



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*

NSED C honored with Kawerak's 2013 Community Impact Award

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED C) is honored to have received the 2013 Community Impact Award from Kawerak, Inc. The award was presented at the tribal organization's 40th Anniversary Regional Conference in Nome on April 10.

As detailed in Kawerak's nomination form, the Community Impact Award "recognizes an individual or organization whose work has effected change or impacted Alaska Natives in their community. The recipient of this award has given outstanding service and commitment to their community."

NSED C received the award specifically for its Small Business Initiative program. Now in its sixth year, the Small Business Initiative has dedicated more than \$500,000 to supporting new and developing small businesses in Norton Sound communities through competitive grants. As with many of NSED C's programs, the Small Business Initiative aims to develop local economies and job opportunities in the region.

Kawerak's program for its 40th Anniversary Regional Conference explained their selection of NSED C for the award as follows:

"NSED C ignited a culture of entrepreneurship within our communities and sparked hope for those who have always wanted to start a business. The number one barrier to business development within our region is financing, and this program has bridged that gap for those who have been awarded funds.

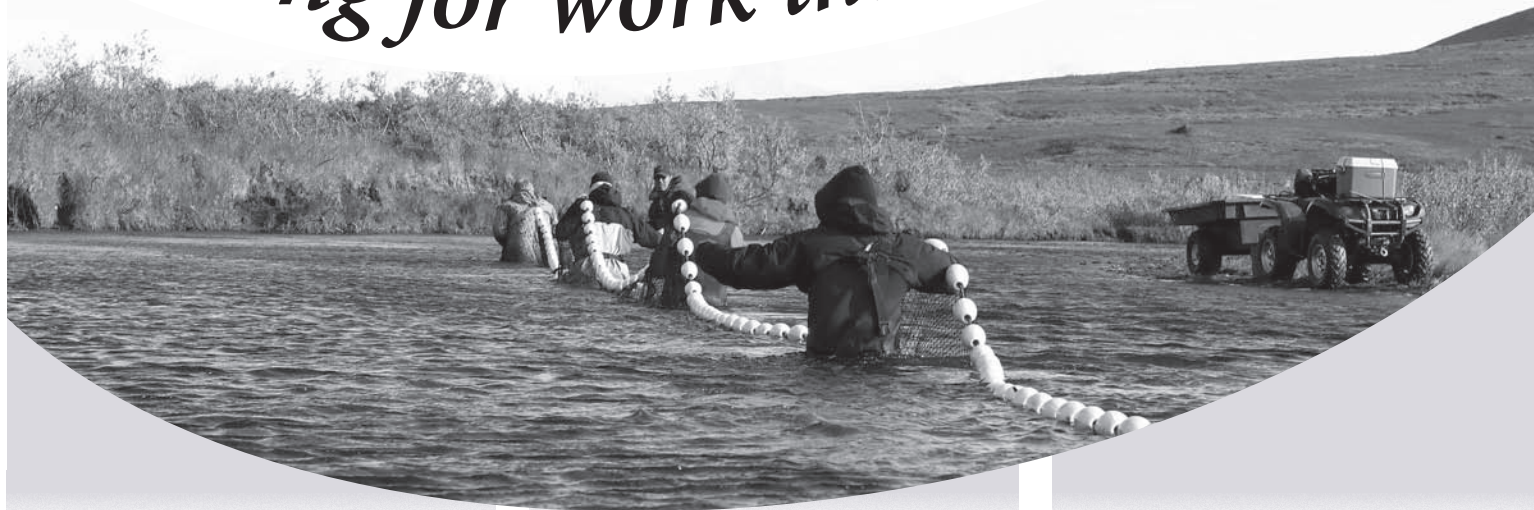
"Thanks to NSED C and their commitment to entrepreneurs within our region, dreams have become reality. This has made a huge impact on our Alaska Native communities where economic development is underdeveloped. The SBI pro-

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Looking for work this summer?



Consider a job with NSEDCC!

Seasonal Employment Opportunities



Fisheries Restoration



Tender Vessel Crew



Seafood Processing

NSEDC will be hiring for the following seasonal positions

Commercial Fishing Tender Vessels:

NSEDC is seeking captains and crew members to be based out of the Nome and Unalakleet area. Previous experience is preferred but we are willing to train. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and be able to meet physical requirements. These positions require employees to be drug- and alcohol-free, and be able to produce a negative drug screen.

Norton Sound Seafood Products

Many positions will need to be filled at the Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) seafood plants in Unalakleet, Nome and Savoonga. NSEDC provides airfare to and from Nome and Unalakleet for member community residents who are hired to work for the season. Some processing jobs will require the operation of machinery while others are simple labor. Applicants are encouraged to possess a driver's license but it's not required for all positions. We will be recruiting for the following positions:

Unalakleet: Seafood processors, quality control, fish buyers, maintenance assistants, gear coordinator, office assistant, refrigeration technician, shift supervisors.

Nome: Seafood processors, quality control, retail clerk, shift supervisors.

Savoonga: Seafood processors.

Elim & Golovin: Jobs will be available at buying stations in both communities.

Construction Projects (Shaktoolik)

NSEDC will be seeking a construction foreman and laborers to help construct a storage building in Shaktoolik.

Community Employment Program

Through the Education, Employment and Training division, NSEDC funds a position in each member community with the city or tribal offices, or another similar entity. Contact EET Director Jerry Ivanoff at (800) 385-3190 (toll-free) / 624-3190 (in Unalakleet) or jerry@nsedc.com for more about the availability of the position in your community.

Fisheries Research & Development

Nome Fieldwork Crew: One crew leader and three crewmembers are needed for fieldwork that involves—among other tasks—egg-takes, fertilization efforts and adult fish capture (including carcasses) from approximately July 1 to Sept. 23. Some crewmembers may be needed until approximately Oct. 7. Driver's license preferred.

Pilgrim River Weir: A crew of two is needed for fish counting work that runs approximately June 20 to Sept. 9. Work requires employees to live in camps at job site.

Eldorado/Snake River Weir Project: A crew of two is needed for fish counting work that runs approximately July 1 to Sept. 9. The crew will shift work from the Eldorado to the Snake River mid-season. Work requires employees to live in camps at job site.

Iglutalik River Weir (Koyuk): A crew of four is needed for fish counting work that runs from June 26 to Sept. 9. Work requires employees to live in camps at job site.

North Tower (Unalakleet): A crew leader and three crewmembers are needed for fish counting work from June 15-Sept. 15. Work requires employees to live in camps at job site.

Shaktoolik Sonar Project: One crew leader and three crewmembers are needed from June 15 to Sept. 15. Some crewmembers will live in camps on site.

Unalakleet River Smolt Project: Three crewmembers are needed from May 7 to Aug. 7.

Northern Community Developing Fishery: A test fish crew leader and two crew members are needed for two communities (Brevig Mission and Teller) from June 1 to Sept. 30. Crews will fish to assess the potential for commercial fisheries near their communities.

Clean Waters Beach Cleaning Project: A crew leader and various crewmembers are needed in four communities this summer for beach cleaning projects. A total crew of 6-9 people are needed for cleanup projects in Savoonga, Gambell, Diomed and Brevig Mission.

For information on jobs with NSEDC, contact Tiffany Martinson

Tel: 443-2477 (in Nome) **or 888-650-2478** (toll-free) • **E-mail: tiffany@nsedc.com**

Find job postings and applications online: www.nsedc.com/employment

News for Norton Sound Fishermen

We'll be fishing before you know it. Time to prepare for the season!

Fishing & safety gear available, order soon!

As the season approaches, Norton Sound Seafood Products reminds fishermen that our Nome and Unalakleet plants have fishing and safety gear available for fishermen. These items can be purchased through Fishermen's Receivables accounts.

Each plant has safety kits on hand that contain items necessary for vessels to comply with amended U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations for the Norton Sound.

Each kit contains:

- Personal locator beacon (PLB)
- Reflective tape
- Safety whistles
- Signal mirrors
- Strobe light/PFD markers
- Flares
- Fog horn

Upon request, NSSP will order other safety gear, such as additional flares and survival suits.

NSSP can also ship life rafts for annual certification upon request from fishermen.

Fishing gear is also available for salmon, herring and winter crab fisheries. Please contact your nearest plant for information on available gear and/or special orders.



Randy Ellingworth Fisherman of the Year Award renewed

At their January meetings in Nome, the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) Board of Directors voted to reinstate the Randy Ellingworth Award for the top halibut/crab fisherman of the year delivering to Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP).

The award was established in 2003 following the death of Randy Eugene Ellingworth, a renowned fisherman out of Nome who helped pioneer the region's commercial halibut and crab fisheries. Randy's tenacity and drive always made him one of the top fishermen delivering to NSSP. He was retroactively given the first award for 2002 after he passed away.

From 2003 to 2006, the award was presented to the highest grossing fisherman who participated in the crab and halibut fisheries. The winners were honored by having their names inscribed on a trophy that is on display at the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome. In three out of those first four years, Nome fisherman Frank McFarland got to see his name on the trophy. Fellow Nome fisherman Robin Thomas claimed the prize in 2004. The award was put on hold after 2006 amid discussions of possibly changing its criteria.

With the return of the award, the board directed NSED and NSSP to make up for lost time by updating the trophy with the winners from 2007 to 2012. We didn't have to learn too many new names as history largely repeated itself with McFarland

and Thomas almost exclusively taking the honor for five out of the six years. The exception came in 2009 when Nome fisherman Phil Pryzmont claimed the top spot. A full list of the winners is provided below.

NSED and NSSP hope the Randy Ellingworth Award and trophy will serve as an incentive for the fishermen who have a long-standing history of delivering to NSSP, as well as those who are up and coming in the fisheries. We congratulate all our fishermen for their past successes and wish them good fishing as we look to the seasons ahead.



The Randy Ellingworth Fisherman of the Year Award is on display again at the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome.

2002: Randy Ellingworth	2005: Frank McFarland	2008: Frank McFarland	2011: Frank McFarland
2003: Frank McFarland	2006: Frank McFarland	2009: Phil Pryzmont	2012: Robin Thomas
2004: Robin Thomas	2007: Robin Thomas	2010: Frank McFarland	

Fishery support buildings to aid operations in three communities



NSEDC and Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) are excited to announce the addition of fishery support buildings in Elim, Golovin and Shaktoolik this season.

The buildings will help NSSP better serve fishermen by providing a secure location to store gear and equipment. The buildings can serve as distribution points for safety and fishing gear.

As of this publication, the buildings in Golovin and Elim were up and running. Construction of the facility in Shaktoolik is planned for this summer.

Golovin's new fishery support building will help improve operations.

New Moses Point buying station will give fishermen more flexibility

Fishermen in Elim this year will be delivering their catch in a new way as NSEDC and NSSP open a land-based buying station at Moses Point. This new station will give fishermen more flexibility in when they can fish.

Previously, Elim fishermen could only fish when there was a tender vessel anchored near the community to accept deliveries. The new station will give both fishermen and NSSP more flexibility as fishermen will not have to wait on a tender to start fishing, and NSSP vessels will now only

need to travel to Elim at the end of a fishing period to pick up totes of iced fish.

The station will consist of a boom-truck, loader and small building to record the deliveries. The boom-truck will lift and weigh fish from vessels and then load them into totes of ice carried by the loader. The loader will then place the totes on one of NSSP's tender vessels for shipment

to one of NSSP's seafood plants. When necessary, the loader could deliver the fish to the airport for air shipment.

An added benefit of the station for Elim will be the creation of new jobs in the community during the fishing season. Two to three employees will be needed to operate the boom-truck and loader, and to record the deliveries made by fishermen.

Direct deposit for fish ticket settlements is available

Fishermen delivering to NSSP can choose to have their fish ticket settlements paid through direct deposit. This service provides fast and convenient payment for fishermen.

To have direct deposit set up for you, contact Matt Coates or Chelsea Ryan at NSEDC by calling (800) 650-2248. Direct deposit forms can also be obtained at any NSEDC office or seafood facility (Anchorage, Nome, Unalakleet and Savoonga). Forms can also be obtained online at www.nsedc.com/programpdf, or from NSEDC Community Outreach Liaisons.

Nome, Unalakleet plants have new toll-free numbers

The Norton Sound Seafood Products facilities in Nome and Unalakleet can now be reached at the following toll-free numbers:

- **Nome: (855) 443-2304** or 443-2304 locally in Nome
- **Unalakleet: (855) 232-3014** or 624-3014 locally in Unalakleet

Additionally, all NSEDC offices can be reached toll-free:

- **Unalakleet: (800) 385-3190** or 624-3190 locally in Unalakleet
- **Nome: (888) 650-2477** or 443-2477 locally in Nome
- **Anchorage: (800) 650-2248** or 274-2248 locally in Anchorage

Schooling up...

The high-quality seafood harvested by Norton Sound resident commercial fishermen finds its way to school lunches in the region and beyond. Both the Bering Strait and Nome school districts, as well as regional Head Start classrooms, serve fish from Norton Sound Seafood Products. But local students are not the only ones who enjoy the healthy fare from Norton Sound waters as out-of-region school districts from Barrow to the Kenai Peninsula have added Norton Sound seafood to their menus.

Representatives from Norton Sound Seafood Products recently attended the Alaska School Nutrition Association's annual conference in Anchorage to make more districts aware of the healthy, high-quality seafood available from Norton Sound. When schools serve our seafood, it benefits both the students and the resident fishermen of Norton Sound!



NSFR&D has a busy summer ahead!

NSEDC's Norton Sound Fisheries Research and Development division has a full slate of projects and work scheduled for the upcoming summer season. The following are brief descriptions of the many initiatives to take place this year:

Environmental Work

Diomedes Beach Cleanup: This is a continuation of a beach clean-up effort that was not completed due to vessel availability and a subsequent storm that redistributed collected debris. Diomedes has very limited beach and years of debris accumulation; completion of this project will help Diomedes reclaim this highly valued space.

Gambell Beach Cleanup: The St. Lawrence Island beaches collect large amounts of marine debris. NSEDC has funded a project for Gambell beaches with the intent to match outside funding to expand the project to cover more beach and to include the vicinity of Savoonga.

Brevig Mission Beach Cleanup: A project was planned, however, grant funding did not come through. There are large fuel tanks on the beach; and regardless of grant funding, they will be investigated to determine estimate cleanup costs for future work.

Watershed Baseline: FR&D samples water quality on a number of streams which have a high likelihood of development projects in the near future.

Fisheries Stock Assessment

Red King Crab Tagging: The tagging project is intended to verify work that was conducted 30 years ago and expand the area of investigation into eastern Norton Sound. This is a cooperative project with ADF&G and is funded by the North Pacific Research Board. Crab will be tagged also by an FR&D crew along the eastern coast to expand the investigation to areas where fewer data has been collected to verify that the study conclusions can be applied broadly through Norton Sound.

Herring Monitoring: The Norton Sound herring stock is potentially the largest harvestable biomass available to commercial fishing in our region. It is about the third largest herring stock in the Pacific Ocean. FR&D staff support both the NSSP buying effort and ADF&G monitoring efforts. NSEDC staff biologists are the most experienced biologists and spotters of herring in western Alaska.

Northern Communities Developing Fisheries: Test fish crews will operate from Teller and Brevig Mission to look



Henry Titus from White Mountain checks a location on the Niukluk River as a potential planting site for Chinook rehabilitation work. NSEDC is assisting the Native Village of White Mountain with the project.

for commercially viable food species in the vicinity of their communities. Crab pots will be added to their fishing gear this year. Long-line gear will continue to be operated if time allows.

Unalakleet Chinook Smolt Research: This is a cooperative project with ADF&G and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and is funded by the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. The project is intended to document rearing habitat of Chinook smolt, interactions with coho and Chinook smolt, and predation on Chinook smolt. A better understanding of freshwater interactions will benefit the rehabilitation of Chinook salmon and may offer insight into other species survival.

Shaktoolik Sonar: This is a salmon counting project using a DIDSON sonar, a technically advanced counting device. The project is run by local employees who have been trained on-the-job. It is a showcase project due to the expertise displayed by the employees.

Cooperative Salmon Counting Projects: These projects can be divided into those operated primarily by ADF&G with a minority of employees paid by NSEDC (Unalakleet



Weir, Kwiniuk Weir, Nome River Weir and Solomon River Counting Tower) and projects that are operated primarily by NSEDC employees for the duration of a salmon run (North River Counting Tower and Snake River Weir). Projects that are operated by NSEDC employees exclusively are: Iglutalik Counting Tower, Eldorado River Weir, Pilgrim River Weir and Pilgrim River Smolt.

Salmon Enhancement and Rehabilitation

Northern Bering Sea Regional Aquaculture Association (NoBSRAA), Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Planning Team and Comprehensive Salmon Planning support: The NSEDC board supports the formation and operation of NoBSRAA to facilitate a regionally approved salmon plan which will provide a list of approved projects for salmon rehabilitation and enhancement. This regional effort is a consensus-building process intended to help not only regional communities arrive at mutually acceptable solutions to address salmon shortfalls, but to also build consensus with ADF&G and local aquaculture groups.

Hatchery Feasibility Study: NSEDC is investigating the



Above: A crew from Gambell gathers after collecting debris during an earlier Clean Waters project. NSFR&D plans to conduct another cleanup this summer in Gambell.

Left: NSFR&D biologist Kevin Keith scans the Pilgrim River just above the weir where seasonal staff keep a count of the salmon heading downstream.

feasibility of a central incubation hatchery intended to rehabilitate up to six small stocks and create one or two new salmon returns within the region. The study will examine the availability of water, the costs of construction, the logistics of operation and the cost of operation. A respected engineer is working with staff to design a concept plan which will be passed to the regulators for a critique.

Anvil Creek Coho Salmon Rehabilitation: This is a mist-incubation/eyed-egg-planting project to rehabilitate Nome area coho salmon runs in Anvil and Dry creeks.

Nome Area Chum Rehabilitation: Mist incubation/eyed-egg planting is being employed to rehabilitate the chum runs on the Snake and Solomon rivers.

South River Chinook Rehabilitation: Mist incubation/eyed-egg planting is being employed to rehabilitate the Chinook run on the Unalakleet/South rivers.

Support of Rehabilitation Projects of Other Regional Organizations: The Native Village of White Mountain plans to incubate and plant Chinook on the Niukluk River. The group has asked for advice and plans for support on the Niukluk project have been made.

Salmon Lake Fertilization: Custom-made fertilizer to enhance plankton has been applied to Salmon Lake to enhance food for juvenile sockeye salmon. By stabilizing the food supply for sockeye salmon in freshwater, more predictable and larger returns of adult sockeye can be expected.

NSEDC Program Updates

Community Benefit Shares: A stable funding source for 13 years

Since 1999 NSEDC has issued nearly \$17 million to member communities as share amount has grown

In much the same way that NSEDC helps individuals help themselves through scholarships and training, NSEDC also supports our member communities by providing the means to improve their infrastructure and living conditions through their own initiatives.

One of the main ways NSEDC accomplishes this is through the Community Benefit Share program. First established in 1999, the Community Benefit Share provides direct funding from NSEDC to member communities. NSEDC provides the distributions to municipal governments after they have determined how the share will be spent through a public meeting process.

With a directive to put the funds toward their highest priorities, communities have used the Community Benefit Shares in a variety of ways, including search and rescue equipment, police service, reducing the cost of utility and electrical service, elder and youth programs, and various infrastructure purchases and improvements.

Successful Bering Sea commercial fish-

ing operations and wise financial management allowed NSEDC to apply additional revenue to our benefit programs in 2012. In response, NSEDC's Board of Directors issued a record \$300,000 in Community Benefit Shares for each of our 15 member communities last year, totaling \$4.5 million for the region.

"The Board of Directors believes it only makes sense to share that success directly with our communities through an expanded Community Benefit Share," NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson said. "I know these funds will be put to good use, addressing the particular and unique needs of each of our member communities."

NSEDC established the Community Benefit Share 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 remained from 2006 to 2011. NSEDC has now dedicated nearly \$17 million in Community Benefit Share

Community Benefit Share Historic Breakdown		
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 million
2006	\$100,000	\$1.5 million
2007	\$100,000	\$1.5 million
2008	\$100,000	\$1.5 million
2009	\$100,000	\$1.5 million
2010	\$100,000	\$1.5 million
2011	\$100,000	\$1.5 million
2012	\$300,000	\$4.5 million
Total	\$1.13 million	\$16.95 million

funding in the program's history.

For more information on the Community Benefit Share and other NSEDC programs, visit www.nsedc.com.

NSEDC grows its quota holdings with major Bering Sea crab purchase

NSEDC is proud to announce the expansion of its investment in Alaska's king crab fisheries.

Late last fall, NSEDC purchased KDS, Inc., a Seattle-based fishing company that primarily harvests golden king crab in the Aleutian Islands. The acquisition of KDS, Inc. includes nearly 1.2 million pounds of Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab quota. KDS, Inc. is now a wholly owned subsidiary of NSEDC.

The KDS, Inc. transaction also includes smaller quota holdings of Bering Sea opilio crab and St. Matthew Island blue king crab, as well as a significant portion of the Total Allowable Catch of Western Aleutian Islands red king crab, a fishery that is currently closed. The deal also includes the fishing vessel *Patricia Lee*, a catcher-processor, which KDS, Inc. has sold to NSEDC's for-profit subsidiary, Siu Alaska Corporation.

The golden king crab quota, however, was the primary target

and component of the acquisition. For well over a decade this fishery has proven itself exceptionally stable in terms of commercial harvest levels. NSEDC also comes into the deal with extensive experience in the fishery through Siu Alaska Corporation and its ownership stake in the crabbing vessel *Aleutian No. 1*. The captains and crews of the *Aleutian No. 1* have successfully fished the remote Western Aleutian Islands golden king crab fishery for years and will now be contracted to fish quota for KDS, Inc.

"Bringing KDS into the NSEDC family is a significant and positive move for both our organization and the 15 member communities we represent," said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson of White Mountain. "When NSEDC expands into different fisheries, our corporation becomes more stable. The less dependent we are on any one fishery, the more we are able to assure that NSEDC can continue to provide benefits and economic development well into the future."

State review shows NSEDC performing strongly

Employment, wages, scholarships, fishermen's payments & investments all grow

The State of Alaska has found that Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) is performing strongly when it comes to meeting the goals and objectives of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program and serving the residents of the Norton Sound region.

The state's findings came after conducting a federally mandated review of NSEDC's performance over a five-year period between 2006 and 2010. This review was the first of the CDQ program evaluation process that will now take place every 10 years and is appropriately called the Decennial Review.

The Decennial Review process is dictated by federal law through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and evaluates the six CDQ groups individually over four broad criteria: socioeconomic conditions; financial performance; employment, training and scholarships; and achieving the goals of the Community Development Plans.

State regulations require that the CDQ groups evaluate their performance in regard to the four main criteria sets, backing up their findings with observable data. The State of Alaska was charged with reviewing the groups' evaluations and determining whether or not they had maintained or improved their performance over the review period. "NSEDC's improved performance, across all four criteria, is well-documented, discussed, and supported by specific and observable data," the state summarized in its final determination.

"We at NSEDC welcomed the opportunity to highlight the results of our programs and hard work over the review period of 2006-2010," said NSEDC Board Chairman Dan Harrelson. "The Decennial Review has shown that NSEDC has been successful in developing more jobs and opportunity for our member communities while also building a stronger, more stable organization."

NSEDC put significant effort into examining its programs and records over the review period, assembling a wealth of data that supported its findings of improved performance across the board. The State of Alaska's review team, in particular, recognized the abundance and quality of NSEDC's supporting data, stating:

"NSEDC's 2006 - 2010 Decennial Review Report included

comprehensive data, articulated performance standards, and provided relevant analysis and discussion regarding performance standards. Most importantly, the report effectively summarized and supported NSEDC's performance findings across all required criteria. Due to the high-quality and comprehensive nature of the report, the State of Alaska's evaluation team was able to assess overall performance for the 2006 to 2010 review period and reach a final determination."

NSEDC's full report to the state, as well as the state's evaluation, can be found online through NSEDC's website. Click on the publications link at www.nsedc.com.

A glance at NSEDC's numbers

The following are a few performance highlights noted in NSEDC's report:

- Between 2006-2010, NSEDC nearly doubled the number of individuals it directly employs and increased wages by more than 81 percent.
- Between 2006-2010, more than \$33.5 million in wages were earned by those working in jobs either directly supported by or related to NSEDC.
- Payments made to fishermen delivering to NSEDC's subsidiary Norton Sound Seafood Products climbed by 98 percent over the review period, growing from \$1.67 million in 2006 to \$3.3 million in 2010. Total payments to fishermen over the review period were \$12.6 million.
- NSEDC doubled its investment in scholarships for regional residents during the review period, expanding its contributions from \$341,000 in 2006 to \$681,000 in 2010. In total, NSEDC invested more than \$2.55 million in scholarships over the five-year period.
- Over the review period NSEDC grew its net assets by 34 percent, climbing from nearly \$108 million in 2006 to more than \$144 million in 2010.

Find out about NSEDC jobs, opportunities and programs online! The latest news, program deadlines and job postings are all available at www.nsedc.com.

Small Business Initiative

NSEDC awards six Small Business Initiative grants

NSEDC grant funding aims to diversify the local business base in the Norton Sound region

Efforts to parlay housing, herding and hot chocolate all into sustainable businesses were awarded shares of \$105,000 in total grant funding available through the 2012 Small Business Initiative (SBI). In all, six proposals received funding during an awards ceremony in Nome last fall, marking the fifth year of NSEDC's competitive business grant program.

Patterned after the Alaska Federation of Natives' Alaska Marketplace Competition, NSEDC accepts SBI proposals each year from emerging or expanding small businesses located in NSEDC member communities. A panel of judges, who are independent of NSEDC, evaluate the proposals and select a small number of finalists. The finalists are invited to present their businesses in person to the judges during a final evaluation process. Following this interview process, the judges allocate all or part of the \$105,000 to the winning proposals. No single proposal may receive more than \$35,000.

In 2012 a total of 21 proposals were received and were narrowed down to a final six. All six finalists this year were awarded funding. The 2012 SBI recipients are a diverse group, covering reindeer herding in Stebbins, unique dome



(left to right) NSEDC Community Benefits Director Paul Ivanoff III stands alongside 2012 Small Business Initiative winners Carol Charles, Ted Katcheak, Nils Hahn, Kim Galleher, Gary Eckenweiler and Kevin Busk.

shelters in Nome, taxidermy services in Unalakleet, a coffee shop in Unalakleet, spray-foam insulation services in Nome, and a fabric/yarn supply store in Nome. Find out more about their businesses on the next page.

SBI grant recipients are not simply handed a check and wished good luck. NSEDC either reimburses the business or directly pays vendors for approved purchases. Grant recipients have two years to implement their business plans and utilize the available funding. The SBI program also provides small business support to the recipients through items such as QuickBooks accounting

training and a consultant who assists with carrying out the business plan.

NSEDC thanks all who submitted proposals for the 2012 competition and encourages those who did not make the finals to further develop their applications for 2013. NSEDC also thanks this year's panel of judges who dedicated time to evaluating all the proposals and selecting the grant recipients. Judges for 2012 were Mark Vink and Annabelle Cunningham of Unalakleet; and David Olson, Donna James and Jimmy Adams of Nome. Adams is a former SBI grant recipient who received funding for a driving instruction service.

Business Name	Owner	Description	Location	Amount
Arctic Domes	Nils Hahn	Shelter dome sales and assembly	Nome	\$20,000
Arctic Wolves Taxidermy & Art	Gary Eckenweiler	Taxidermy and arts	Unalakleet	\$20,000
Cool Beans TNCO	Carol Charles	Coffee and snack shop	Unalakleet	\$14,000
Katcheak Reindeer Herd, LLC	Theodore Katcheak	Commercial reindeer meat distributor	Stebbins	\$11,000
Sawtooth Energy Solutions	Kevin Busk	Spray-foam insulation company	Nome	\$20,000
The Whimsy Shop	Kim Galleher	Fabric, yarn and gift store	Nome	\$20,000

Take a peek at the winning 2012 SBI businesses

Arctic Domes / Nils Hahn

As Nome experiences its latest gold rush, Nils Hahn saw an opportunity with all the fortune-seekers arriving on the town's doorstep without a place to stay. Warmer and more secure than a wall tent or yurt, Hahn plans to market portable shelter domes made of fiberglass or high-density plastic. The domes can be insulated, feature locking doors and windows, and are bear-proof. Made of several curved panels that are bolted together, the shelters can be erected or dismantled in a day. In addition to the new waves of miners, Hahn notes that the shelters would work well for hunting/fishing camp sites or for work camps.

Arctic Wolves Taxidermy and Art / Gary Eckenweiler

When a hunter from the region wants to have his or her catch preserved for mounting, their only option has been to send it outside. Gary Eckenweiler wants to change that. Eckenweiler, of Unalakleet, has been doing taxidermy for the last four years mainly as a hobby. As more people have come to him seeking his services, Eckenweiler has decided to take his work to the next level through a full-fledged business. Eckenweiler plans to advertise by traditional means as well as by hanging his fish and game mounts in public spaces. He plans on marketing his services to both local and visiting hunters, and hopes to grow the business enough to take on an assistant.

Cool Beans TNCO / Carol Charles

Formerly known as the Kuupiaq House, the Cool Beans coffee shop in Unalakleet is set to expand under the ownership of Carol Charles. The shop is known for its smoothies and coffee drinks, and owns the only espresso machine in the community. Charles wants to bring more goods into the mix with the addition of new kitchen equipment, such as an ice cream machine and commercial mixer. She is also planning a new look for the shop with the addition of a bar and stools that allows better utilization of the available space. Cool Beans eventually plans to develop a lunch menu in addition to its drinks and baked goods.

Katcheak Reindeer

Herd, LLC / Ted Katcheak

Introduced in the late 1800s, there is a long history of reindeer herding on the Seward Peninsula. Ted Katcheak of Stebbins has worked to keep that tradition alive and is looking to develop the economic potential of his herd by marketing and selling reindeer products on a wider basis. The addition of a corral and walk-in freezer will be the first step to growing the business, allowing for increased meat production and sales. With increasing attention placed on sustainable, organic and healthy

foods, reindeer meat is an attractive product for today's market. In addition to supplying the more populated regions of the state, locally produced reindeer meat has great potential for in-region sales. Most meat purchased through grocery stores in the region comes at a high cost since Norton Sound communities find themselves at the end of a long supply chain.

Sawtooth Energy Solutions / Kevin Busk

Sawtooth Energy Solutions counts on a few constants in the region that do not appear to be going away anytime soon: cold weather and high fuel prices. Kevin Busk's Nome-based proposal looks to take a bite out of both those elements. Sawtooth Energy Solutions will be a spray-foam insulation service offering an alternative to foam-board or fiberglass insulation products. Busk notes that spray-foam allows for smaller volumes of materials to be shipped to the region since the product greatly expands once applied. An added benefit, he said, is that spray-foam insulation gives greater rigidity to structures which is a plus in a region known for its strong winds. Spray-foam is also seamless, meaning there are fewer places for warm air to escape or cold air to enter a structure.

The Whimsy Shop / Kim Galleher

Anyone who has attended a local craft fair knows there are some serious and talented people in the Norton Sound region when it comes to sewing. Kim Galleher of Nome quickly learned after opening the Whimsy Shop in 2010 that those creating kuspuks, mukluks and mittens were eager and willing to purchase their materials locally. Galleher initially opened her shop to offer gifts and crafting supplies, but it was fabric and yarn that immediately took center stage when it came to sales. Galleher has worked to keep her prices low and offers her customers something that you cannot get through online shopping—that ability to feel and see her products, ensuring that the quality and color of the fabric or yarn match expectations. With her funding, Galleher looks to expand into a larger retail space and to develop a catalog that displays the products created by regional crafters.

Get your plan together!

The next round of the Small Business Initiative is currently underway. The application period opened **April 1** and will close **July 15**. Finalists will present their plans to judges in the fall. To get an application or for more information, go to www.nsedc.com or contact NSEDC's Sterling Gologergen at 888-650-2477.

Board Member Updates

Board member profile

Milton “Smitty” Cheemuk (St. Michael)



When were you elected to the NSEDC Board of Directors?
October 2012.

Why did you want to serve on NSEDC's Board of Directors?
To help communities get more privilege for job opportunities in the Bering Sea fisheries and in the region.

Where were you born and raised?
I was born in Kotzebue and raised in St. Michael.

Where did you go to school?
Mt. Edgecumbe, Emmonak and St. Michael.

Would you like us to acknowledge any family members?
Harold, my brother, was at NSEDC

before as a board member.

Where do you work?
I am retired.

Have you sat on any other committees, board or elected offices?
I formerly served as mayor of St. Michael for one term (3 years). I sit on various boards for the state, including the Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee.

Can we list any activities you enjoy?
Running dogs. Playing basketball. Meeting people.

Anything else you would like mentioned about yourself?
It's good to learn something new every meeting.

St. Michael's Victor Joe thanked after 20 years of service

NSEDC bid a fond good-bye to its longest-serving board member last fall when St. Michael's Victor Joe attended his final meeting after 20 years of service. Victor was the last original board member to still serve two decades after NSEDC joined the Community Development Quota program. Victor helped steer NSEDC from its start, helping guide the organization as it has grown over the years. NSEDC applauds and

thanks Victor for all the time and travel he has dedicated on behalf of NSEDC, the Norton Sound region and his home community of St. Michael. We wish him the best as he takes a well-deserved break from his service on the board.

NSEDC President and CEO Janis Ivanoff presents outgoing board member Victor Joe with a coat and ruff as a gesture of gratitude for his two decades of service to NSEDC, St. Michael and the region.



NSEDC Board of Directors gathers in Unalakleet

The NSEDC Board of Directors last met in Unalakleet in May. Those attending were (l to r): Oscar Takak, Sr., Don Stiles, Dean Peterson, Dan Harrelson, Lucy Kitchen, Frank Katchatag, Elvina Naranjo, Truman Kava, Joel James, Walter Seetot, Eugene Asicksik and Milton Cheemuk. Board members Joe Garnie, Wilfred Katcheak and Orville Ahkinga were unable to attend the meeting.

Board Member Updates



Board member profile

Frank Katchatag (Unalakleet)

When were you elected to the NSEDC Board of Directors?
January 2013.

Why did you want to serve on NSEDC's Board of Directors?

Community members had asked me to put my name in the election pro-

cess to NSEDC.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Anchorage and raised in Unalakleet.

Where did you go to school?

I went to the Unalakleet BIA schools. I graduated from Covenant High School in Unalakleet.

Would you like us to acknowledge any family members?

My mother's maiden name was Clarbelle Anagick who was raised by Thora (Nukchuk) Katchatag, by which I inherited the Katchatag last name.

Where do you work?

I currently do seasonal work.

Have you sat on any other committees, board or elected offices?

I had been elected to NSEDC from 2007-2010. I am currently on Northern Bering Sea Regional Aquaculture Board of Directors, representing eastern Norton Sound fisheries.

Can we list any of your accomplishments or achievements?

I believe that I have brought out the

concerns of commercial fishermen in eastern Norton Sound and thank the staff and board of NSEDC for listening and making decisions for higher grounds prices for salmon since the fishermen have not been able to harvest Chinook, which affected harvesting chums due to bycatch issues of Chinook.

Can we list any activities you enjoy?

Hunting, fishing, trapping and blueberry picking.

Anything else you would like mentioned about yourself?

I am grateful in how I was raised by Thora (Nukchuk) Katchatag to harvest from the land and to respect it, for it will always feed and clothe you. The fear she left me with was that we would run out of fish in my lifetime. So I ask everyone to work together to try and keep our stocks of concern at a priority level. She always stated to me, "Take only what you need to get through the hard winters that we live in." I thank our lord for her teachings to me and thank you.

Employee Updates

Jerry Ivanoff honored for 20 years of service



As long as NSEDC has been working to improve the economic and living conditions in the Norton Sound region, Jerry Ivanoff has steered thousands of member community residents into jobs, classrooms and training programs. At their February meeting in Nome, NSEDC's Board of Directors recognized Jerry for his two decades of service dedicated

to the region and to NSEDC as the director of the Education, Employment and Training Division (EET).

Jerry's enthusiasm and drive have connected countless residents to opportunities that have allowed them to find careers, earn degrees and enrich their lives as they gain new skills. While accepting the gift of a framed print by artist James Adcox, Jerry reflected on the number of people helped by NSEDC and the EET program over the years. He said he was happy to see those numbers increasing as NSEDC has grown. Jerry concluded his remarks by sharing a quote which has guided his philosophy in administering NSEDC's EET Division:

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his or her own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful." —Marie Curie

Employee Updates

Sterling Gologergen, Community Development Coordinator

Sterling joined NSEDC in January 2012 to work with the Community Benefits Department in Nome. Sterling is guided by her favorite saying, “never forget where you came from,” which was told to her by her grandfather. The daughter of Jerry Wongittilin, Sr., and the granddaughter of Nick and Lucille Wongittilin, Sterling was born and raised in Savoonga. Sterling has heeded the words of her grandfather, as she has a deep respect and love for the traditions of her home community and the region as a whole. Sterling loves to travel throughout the region, which is a great fit for NSEDC since her work often takes her to our member communities.

Sterling’s work with the Community Benefits Department includes an assortment of programs that directly impact the region’s communities and residents. She is responsible for working with NSEDC’s Community Outreach Liaisons, the Small Business Initiative, Outside Entity Funding grants, and the Shoreside Improvement Program, among other efforts within the Community Benefits Department.

While Sterling finds her work at NSEDC rewarding, her biggest “job” is that of being a grandmother to five beautiful grandchildren—four boys and a girl. Family is very important to Sterling, who has three children of her own, Melanie, Invet and Edward.

William “Middy” Johnson, NSSP Southern Operations Manager

A familiar face will once again be directing the show at the Southern Norton Sound Seafood Products plant in Unalakleet. William “Middy” Johnson has returned as the operations manager at the seafood plant. Middy rejoined NSEDC’s staff in January and will oversee NSSP’s operations and processing for the regional salmon and herring fisheries.

Middy comes back to the NSEDC staff after serving as a board member representing Unalakleet. In both roles Middy

has been a strong advocate for developing the workforce in the Norton Sound region. “I like to work with people and strongly believe that we are capable of running our operations with 100 percent local hire,” he said.

Born and raised in Unalakleet, Middy is very active in his home community having served in a number of civic roles. Currently he sits on the Unalakleet City Council.

With his personal time, Middy enjoys getting out to dog mush, hunt, fish, berry-pick and camp. Mushing runs deep in his family, and in 2010 he completed the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Above all, however, family takes center stage in Middy’s life. He is married to Aurora Johnson and has three children, Sasha, Shyler and Sikulik. He is the very proud poppa to Kallen Christian William Johnson.

Amber Cunningham, Southern NSSP Office Manager

Despite being one of NSEDC’s more recent hires, Amber Cunningham’s experience with the organization runs deep. Starting in 2004, Amber has held internships and part-time positions with NSEDC in both our Unalakleet and Anchorage offices. In July 2012, Amber came onboard full-time, working in her home community of Unalakleet in NSEDC’s Education, Employment and Training Division. In May 2013, she transitioned to become the office manager for the Unalakleet seafood plant.

In her new job, Amber will essentially be responsible for keeping the plant’s operations on track by ensuring a number of record keeping and procedural items are addressed timely. This includes processing new hires at the plant and working with fishermen on fish tickets and other documentation.

In addition to her job, Amber is also continually working on her own education. She has already earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a minor in

psychology, and is working toward her master’s degree in teaching and an additional bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Last fall Amber had the joy of marrying her best friend, David Cunningham. She is also the proud mother of two boys, Keane and Brian. She loves seeing the contrasts between her boys as they grow.

Jacob Ivanoff, NSFR&D Senior Crew Leader

Jacob Ivanoff is by no means new to NSEDC, but his position is. Jacob started his career with NSEDC in 2007 as a seasonal worker. It didn’t take long for Jacob to become a vital member of the Norton Sound Fisheries Research and Development (FR&D) team in Unalakleet. He was hired on full-time in 2009 and just recently was named a senior crew leader for the department.

Jacob runs NSEDC’s Shaktoolik sonar project, a salmon-counting station that has received wide recognition for its success. He also helps run the North River counting tower closer to home in Unalakleet.

Jacob grew up in Unalakleet, graduating from Frank A. Degnan High School. He also pursued marine biology studies, emphasizing in ichthyology, at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Jacob enjoys living a subsistence lifestyle through hunting, fishing and berry-picking. Just like with his personal pursuits, Jacob’s job requires a great deal of time spent outdoors. In addition to his skills in the field, Jacob brings valuable experience to the job as a certified Marine Safety Instructor recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard and Alaska Marine Safety Education Association.

Fred Jay Ivanoff, NSFR&D Senior Crew Leader

Fred Jay Ivanoff got his start with NSEDC in 2010 as the seasonal coordinator for the Clean Waters marine debris cleanup program. Fred Jay assembled and directed the crews in a number of NSEDC member

communities each summer, working to remove a wide array of material that accumulated or washed up on the shoreline of Norton Sound communities.

He quickly became a valuable part of the NSFR&D team and found himself helping with several other projects, such as tagging and tracking red king crab in Norton Sound as well as salmon restoration efforts through NSEDC's mist incubation program. In May 2012, Fred Jay was named a senior crew leader for the NSFR&D department in Unalakleet and came to work full-time for NSEDC.

Fred Jay grew up in Unalakleet and still lives there today with his wife, Yannita, and children, Makiyan, Arctic, Colton and LenaMarie. He is very active in pursuing subsistence activities and enjoys most the aspects of his job that get him outside in the field. In particular, Fred Jay likes conducting "egg-takes" where NSFR&D crews collect salmon with a seine net to collect the eggs from females and milt from males to be used in the mist incubation salmon enhancement program.

**Kevin Knowlton,
NSFR&D Senior Crew Leader**

The NSFR&D department got itself a Swiss Army Knife when it hired Kevin Knowlton as a senior crew leader in Nome last fall. Kevin brings a wide breadth of experience to his position from years of service in both the military and volunteer efforts in Nome.

Kevin spent more than 26 years serving in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard as a Military Policeman and Infantryman. He also holds a wide variety of certifications that make him an asset to both NSEDC and his community. Kevin is an Emergency Medical Technician 2 and a Firefighter 2, serving with the Nome Volunteer Ambulance and Fire departments.

We are hopeful that Kevin will never have to use his medical and rescue skills while on the job for NSEDC, but it gives us peace of mind to have his expertise on NSEDC's team. As a senior crew leader, Kevin supervises the seasonal crews that work in the FR&D department out of Nome. He also keeps the department's equipment in shape and fabricates items

that are need for projects each summer.

Kevin lives in Nome with his wife Janice Knowlton (Alvanna). They have three children, Amanda, Curtis and Kalie. Kevin is also the president of the Bering Sea Lions Club and a member of the Northern Seward Peninsula ADF&G Advisory Committee.

**Albert "Jack" Johnson,
Nome Administrative Assistant**

Albert "Jack" Johnson fits in well with NSEDC as a regional organization. Jack was born in White Mountain and has lived in a number of NSEDC's member communities over the years, including Unalakleet, Diomed, Teller and his current home, Nome. He has also worked in different roles for NSEDC, starting at the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome in early 2012 and then moving over to the NSEDC Nome administrative office last fall.

Jack currently handles the administrative duties for the Nome office, keeping on top of the traffic of people and paperwork that come through the office each day. Jack likes that his job allows him to interact with fellow staff, including those in Unalakleet and Anchorage, as well as with residents throughout the Norton Sound region.

In his free time, Jack enjoys getting out in the country to hunt, fish and berry-pick, or simply just to go for a drive. He is the son of Teresa Waters (Norbert) and the late Allan Johnson, Sr. Jack is married to Delia Oozevaseuk; they have five children.

Jack is also an ivory tagger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammals Management and was recently certified as a Substance Abuse Program Administrator Association Collector for NSEDC.

Darrin Otton, Vessel Manager

Darrin Otton joined NSEDC late last fall to fill a new and important role as the vessel manager. As the Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) vessel fleet grows, having Darrin onboard to manage both the staffing and maintenance of boats will help ensure NSSP is ready to meet our fishermen's needs. He is based in NSEDC's Nome office.

Darrin knows his way around boats having commercially fished for red king crab out of Nome. In addition to making sure the tender vessels are seaworthy and ready for operation, he takes the staff development portion of his job seriously. "I enjoy having an opportunity to employ our regional residents, and I like working with a team that promotes local hire for these positions," he said.

While his job centers on boats, Darrin's free time is often spent flying. He attained his private pilot's license a couple of years ago and continues to build flying time in his Cessna 180. Darrin was born in Kotzebue and grew up in Unalakleet, graduating from Covenant High School. His previous work involved heavy equipment, and he has taken diesel technology courses at both the University of Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks.

Darrin has a daughter, Amber, who graduated from Northern Montana University this spring with a degree in biology.

**Justin Noffske, Norton Sound Seafood
Center Office Manager**

Those who have stopped by or ordered seafood from the Norton Sound Seafood Center in Nome have likely encountered the enthusiastic presence of manager Justin Noffske. Justin handles much of the retail operation at the store. Most recently he has been active in developing a retail website that will allow seafood lovers from all over the nation to order salmon, halibut and red king crab from Norton Sound right from their computer.

Justin is a natural fit at the Nome seafood center. He is a definite "foodie" who likes to cook, especially when it involves seafood. NSEDC's greater mission of economic development and helping the region improve and prosper also drew Justin to the job. "I'm very enthusiastic about the mission of NSEDC and enjoy its contributions to the community," he said.

Justin lives in the country north of Nome with his wife, Luann, and children, Lucien and Jessica. They are accompanied by a St. Bernard named Barley Pop and a Flat Retriever named Ella Fitzgerald. When he's not cooking up a storm in his kitchen, you can likely find Justin strumming his guitar.

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Community Impact Award.....continued from cover

gram continues to make our region stronger and healthier and breaking trail for a strong economic future for new entrepreneurs.”

The award was accepted by NSEDC President and CEO Janis Ivanoff along with Community Benefits Director Paul Ivanoff III and Community Development Coordinator Sterling Gologergen. “We at NSEDC are humbled to have received the Community Impact Award from Kawerak,” Janis Ivanoff said. “We thank Kawerak for the recognition and also congratulate them on the 40 years of service they have dedicated to the region and residents of Norton Sound.”

NSEDC is currently accepting applications for the 2013 Small Businesses Initiative. More information on the Small Business Initiative and the many other programs offered by NSEDC can be found at www.nsedc.com.



NSEDC is proud and honored to have been awarded Kawerak's Community Impact Award during the 2013 Regional Conference in Nome.