



Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

420 L Street, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 1-800-650-2248
Fax: (907) 274-2249
website: www.nsedc.com

NSED C Mission Statement

"NSED C will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities."

NSED C Board Members & Member Communities

Walter Seetot • *Brevig Mission*
Orville Ahkinga, Jr. • *Diomedea*
Oscar Takak, Sr. • *Elim*
Joel James • *Gambell*
Dean Peterson • *Golovin*
Elvina Naranjo • *Koyuk*
Don Stiles • *Nome*
Truman Kava • *Savoonga*
Victor Joe • *St. Michael*
Eugene Asicksik • *Shaktoolik*
Wilfred Katcheak • *Stebbins*
Joe Garnie • *Teller*
William Johnson • *Unalakleet*
Lucy Kitchen • *Wales*
Dan Harrelson • *White Mountain*

Fishermen will face new Coast Guard rules

NSED C working for exemptions that balance safety and practicability

While NSED C is focused on providing an environment in which Norton Sound resident fishermen can receive the most value for their catch, our top priority for the men and women who deliver to Norton Sound Seafood Products is safety.

Many of the hazards faced by fishermen—a sudden change in the weather or a rogue wave—are beyond our control. How we prepare for the unexpected, however, is fully up to us and can be the difference between life and death when troubles arrive at sea.

Starting in 2012, Norton Sound salmon fishermen will need to be prepared for new U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations. Additionally, the Coast Guard plans to perform safety inspections throughout the region, most likely before the fishing season begins.

Norton Sound fishermen should be able to comply with the majority of the new regulations (*a list of the new rules are on page 9*). However, the rules were written broadly to cover the entire nation's fisheries, resulting in one requirement that may not be practical for the region's salmon fishermen who operate open skiffs.

The regulations, as written, require that salmon fishermen carry immersion suits aboard for each person in the vessel. Coast Guard officials and NSED C both recognize a number of reasons why immersion suits may not be effective safety gear in a skiff—whether it relates to proper storage and maintenance of the



NSED C's Paul Ivanoff III works to get into an immersion suit during the Unalakleet Fishermen's Fair in July. New Coast Guard rules concern the use of the suits in open skiffs.

suits, or the difficulties fishermen would face in trying to don the suits in a small space.

Following discussions between NSED C and the Coast Guard, NSED C has submitted a request for an exemption to this rule. Specifically, NSED C is asking to allow open skiffs less than 26 feet in length (and all skiffs, regardless

Continued on page 9

What's inside...

Remembering Paul Johnson.....	2
Regional salmon planning effort begins.....	3
NSED C Board declares Energy Subsidy.....	4
Pollock group donates to NACTEC.....	5
Winter crab & tom cod fishing.....	6-7
Judge affirms NSED C election practices.....	8
Community Benefit Share remains steady...	8
Small Business Initiative.....	10-12
Board establishes Loan Forgiveness.....	13
Fishermen's Fairs start second lap.....	14-15
New employees / updates.....	16-17
Employment opportunities.....	18-19

Paul Johnson left a big mark on Norton Sound

N SEDC and the Norton Sound region lost a great friend, supporter and advocate with the passing of Paul Johnson on Friday, October 14, 2011.

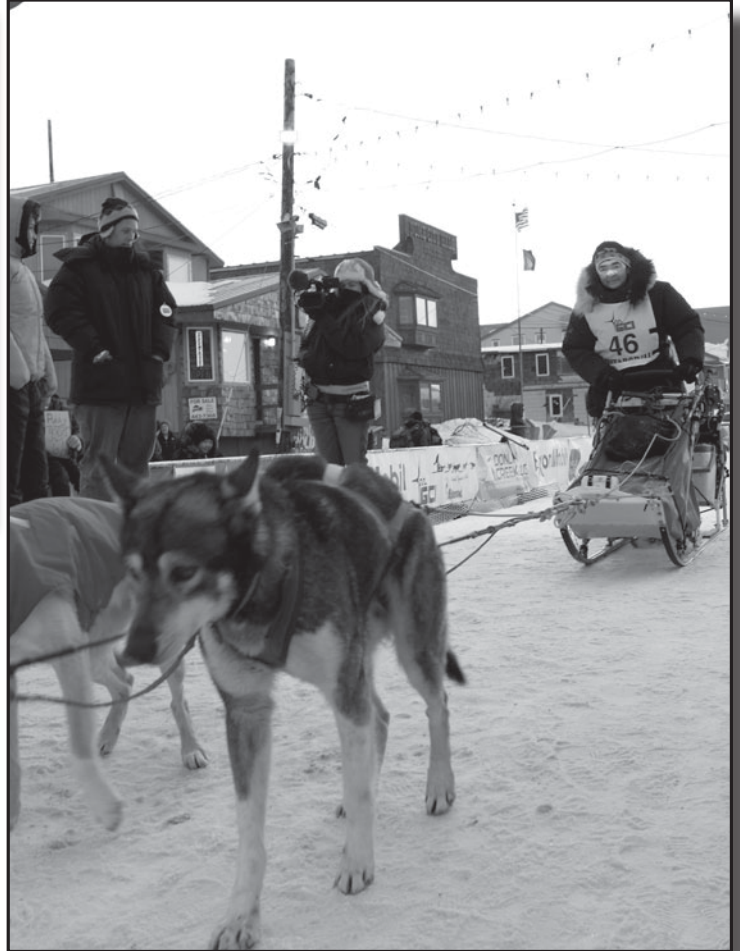
Paul served as a board member for Siu Alaska Corporation at the time of his passing and previously served on NSEDC's board of directors for two separate terms. His service and leadership for NSEDC represent a mere fraction of how Paul gave to his community and his friends—and Paul viewed most everyone he met as a friend.



Paul was a man who cared deeply for his community of Unalakleet and the region. He was a tireless advocate for developing Norton Sound's fisheries to the benefit of the region's residents. He was a strong supporter for the proper management of both subsistence and commercial fisheries so that families could sustainably provide for their dietary, cultural and economic needs.

There is no shortage of stories about Paul sacrificing opportunity for himself to help others, whether it was getting to the fishing grounds late because he was helping at the bible camp or over-extending a break while running the Iditarod so he could visit an old friend who was dying of cancer. "I would always give him a hard time for getting out late to the grounds because he's taking his mom camping or he's helping a nephew," said fellow fisherman and friend Adem Boeckmann. "After that, he still takes care of everyone else's boat before he finally gets his boat out on the water. And still he misses opportunities for himself by helping everyone else, even if they don't ask."

Paul was an expert fisherman and freely shared his tips and tricks with others so they could improve their catches. Many who fished the waters of Norton Sound were in boats he built. "His experience and knowledge of fishing and getting ready to fish was a sought-after skill that he gave freely at his own expense," said Paul's lifelong friend and fellow NSEDC board member Don Stiles. "Some of us witnessed the change from wooden boats to aluminum boats in our fisheries. Paul played a major role with his brother, Junior, in transforming fishing through their shared skills in boat building."



Paul Johnson drives his dog team under Nome's Burled Arch just after finishing the 2011 Iditarod. It was the second time Paul finished the race. His previous finish came in 1986, a full 25 years earlier!

Paul was also a successful hunting guide and avid outdoorsman. His knowledge and leadership in this arena led him to a seat on the Alaska Board of Game. He finished the Iditarod twice, once in 1986 and again just last year. Even with a frost-bitten nose, Paul was all smiles and nothing but positive as he passed under the Burled Arch in Nome last winter.

Paul's positive attitude was also evident in his service to NSEDC and Siu. He was passionate in his beliefs and would not shy away from championing his position. But he also knew how to keep a balance between friendship and business. "Paul advocated and battled for higher pay for fishermen, but toed the line and excused himself from discussion when conflicted," Don Stiles said. "Paul never exerted his authority for the benefit of himself; he understood his role and didn't bully his way through issues."

Regional salmon plan update begins

Dormant since the year 2006, a renewed effort is now underway to update a regional plan that addresses concerns and priorities related to salmon restoration and enhancement in Norton Sound.

The Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team (RPT) gathered for a public meeting in Nome Jan. 23 to discuss how to go about updating and rewriting the comprehensive plan that guides efforts to improve salmon runs in the region. The RPT is a cooperative effort made up of three representatives from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and three appointed by the Regional Aquaculture Association representing Norton Sound residents.

The Jan. 23 meeting was well attended with an open discussion held between the public and RPT members. The majority of those serving on the RPT and members of the public agreed that the process needs to include meetings throughout the region to gather input from all the region's residents.

The aquaculture association, and its role in the comprehensive planning process, gives the public the opportunity to participate in developing expectations of where the region and ADF&G want to be in terms of salmon enhancement. The comprehensive plan, once finished and approved, provides a list of pre-screened projects that individuals or organizations can pursue to improve salmon returns throughout the region.

Ideally, the plan would include a variety of projects—both large and small—spread throughout the region. A diversity of projects in the plan allows entities both big and small to get involved in enhancement efforts, contributing to the betterment of their communities and region. A good example is Iron Creek near Elim where a poor culvert placement resulted in the end of a chum and Coho salmon run. While it did not solve the chum drought, simply lowering the culvert by five feet allowed the Coho run to re-establish itself after more than 20 years. Iron Creek now supplies a significant portion of Elim's subsistence harvest of silvers.

While more resource-intensive projects need

to be part of the plan, such as NSEDC's mist incubation efforts, smaller-scale endeavors should not be ignored. The more accessible salmon enhancement is to the residents of the region, the more we will be able to take ownership in the restoration of our runs.

The process

The current version of the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan has not been updated since its approval by ADF&G Commissioner Frank Rue in 1996, despite an effort by the RPT in 2006. A revitalized aquaculture association and a desire to move forward on the part of ADF&G and several organizations has again breathed life into the process of revisiting the plan.

At the Jan. 23 meeting, the RPT voted to utilize the 1996 comprehensive plan as a starting point for the process, rather than constructing a new plan from scratch. The RPT will update the 1996 plan with facts and figures so that the re-write can start with up-to-date data. That updated version of the plan should be available for the RPT's next meeting which is currently slated for April 25 in Nome during the Kawerak Regional Conference.

Once the updated draft of the comprehensive plan is approved by the RPT for regional review (projected to occur during the April meeting), it will be sent out to the region's communities and entities. Under the current schedule, community meetings throughout the region would be held sometime between fall 2012 and spring 2013 to gather input from residents as to their priorities and what they would like to see in the new version of the comprehensive plan. The tentative schedule is designed to give communities plenty of time to read the plan and consider what they would like to see in the new version.

Following the community meetings, the RPT would meet again to incorporate the gathered information into the new plan. At that point the RPT would need to decide if another round of community meetings would be warranted or if it should move forward with completing the plan. The comprehensive plan ultimately needs to be approved by the ADF&G commissioner.

It is important to note that the comprehensive plan does not spell out projects that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or any other participating entity is necessarily going to pursue and fund. Nor does the current process to update the plan prohibit organizations from pursuing or implementing salmon projects in the meantime; permits are still obtainable through the normal state permitting process. Projects outlined in the plan are those that have been identified as priorities; they have the potential to be implemented by whoever or whichever organization has the ability to see them through, both in terms of financing and meeting regulatory requirements.

A link leading to the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan approved in 1996 can be found at the "links" page on NSEDC's website (www.nsedc.com/links). Please note, the link leads to large PDF file, which may be difficult to access with slower internet connections.

Regional Aquaculture Association elections on tap

As it gets back up and running, the Regional Aquaculture Association will soon call for nominations for upcoming elections to fill its board. As a regional organization, the association's bylaws call for a governance structure that covers all Norton Sound communities and several organizations. The aquaculture association was initially started by Elim's Oscar Takak after he read the 1996 plan and noted that such an association was needed.

Takak served as president of the aquaculture association as of its last meeting several years ago and has resumed his leadership role until new elections can be held. At a recent meeting, the Regional Aquaculture Association re-appointed Oscar Takak and Charlie Lean (RAA board members), and Simon Kinneen (standing RPT Chairman and NSEDC staff member) to the RPT. After a new aquaculture association board is seated, it will likely revisit its appointments to the RPT.

The regional aquaculture association is made up of a dozen members representing the following categories:

Continued on page 4

NSEDC to provide \$500 electric utility subsidy

Subsidy to provide immediate relief as NSEDC works to address long-term needs

Recognizing that high energy costs impact nearly every aspect of life in the Norton Sound region, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors voted to provide a \$500 utility subsidy for the region's residents.

The program will essentially mirror NSEDC's 2008 initiative that paid \$500 toward the residential electric accounts for each household in NSEDC's 15 member communities. That effort led to NSEDC applying \$1.18 million to accounts representing 2,368 households.

Both this year and in 2008, the idea for the subsidy was proposed to the full board by Koyuk representative Elvina Naranjo. The motion enjoyed unanimous support from the NSEDC Board of Directors.

As in 2008, the 2012 subsidy is an isolated contribution to residents of NSEDC's member communities and not constructed to be an ongoing or yearly program. The subsidy complements NSEDC's long-term efforts to bring down energy costs in the region which include NSEDC's Community Energy Fund,

its bulk fuel purchasing program and region-wide energy planning efforts in coordination with other entities.

"NSEDC's Board of Directors realize that high energy costs eat up a disproportionate and excessive amount of our residents' income compared to other regions of our state and nation," said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson. "As NSEDC's energy programs take hold and start to make a difference, we hope this assistance helps families address other immediate priorities."

NSEDC Energy Subsidy details

Who can receive the subsidy?

- Must be a Norton Sound resident in one of NSEDC's member communities: *Brevig Mission, Diomed, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, Koyuk, Nome, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, St. Michael, Stebbins, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales, White Mountain*
- Must have an electric utility account
- For residents whose homes do not have an electric account with the local utility, please contact **Paul Ivanoff III at 800-385-3190 or pivanoff@nsedc.com**
- Subsidy will be applied only to the primary residence
- Only one subsidy will be applied per household or apartment

- For renters whose electric utility bill is included in monthly rent, NSEDC will have a Landlord/Tenant Agreement for the renter and landlord to sign, specifying that the subsidy amount will be credited toward the rent

How do I sign up to receive the subsidy?

Nome

Nome residents who were unable to sign up during the registration drive Feb. 2-4, may sign up at the Nome Joint Utility System office in the Old Federal Building during normal business hours Feb. 6-17.

Unalakleet

Unalakleet residents who were unable sign up at the registration drive Jan. 26-27 may sign up at NSEDC's Unalakleet office above the Post Office during normal business hours Feb. 6-17.

NSEDC communities other than Nome and Unalakleet

NSEDC Community Outreach Liaisons signed up residents in all NSEDC communities, *excluding Nome and Unalakleet*, January 26-28. **If you missed the sign up, please contact your community liaison by Feb. 17.** A list of NSEDC's Community Liaisons is posted below.

Brevig Mission: Darla Tocktoo
Diomed: Andrew Milligrock
Elim: Emily Murray
Gambell: Tyler Campbell Sr.
Golovin: Sherri Lewis
Koyuk: Ruby Nassuk
Nome: NSEDC staff
Savoonga: Charlotte Kava
Shaktoolik: Reuben Paniptchuk
St. Michael: Charlene Austin
Stebbins: Atha Foxie
Teller: Wilma Ongtowasruk
Unalakleet: NSEDC staff
Wales: Joanne Keyes
White Mountain: Davis Lincoln

Salmon plan...

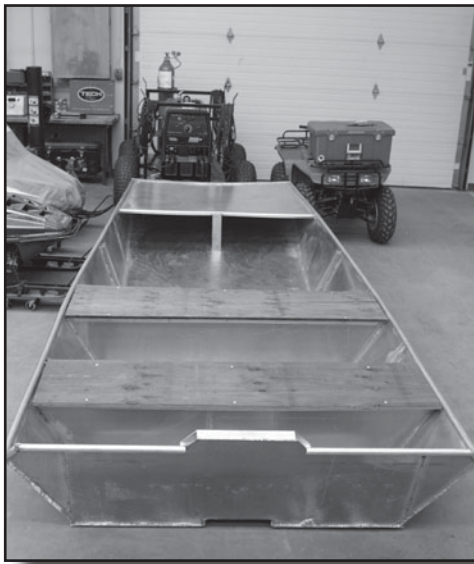
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- 1. Island District:** selected by Gambell and Savoonga;
- 2. Bering Strait District:** selected by Diomed, Wales, Brevig Mission and Teller;
- 3. Nome District:** selected by Nome, King Island Native Community, Nome Eskimo Community, Solomon and Council;
- 4. Northeast Norton Sound District:** selected by

- White Mountain, Golovin, Elim and Koyuk;
- 5. Eastern Norton Sound District:** selected by Shaktoolik and Unalakleet;
 - 6. Southern Norton Sound District:** selected by St. Michael and Stebbins;
 - 7. Holders of Norton Sound or Port Clarence Limited Entry Salmon Permits:** selected by the permit holders;
 - 8. Kawerak, Inc.:** selected by Kawerak;
 - 9. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation:** selected by NSEDC;
 - 10. Sport Fishermen in the Region:** elected by the Regional Aquaculture Association board;

- 11. Processors with Shoreside Offices in the Region:** selected by NSEDC as the sole in-region processor; and
- 12. Subsistence Fishermen in the Region:** selected by the Regional Aquaculture Association board.

Each community and entity recognized as having representation on the Regional Aquaculture Association should soon receive correspondence asking for nominations to the board. Once candidates for the seats are identified, elections can proceed.



(l to r) BSSD School Board Chairman Albert Washington, At-Sea Processors Association/PCC Executive Director Stephanie Madsen, NACTEC Executive Director Doug Walrath, and NACTEC Governing Board Member Bob Metcalf with a ceremonial check for the PCC's \$100,000 donation Dec. 12 in Nome.

Pollock Conservation Cooperative donates \$100,000 to NACTEC

Contribution will fund programs that prepare students for fisheries-related careers

Built by students, a shiny aluminum boat sits in the shop at the Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) in Nome, awaiting a few final touches. Representing more than just an opportunity to travel rivers, the boat and the program behind it present the region's youth the chance to gain valuable skills that could lead to job opportunities in a number of fields.

Among those potential career paths, the Pollock Conservation Cooperative (PCC) would like to see the seafood industry high on the list. With a recent \$100,000 donation to NACTEC, the PCC is helping to provide the training and education that will prepare students for employment in one of Alaska's most vibrant job sectors. The PCC, an arm of the At-sea Processors Association, is an industry trade group made up of companies that harvest pollock in the Bering Sea. NACTEC is a vocational training center in Nome that serves students from throughout the Norton Sound and Bering Strait region.

During a check presentation ceremony at the NACTEC Governing Board meeting Dec. 12 in Nome, NACTEC director Doug Walrath detailed how the \$100,000 donation will support programs to prepare the region's students for careers in the commercial fishing industry. Walrath said students will complete the 16-foot aluminum boat in the NACTEC shop and fabricate a trailer to haul it—a process that will teach welding, construction and engineering skills. The training will not be limited to high school students, Walrath

said, noting that a welding simulator will be rotated throughout the region to provide welding training to both youth and adults.

Walrath also noted plans for marine safety training that will provide high school students with the skills to return to their home communities and teach safety courses to younger students. Students will be able to earn Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED (Automated External Defibrillators) certifications.

"As a result of this funding, high school students and adults alike will receive skill-specific training in preparation for workforce entry into fisheries-related careers," Walrath said. "This funding will begin building a strong and viable program at the high school level that will expose students, from the sixteen communities of this region, to at-sea, on-shore, harvesting, and corporate career pathways in fisheries related vocations."

Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director of the PCC and At-sea Processors Association, presented the donation on behalf of the PCC at the Dec. 12 gathering. Madsen told the NACTEC Governing Board that the seafood industry presented a wealth of opportunity for jobs at all levels, whether it be for entry-level processors and support staff like cooks and cleaners, or more career-type jobs like engineers, mechanics, marketing or human resource specialists. "We have a goal to hire every eligible Alaskan," she said.

Through a State of Alaska program designed

to provide funding for vocational education, the PCC is able to direct funds that would otherwise be spent on taxes toward an educational institution. The connection between NACTEC and the PCC was established thanks to Glacier Fish Co., a PCC member and Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.'s harvesting partner. Glacier Fish Co. brought NACTEC to PCC board members' attention, some of whom were in Nome during the June North Pacific Fishery Council Meeting and had a chance to tour the NACTEC facilities. "We came away very impressed," Madsen said.

Using tax credits to make donations to educational programs is not a new practice for the PCC. For approximately a dozen years the PCC has made contributions in excess of \$10 million that support research and students in the realm of marine science at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and Alaska Pacific University. Madsen said the PCC's board of directors was excited that changes in the law allow for the tax credit to now apply toward vocational education programs at the high school level.

This is not the first tax credit donation to benefit NACTEC, which has previously received funding from NSEDC subsidiary Siu Alaska Corp. and Bering Straits Native Corp.

At the December 12 ceremony, Bering Strait School Board Chairman Albert Washington welcomed the donation and the opportunities it will create. "It is going to make a world of difference," he said. "It is going to help our children in the years to come."

NSSP buying crab & tom cod this winter

Through-the-ice fisheries offer a chance for winter income



Norton Sound red king crab from a winter subsistence harvest are pictured above. Commercially harvested crab must be males and measure at least 4^{3/4} inches across the carapace.

Winter red king crab

With winter fully set in, Norton Sound Seafood Products has started buying red king crab caught through the ice from residents of NSEDC communities.

We are excited to announce that NSSP has found a niche market for this year's winter crab which will permit NSSP to pay fishermen \$6.50 per pound. Please note that due to the short-term nature of this market, this price is no indicator of future summer or winter crab prices to be offered by NSSP.

The following article gives details on how to participate in this unique commercial fishery. The first step interested fishermen and women need to take is to contact Northern NSSP Manager Rich Ferry or Assistant Manager Josh Osborne at (907) 443-2304. Either will be happy to help get you started.

Please note that winter red king crab can be sold to NSSP by those who meet NSEDC's

Norton Sound residency requirements.

What permits do I need, and where can I get them?

Residents who wish to sell winter red king crab to NSSP will need to obtain a 2012 commercial fishing permit from the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Permit application forms can be found online through the CFEC's website (www.cfec.state.ak.us/mnu_Forms.htm), on the applications page on NSEDC's website (www.nsedc.com), or by going in person to ADF&G's Nome office, the Norton Sound Seafood Center or NSEDC's administrative offices. Once filled out, the form will need to be sent to Juneau for processing before a permit is granted.

The necessary permit to fish for red king crab through the ice in Norton Sound is the "pot gear, vessel under 60 feet" permit which costs \$225. In addition to personal information, the permit application will ask for a Fishery code, Permit number, Fishery description and Vessel ADF&G number. To commercial fish

for red king crab through the ice, the following responses should be placed on the form:

Fishery code: K09Z

Permit number: "New" if you have never had a commercial permit, or your number if you have

Fishery description: Through the ice, pot
Vessel ADF&G number: Snowmachine

If you plan to pay by credit card, a credit card authorization form can be downloaded from the CFEC site referenced earlier. The site also has an Agent Authorization form for those obtaining a permit for someone else.

Inform ADF&G

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game wants all fishermen or fisherwomen to register. Call Jim Menard or Scott Kent at the Nome ADF&G office at (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

What crab can I sell?

Regulations only allow NSSP to purchase live male crabs that measure a minimum of 4 3/4" across the carapace. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game prohibits the harvest of female and under-sized crab, so please do not send any to NSSP.

Also, all crab needs to be alive when they reach the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome. State law requires that we only buy live male crab since crab starts to go bad very quickly after it dies. While it is unlikely for crab to cause anyone to be sick if it freezes right away, NSSP must comply with the law.

How to handle & ship crab

When you pull your pot, immediately place the crab in a cooler full of seawater so they do not freeze and die. Leaving crab on the ice, even for a few minutes, can frostbite their gills, causing them to suffocate.

You will need to ship your crab to Nome as quickly as possible to ensure they are still alive when they arrive. Try to time your deliveries to the airport so the crab are out

of the water as short a time as possible. Take them out of the cooler where the temperature is above freezing and put them in a box lined with a garbage bag. Cushion them with damp newspaper or cardboard. The water in the air from the damp newspaper will keep their gills moist, and the crabs can continue to breathe. Please do not ship a cooler full of crab and water. Only ship live crab.

Notify NSSP at (907) 443-2304 when you are shipping crab and which flight they are on. NSSP will pay the freight charges to get the crab to Nome.

Can I sell crab I catch to others in my home town?

Yes, but you will need to first obtain a catcher-seller license. An application for this free license can be obtained in person at the Nome ADF&G office or from the ADF&G Commercial Fishing Division website. Click the “License/Permits” link on the right side of the web page. This will deliver you to a page where the “Catcher-Seller” link will be found on the left side. The application must be filled out and sent to Juneau for processing before a license is granted.

Regulations require the crab to be alive when sold.

When is the season over?

The winter red king crab season runs from November 15 to May 15. For practical purposes the season is limited by ice conditions and not by the calendar. NSSP starts buying crab when the ice is stable enough to support fishermen and their gear. NSSP will stop buying crab when the ice loses its stability or if a layer of fresh surface water establishes itself under the ice pack, degrading or killing the crab as they are lifted through it.

In this winter fishery, regulations prohibit fishermen from commercially harvesting crab from boats once the ice pack breaks up. All commercial crabbing must be done through the ice.

Call for more information

If you are interested in the winter red king crab fishery, please call the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome at (907) 443-2304 and ask for Rich Ferry or Josh Osborne. NSEDC and NSSP are eager to help fishermen get their start.

Winter tom cod

NSEDC and Norton Sound Seafood Products are happy to announce that NSSP will again buy tom cod caught through the ice on hook-and-line gear this winter.

“We know that many people enjoy tom-codding and that tom cod are a plentiful resource,” said Northern NSSP Manager Rich Ferry. “This is a chance for NSEDC to extend the benefits and income of fishing to more members of our Norton Sound community.”

While harvesting tom cod to sell to NSSP is a pretty straightforward matter, there are a few regulations and guidelines that need to be followed if a fisherman or woman is to be successful. The following article should help potential commercial tom cod fishermen prepare for the season. Questions regarding fishing regulations can be directed to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at (907) 443-5167 in Nome. Information on how to sell, package or deliver fish to NSSP can be directed to the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome at (907) 443-2304.

What permits do I need?

Residents who wish to sell tom cod to NSSP will need to obtain a commercial fishing permit from the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Permit application forms can be found online through the CFEC’s website (www.cfec.state.ak.us/mnu_Forms.htm), on the applications page on NSEDC’s website (www.nsedc.com), or by stopping in person in Nome at ADF&G office, the Norton Sound Seafood Center or NSEDC’s administrative offices. Once filled out, the form will need to be sent to Juneau for processing before a permit is granted. All fishermen will need a 2012 permit starting January 1, 2012. Residents as young as 10 years old can obtain a permit to fish for tom cod.

The necessary permit to fish for tom cod in Norton Sound is a *Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish Hand Troll* permit. In addition to personal information, the permit application will ask for a Fishery code,

Permit number, Fishery description and Vessel ADF&G number. To commercial fish for tom cod, the following responses should be placed on the form:

Fishery code: M05B

Permit number: “New” if you have never had a commercial permit, or your number if you have

Fishery description: Through the ice, hook

Vessel ADF&G number: Snowmachine

If you plan to pay by credit card, a credit card authorization form can be downloaded from the CFEC site referenced above. The site also has an Agent Authorization form for those obtaining a permit for someone else.

Inform ADF&G

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game wants all fishermen or fisherwomen to register. Call Jim Menard or Scott Kent at the Nome ADF&G office at (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

How do I ship tom cod?

Call NSSP in Nome at (907) 443-2304 and let us know you are shipping tom cod. Please ship the tom cod frozen in packages that weigh between 25 and 35 pounds. Please place these packages in a garbage bag, and the garbage bag in a box, to keep them from melting and leaking in the airplane.

What fish will NSSP buy?

Fish will be bought from holders of a Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish license. The only gear allowed to harvest tom cod for sale will be hook and line. NSSP will buy tom cod, smelt, or pretty much any fish you can hook through the ice. NSSP will not buy net-caught or trapped fish.

Can I sell fish I catch to others in my home town?

Yes. Local mushers and others may want to buy your fish. You will need a catcher-seller license. An application for this free license can be obtained in person at the Nome ADF&G office or from the ADF&G Commercial Fishing Division website. The application must be filled out and sent to Juneau for processing before a license is granted.

Court affirms NSEDC’s election practices

Judge sides with NSEDC in all aspects of lawsuit challenging 2009 Nome election

In a ruling issued Jan. 9, 2012, Alaska Superior Court Judge Michael Jeffery has affirmed Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation’s election practices and rejected, in its entirety, a challenge to the seating of Don Stiles as Nome’s representative to the NSEDC Board of Directors following the fall 2009 election.

Judge Jeffery’s favorable rulings for NSEDC came in response to a lawsuit filed by Nome resident Tim Smith in November 2009. Smith failed to win the properly held election for the Nome seat and responded by filing the suit that claimed the election was unfair because, among other things, NSEDC allows the region’s residents who live outside city limits to vote.

The judge ruled that all of Smith’s claims were either meritless or irrelevant, and granted NSEDC summary judgment—meaning Smith’s claims were so obviously wrong that there was no need to go to trial to debate them.

“We at Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation are gratified to see that Judge Jeffery has affirmed what we believed all along—that Mr. Smith’s allega-

tions were without merit and that NSEDC has acted properly in establishing its election rules,” said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson.

NSEDC’s board members are elected for three-year terms by residents of their respective communities at the same time municipal elections are held. In a move to make certain all residents of the region have the opportunity to vote for their representative to NSEDC, the board amended NSEDC’s bylaws so that it was clear that those who live outside of municipal boundaries, but still reside within the state precinct, can vote.

Contrary to Smith’s claims, the residents of the Norton Sound/Bering Strait region decide who sits on NSEDC’s board. Residents have a say in how NSEDC is run—just as they have a say in how their city, state, or village or regional corporation is run—through the representative they elect to the board.

If Smith had prevailed in his suit, fewer Norton Sound residents would be allowed to choose who sits on NSEDC’s board—simply because they lived in Banner Creek

instead of downtown Nome, or on the hillside known as Army Hill above Unalakleet instead of the center of town. NSEDC fought to keep that right for residents who live outside of city limits, a fight to keep its elections open. The judge’s decision shows NSEDC was right to do so.

NSEDC is additionally satisfied that Judge Jeffery’s ruling affirms several obvious, yet crucial, elements that allow NSEDC—or any other nonprofit organization—to properly function and operate. These findings include:

- The NSEDC Board of Directors has the ability to amend the corporation’s bylaws. This applies to board member elections as well as other matters.
- NSEDC’s bylaws, as amended in 2008, are valid.
- NSEDC’s bylaws determining voter eligibility for NSEDC board member elections are valid. This defines eligible voters as any registered voter residing within the state precinct boundaries encompassing the member community.

Continued on page 9

Community Benefit Share remains steady at \$100,000

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation’s Board of Directors has voted unanimously to maintain the Community Benefit Share distributed to each of its member communities at \$100,000.

The board approved the annual distribution at its third quarter meeting Nov. 2 in Unalakleet. Over the 13-year history of the Community Benefit Share program, NSEDC has directly invested \$12.45 million into the region, equating to a total of \$830,000 for each of NSEDC’s 15 member communities.

The Community Benefit Share was established by NSEDC in 1999 with an initial distribution of \$10,000 to each community. The share has increased several times since its inception, doubling to \$20,000 in 2000 and gradually climbing to \$100,000, where it has remained since 2006.

Recognizing that the municipal government represents all residents of a community, NSEDC makes the Community Benefit Share distributions to the local government. Through their public meeting process, each member community’s municipal government decides how the share will be spent. Many communities use the funds to cover fuel expenses, often purchased at an advantageous price through NSEDC’s bulk fuel program. Communities have also used the funds for search and rescue equipment, police service, reducing the cost of utility and electrical service, elder and youth programs, and various infrastructure purchases and improvements.

“NSEDC’s Board of Directors realizes the importance of the Community Benefit Share for each of our 15 member communities,” said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson. “This program is particularly strong because

the decision on how to utilize the funding is made at the local level by those who know their community’s needs the best.”

Historic breakdown of NSEDC’s Community Benefit Share		
Year	Share per community	Total for region
1999	\$10,000	\$150,000
2000	\$20,000	\$300,000
2001	\$20,000	\$300,000
2002	\$20,000	\$300,000
2003	\$35,000	\$525,000
2004	\$50,000	\$750,000
2005	\$75,000	\$1,125,000
2006	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
2007	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
2008	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
2009	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
2010	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
2011	\$100,000	\$1,500,000
Total	\$830,000	\$12,450,000

Coast Guard rules... *(continued from front page)*

of length, operating off St. Lawrence Island), engaged in commercial fishing with four people or fewer onboard, and operating from NSEDC's 15 member communities to be exempt from the rule that currently requires them to carry immersion suits for each person on board. To obtain this exemption, NSEDC is asking that the immersion suit rule be replaced with regulations that require:

- **Each person onboard wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device at all times.**
- **All operations will take place in favorable weather conditions with winds less than 34 knots.**
- **In order to make a timely distress signal, each vessel will have at least one personal locator beacon (PLB) that is immediately available to the crew in the event of a capsizing.**

NSEDC has also submitted a request to the Coast Guard requesting an exemption to a rule that requires EPIRBs (emergency position-indicating radio beacons) on most of the region's commercial fishing vessels. This exemption, if granted, would apply to vessels that operate farther than three miles from shore, which are currently required to carry EPIRBs. NSEDC is requesting the Coast Guard exempt vessels operating from NSEDC member communities from this rule if the operator of the vessel carries a personal locator beacon (PLB) attached to their PFD.

It is important to note that the immersion suit exemption would only apply to smaller vessels working within three miles of shore. Larger boats that travel farther from

shore—generally those that fish for crab and halibut—will face more stringent regulations that do require the immersion suits, among other safety devices, like a survival craft.

NSEDC is only seeking an exemption to the rule that requires EPIRBs for these vessels.

The following list is a Coast Guard summary of federal safety requirements that would apply to salmon setnet skiffs (under 22', carrying up to three people, and traveling within three miles of shore), without any exemptions. If exemptions are put into place, fishermen will have the option of adhering to either the exempted or original version of the regulations. Individual vessel owners may also request an exemption from the Coast Guard for their specific boat.

- **AK Numbers: Valid State Certificate of Number onboard the vessel. Block letters and numbers on the forward half of the vessel. (For example, AK 1234 AK. This is not the ADF&G number!)**
- **PFDs/Immersion Suits: Coast Guard-approved immersion suit. On rivers, a Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V PFD (lifejacket) is acceptable. They must be of the proper size for each individual, and stowed where readily accessible. They must each have a Coast Guard-approved PFD light, with batteries replaced annually. They must also be marked with the name of the vessel or the name of the owner or the name of the person assigned to wear it.**
- **Throwable Flotation Device: One Coast Guard-approved cushion (Type IV PFD) or ring life buoy for vessels over 16-feet. Must be marked with**

vessel name and retro-reflective tape.

- **Distress Signals (Flares): Three Coast Guard-approved flares. All flares must be replaced by their expiration dates.**
- **Sound Signal: Means of making an efficient sound signal, for example, a whistle or canned air horn.**
- **Injury Placard: Posted where the crew can see it. Available from the Coast Guard.**
- **Navigation Lights: An all-around white light, if operating or at anchor between sunset and sunrise.**

NSEDC is still in discussions with the Coast Guard in regard to the potential exemptions and will announce when any agreements are reached. NSEDC is also working to source required safety materials, such as flares and Coast Guard-approved PFDs, which could be passed on to fishermen at cost.

NSEDC would like to reiterate that the approval of an exemption by the Coast Guard does not mandate that fishermen comply with the terms of that exemption. The decision that each skipper faces when considering the safety of his or her crew is extremely important, and NSEDC only wishes to provide an alternative approach that will allow fishermen to make a determination on which approach best fits their own situation.

For more information on the Coast Guard regulations and potential exemptions, contact Kenneth M. Lawrenson, Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator for the U.S. Coast Guard 17th District in Juneau at (907) 463-2810 or kenneth.lawrenson@uscg.mil. Questions on NSEDC's efforts to seek exemptions and procure safety equipment for fishermen can be directed to Reese Huhta, Southern Norton Sound Seafood Products Manager, at reese@nsedc.com.

Elections ... *(continued from page 8)*

- NSEDC has the ability to conduct its board member elections with rules and provisions that differ from municipal election rules (i.e. allowing residents who live outside the municipal boundaries, but within the state precinct, to vote; or establishing a 40% threshold for a candidate to win).

By issuing a summary judgment, Judge Jeffery has spared NSEDC the additional time and costs it would have incurred to defend itself had the suit gone to trial. "It is frustrating that we already have spent more than two years answering this suit, expending resources and using time that we would have preferred to devote to NSEDC's programs and initiatives that support our region and its residents," Harrelson said. "NSEDC welcomes putting this distraction behind us and moving forward as we continue our work to create opportunity and benefits for our 15 member communities and their residents."

NSEDC helps small businesses bloom

Fourth annual Small Business Initiative allots \$105,000 to new and growing enterprises

Even if she didn't want to first admit it, Erin Forton knew her initial business idea did not have a bright future.

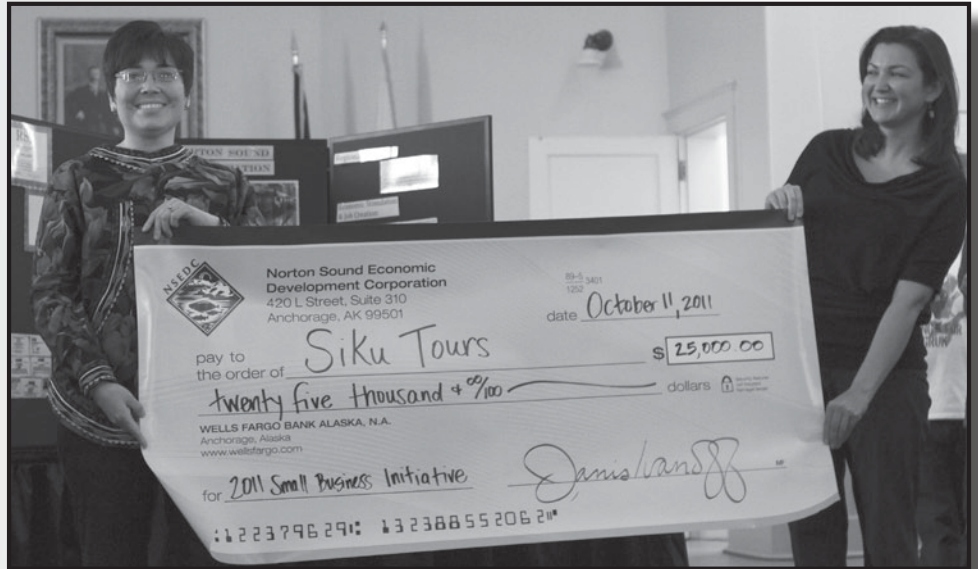
When Forton finally dove in and created a business plan as part of Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Initiative, she could not overlook the hard truth—a health food cooperative in Nome was not likely to turn a profit.

"The application process forced me to crunch the numbers and realize that it's probably not going to be profitable," she said. "The whole process really forced me to answer questions I didn't want to answer."

Fortunately for Forton, answering those questions led to the creation of a much better business plan and an award of \$13,000. Under the name Bering Tea, Forton still plans to operate the cooperative, but it will be part of a larger venture primarily centered around a coffee shop and bakery. "There is a history in Nome of coffee shops and bakeries doing well," she said.

Forton and Bering Tea's award was announced Oct. 11 in Nome as NSEDC awarded a total of \$105,000 to six winners in its annual Small Business Initiative (SBI).

Receiving large ceremonial checks at an awards ceremony at Old St. Joe's Hall were four Unalakleet residents: Aurora Johnson (\$25,000 for Siku Tours), Andreanna Grishkowsky (\$25,000 for Ocean Stone Ulu), Frank Doty (\$16,000 for Norton Sound Refrigeration Inc.), and Chester Millett, Jr. (\$12,000 for LJM Enterprises, a snow-clearing business). Michele Ames-Keene, the sixth winner, hails from Nome and received \$14,000 for her business idea, JAK Enterprises (a mobile restaurant). (See related story on the next page for details on the winners and their businesses.)



2011 SBI grant recipient Aurora Johnson (left) is presented with a ceremonial check from NSEDC President and CEO Janis Ivanoff at a reception in Nome on October 11.

Now in its fourth year, the program designed to spur small business development in the Norton Sound region has designated a total of \$420,000 to residents looking to start or expand their businesses. Funding has been awarded to ventures ranging from a restaurant in Stebbins to a driving school in Nome.

The contest is open to residents in NSEDC's 15 member communities. SBI hopefuls are required to complete a thorough application process that helps them develop a plan they can follow to turn their idea into an operating business. A panel of judges, independent of NSEDC, reviews the applications and selects a handful of finalists who present their plans to the panel in person. After interviewing the finalists, the judges determine how the available \$105,000 will be spread between those selected as winners.

A personal process

While their business ideas were all different, nearly all this year's winners shared shaky nerves when it came to the interview process. "I'm still nervous," Millet said about a half hour after he learned he had received \$12,000 in funding.

Doty said he raced through his presentation to the judges in about five minutes, leaving the panel 20 minutes to pepper him with questions. "It was a little nerve-racking,"

he said. Nevertheless, Doty felt he was well prepared to provide answers.

Most of the judges this year were veterans of the process. Returning were Mark Vink and Annabelle Cunningham of Unalakleet, and Dawn Salesky and David Olson of Nome. New to the panel this year was Shaktoolik resident, and former SBI winner, Fred Sagoonick.

This year, seven finalists were selected from a field of 16 applicants. As the SBI program matures, the quality of applications has evolved as well. "In my three years of working with this, I think this was the best set of applicants I have seen," Vink said.

NSEDC's Director of Community Benefits, Paul Ivanoff III, was also impressed by this year's applications. He would like to see more people apply next year, especially from NSEDC's smaller member communities. "I know that there are a lot more ideas in the villages for small businesses. I would love to see those ideas brought forward to NSEDC in the form of an SBI application," he said. "I encourage those from villages—from Wales all the way down to Stebbins—to think about next year's Small Business Initiative."

Planning is paramount

While the award money the grant recipients

Continued on page 12

From ulus to health food: Variety marks 2011 SBI winners

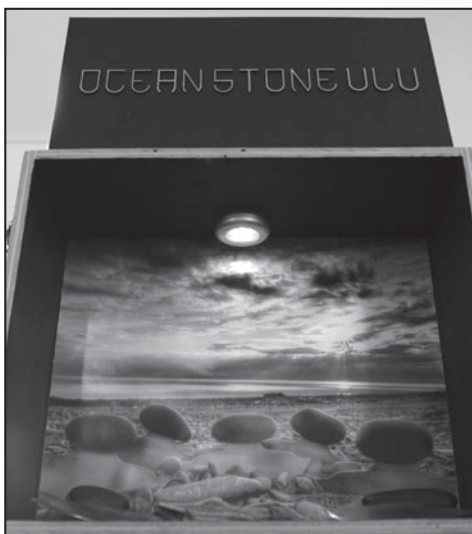
Aurora Johnson/Siku Tours

With the slogan, “Don’t Just Visit, Live It”, Unalakleet’s Aurora Johnson is working to start Siku Tours. Johnson plans to offer clients a more hands-on experience than traditional tours by creating packages that are largely built around the subsistence activities that make up such a large part of the lifestyle in rural Alaska. Johnson aims to show visitors more than just the landscape of the region. “Other tours give a small taste of what Alaska is like,” she said. “I love to share our tradition, our way of life, our culture.”

Johnson said Siku Tours will offer trips that feature activities such as winter crabbing, sea mammal viewing, berry and greens picking, ice fishing and northern lights viewing. The tours will change with the seasons. She said that the venture should impact more communities than just Unalakleet, noting that trips like dog sled tours would take visitors—and potential customers—through neighboring villages.

Johnson hopes to capitalize on the rising popularity of eco-tourism and Alaska’s prominence in the realm of reality television, including the Discovery Channel series “Flying Wild Alaska” which is predominately filmed in Unalakleet.

Johnson received \$25,000 in funding, much of which will be directed toward accommodations for Siku Tours’ guests.



2011 SBI grant recipient Andreanna Grishkowsky came prepared for the final judging with well designed display cases for her ulu knives.

Andreanna Grishkowsky/Ocean Stone Ulu

Unalakleet’s Andreanna Grishkowsky has given a new twist to an ancient design. Under the name Ocean Stone Ulu, Grishkowsky uses rocks she has gathered from the beach as handles on the traditional Alaska Native knives.

The idea for the distinctive ulu knives arrived shortly after Grishkowsky finished a graduate program in design and returned to Unalakleet. “I was walking along the beach and it just clicked,” she said. In addition to the unique handles, Grishkowsky’s knives feature stylishly shaped blades.

Her ulu design gained a wider audience after a knife she donated to the Sewing Circle Auction in Unalakleet spurred interest and requests for more. Grishkowsky realized that she likely had a marketable product on her hands. “I’ve made 50 [knives] between the auction and now,” she said.

Grishkowsky was awarded \$25,000 in SBI funds. She said she plans to use the award money to invest in more raw material for the blades, to set up a shop, and for marketing and a website.

Frank Doty/Norton Sound Refrigeration Inc.

Also from Unalakleet, Frank Doty plans to take the training and experience he has gained from NSEDC and offer his services as a refrigeration technician. Doty is currently the assistant manager of the Norton Sound Seafood Products plant in Unalakleet, a position he plans on keeping as he operates his refrigeration business on the side.

Doty, whose training included heating and ventilation as well as refrigeration service, noticed a need for people with his skill set in the region. “There are very few refrigeration technicians. I would like to serve the region’s needs,” he said. As many Norton Sound residents know, when a freezer or cooler stops working, finding someone to fix it most often means a long wait for someone from Anchorage to come make an expensive repair—if they can find someone to come at all.

Doty sees potential in working to serve the entire region. He hopes to eventually expand and hire others to help him grow the business. “Expansion, that’s what I’m looking for,” he said.

Doty was awarded \$16,000.

Michelle Ames-Keene/JAK Enterprises dba La Cabana

Nome’s Michelle Ames-Keene has already had a small taste of small business. In what could be called a precursor to her new venture, Ames-Keene set up shop on Nome’s West Beach last summer to sell coffee drinks, soups and hamburgers.

With La Cabana, the food and coffee drink part of the business carries on, but it won’t stay put. Ames-Keene plans to make her food service mobile. “It’s a small bus that would have a fully contained kitchen,” she said. “The idea is to do fresh food, fast.” She said she aims to serve events and conferences, as well as being able to catch tourist traffic in the summer. She plans to maintain a focus on healthy items and will not be serving French fries or soda.

Like Doty, Ames-Keene has her eyes set beyond her immediate neighborhood. She said if the business takes off, she would like to offer scaled-down versions of the food service in kiosks in other Norton Sound communities besides Nome. She thinks setting up near the villages’ airstrips could prove fruitful.

Ames-Keene was awarded \$14,000 through the program. She said the funding will primarily be directed at acquiring the mobile unit and outfitting it for food service.

Erin Forton/Bering Tea

Nome’s Erin Forton is also looking to feed Nomeites and visitors to the Gold Rush City with healthy fare. Forton plans to open Bering Tea in a building she recently purchased, fittingly, on Bering Street. Bering Tea will incorporate a bakery, coffee shop and health food cooperative under one roof.

These two aspects of the business will help fund the venture she truly wants to bring to

Continued on next page

SBI winners...*(continued from previous page)*



2011 SBI grant recipient Frank Doty (right) tells KNOM Radio's Matthew Smith about his business, Norton Sound Refrigeration, Inc. at a reception in Nome on October 11.

Nome, the health food cooperative. A health food co-op essentially works like a bulk food section in a supermarket, except that the bulk food is brought to the cooperative's members rather than them travelling to the store.

Forton is excited about Bering Tea's location, noting that it is along the route that leads to two of Nome's largest employers, Kawerak

and Norton Sound Health Corp. "It's the perfect business location," she said.

Forton sees a need in Nome for a coffee shop that has a quiet atmosphere where people can get a cup of tea and sit in a corner and read or study. She also plans to offer health food classes at Bering Tea that would be associated with the cooperative.

Forton was awarded \$13,000 in grant funding. She said much of her funding will be directed toward the renovation of her kitchen and the purchase of equipment, such as an espresso machine.

Chester Millet, Jr./ LJM Enterprises

Unalakleet's Chester Millet, Jr.'s venture, LJM Enterprises, is built upon a renewable resource—snow. LJM Enterprises is in the business of getting rid of the white stuff that arrives in abundance in Unalakleet for more months than most residents would like. "You know with snow, it's going to be there every year," he said.

Millet said beyond the snow removal service provided by the city in Unalakleet, options are limited for those who need more areas cleared. Using a Bobcat—a small loader—Millet started clearing snow on his own last year as well as renting the equipment out to others. The latter proved the most profitable as construction and other work crews traveling to Unalakleet to work often needed the Bobcat to get their jobs done. "There were a lot of companies coming through," he said.

Millet is looking to expand his business by adding a large snowblower to his available equipment. He said the \$12,000 he was awarded will be directed toward that purchase and to help cover freight expenses.

region, whether they are preparing for the SBI, the statewide Alaska Marketplace competition or are simply working to start their own business outside of the grant contests.

Bioff and Kawerak also offer help once the competition has concluded, providing support for grant recipients as they work to implement their business plans. "The after-the-fact support will be helpful," Grishkowsky said.

Plan ahead

While the next SBI application process will not open until next summer, it's never too early to start working on a business plan. NSEDC has a sample application from the 2011 SBI on the applications page of its website, www.nsedc.com/programpdf, to use as a guide for future contests. While the 2012 SBI application may have changes, someone who has researched the items asked for in the 2011 application will likely be very well prepared for next year.

SBI Program...*(continued from page 10)*

receive is free, it does not come without effort.

For an application to rise to the level of an SBI finalist, it takes a significant amount of time and work to think through all the elements that go into a successful business. Each of the winners spent countless hours researching and crunching numbers to get to the point where they could prove to the panel that their idea could translate into a venture that has a chance of succeeding. "I feel like Bering Tea is my second life," Forton said. "I'm definitely up late at night researching espresso machines for hours."

Johnson agreed, noting that forming Siku Tours wasn't just something she could do off the cuff. "It wasn't easy," she said. "I learned

a lot through the application process." Johnson said she put significant thought into the plan and its many facets, such as budgeting.

While thorough, the SBI application process is straightforward and can result in a solid business plan when followed. "It's a very friendly process. It's all there on how to do it," said Grishkowsky, who was awarded funding for her stylish ulu knives. "It just takes time and research."

It can also require help, and applicants need not go through the process alone. Several of this year's winners credit Alice Bioff and Kawerak's Small Business Development Center with help in preparing their applications. Bioff and Kawerak offer assistance to anyone in the

NSEDC establishes Fishermen Loan Forgiveness Policy

Life insurance now an allowable expense for Fishermen's Receivables Accounts

In an effort to ease the financial burden related to the death of a fisherman, the NSEDC Board of Directors approved a Fishermen Loan Forgiveness Policy at its second quarter meeting.

The policy allows NSEDC to forgive up to \$25,000 on amounts owed to the corporation by a fisherman under a Fishermen's Receivables Account or Revolving Loan Fund upon the fisherman's death. The fisherman must have qualified as a Norton Sound resident at the time of his or her death to be eligible for the forgiveness policy.

"NSEDC's Board of Directors recognize that when a commercial fisherman passes, his or her family often loses more than just a loved one, but also an important source of income," said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson. "NSEDC is proud to be able to help our residents more fully participate in commercial fishing opportunities through our loan programs. We are also understanding of how those loan

obligations can affect families in times of loss and duress."

Details on the requirements and procedures related to the policy can be found on NSEDC's Revolving Loan Program page on the web at www.nsedc.com/rfp.

Help for obtaining life insurance

While NSEDC is not getting into the life insurance business, we are making it a bit easier for fishermen to pay their premiums. Fishermen wishing to obtain life insurance may now request NSEDC to pay the premiums through

their Fishermen's Receivables Accounts.

To participate, fishermen must select and obtain their own life insurance policy. Once the insurance is obtained, NSEDC will work with the fisherman and life insurance company to arrange payments through his or her Fishermen's Receivable Account.

NSEDC plans to list selected insurance companies on its website for fishermen to consider if they wish to purchase life insurance. For more information on this service or NSEDC's Fishermen Loan Forgiveness Policy, please contact **Virginia Nashalook** at **1-800-650-2248** or virginia@nsedc.com.

Permits for sale

Four Norton Sound salmon gillnet permits and one Norton Sound herring roe and food/bait gillnet permit.

Please call Virginia at the NSEDC Anchorage office at (800) 650-2248 or e-mail virginia@nsedc.com.



Vessel for sale

To be sold As-is / Where-is

Vessel: M/V Hwaka

Location: Grounded near seafood plant in Unalakleet, Alaska

Dimensions: 128' x 23' x 14' • **Hull Construction:** Steel

Vessel Type: Freezer barge, converted from a WWII Navy ship

The *Hwaka* is a shallow-drafting, unpowered freezer barge currently owned by Norton Sound Economic Development Corp. (NSEDC) and located in Unalakleet, Alaska.

NSEDC is soliciting offers for the *Hwaka* as-is, where-is. Buyer must remove the vessel from its current location.

The *Hwaka* has a stable platform and a crane onboard. It has three operational Detroit Diesel engines: one is a power plant, the other two are for the refrigeration system. The vessel has many refrigeration and mechanical systems in varying states of operability.

The vessel needs a new house on the top deck (the current structure is made of plywood), which serves as the packing area. The rest of the structure is steel and is in good condition.

For further information on the vessel, please contact Reese Huhta (reese@nsedc.com or 907-625-1660) or Frank Doty (frankd@nsedc.com or 907-625-1617).

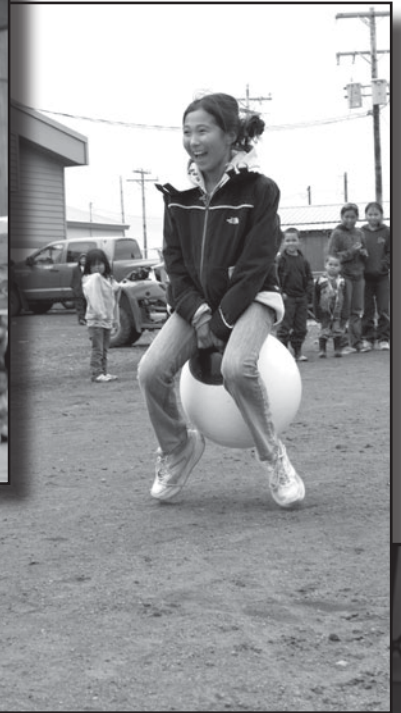
All offers must be submitted in writing to Simon Kinneen by Feb. 29, 2012:

Mail: NSEDC, PO Box 358, Nome, AK 99762

E-mail: simon@nsedc.com (e-mail is only considered received if a reply and/or read receipt is returned to sender)

Fax: (907) 443-2478





Round 2 of NSEDC Fishermen's Fairs

In July Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation delivered the carnival to Stebbins, St. Michael and Unalakleet as the three communities played host to the start of the second round of NSEDC's Fishermen's Fairs.

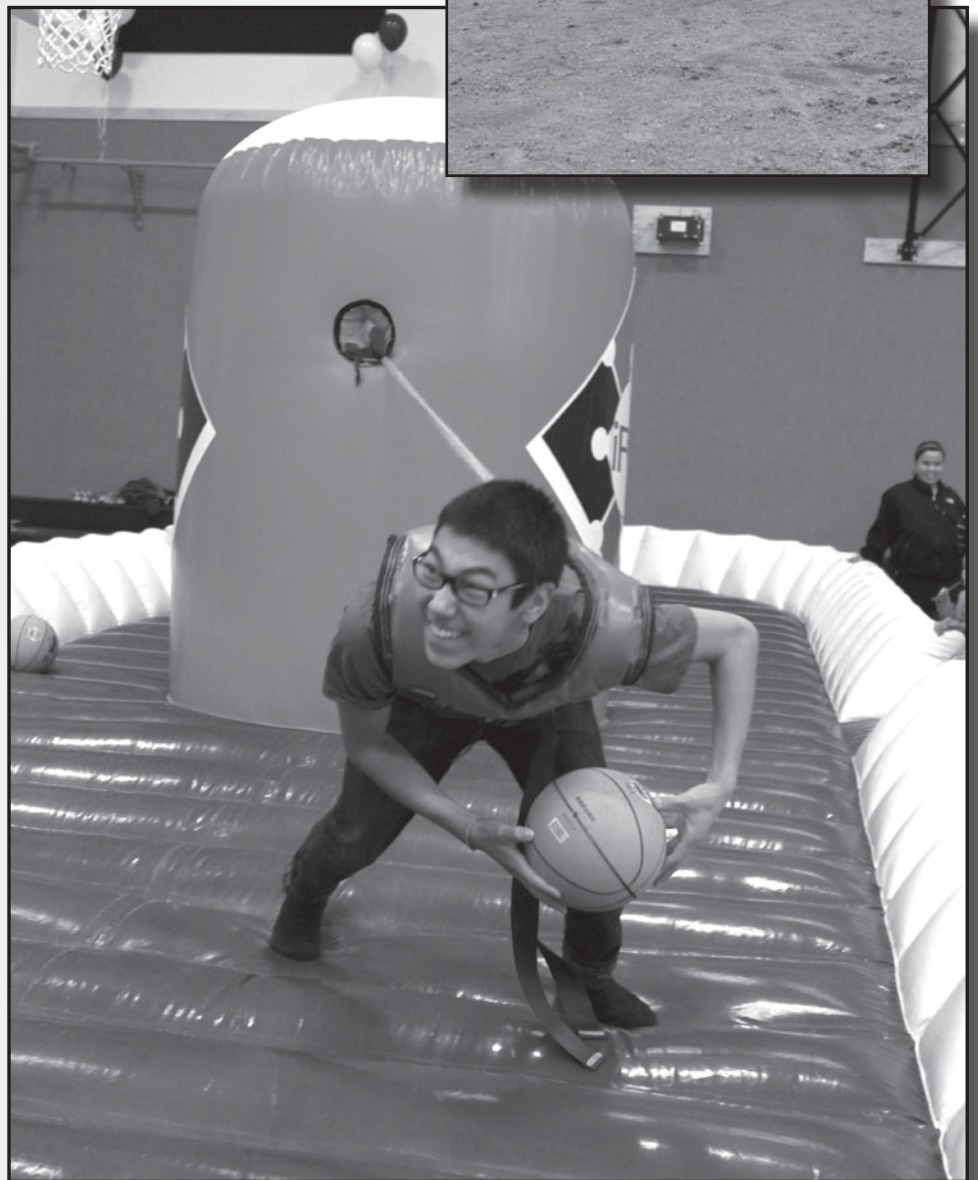
Featuring food, games and contests, the fairs are celebrations to honor subsistence and commercial fishermen and the work they do to support their community and families. NSEDC completed its first round of hosting fairs in all 15 of its member communities with a final event in Nome in 2009. After a year's break, NSEDC kicked off the second set of fairs with the events in its three southernmost member communities on July 12, 13 and 14.

For the young—and young at heart—inflatable games provided the chance to climb, through the obstacle course; bounce around the moon-house; play bungee-basketball; and test their best sumo wrestling moves.

An ample supply of food was on hand at each fair including several dozen pizzas from Peace on Earth Pizza in Unalakleet, stacks and stacks of six-foot-long sandwiches from Subway in Nome, fresh fruit, salad and several cakes by Unalakleet's Judie Kotongan.

A highlight of each fair was a set of contests, including a fish-cutting competition, an anchor-throw and a buoy race.

NSEDC plans to continue the Fishermen's Fair tradition in the summers to come as it works its way through a second lap.



Above: Unalakleet's Makiyan Ivanoff stretches for his shot while playing bungee-basketball.

Top left: NSEDC's Kathy Wheelehan presents a young St. Michael resident with a Subway sandwich that is about twice as long as he is tall.

Top right: A Stebbins girl bounces her way through the buoy race.



Top left: A Fishermen's Fair attendee in St. Michael decided his berry bucket worked better as a hat.

Above: A large crowd gathers outside the Stebbins school to watch the fish cutting competition.

Left: Fabian Pete prepares for battle after donning his heavily padded sumo-suit.



Above: The girls of St. Michael put the Bouncy House to the test.

Left: Maggie Ivanoff shows off her anchor tossing skills in Unalakleet.

New Employee Profiles

Kelsi Ivanoff

*Special Projects Coordinator,
Anchorage*

Ever since she was young, Kelsi Ivanoff has sought ways to be a voice for her community and culture. This aspiration has led her to service and employment positions with the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Inuit Circumpolar Council and Kawerak. Kelsi now brings that mind-set to NSEDC.

"I always wanted to work for a corporation that served our region and the people of our region," she said. "I went to college with the desire to work for the benefit of Alaska Native people and, specifically, for the people of our region. And NSEDC does that."

In late August, Kelsi joined NSEDC as its Special Projects Coordinator. In that role, she oversees the development of a variety of projects in the region, including infrastructure and fishery-related initiatives. In her new role, Kelsi takes on existing projects as well

as feasibility studies for proposed projects. She is based in NSEDC's Anchorage office.

Kelsi is no stranger to NSEDC's member communities. The daughter of Steve and Zoe Ivanoff, she grew up in Unalakleet. Kelsi has two younger brothers, Keoni and Gage. Subsistence activities have always been a central part of her life. "My best memories of growing up in Unalakleet are of being outdoors with my family. I love doing our subsistence activities together," she said. Kelsi particularly enjoys bird hunting.

Kelsi is also familiar with commercial fishing. She has worked as a deckhand for her father and continues to help work the nets when she is in Unalakleet. "He has all of us kids working hard," she said, noting that among the lessons she and her brothers



learned was that hard work pays off.

Kelsi attended Portland State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in community development. Throughout college, she held internships in the summers, including working for Kawerak in its transportation department for two consecutive years. Upon graduating she returned to Alaska and worked construction in Kotzebue. Later she joined the office of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, helping with projects that included a subsistence mapping initiative in conjunction with Oceana.

Advocacy work has always been and remains important to Kelsi. She has attended the Alaska Federation of Natives conference every year since her birth and served on its youth council. In October Kelsi was selected to serve on the Inuit Circumpolar Council Board of Directors as its youth representative. She said she plans to continue to seek similar opportunities that will help fulfill her goals of representing and serving the people of the region and Alaska.

Hazel Freytag

*NSSP Sales Support/
Accounting, Anchorage*

Hazel Freytag is no stranger to juggling tasks. During a recent summer she decided to try her hand at commercial salmon fishing—while also holding a full-time job. "I fished after work, and during lunch, and in the morning," she said.

Hazel continues to pack her schedule tight as she pursues a biology degree full-time at the University of Alaska Anchorage while working for NSEDC as a delivery agent and accounting assistant. "This is my first semester of working and going to school, so it's been an adjustment," she said.

Hazel, who is the daughter of Jay and Mary Freytag and originally from Unalakleet, first came to NSEDC as an accounting intern in the summer of 2010. It was Hazel's first summer living in Anchorage while attending college, and she needed a job. She decided

to look to the organizations that provided her scholarships and found a good fit with NSEDC. This summer, Hazel again sought an internship, but instead landed a more permanent job.

Hazel's primary job with NSEDC is to deliver Norton Sound Seafood Products seafood—primarily crab and halibut—to restaurants and vendors in Anchorage. In the summer, while classes were not in session, she was able to help out in the accounting department after her delivery duties were done. Now with school back in full swing, Hazel's time in the accounting office is pretty limited.

Hazel is working toward a biology degree at UAA with her eye set on veterinary school. "I have had this figured out since eighth grade that I wanted to be a vet," she said. "It



seemed like a cool job to be able to take care of animals all day."

Hazel's early realization of her career goal came as she helped a military crew that was visiting Unalakleet to take care of the community's animals. She said she enjoyed the experience—until it came to having to treat her own animals.

In addition to having a cat and dogs growing up, Hazel had the opportunity one spring to run a dog team during her senior year in high school. "I just like animals," she said.

Outside of taking care of animals, Hazel said she enjoys hunting and fishing. She also participates in other traditional activities such as skin sewing and beading—not that she has abundant spare time these days. Hazel admits dividing her attention between her studies and her job can be a challenge, but she is determined to achieve a balance. "It's a lot of work, so you have to know that you can commit the time to do it if you want to be successful at both work and school," she said.

New Employee Profiles

Irene Ahgupuk *Administrative Assistant, Nome*

The route between Shishmaref and Nome is a familiar one for Irene Ahgupuk. Irene, who joined NSEDC last summer as an administrative assistant in the Nome office, lived in both communities growing up—first in Shishmaref, then Nome, and back to Shishmaref. As an adult, Irene has made the move once again, arriving in Nome last summer.

Irene's return to Nome this time was partly inspired by the desire to provide her 8-year-old daughter, Bella Mercedes, with some of the opportunities that can come with living in a larger community. One of those opportunities is the pool at Nome-Beltz. "I don't know how to swim, so I am hoping Bella and I will learn here once the pool opens up," she said.

For Irene, the move repeats a bit of family history; she was approximately Bella's age when her family first moved from Shishmaref.

Relocating also opened up new opportunity for Irene and, in a way, allowed her to follow in her father's footsteps. "I have always wanted to work in an office like my dad did," she said. Irene's father, the late Henry Ahgupuk, had worked for Kawerak in its transportation department. She recalls her father being busy with paperwork in his job. Irene's mother, Georgianna Merrill, currently lives in Shishmaref.

A penchant for paperwork and computers has served Irene well as she quickly got the hang of NSEDC's office systems and then took the lead in keeping the Nome headquarters organized. Before Irene's arrival, callers to the office most often received the phone directory instead of a human voice. Visitors—both in person and by phone—now receive a friendly greeting and assistance from Irene.



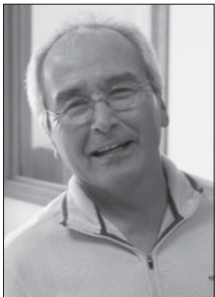
In addition to helping direct phone and foot traffic in the Nome office, Irene handles supply procurement, general office organization and assists NSEDC's various departments in staying on top of paperwork and filings.

Irene previously worked for the school district in Shishmaref as a special education aide. She has also worked for Kawerak's Head Start program in both Shishmaref and Nome, and at Kawerak's day care in Nome.

While Irene enjoys her work for NSEDC, her most important job is being a mom to Bella. The two have spent time this year combing the shore for beach glass, taking walks through Nome, playing at the playground and hiking at Anvil Mountain. Irene looks forward to cheering Bella on this year as she participates in wrestling and basketball. Bella initially wanted to try cheerleading but opted to go out for wrestling when she learned the schedules for the two sports would conflict. "She saw a picture of my cousin, Joanne, who is in the Marines, and decided she wanted to be in wrestling instead," Irene said.

Employee Updates

Roy Ashenfelter moves on



NSEDC regrets to report that Community Development Coordinator Roy Ashenfelter moved on from the organization in mid-October.

Roy started with NSEDC as the CDQ manager in September 2009 and made a transition to the Community Benefits Department in

November 2010. Roy worked out of NSEDC's Nome office.

This summer, before he bid NSEDC adieu, Roy married his longtime sweetheart, Loretta Bullard, at a ceremony in Nome. We offer our congratulations to Roy and Loretta, and wish Roy the best of luck with his future endeavors.

Notice: Pilgrim Hot Springs

NSEDC, as a member of Unaatuq, LLC, the owner of Pilgrim Hot Springs, has been asked to share the following information. Unaatuq asks that the public respect that Pilgrim Hot Springs is private property. Permits are necessary for visiting Pilgrim Hot Springs and can be obtained from Bering Straits Native Corp., the managing partner of Unaatuq. Please contact BSNC's Land and Resource Department at (907) 443-4312 or (907) 443-5252. Permits may also be obtained through the Nome Visitors Center or the Aurora Inn. Unaatuq reminds the public that fishing and hunting are not allowed on the property. Vandalism and/or unauthorized use will be considered trespass. Please help preserve this landmark and respect that Pilgrim Hot Springs is private property.

Employment Opportunities: *NSEDC*

Northern NSSP Office Manager

Job location: Nome

Description of position: The Norton Sound Seafood Products Office Manager will be responsible for a number of duties. The

position works with the upper management of NSSP to ensure the organization runs effectively and efficiently. The position is responsible for processing all new hire paperwork for NSSP, maintaining fish ticketing, working with fishermen in the distribution of various applications and paperwork, retail ordering, and office and retail operations. The Office Manager ensures supply, and retail orders are filled, shipped and received in a timely manner. The position provides general customer

service and processes local, phone and internet sales. The Office Manager assures proper sale and accounting for local, phone and internet sales of Norton Sound Seafood Center retail products and merchandise. The manager also supervises the retail and janitorial staff.

At least one year of retail and customer service experience and six months of supervisory experience are required for this position. A current Alaska driver's license is also required.

Summer Fish Technicians 2012

NSEDC Fisheries Research and Development program in Nome will be hiring six fish technicians for the summer of 2012. We expect several of these positions to be filled by employees who have worked for us successfully in past summers. We will also be hiring four fish techs in Koyuk to work on the Iglutalik River. Closing date for all NSFR&D positions is May 6.

Fish tech job description (a)

Dates: June 22-Sept. 10 (2 techs); July 1-Sept. 10 (2 techs)

We will be hiring four techs to work at fish weirs, counting salmon.

Responsibilities:

- Live at a camp for most of two to three months
- Install a weir. Work with heavy weir parts in moving water

- Count and identify species of salmon as they pass through the weir
- Clean weir once or twice a day to keep it free of floating debris
- Sample salmon. Identify species and sex of salmon, measure length, take scale samples
- Record all observations in field notebooks and on data sheets
- Drive a boat
- Keep camp clean
- Phone in results once a day
- Keep weir fish-tight and in working order. Make repairs as necessary
- Take down weir and camp at end of season

Fish tech job description (b)

Dates: May 31-June 30

One of the four techs above will also be a part of the Pilgrim River smolt project and will have additional responsibilities, listed below.

Additional responsibilities:

- Set up incline plane trap to capture smolt on the Pilgrim River.
- Sample smolt. Identify smolt species, measure, and weigh.

- Protect incline plane trap and vexar arms from ice damage

Fish tech job description (c)

Dates: July 1- Sept. 15 (1 tech); July 15-Sept 15 (1 tech)

We will be hiring two fish techs to work out of the Nome office on the Snake and Solomon rivers mist incubation projects and the Salmon Lake fertilization project.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with egg-takes
- Collect adult chums and cohos with seines. Haul heavy seine nets over rough ground
- Drive a boat
- Load fertilizer into a boat and drive the boat around Salmon Lake applying fertilizer

Fish tech job description (d)

Dates: June 12 – Sept 10

We will be hiring four fish techs who will work out of Koyuk and be living in a camp on the Iglutalik River. Responsibilities will be similar to the fish tech job description (a).

Opportunities developing for tender crew and captain positions

NSEDC plans to bring additional tender vessel capacity online this season to better serve the region's fishermen. With new vessels will come the need for additional crew and captains. NSEDC is seeking to identify potential candidates for these positions, both those who have worked with NSEDC in the past or those

who would be new to the organization. Experience is preferred, but NSEDC is willing to train the right individuals. Some minimum qualifications will apply, such as:

- Must be age 18 or older
- Must have high school diploma or GED
- Must be physically fit and able to work

on a boat

- Must be able to pass a drug test
- Residents of NSEDC member communities preferred

NSEDC is not currently hiring for these positions, but is seeking to develop an applicant pool as our captain and crew needs are further defined.

How to apply for jobs with NSEDC

NSEDC offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package. Please see our website, www.nsedc.com, to view current openings and full job descriptions, and to download an application.

Please address questions,
applications and resumes to:

NSEDC c/o Tiffany Martinson
P.O. Box 358
Nome, AK 99762

Tel: (888) 650-2477
Fax: (907) 443-2478
E-mail: tiffany@nsedc.com

Employment Opportunities: *Partner Companies*

NSEDC is proud to offer employment and internship opportunities with its partners in the commercial fishing industry. These opportunities include jobs on a variety of vessels that harvest crab, pollock and cod. With Siu Alaska's partnership in Bering Fisheries, additional employment opportunities for Norton Sound residents are now available at a seafood plant in Dutch Harbor.

Roughly twice a year NSEDC sponsors residents of our member communities to attend fishermen's safety training courses at AVTEC in Seward. Successful completion of this course opens the door to

employment on vessels with our partners, and many residents have gone on to land jobs after their training.

NSEDC encourages residents who may be interested in working with our industry partners to contact us and find out more. Please contact NSEDC's Employment, Training and Education Coordinator Jerry Ivanoff at the following numbers/addresses:

Jerry Ivanoff c/o NSEDC
P.O. Box 193
Unalakleet, AK 99684

Tel: (800) 385-3190
Fax: (907) 624-3183
E-mail: jerry@nsedc.com

Glacier Bay Deckhand

Job location: At sea in the Bering Sea / Dutch Harbor

Description of position: Employment opportunities exist on the Siu Alaska-owned *Glacier Bay*, a longliner vessel that fishes the Bering Sea. Member community residents who are interested in working as a deckhand on the *Glacier Bay* should contact Clipper Seafoods, the company which manages the vessel for Siu.

The vessel contains a crew of approximately 22 people. Prior experience on a longliner or other commercial fishing experience is preferred, but not required. Fishing on the boat occurs around the clock and crewmembers are expected to work up to 18-hour shifts with a six-hour sleep break. The work is very physical in nature, often requiring heavy lifting. Pay is determined by the catch, the deckhand's work ethic, attitude and ability. All candidates must pass a background check and drug screening. Travel to and from Dutch Harbor, where the fishing trips start and end, is deducted from the employee's salary.

For more information, contact:
Jim Peterson/Clipper Seafoods
(206) 284-1162
jimpeterson@clipperseafoods.com

Glacier Fish Co. Internship

Job location: Seattle

Opportunity description: NSEDC is pleased to announce that an internship with Glacier Fish Company in Seattle is available for a Norton Sound resident living in one of our member communities. NSEDC will pay the salary of the intern during the internship; cover transportation costs to and from Seattle; and supply housing and a meal stipend.

The internship does not have a rigid job assignment, but will be structured around the skill set of the applicant. Past internships, for example, have concentrated on human resources and marketing. Applicants should already possess the skills, education and training necessary to work in the internship position. A two- to three-week orientation at the NSEDC office in Anchorage is required to assess and confirm that all internship candidates have the basic office and social/life skills necessary to succeed in Seattle. Upon identification of potential internship candidates, Glacier Fish Company will provide a detailed job description with skill and experience requirements for any openings.

For more information, contact:
Jerry Ivanoff
(800) 385-3190 or jerry@nsedc.com

Bering Fisheries Seafood Processor

Job location: Dutch Harbor

Description of position: Bering Fisheries is a seafood processing company based in Dutch Harbor that processes crab, salmon, halibut, sablefish and cod.

Workers must be able to put in 12-hour shifts, six to seven days a week. Prospective employees need to have excellent work ethics and common sense, and be able to work with a diverse team of people. Prior seafood processing experience is a plus. Pay for non-Dutch Harbor residents is \$8 per hour with food and housing provided.

Bering Fisheries will provide transportation between Anchorage and Dutch Harbor.

To apply or for more information, contact:
Terry Abarro/Bering Fisheries
P. O. Box 920185
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692
(907) 581-5900 (tel)
(907) 581-6622 (fax)
tabarro@beringfisheries.com



Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

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Anchorage Office

420 L Street, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 274-2248
Fax/main: (907) 274-2249
Fax/accounting: (907) 274-2258
Toll free in AK: (800) 650-2248

Nome Office

P.O. Box 358
Nome, AK 99762
Phone: (907) 443-2477
Fax: (907) 443-2478
Toll free in AK: (888) 650-2477

Unalakleet Office

P.O. Box 193
Unalakleet, AK 99684
Phone: (907) 624-3190
Fax: (907) 624-3183
Toll free in AK: (800) 385-3190

Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP)

Nome Plant

P.O. Box 906
Nome, AK 99762
Phone: (907) 443-2304
Fax: (907) 443-2457

Unalakleet Plant

P.O. Box 323
Unalakleet, AK 99684
Phone: (907) 624-3014
Fax: (907) 624-3808

Savoonga Plant

P.O. Box 156
Savoonga, AK 99769
Phone: (907) 984-6859
Fax: (907) 984-6179