for vocational education.

- Fifteen residents of Golovin attended the NSEDC Electronic Navigation Class on March 27-29, held in Golovin by an Alaska Vocational Technical Center instructor.

- Twenty-one entry-level seafood processor trainees attended the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward for training on February 28 – March 10. Eighteen trainees successfully completed the class.

- A total of 84 individuals from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities received education/training assistance from NSEDC totaling almost \$92,000.

Second Quarter

- Sixteen residents received scholarship awards for post-secondary education, and two residents received scholarship awards for vocational education.

- Sixteen residents signed up for entry-level seafood processor training and were screened in Nome. Fifteen attended the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward for training on May 15 -26. All fifteen successfully completed the class.

- A total of 34 individuals from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities received education/training assistance from NSEDC totaling almost \$58,000.

Third Quarter

- Sixty-eight residents received scholarship awards for post-secondary education, and

six residents received scholarship awards for vocational education. A total of \$74,000 was expended for education/training assistance during the third quarter.

Fourth Quarter

- Four residents received scholarship awards for vocational education from NSEDC during the fourth quarter.

- Sixteen residents applied for Entry Level Seafood Processing training at Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward, and attended the class initiation in Nome. Fourteen residents successfully completed the training in Seward.

- A total of 20 individuals from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities received education/training assistance from NSEDC totaling almost \$33,000.

NSEDC Holds 4th Quarter Board Meeting

The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) held their fourth quarter board meeting for 2000 in January in Nome at the Bering Straits Native Corporation offices. Highlights of the meeting included strong financial gains for 2000, a review of a new large vessel loan program, and appointment of new committee chairs and at-large committee members for 2001.

Glacier Fish Company, L.L.C., NSEDC's harvesting partner, reported record royalty and wage payments made for the benefit of the Norton Sound Region. John Bundy of GFC reported to the NSEDC Board that royalties and wages totaled over \$8 million for the year 2000.

The NSEDC Fisheries Development Committee reviewed a draft staff report on the development of a large vessel loan program, primarily to support the purchase of boats suitable for crab fishing in the Norton Sound

Region. The report will undergo further modifications and discussion with NSEDC's Executive Committee, before a final plan is presented to the NSEDC Board.

NSEDC's committees appointed chairmen and at-large members for 2001. Henry Ivanoff was appointed Finance Committee Chairman with Scott Henderson and Jack Carpenter appointed as at-large members. Walter Seetot was appointed as the Scholarship Committee Chairman, and Denise Barengo was appointed at-large. Luther Komonaseak was appointed the Bylaws Committee Chairman. Eugene Asicksik was appointed the Fisheries Development Committee Chairman, and Steve Ivanoff and Jeff Erickson were appointed as at-large members to that committee.

NSEDC's first quarter 2001 meeting will be held in Nome in the spring.

Board Elects Officers at Annual Meeting

At their Annual Meeting and 3rd quarter Board Meeting, held in Nome in November, the NSEDC Board of Directors elected the following individuals to the Executive Committee:

- Daniel Harrelson, *Chairman*
- Henry Ivanoff, *Vice-Chairman*
- Dean Peterson, *Secretary*
- Donald Stiles, *Treasurer*
- Harvey Sookiayak, *Sergeant-at-arms*

The following individuals were elected as Corporate Officers for NSEDC:

- Eugene Asicksik, *President & CEO*
- Janis Ivanoff, *Vice President*
- Jerry Ivanoff, *Secretary*
- Janice Dickens, *Treasurer*

NSEDC Employment • 2000 Highlights



First Quarter

- CDQ pollock was harvested during the first quarter by Glacier Fish Company. Nineteen Norton Sound residents worked onboard the Glacier Fish Company vessels, *F/V Northern Glacier* and *F/V Pacific Glacier*. Wages paid to NSEDC residents during the first quarter for the pollock A Season fishery totaled \$289,846.
- Two Norton Sound residents were employed by Glacier Fish Company on the longliner *F/V Norton Sound*. Two residents, including a permanent full-time engineer and one processor, were employed by Icicle Seafoods. Wages paid to these four residents totaled \$33,190.
- Three Norton Sound residents were employed as interns during the first quarter. Virginia Nashalook continued her internship in the NSEDC Anchorage office as an Accounting / Administrative intern. Simon Kinneen began a one-year CDQ Harvest Management internship, also in the Anchorage office. Rebecca Derendoff of Huslia was placed with NSEDC's harvesting / processing partner, Icicle Seafoods, in their Seattle office.
- A grand total of 39 individuals from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities worked in the fishing industry during this quarter, earning \$479,650 in gross wages.

Second Quarter

- Although CDQ pollock was harvested during the first quarter, additional wages were paid in the second quarter to the nineteen Norton Sound residents who worked during the A Season fishery. Wages paid in the second quarter totaled \$151,095.
- Twenty-five Norton Sound residents were employed by NSEDC/NSSP as processors, beach gang, and clerical positions at the NSSP facilities in the region. Wages paid totaled \$9,672.
- Three Norton Sound residents were employed by Glacier Fish Company on the longliner *F/V Norton Sound*. Two residents, including a permanent full-time engineer and one processor, were employed by Icicle Seafoods. Wages paid to these five residents totaled \$23,894.
- Three Norton Sound residents worked as skippers and deckhands onboard the NSEDC tender vessels and buying barge. One resident

was employed as NSEC's Gear Coordinator located in Unalakleet. Wages paid to these four residents totaled \$16,525.

- Nine Norton Sound residents were employed as interns during the second quarter. Virginia Nashalook continued her internship in the NSEDC Anchorage office as an Accounting / Administrative intern. Simon Kinneen continued his CDQ Harvest Management internship, also in the Anchorage office. John Koezuna of Nome and George Sookiayak of Shaktoolik worked as interns with Icicle Seafoods. An additional five interns were placed with Kawerak, Inc. and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as fish technicians located at various salmon counting towers on regional rivers.

- A grand total of 75 individuals from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities worked in the fishing industry during this quarter, earning \$394,000 in gross wages.

Third Quarter

- CDQ pollock was harvested during the first three quarters. Twenty three Norton Sound residents worked onboard the Glacier Fish Company vessels, *F/V Northern Glacier* and *F/V Pacific Glacier*, during the third quarter and received \$90,441 in wages.
- One hundred and one Norton Sound residents were employed by NSEDC/NSSP as processors, beach gang, and clerical positions at the NSSP facilities in the region. Wages paid totaled \$110,468.
- Nine Norton Sound residents worked as skippers and deckhands onboard the NSEDC tender vessels and buying barge. One resident was employed as NSEDC's Gear Coordinator located in Unalakleet. Wages paid to these ten residents totaled \$63,540.
- One Norton Sound resident was employed by Glacier Fish Company on the longliner *F/V Norton Sound*. Twelve residents were employed by Glacier Fish Company on board the charter *F/V Galaxy* during the salmon season in Norton Sound. One resident was employed by Icicle Seafoods as a permanent full-time engineer. Wages paid to these residents totaled \$39,406.
- Fourteen Norton Sound residents were employed as interns during the third quarter. Virginia Nashalook continued her internship in the NSEDC Anchorage office as an Accounting

/ Administrative intern. Simon Kinneen continued his CDQ Harvest Management internship, also in the Anchorage office. George Sookiayak of Shaktoolik continued as an intern with Icicle Seafoods. Harry Goldsberry of Nome was placed as an intern with Glacier Fish Company in Seattle. An additional 10 interns were placed with Kawerak, Inc. and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as fish technicians located at various salmon counting towers on regional rivers.

- A grand total of 197 individuals from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities worked in the fishing industry during this quarter, earning \$578,000 in gross wages.

Fourth Quarter

- CDQ pollock was harvested by Glacier Fish Company, LLC during the third and fourth quarters. Twenty six Norton Sound residents worked onboard the Glacier Fish Company vessels, *F/V Northern Glacier* and *F/V Pacific Glacier*, harvesting the CDQ pollock in the "C/D" season fishery. The wages paid to Norton Sound residents in the fourth quarter totaled \$159,529.
- Sixteen Norton Sound residents were employed by NSEDC/NSSP as processors, beach gang, and clerical positions at the NSSP facilities in the region. They were paid almost \$10,000 total for the fourth quarter.
- Glacier Fish Company employed two residents on the longliner *F/V Norton Sound* during the fourth quarter. Icicle Seafoods employed two residents during the fourth quarter, one as a permanent full-time engineer and the other as a processor. These residents received a total of \$18,700 for the quarter.
- Two Norton Sound residents were employed as interns during the fourth quarter. Virginia Nashalook continued her internship in the NSEDC Anchorage office as an Accounting / Administrative intern. Simon Kinneen continued his CDQ Harvest Management internship, also in the Anchorage office. Harry Goldsberry of Nome completed his internship with Glacier Fish Company in Seattle.
- A grand total of 65 residents from the Norton Sound region and neighboring communities were employed in the fishing industry during the fourth quarter, earning almost \$390,000 in wages.

2001 Committee Memberships Established



Scholarship Committee

Walter Seetot, *Chairman*

Victor Joe

Truman Kava

Wilfred Katcheak

Gilbert Ungott

Denise Barengo (*at large*)

Jerry Ivanoff (*staff*)

Financial Advisory Committee

Henry Ivanoff, *Chairman*

Daniel Harrelson

Harvey Sookiayak

Jack Carpenter (*at large*)

Scott Henderson (*at large*)

Steve Rieger (*advisor*)

Fisheries Development Committee

Eugene Asicksik, *Chairman*

Donald Stiles

Dean Peterson

Oscar Takak

Wilfred Katcheak

Daniel Harrelson

Isaac Okleasik

Jeff Erickson (*at large*)

Steve Ivanoff (*at large*)

Tom Magwire (*Operations Manager*)

John Bundy (*GFC, LLC*)

Rules/Bylaws Committee

Luther Komonaseak, *Chairman*

Oscar Takak

Harvey Sookiayak

Henry Ivanoff

Mary Menadelook

Dean Peterson

Donald Stiles

Isaac Okleasik

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