



# NSED C news

Fall 2013

## Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

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## 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*  
Milton Cheemuk • *St. Michael*  
Eugene Asicksik • *Shaktoolik*  
Wilfred Katcheak • *Stebbins*  
Joe Garnie • *Teller*  
Frank Katchatag • *Unalakleet*  
Lucy Kitchen • *Wales*  
Dan Harrelson • *White Mountain*



Russell Saccheus works the loader while Garrick Jackson zeroes out the scale at NSED C's new Moses Point buying station near Elim. The crew was preparing to weigh the catch brought in by fisherman Harry Daniels Jr. (right) and Bill Baxter.

## 2013 summer fisheries wrap up

The summer season is a fast and furious one for NSED C and Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP). Even though the ice-free fishing season in Norton Sound is short, it is a critically important income generator for a large number of the region's residents.

Through NSSP, NSED C is the primary buyer for seafood harvested in the region.

### Consolidated Bulk Fuel deliveries complete for '13

NSED C is proud to announce that more than 1.5 million gallons of petroleum products have been delivered to more than 30 entities through our 2013 Consolidated Bulk Fuel program.

Find out more about how this benefit program works on page 2.

We also provide loans, training and other services to support our resident fishermen. During the summer, NSSP primarily purchases herring, salmon and red king crab. See page 8 for a summary of the 2013 season in Norton Sound.

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# NSEDC Program Updates

## NSEDC's Consolidated Bulk Fuel program completes 8<sup>th</sup> year

*Program delivers savings by uniting regional entities under one large fuel order, lowering transportation costs*

As the summer shipping season comes to a close in the Norton Sound region, NSEDC is pleased to announce that all deliveries have been made for our 2013 Consolidated Bulk Fuel program.

The Consolidated Bulk Fuel program works to combat high fuel prices by inviting eligible entities in all of NSEDC's member communities and Shishmaref to combine their fuel orders into one large group order, getting a better shipping price by buying in bulk. Essentially the program gives entities in smaller communities a buying power that approaches that of hub communities.

The Consolidated Bulk Fuel program is not a subsidy, but instead a loan program. NSEDC acts as the initial fuel buyer for the participating entities, who then pay NSEDC back in full for the fuel they receive. NSEDC charges no fees or interest for the service.

Entities that are eligible for the program include municipal governments, Native corporations, tribal governments and local fuel vendors. In the spirit of transparency and an effort to prevent excessive mark-up on fuel purchased through the

program, NSEDC has a clause that allows us to publish the price at which fuel was purchased. NSEDC, however, cannot control the price set by participating organizations.

In 2013, 31 entities and 15 Bering Strait School District sites participated in the program, receiving more than 1.5 million gallons of fuel products. These entities were located in Shishmaref and all but one of NSEDC's member communities. The majority of the fuel ordered is made up of heating fuel, followed by unleaded gasoline and aviation fuel. Entities in Nome, which purchase more fuel on their own than all those in NSEDC's program combined, have declined NSEDC's offer to participate in all but one year of the program.

On average, fuel prices through the program were slightly lower in 2013 than in 2012. The average delivered price for ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel

(heating fuel) was 7 cents lower in 2013 versus 2012, and 62 cents lower than the 2011 average price. The average price for unleaded gasoline through the program was 12 cents lower in 2013 than 2012. A chart below provides the average prices paid through the bulk fuel program for ultra-low sulfur diesel and unleaded gasoline from 2010 to 2013.

Astute readers of NSEDC's 2012 annual report, which was just released, may have noticed a large spike in the amount NSEDC spent on the program in 2012 over 2011. The difference can be attributed to NSEDC's 2012 Energy Subsidy that paid more than \$1.34 million in credits toward the electric utility accounts for nearly 2,700 households in all member communities. The expenses associated with the subsidy were reported along with those for the bulk fuel program.

| Average Price of Fuel at Delivery for Participating Entities |        |        |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|  | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   | 2013   |
| Diesel   | \$3.11 | \$4.22 | \$3.83 | \$3.76 |
| Gasoline   | \$3.43 | \$4.09 | \$4.51 | \$4.39 |

## NSEDC responds to St. Lawrence Island disaster declaration

**Donation of 8,000 pounds of salmon & halibut aimed to address immediate need**

It has been a difficult year for the residents of Gambell and Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island. The two communities issued a disaster declaration earlier this year following historically low walrus harvests. Adverse weather and ice conditions largely kept hunters from being able to hunt the animals which are vital to both the diet and economy of the two communities.

In response to the declaration, NSEDC immediately stepped up to help by delivering nearly 8,000 pounds of locally harvested seafood to the two communities. The deliveries were comprised of whole, frozen salmon shipped from Unalakleet and halibut fillets that were landed by Savoonga fishermen and processed in their home community. Gambell and

Savoonga each received 1,900 pounds of salmon and 2,000 pounds of halibut fillets to distribute. The Native Village of Gambell and the City of Savoonga administered the distribution of the seafood in their respective communities.

NSEDC is fortunate to have been able to lend assistance to the residents of St. Lawrence Island, but realizes that more help will be needed to address the impacts of the shortage. The State of Alaska has declared an economic disaster for the two communities, but as of the publication of this newsletter it was still unclear the extent and type of response the state's declaration would yield. Additional groups, such as Alaska Community Action on Toxics, have established drives to provide food items to the two communities.

# NSEDC Program Updates

## NSEDC Board of Directors extends Community Energy Fund

*Member communities have five more years to utilize their \$1 million allocations*

NSEDC's 15 member communities will have an additional five years to access millions of dollars in funding for energy efficiency improvements through our Community Energy Fund.

Among the many ways NSEDC works to support member communities and their residents are programs designed to address the region's high energy costs. In addition to the Consolidated Bulk Fuel purchasing program, NSEDC implemented the Community Energy Fund in 2009, allocating \$1 million to each NSEDC member community for energy-related projects.

The program aims to reduce energy costs for Norton Sound residents by encouraging the construction of renewable energy systems, efficiency upgrades to existing power systems, or the weatherization of public facilities. To date, seven NSEDC member communities have used all or a portion of their available funding for nine different projects. A summary of approved Community Energy Fund projects can be found below.

NSEDC's Board of Directors recognizes

that it takes time to plan and develop energy infrastructure improvement projects. When first implemented, the Community Energy Fund had a sunset date requiring communities to access their allotted funding by 2014. As that sunset date neared, a sizable portion

***“The Community Energy Fund has already made several projects possible that have resulted in safer and more efficient energy systems for many of our communities.”***

NSEDC Chairman Dan Harrelson

of the Community Energy Fund still remained available to many of NSEDC's member communities. At their second-quarter meeting held in Nome in August, the NSEDC Board of Directors elected to extend the program for an additional five years, giving communities until 2019 to utilize the funding.

“The Community Energy Fund has already made several projects possible

that have resulted in safer and more efficient energy systems for many of our communities,” said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson. “It only makes sense to continue this program so that all our communities have the opportunity to improve their energy infrastructure and reduce costs for residents.”

Nome and Unalakleet are the only two communities to have fully utilized their available funding, both putting their entire allocation toward large wind energy systems. Other communities have accessed the Community Energy Fund to improve their existing systems through weatherization of public facilities or the installation of more energy-efficient components, like streetlights and power plant generators.

NSEDC encourages municipalities and/or utility providers in member communities to explore renewable or energy-efficiency projects that could receive financial support through NSEDC's Community Energy Fund. For more information, got to [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com) or contact Community Benefits Director Paul Ivanoff III at 800-385-3190 or [pivanoff@nsedc.com](mailto:pivanoff@nsedc.com).

### Approved NSEDC Community Energy Fund Projects

| Year  | Community      | Project                                       | Amount              |
|---|----------------|---|---------------------|
| 2009  | Unalakleet     | Wind energy generation                        | \$ 1,000,000        |
| 2011  | Gambell        | Meter base replacement                        | \$ 460,019          |
| 2011  | White Mountain | New energy-efficient generators               | \$ 539,268          |
| 2012  | White Mountain | Waste heat recovery (municipal water heating) | \$ 234,500          |
| 2012  | Shaktoolik     | Water tank efficiency upgrade                 | \$ 75,000           |
| 2012  | Nome           | Wind energy generation                        | \$ 1,000,000        |
| 2013  | Savoonga       | Meter base replacement                        | \$ 439,862          |
| 2013  | Golovin        | Streetlight replacement                       | \$ 42,378           |
| 2013  | Shaktoolik     | Water treatment plant efficiency upgrades     | \$ 142,000          |
| 2013  | Gambell        | Streetlight replacement                       | \$ 88,290           |
| <b>Total NSEDC Community Energy Fund expenditures to date</b> |                |   | <b>\$ 4,021,317</b> |



# NSEDC Program Updates

## NSEDC now accepting Outside Entity Funding applications

*Funding proposals by municipalities, tribes, nonprofits and other entities are due on Jan. 15*

Realizing it will require a shared effort to overcome the challenges that limit growth and opportunity in Western Alaska, NSEDC is proud to again implement its Outside Entity Funding (OEF) program for the 2014 cycle.

Applications are now available at [www.nsedc.com/entityfunding](http://www.nsedc.com/entityfunding); in-person at the NSEDC offices in Nome, Unalakleet and Anchorage; or through NSEDC's community outreach liaisons.

Since 2004, NSEDC has designated

millions of dollars in OEF grants to municipal, tribal and nonprofit organizations for regional and local projects that aim to improve the quality of life and encourage economic development. Among their many uses, the OEF grants have supported local search and rescue teams, infrastructure improvements, elder services, cultural, and fisheries development programs.

The OEF grants are available to municipal and tribal governments; local and regional nonprofit organizations; and local, state or federal agencies located in NSEDC's 15 member communities. The program designates 90 percent of available funds to be divided equally among each member community. The remaining 10 percent is reserved for proposals that are regional in scope.

A great example of the OEF program's

**Left:** NSEDC's Outside Entity Funding program has provided significant support for the Wales Kingikmiut Dance Festival for a number of years.

**Below:** The City of Savoonga utilized OEF funds in 2010 to purchase a rescue boat, motor and trailer.

impact could be found in the Aug. 1 edition of the Nome Nugget newspaper, which reports on the Nome Boys' and Girls' Club being able to keep its doors open thanks to an NSEDC OEF grant. "Families will be relieved to know that there will continue to be a safe, social place ... for their children to go," the newspaper reports.

From 2010-2013, NSEDC's Board of Directors approved \$1 million each year for the OEF program. When funded at that level, the program makes \$60,000 in grants available for each of NSEDC's 15 member communities and an additional \$100,000 that can be applied to regional requests. The NSEDC Board should determine the funding for the 2014 program in late 2013.

### Tiered deadline system

With the goal of better accommodating the planning needs of member communities, NSEDC has two deadlines for the OEF program. The deadline for proposals that are related to fisheries was Oct. 15. A second deadline of January 15, 2014 has been added for projects that do not relate to fisheries. This deadline includes both regional and community OEF grants. The later deadline will allow entities and communities more time to evaluate their needs and complete OEF grant applications.

The timing of the deadlines, and the distinction of whether or not a proposal relates to fisheries, is based on the fact that NSEDC's Board of Directors gives priority to fisheries proposals. These fisheries-related proposals are approved through NSEDC's internal budgeting process in December. When funded in this manner, fisheries proposals are not limited by a fund-



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## Come join a great team, NSEDC is now hiring!

NSEDC is a great place to work while doing good things for our region! NSEDC offers competitive wages and an excellent benefits package.

To find out more, contact Tiffany Martinson at **443-2477** (in Nome) or **888-650-2477** (toll-free) or by e-mail at [tiffany@nsedc.com](mailto:tiffany@nsedc.com).

Job postings and applications are also available online at [www.nsedc.com/employment](http://www.nsedc.com/employment)

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### Full-time opportunities

#### Northern NSSP Operations Manager (Nome)

The Operations Manager, Northern NSSP is responsible for oversight of the Northern NSSP seafood operations. Northern NSSP buys, processes, and sells seafood from the northern Norton Sound fisheries, including red king crab and halibut in both Nome and Savoonga within Norton Sound subdistricts. Northern NSSP operates seafood plants in Nome and Savoonga.

#### Special Projects Coordinator

This position will be responsible for providing technical guidance to NSEDC management and will coordinate projects as assigned by the Chief Operations Officer. The projects will often be new construction or installation projects, but can encompass a range of projects, including researching the

feasibility of new programs and the effectiveness of current programs. The position will study project feasibility, prepare proposals to the NSEDC Board of Directors and grant requests to funding agencies, provide and monitor project budgets and expenses, coordinate and review detailed construction, architectural, and installation specifications and plans, oversee bidding and awarding of contracts, direct and manage project inspections, and other activities to ensure proper project execution and completion of projects following company, state and federal procedures, practices and standards.

#### Help Desk Technician (Anchorage)

Responsible for providing IT technical support to staff, board and users of NSEDC's network and systems, including basic computer maintenance, equipment purchases and asset inventory, software maintenance such as patches, updates and hotfixes, troubleshooting of core system problems, printer repairs and copier network systems, terminals and desktops or laptops. Will provide support and coordination for moves, changes or upgrades to the network, computers, printers, and phone system and provide or coordinate NSEDC staff and board computer training as needed and other duties as assigned by the Chief Financial Officer as needed.

#### Facilities Engineer (Nome)

The Facilities Refrigeration Engineer is responsible for the proper operation of facilities and equipment in northern Norton Sound. This is a year-round position with a greater amount of the responsibilities and effort concentrated between June and November.

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## Outside Entity Funding

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ing cap. Please note that any fisheries proposal can also be considered under the January 15 deadline at the community level, which would subject them to the funding cap set by the NSEDC Board of Directors.

### Review process

Keeping with the idea that local knowledge and input are paramount to serving a community, OEF applica-

tions are first reviewed in each member community by a committee. The committee consists of the community's representative to the NSEDC Board of Directors and at least two other community members. The committee forwards on applications and recommendations to the full NSEDC Board for consideration. If the approved proposals do not commit a community's full amount of available funding for the year, the remaining balance

is carried forward for future use.

For more information on the OEF program, go to [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com) or contact:

**Nome:** Sterling Gologergen,  
[sterling@nsedc.com](mailto:sterling@nsedc.com), 888-650-2477

**Unalakleet:** Paul Ivanoff III,  
[pivanoff@nsedc.com](mailto:pivanoff@nsedc.com),  
800-385-3190

**Anchorage:** Kerilee Ivanoff,  
[kerilee@nsedc.com](mailto:kerilee@nsedc.com), 800-650-2248

# NSSP buying crab & tom cod this winter

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

Like it or not, winter is on its way.

Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) gives residents at least a few reasons to look forward to the cold season with the opening of some of the most accessible commercial fisheries available: through-the-ice bait and red king crab.

The following article gives details on how to participate in these unique commercial fisheries. For more information on either fishery, contact Northern NSSP Interim Manager Josh Osborne in Nome at 443-2304 or toll-free at (855) 443-2304 if you are calling from outside of Nome.

**All crab fishermen need to contact the seafood plant before they start fishing.**

Please note that NSSP only purchases from 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 bait fish or red king crab to NSSP will need to obtain a commercial fishing permit from the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC). Please note that a 2013 permit is needed to fish through the end of December and a 2014 permit must be obtained before fishing in the new year.

Permit application forms can be found

online through the CFEC's website ([www.cfec.state.ak.us/mnu\\_Forms.htm](http://www.cfec.state.ak.us/mnu_Forms.htm)), on the applications page on NSEDC's website ([www.nsedc.com](http://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.

Details on the specific permit needed for each fishery are included at the bottom of this page.

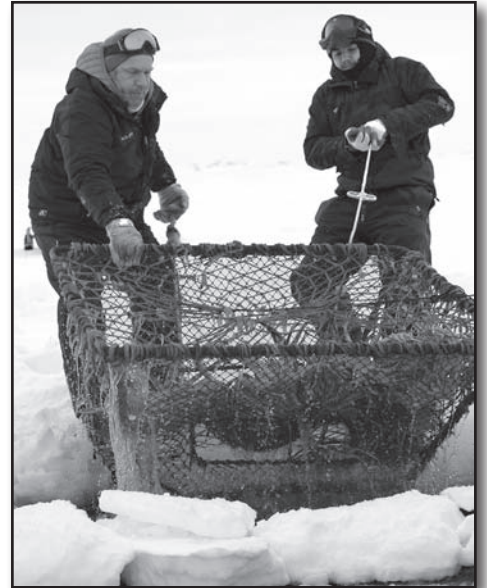
### **Inform ADF&G**

Regardless of which fishery residents participate in, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game requests that all fishermen or fisherwomen register with them. To register, call Jim Menard or Scott Kent at the Nome ADF&G office at (907) 443-5167 or 1-800-560-2271.

## **Winter king crab**

### **Register with NSSP**

All red king crab fishermen need to register with NSSP in Nome before they start fishing. Please call Josh Osborne or Justin Noffske at the seafood plant at 443-2304 in Nome or toll-free at (855) 443-2304 if you are calling from outside of Nome.



Crab fishermen Adem Boeckmann (left) and Scott Payenna pull a pot near Nome during the 2012-2013 winter crab season.

### **What crab can I sell?**

Per regulations, NSSP only purchases live male crabs that measure a minimum of 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ " across the carapace. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game prohibits the harvest of female and under-sized crab, so please do not deliver any to NSSP.

Also, all crab needs to be alive when

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## **Permits required for commercial through-the-ice fisheries**

### **Winter red king crab**

The permit to commercially fish for red king crab through the ice in Norton Sound is the "pot gear, vessel under 60 feet" permit which costs \$225 for 2013. Along with personal information, the application will ask for a Fishery code, Permit number, Fishery description and Vessel ADF&G number. 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

### **Winter bait fish (tom cod)**

The permit to commercially fish for tom cod in Norton Sound is a Miscellaneous Saltwater Finfish Hand Troll permit which costs \$75 for 2013. Along with personal information, the application will ask for a Fishery code, Permit number, Fishery description and Vessel ADF&G number. 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



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they reach the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome. State law requires that we only buy legal-sized, live male crab.

## **How to handle & ship crab**

When you pull your pot, immediately place the crab in a cooler full of sea-water 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. When preparing the crab for shipment, work in an area where the temperature is above freezing. Transfer the crab from the cooler to 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.

Fishermen must notify NSSP at (855) 443-2304 to let us know when they 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



Sunny winter days draw plenty of people to Nome's harbor to fish for tom cod. Many will deliver their catch to the Norton Sound Seafood Center seen in the photo overlooking the ice. NSSP also accepts deliveries from regional communities that are shipped by local air carriers.

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.

## **Bait fish (tom cod)**

The winter bait fishery is the most accessible commercial fishery for Norton Sound residents. With the most minimal of gear—a stick, line and hook—fishermen and women of nearly any age can earn money catching tom cod and other bait fish species through the ice.

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. 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 443-2304 or toll-free at (855) 443-2304.

## **How do I ship tom cod?**

Call NSSP in Nome at (855) 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.

# Norton Sound Seafood Products

## Busy Norton Sound fishing season comes to a close

### Norton Sound herring

When conditions permit, sac roe herring is generally the first large-scale fishery of the season pursued by NSSP. Ice conditions prevented the fishery from occurring in 2012 and created difficulties in 2013. Nevertheless, NSSP and our partner for the fishery, Icicle Seafoods, were able to make the best of the situation this year and conduct buying operations for resident fishermen.

In total, fishermen were able to deliver nearly 1 million pounds (492.2 tons) of herring, netting 40 fishermen nearly \$203,000. Fishermen were paid on a sliding scale depending on the roe recovery percentage of their harvest. The scale was based on a price of \$350 per ton at 10% roe recovery. For every percentage point in either direction of 10%, the price moved by \$20 (9% roe paid \$330, while 11% paid \$370). Fish with roe percentages under 7% were purchased as bait for \$100/ton.

NSEDC and NSSP have partnered with Icicle Seafoods for this fishery. Icicle brings a floating processor to Norton Sound.

The target harvest for the 2013 herring fishery was 800 tons. The herring biomass in Norton Sound is substantial. ADF&G issued a pre-season guideline harvest of 11,700 tons out of a projected biomass of 58,600 tons.

### Norton Sound red king crab

Thirty-two resident fishermen delivered a total of 337,393 pounds of Norton Sound red king crab to Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) during the 2013 summer fishery. NSSP paid out a total of more than \$1.8 million, an average of nearly \$57,400 per permit holder. The 2013 summer red king crab fishery proved challenging. Despite starting the



Axel Johnson, a deckhand on the *F/V Thomas Henry*, loads the day's catch in totes during a successful crab fishing trip in August.

season with the largest quota in recent history, crab fishermen had difficulty locating productive fishing areas. The 2013 season was marked by fishermen travelling far and wide, expending time, fuel and effort for mixed results. Fishermen only seemed to achieve consistent harvests at the very end of the season.

NSEDC/NSSP was again able to offer fishermen a strong price in 2013, paying \$5.50/pound for crab delivered to the seafood plant in Nome and \$5.25/pound for crab delivered to tender vessels. Fishermen from six of NSEDC's member communities participated in the 2013 fishery, with the majority fishing from Nome, followed by Unalakleet and Shaktoolik.

Despite the difficulties this season, the payout to fishermen is the third highest on record for NSSP, following the previous two record-setting years of 2012 and 2011.

### Norton Sound salmon

It was a mixed year for Norton Sound salmon fishermen. Some districts were frustrated by delayed or limited openings, while others had record catches. This year a total of 126 fishermen were paid nearly \$1.19 million for their catches, an increase of nearly \$300,000 over 2012.

In terms of pounds, chum salmon by far made up the largest volume of the catch. Norton Sound fishermen in six communities delivered more than 820,000 pounds of chum. Resident fishermen delivered to NSSP approximately half as many coho salmon.

By value, coho salmon led the way in payouts for fishermen delivering to NSSP. With an average price of \$1.78/pound, fishermen were paid a total of more than \$730,000 for cohos. Chum

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# Norton Sound Seafood Products

## Norton Sound seafood now available online

*NortonSoundSeafood.com serves customers whether they are in Teller or Texas*

NSEDC and Norton Sound Seafood Products has just made it easier for people all over the nation to find out what we in the region already know—our locally harvested seafood is amazing!

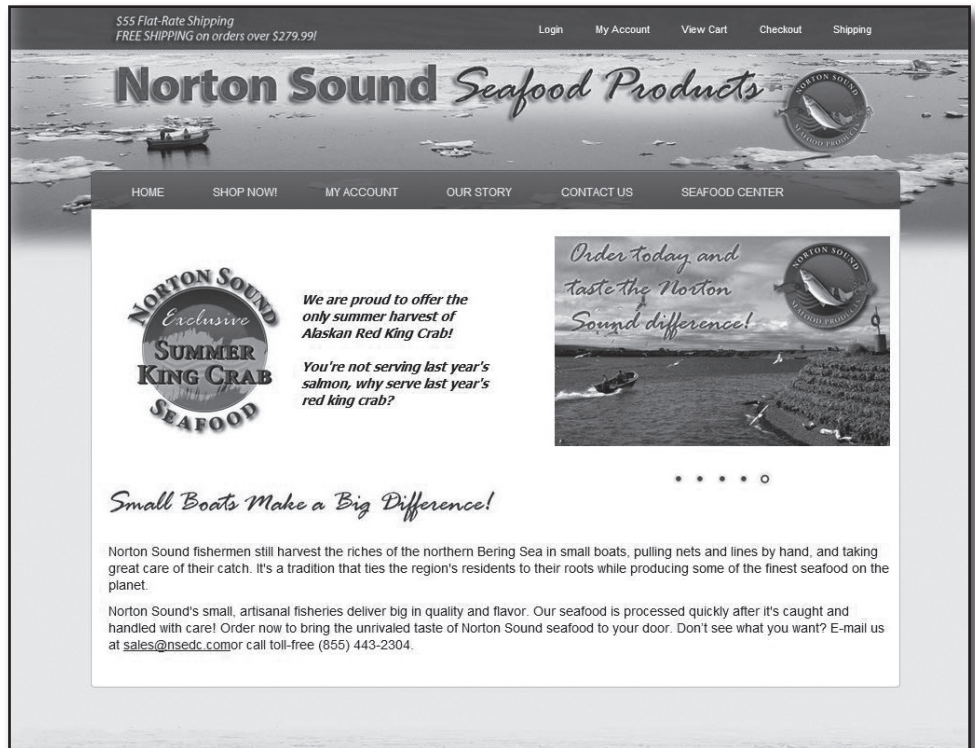
We are proud to announce the launch of a new seafood retail website, *NortonSoundSeafood.com*, that enables customers throughout the United States to order directly from NSSP. Currently *NortonSoundSeafood.com* offers red king crab, halibut and salmon, all harvested by resident fishermen from our member communities. We also offer gift packages that combine Norton Sound seafood with other Alaska goodies, like reindeer sausage and scallops.

Orders from *NortonSoundSeafood.com* are shipped from Nome and arrive by FedEx Overnight or Priority Overnight service, depending on the customer's address. To avoid shipping delays, we only ship on Mondays through Wednesdays to ensure that products arrive and are picked up before the weekend.

*NortonSoundSeafood.com* offers a great way for new customers outside the region and in the Lower 48 to get to know our products. For Norton Sound fishermen, wider knowledge of our brand and quality will ultimately create more demand for our seafood. For Norton Sound residents, *NortonSoundSeafood.com* offers an easy way to send gifts to friends and family down south.

### One site, two stores

*NortonSoundSeafood.com* essentially operates as two different stores. The primary purpose of the site is to give customers all over the nation access to the high-quality seafood



*NortonSoundSeafood.com* offers an easy way for customers all over the nation to order Norton Sound red king crab, halibut and salmon to be delivered right to their door. The site also has a "Seafood Center" link which leads to a page that allows regional residents to shop for items from the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome from their computer.

harvested by our resident fishermen. But the site also has a section reserved for residents of the region, giving easier access to our retail operations based out of the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome.

The Norton Sound Seafood Center processes a number of phoned-in orders each week from communities throughout the region. Regional orders are shipped out on local air carriers. *NortonSoundSeafood.com* now allows regional residents to go online and see what's available at the Seafood Center and order right through the site.

The "Seafood Center" link on the site leads to the menu page list-

ing current items and prices at the store. Beyond our regionally harvested seafood, the Norton Sound Seafood Center sells a variety of products that are unavailable elsewhere in the region. Items range from shrimp and sushi ingredients to reindeer and even alligator meat.

Whether you are new to the store or have had shipments delivered from the Norton Sound Seafood Center before, we invite you to try ordering through the website.

As always, we welcome orders and inquiries by phone and email. Contact us toll-free at 855-443-2304 or by e-mail at [sales@NortonSoundSeafood.com](mailto:sales@NortonSoundSeafood.com).

# Norton Sound Seafood Products

## Fisheries wrap-up

*continued from page 8*

salmon, at an average of \$.55/pound, accounted for nearly \$450,000 of the payments made to fishermen.

Rounding out the harvest were nearly 25,000 pounds of pink salmon, and a small amount of red salmon and catches purchased as bait. In total, Norton Sound fishermen delivered more than 1.26 million pounds of salmon to NSSP this year.

## Norton Sound halibut

As of the writing of this newsletter, a handful of fishermen were still delivering halibut to the NSSP seafood plant in Nome as the region's halibut season wrapped up.

The majority of halibut delivered to NSSP in 2013 was harvested by 19 Savoonga fishermen who haul their longline gear by hand to retrieve their catch while fishing from small skiffs. The fishermen earned nearly \$140,000 for the more than 36,800 pounds they delivered to NSEDC's plant in Savoonga. Halibut is currently the

only commercial fishing opportunity for Savoonga residents. We thank our fishermen and staff in Savoonga for their efforts in this fishery.

Nome fishermen, as of early October, had delivered approximately 23,000 pounds of the flatfish for a payout of \$87,000. Four Nome fishermen had participated in the fishery as of this report. NSEDC was paying \$3.79 per pound to fishermen for halibut deliveries made this season.

## Tender operations boast resident crews

NSEDC and NSSP operate a fleet of vessels during the season to support resident fishermen who fish in locations far from our seafood plants in Unalakleet and Nome. For the first time in several years, our captains and crews on NSEDC-owned vessels were completely comprised of Norton Sound residents. NSEDC has put a renewed focus on training in the area of vessel operation and is proud to see our residents taking the lead in these skilled positions.

Fishermen were served this season by

NSEDC vessels *Norton Bay*, *Golovin Bay*, *Inaliq*, *Egavik*, and the *Besboro* barge. A contract vessel, the *Tina B*, also worked in the region to support our fisheries. Next season, NSEDC and NSSP plan to introduce a brand new tender to the lineup, the *Paul C. Johnson*.

## New infrastructure

The 2013 season marked the introduction of new fishery support buildings in Elim and Golovin, as well as a new buying station at Moses Point near Elim. The fishery support buildings allow for the storage of fishing gear and equipment, and give NSSP a facility to use in support of our operations.

In addition to the support building, fishermen in Elim benefitted from NSSP's new buying station at nearby Moses Point. The establishment of the buying station and integrating an ice-maker, allowed Elim fishermen to be less dependent on tender vessel schedules when taking advantage of commercial salmon openings. This new level of support was a welcome addition in Elim, allowing fishermen to better maintain the high quality of their catch.

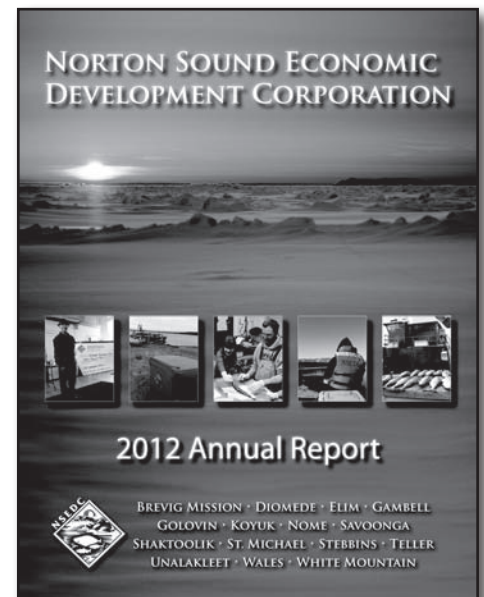
## In other news...

## NSEDC issues 2012 annual report

Residents in NSEDC's 15 member communities should have seen the arrival of NSEDC's 2012 annual report in their post office boxes in mid-September. The report summarizes NSEDC's efforts and activities from the previous year while also providing an audited financial report. The report is also available through the publications link at [www.nsedc.com](http://www.nsedc.com).

Highlights from the 2012 report include:

- Summaries of the harvests in the Norton Sound commercial fisheries
- Results from NSEDC's scholarship,
- training and employment efforts
- A summary of NSEDC's benefit, grant and energy programs
- Reports on Norton Sound Fisheries Research and Development projects
- A summary of NSEDC's CDQ and IFQ fishing activity for the year
- A report on the activity and developments for the assets held by NSEDC's for-profit subsidiary, Siu Alaska Corporation
- A summary of NSEDC's involvement and efforts in each member community, as well as region-wide initiatives and donations



## Charice Johnson Administrative Assistant



NSEDC welcomed Charice Johnson to our team in August as the administrative assistant in the Unalakleet office. Charice tends to the day-to-day affairs of NSEDC's administrative office in Unalakleet while also supporting the Education, Employment and Training (EET) and Community Benefits departments.

Charice was born and raised in Golovin, graduating from Martin L. Olson school in 2007. She attended and graduated from the Rural Alaska Honors Institute program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks that summer. While Charice now considers Unalakleet home, she said her heart will always be in Golovin.

The daughter of Charlie and Bernice Brown of Golovin, Charice is married to Harry Johnson III, the son of Jr. and Joan Johnson of Unalakleet. Together the couple have a jolly two-year-old daughter, Avery, and are expecting a second girl in January.

Charice said NSEDC appealed to her as a workplace both as a good employment opportunity and for the services NSEDC provides to the region. "The NSEDC programs sure have helped me out in the past along with my hometown, Golovin, and many other individuals and member communities as well," she said. "I am fortunate to be a part of the NSEDC team!"

## Kerilee Ivanoff Community Benefits Specialist

NSEDC's Community Benefits department was back at full staff again this August when Kerilee Ivanoff agreed to join the team as our Community Benefits Specialist in the Anchorage office. Kerilee's arrival marked a return, of sorts, as she worked with NSEDC's EET department as an intern roughly a decade ago. In her new role, Kerilee is responsible for administering NSEDC's many grant and benefit programs for member communities and residents. "I enjoy the Community Benefits department," she said. "It's neat to see that the projects benefit the villages and people in our region."

Kerilee was born and raised in Unalakleet, graduating from Frank A. Degan High School. She started college at the University of Alaska Anchorage to pursue engineering, before transferring to the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she graduated with a degree in rural development. She has now set her sights on pursuing a master's degree in the coming years.

Kerilee is married to Yuri Ivanoff and together they have two sons, Keegan and Evan. In addition to family time, she enjoys running, knitting, traveling, and hunting and fishing when she gets the chance.

The job opening at NSEDC timed well with Kerilee's graduation and goals. "My goal was to work for a Native corporation or a corpora-



tion from the Bering Strait region after graduation," she said. "NSEDC happened to have an opening; I saw it as a great way to give back to one of the companies that supported me throughout my college career."

## Employees on the move

Hazel Freytag was named NSEDC's new Accounts Payable Clerk in July. Hardly new to NSEDC, Hazel has worked for us for seven years in different roles and locations, most recently as an accounting assistant and delivery driver. Hazel works in NSEDC's Anchorage office.

## Your name could be on this page!

NSEDC is currently hiring. Find out about job opportunities on page 5 or check out our employment page on the NSEDC website. Full-time and seasonal positions can be found at [www.nsedc.com/employment](http://www.nsedc.com/employment).



# Charlie Lean retires from NSEDC's full-time staff



**Noted biologist Charlie Lean retired in September as the director of NSEDC's Fisheries Research and Development division. In this photo, Charlie works with a net full of coho salmon on the Snake River for NSEDC's mist incubation program.**

**H**ungry for opportunity and full-time work, Charlie Lean had the fortune of being presented with three job offers from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in the early 1980s. He was excited to return to a place he had called home for a time as a child and accepted a post in Nome as the new assistant area manager.

Skinny from 10 years of summer field work and off-seasons spent scraping by with odd jobs and trapping, "Lean" was more than just a name for the young man who arrived in Nome in the dead of the Arctic winter in 1981. More than three decades and numerous job titles after that February arrival, Charlie has rounded out a distinguished career that has left a lasting, positive impact on the region. In those 32 years, Charlie has become as much a part of Nome as Nome became part of him as he married, raised two children and dedicated 30 years to the volunteer ambulance service. "I chose Nome," he said. "I forgot to leave."

We at NSEDC are glad he stayed and have been lucky enough to have Charlie as an important part of our team for eight

years of his long career. In mid-September, we had to bid a fond farewell to Charlie as he hung up his waders and embarked on a well-deserved retirement from full-time work at NSEDC. Charlie remains with NSEDC on a part-time basis working on our efforts to develop a regional salmon hatchery and advising on various matters.

For years Charlie served as the director of NSEDC's Norton Sound Fisheries Research and Development division (NSFR&D), leading our scientific efforts. In that role Charlie oversaw the expansion of the program on several fronts, helping NSEDC further increase the role we play in fisheries research and support in the region. "By hiring other qualified biologists, and training and selecting a staff to get the job done, we have demonstrated that FR&D is a competent support organization," he said. "We've been really active participants in state and federal regulatory processes. We have put our money where our mouth is—we do care. We are making the best of opportunities we have for our residents."

Charlie came to NSEDC in 2005 after a 20-year career in fisheries with the state and five years working for the federal government on subsistence resources in the region. While Charlie enjoyed his work with the two governmental agencies, NSEDC offered the chance to work outside of a bureaucracy. "One of the things that attracted me to NSEDC was that they were addressing problems that I could see, but couldn't address as an agency guy," he said.

Charlie came to NSEDC as our mist incubation project to rehabilitate salmon runs was in its early stages. After NSEDC was able to show—against the odds—that the technique was viable in Hastings Creek, Charlie led NSEDC in expanding the program to the Snake, Solomon, Nome and South rivers over the years. Charlie also oversaw the re-implementation of the fertilization of Salmon Lake to enhance sockeye salmon runs—a cooperative project that was started while he was still at ADF&G but dropped between the time he retired from the state and joined NSEDC.

Charlie's tenure also saw the addition of a number of salmon escapement projects throughout the region. Some of these towers and weirs were operated by other regional entities while others were developed by NSEDC. The operation of projects like these aligns with a philosophy Charlie held while serving as the area manager for ADF&G. "If you want to have a role in management, you need to provide data," he said. While at ADF&G, Charlie worked to develop cooperative relationships with local and regional organizations. "I saw these cooperative

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## Charlie Lean

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projects as empowering the people in fisheries management. I worked hard to make that a good faith effort.”

Charlie continued working under that philosophy at NSEDC, assisting other groups with their projects and offering technical assistance. He hopes to see entities in the region continue to work on fisheries projects, both on their own and collaboratively. “It’s great that NSEDC is doing such a great job. But local ownership of fish and wildlife resources is best accomplished in a committee situation,” he said. “When we go to a management meeting, like the Board of Fisheries or the Norton Pacific Fishery Management Council, it’s important to be your own spokesperson. Not that we should always agree; but as we participate more, we will have more similarities than differences, and as a group we will prevail.”

It was a collaborative effort in this spirit that marks what Charlie considers one of his biggest accomplishments in his fisheries career. Working with local fishermen, Charlie served as the manager for the Norton Sound red king crab fishery during the period regulations were put into place that saved it from a potential collapse. Local fishermen and groups provided strong advocacy to get the quota reduced to sustainable levels while Charlie addressed the lowering of the harvest rate from an astounding 60 percent of the legal male biomass to today’s levels of 10 to 12 percent. “I am pretty proud of the crab fishery,” he said.

Charlie is also proud of the emphasis on local hire that has developed over the years. Some who started working on ADF&G seasonal projects as 18-year-olds still return each summer more than two decades later. He’s also watched with pride as former NSFR&D fishery technicians make their way in the world. “I like to think of it as an alumni association,” he said. “Some of the alumni



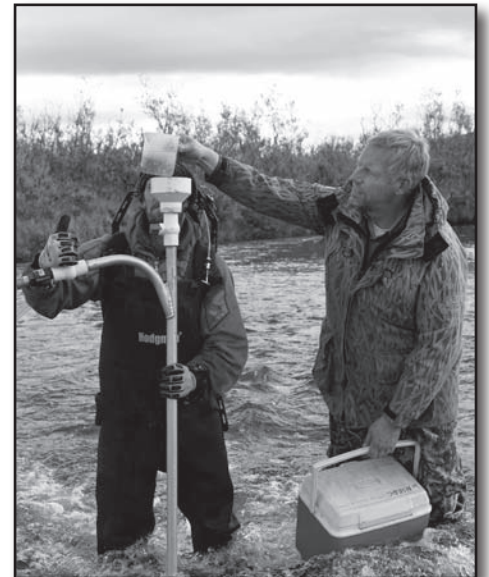
**Above:** Charlie leads a group of Nome Elementary School students and teachers to Anvil Creek where they will plant coho salmon fry the students raised from eggs over the school year.

**Right:** Charlie feeds fertilized chum salmon eggs into a planting device held by NSEDC biologist Kevin Keith on the Snake River.

of FR&D have gone on to be really productive people outside of the organization. You see people going into the teaching profession, co-management entities like the Nanuuq Commission, and former employees working their way up in regional organizations. For me that’s the reward.”

Likewise, Charlie said it has been rewarding to serve the region himself through his work at NSEDC. “I think one of the things that attracted me to NSEDC, versus other opportunities that I had, was it truly does focus on local residents, all local residents—not one village, not one group, but the region,” he said. “I very much consider myself a resident of the region, and it is nice to give back.”

NSEDC is proud to have had Charlie dedicate so many hours and so much effort working for our program. His service has truly benefitted NSEDC, the residents and resources of the Norton Sound region.



While he hasn’t had much in the way of free time during the summer since 1976, we’re pretty certain he will find ways to occupy himself. Charlie didn’t confess to any solid plans as he eased back from full-time work in September other than tending to the family property in Cooper Landing, possibly some winter trapping, and summer gold mining at Ungalik.

We wish Charlie all the best and thank him for his years of leadership and dedication.



# NSEDC in action



*Photos help tell the tale of NSEDC's broad range of activities over the last few months*



## Service with a smile

Wales Representative to the NSEDC Board Lucy Kitchen (left) and Community Benefits Coordinator Sterling Gologergen serve cake provided by NSEDC for the 2013 Wales Kingikmiut Dance Festival.



## The production line

The Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome hums with activity as processors take care of the day's crab deliveries in July.



## Net-working

Salmon fishermen from Unalakleet work their net in pursuit of cohos in front of town in mid-August. Throughout the region, resident fishermen delivered nearly 411,000 pounds of silvers to Norton Sound Seafood Products.





## Celebrating a new addition

Above: Residents of Elim help NSEDC celebrate the first year of a new buying station and fishery support building for the community's fishermen during a barbecue at the new building on September 25.

Right: Elim Representative to the NSEDC Board Oscar Takak, Sr. (right) and Elim Station Manager Russell Saccheus team up to cut the ribbon for the community's new fishery support building during the recent celebration.



## Field work at its finest

(l to r) DeeDee Adams, Devynn Johnson and Agnes Anasogak of NSEDC's Fisheries Research and Development crew soak up the sun as they assemble the weir to be used with the fish counting tower on the Iglutalik River.

## Shuttle service

Teachers from Diomedes await the departure of NSEDC's tender vessel, the *Inaliq*, after they were unable to get back to the island due to a disruption in helicopter service. NSEDC stepped up to get the teachers, their belongings and even a dog to Little Diomedes Island so school could start with minimal delay. This is the second time in the last few years that NSEDC has been able to help the Bering Strait School District by providing teachers a ride to Diomedes.



# Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

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*Toll free in AK:* (855) 232-3014

### **Savoonga Plant**

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



The crab fishing vessel, *Northern Fury*, heads back to port after a day of crab fishing in August.