



NSED

**Norton Sound Economic
Development Corporation**
Winter Newsletter 2023-2024



2023 Community Outreach,
Board of Directors News
Page 2



Summer 2023 From the Dock,
2024 Winter Crab Update
(cont.), Employment
Page 4



Pacific Cod Tagging Project,
Clean Waters Program, Coho
Salmon Egg Harvesting
Page 6



Summer Internship,
Scholarship Update, Boiler
Maintenance Training
Page 8



Seasonal Employees Move To
Full Time, Now Hiring
Page 10

Long-Awaited Celebration

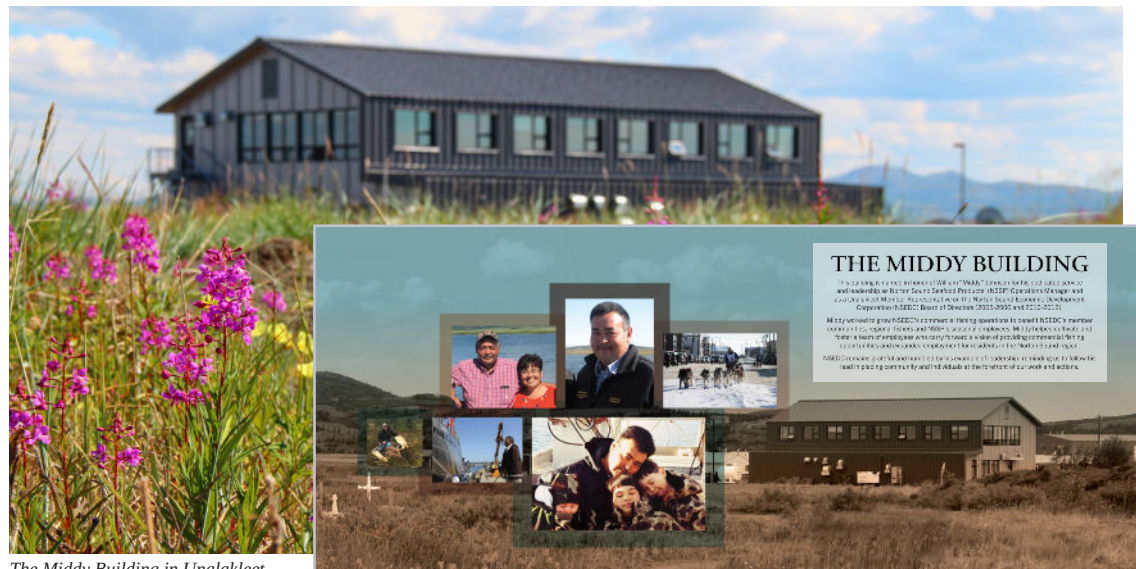
With the smell of freshly made sourdoughs lingering in the air, a short ceremony began a day of celebration on September 12th to dedicate NSED's Middy Building in Unalakleet. NSED staff from Unalakleet, Nome and Anchorage joined community members to honor William "Middy" Johnson for his years of service to NSED as Operations Manager at NSSP and as a previous representative on the NSED Board

of Directors.

The building project was completed in April of 2020, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other scheduling challenges, the event was postponed. Plans for the long-awaited celebration came to realization in September.

To begin, NSED Board Chairman Frank Katchatag and President and CEO Janis Ivanoff offered appreciation to the community

continued on page 2



The Middy Building in Unalakleet.

Inside the front doors, a mural commemorates Middy Johnson's service to NSED.

NSSP Plans for Summer 2024 Commercial Crab Fishery Participation

Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSED) has made the difficult decision to forego participation in the 2024 Norton Sound red king crab winter commercial fishery, with plans for full participation in the upcoming summer 2024 fishery. Norton Sound Seafood Products (NSSP) will not be

purchasing Norton Sound red king crab in the 2024 winter fishery, nor supporting fishers who opt to commercially fish for crab as catcher-sellers or by selling to any other buyers who register for the fishery. This includes (but is not limited to) loan support, commercial gear sales, supplying bait, or dockside services.

continued on page 5

NSED Board of Directors

Frieda Southall • Brevig Mission
Frances Ozenna • Diomed
Art Amaktoolik • Elim
Shirley Antogham • Gambell
Dean Peterson • Golovin
Melvin Otton • Koyuk
James J.T. Sherman • Nome
Milton Cheemuk • St. Michael
Preston Rookok • Savoonga
Harvey Sookiayak • Shaktoolik
Morris Nashoanank • Stebbins
Joe Garnie • Teller
Frank Katchatag • Unalakleet
Anna Oxereok • Wales
Dan Harrelson • White Mountain

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



Representative Neal Foster offered recognition from the Alaska State Legislature.



Middy Johnson's family gathered at The Middy Building dedication in September.

Middy // continued from page 1

and to Middy's family for his longtime dedication to the organization. Then Representative Neal Foster honored Middy with a presentation from the State of Alaska Legislature. After a special blessing and remembrance offered by Lorena Paniptchuk, attendees toured the building and feasted on freshly made

sourdoughs, eggs, bacon, and reindeer sausage prepared by NSEDC staff in honor of Middy's sourdough breakfasts for Unalakleet Fish Plant employees and for the community.

Middy Johnson helped cultivate a team of employees who remain committed to carrying forward his

vision of providing commercial fishing opportunities and expanded employment for residents in the region. NSEDC is grateful for his example of leadership in always placing community and individuals at the forefront of our work and actions.

NSEDC & Kawerak Joint Meeting of the Boards



NSEDC and Kawerak Boards of Directors gathered in a joint meeting at Nome's Mini Convention Center.

The Boards of Directors from NSEDC and Kawerak met in September at Nome's Mini Convention Center to share perspectives on salmon and pollock, finding areas to work together for the well-being of the Norton Sound region's communities.

Directors Recognized for Ten Consecutive Years of Service

In December, the NSEDC Board of Directors recognized Frank Katchatag of Unalakleet and Harvey Sookiayak of Shaktoolik for their dedication in service as representatives on the board

for ten consecutive years.

Harvey Sookiayak began his board service in 1993 and has now served ten consecutive years twice, with 28 years in total, serving both as Chairman of the

Board and Sergeant-at-Arms during his service. Frank Katchatag has served ten consecutive years, with twelve years in total. During his last five years, he has been elected Chairman of the Board.

Board elections are staggered across NSEDC's 15 member communities to keep experienced members serving alongside those newly elected. Unalakleet and Shaktoolik held elections this year and both Frank and Harvey were re-elected for a five-year term.

Diomedes and White Mountain also held elections, re-electing Frances Sistuk Ozenna and Dan Harrelson. And Brevig Mission elected Frieda Southall to replace Sara Seetot as the board representative.



Frank Katchatag



Harvey Sookiayak



NSEDC staff in Wales, left to right: Paul Ivanoff, Wes Jones, Justin Noffske, Renae Ivanoff, Leslie Ladegard, Kathy Wheelehan, Simon Kinneen, and Tyler Rhodes.



NSEDC staff traveled to Diomedes for a community meeting and to host a community breakfast.

Community Outreach: Diomedes & Wales

Pleasant weather allowed for NSEDC staff to travel from Anchorage, Nome, and Unalakleet to Diomedes and Wales for community outreach visits in June.

The first stop of the trip was Diomedes, where community members greeted NSEDC staff on the helicopter pad and walked them to the school to get settled. NSEDC board member Frances Sistuk Ozenna then guided staff on a walk where she shared updates on community projects, pointing out work supported by NSEDC at the new store and on a water catchment system, along with beach cleanup efforts for Kawerak's summer backhaul.

The next morning, NSEDC staff prepared and hosted a community breakfast, followed by a community-wide meeting where information on NSEDC's funding and programs was shared. NSEDC staff also reported on Diomedes's proactive approach to utilizing NSEDC's funding opportunities. Diomedes is the only one of NSEDC's 15 member

communities to take full advantage of all NSEDC funding opportunities.

Though all funding has been awarded, not all projects are complete, with several still underway. Final work was completed this summer on a water catchment system, financed in-part through NSEDC's Water & Sewer Fund. Work on the community store is ongoing, as Sistuk says Diomedes is addressing the building project in stages. She shared that the community has been able to build on NSEDC's Large Infrastructure Fund (LIF) by utilizing it as matching funds to seek out additional grants. Through this approach, the LIF is used as a tool, ultimately expanding Diomedes's access to additional financial resources to complete larger projects.

Taking advantage of funding opportunities has required hard work and cooperation within the community. Sistuk shared the value of partnering between local entities in Diomedes: the tribe, the corporation, and the city. "In order for a community to thrive, they need to work together, to deal with different aspects of projects," she said. "The more leadership work together, the more they understand that whatever they pursue, they have so many possibilities."

Sistuk imparted a great appreciation for NSEDC's programs and funding. Going through the application and funding process with support from NSEDC Community Benefits Department staff helped community leaders learn to meet more often, to plan, and to work with contractors. "Diomedes is pleased with the funding that NSEDC provided. We get to

"The more leadership work together, the more they understand that whatever they pursue, they have so many possibilities."

- Frances Sistuk Ozenna

live a little better," she shared, "and we have a better outlook."

Sistuk also hopes sharing the community's successes offer up an example on how leaders in the region can take advantage of the funding opportunities that are available. "[NSEDC's] funding isn't competitive. The process is quick. You have to follow guidelines and funding doesn't always cover an entire project, but it's a start and provides support to go forward."

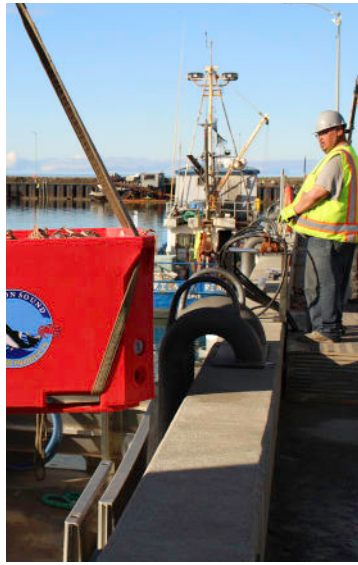
After visiting Diomedes, NSEDC staff members traveled to Wales to host breakfast for the community and offer another community presentation, sharing information about NSEDC and funding programs available for Wales to look to for future community projects.



Learn more about funding opportunities at www.nsedc.com.



NSEDC Board member Frances Sistuk Ozenna walked staff around Diomedes to share updates on community projects.



NSSP hires seasonal employees every year to fill jobs on vessels, at our processing plant locations, and at buying stations around the region.

NSSP Wants You! Plan Now for Summer Jobs

Norton Sound Seafood Products has seasonal jobs across the region every summer. Whether working as part of a tender vessel crew or at one of our regional seafood plants, NSEDC offers competitive wages and opportunities to build skills for your future. Mark your calendar to apply and come work on a crew for NSSP this summer!

Did you know NSSP has seafood plants in Nome, Unalakleet, and also seasonally in Savoonga? These locations

provide job opportunities for regional residents every summer. If you don't live in one of these communities, NSEDC works to provide travel as well as housing for you or a stipend to friends or relatives to host your stay away from home.

To find out more, check the employment page at nsedc.com (QR code on page 11) or connect with our human resources team at 907-274-2248 or email hr@nsedc.com.

Large Infrastructure Fund Success



The community of Koyuk celebrated the completion of phase one for their LIF project this summer. Phases two and three are planned for summer 2024.

The community of Koyuk celebrated the installation of playground equipment this summer as phase one of a project supported by NSEDC's Large Infrastructure Fund (LIF). Funding was awarded to the Native Village of Koyuk for this three-part project. Phases two and three will be implemented in summer 2024 with installation of the final pieces. Congratulations, Koyuk!

Introduced in 2015, NSEDC's LIF addresses municipal and civic infrastructure needs within the Norton Sound region. The program allocates a total of \$1 million per member community, with an additional \$1 million reserved for region-wide infrastructure needs.

Applications are reviewed quarterly by the NSEDC Board of Directors. Deadlines are: March 15, June 15, September 15, or December 15.

Visit nsedc.com to download the LIF application and submit by mail.



From the Dock Summer 2023



89 salmon fishers from 6 communities delivered a total of 148,395 lbs of Norton Sound salmon for a value of \$115,762



23 crab fishers delivered a total of 412,935 lbs of Norton Sound red king crab for a value of \$2,684,077



11 halibut fishers delivered a total of 38,483 lbs of Norton Sound halibut for a value of \$248,215



Winter Crab Fishery // continued from page 1

NSEDC has made this decision in the interest of the long-term health of the Norton Sound red king crab stock. While the stock has rebounded with the current age class of harvestable crab, NSEDC believes a cautious approach to commercial harvests continues to be necessary to preserve the recovery. As the current mature crab stock is vital for reproduction, a conservative harvest approach over the next few years is warranted to balance the needs of the commercial fishery with those of the crab population's long-term health. This harvest strategy may allow the commercial fishery to benefit from the harvestable surplus for a longer period of time. Additionally, the winter fishery has the potential to produce additional negative impacts to the stock in the form of increased handling mortality and pot loss.

The 2023 federal NOAA trawl

survey did show signs of a good abundance of 1"-2" juvenile crab. This bump in population growth is evidence that the 2020 Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) closure of commercial red king crab winter and summer fisheries and NSEDC's conservative approach to purchasing in subsequent seasons were appropriate decisions and effective for recovery of the crab population. These crab will continue to grow and mature over the coming seasons until they reach legal harvesting size.

We believe any commercial harvest of the current adult cohort should be conservatively managed and spread out to achieve longer-term benefits for both the crab stock and subsistence and commercial users who depend upon it.

If you have questions regarding NSEDC's approach to the 2024 NSRKC commercial fisheries, please contact Tyler Rhodes at (907) 443-2477.



What's Fresh?

Stay in touch with NSEDC on Facebook! Find out what's for sale at NSSP and get updates on programs, scholarships, & more!



www.facebook.com/nsedc



The Norton Sound Fisheries Research and Development (NSFR&D) Department promotes scientific research within the Norton Sound region with an emphasis on supporting local commercial and subsistence fisheries. In 2023, NSFR&D supported the Alaska Fisheries Science Center's (AFSC) project to tag Pacific cod in the northern Bering Sea.

Warming ocean conditions and an unprecedented loss of sea ice in the Arctic have the potential to produce dramatic changes in the dynamics of the ecosystem in the northern Bering Sea. One potential dramatic change is the arrival of Pacific cod, a species typically found in the southeastern Bering Sea. In 2017, 2018, and 2019, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) trawl survey recorded adult Pacific cod in high numbers for the first time in the northern Bering Sea, with most high abundance areas of cod occurring close to St. Lawrence Island and the Russian border.

As opportunistic predators new to the region, Pacific cod have the potential to disrupt relationships between many other species historically relied upon by coastal populations, including Norton Sound communities. Following adult Pacific cod will help researchers learn about their movements between winter spawning and summer feeding grounds. A team of five researchers traveled to Savoonga on August 23rd in attempts to deploy up to 15 satellite tags. Unfortunately, bad weather allowed for only one day of fishing. Researchers successfully deployed three tags. The tags are set to pop off after 365 days, so the anticipated date of retrieval is August 29, 2024. Any future work researching cod movement will be a collaborative effort between NSFR&D and AFSC.

Pacific Cod Tagging Project



A researcher applies a tag on Pacific cod.



The tagging boat departs Savoonga.

Clean Waters Tackles Merbok Debris

Summer 2023 saw teams of workers in Elim, Golovin, Savoonga, and Nome walking and four-wheeling along riverbanks and beaches gathering debris and trash, much of which was wreckage scattered by Typhoon Merbok. Since 2006, NSFR&D's Clean Waters program has been employing regional residents to clean local waterways of debris, improving conditions for fish and wildlife.

In Elim, roughly 12,500 lbs. of debris was collected, most of which was taken to the landfill. The crew found five boats, four canoes, fishing nets, and a few anchors, which were returned to Moses Point for reclaiming and repurposing.

In Golovin, the team gathered 14,575 lbs. of debris, including 100 lb. propane tanks, lumber, foam, and insulation. Debris were taken to the landfill and

items unfit for the landfill went to the city staging area at the Point of Golovin for future backhaul out of the community.

Savoonga's collected debris now totals 34,460 lbs. This total includes items gathered this summer combined with previous seasons. Recyclables were separated at the landfill and crew members filled a connex with netting material and rope. Plans are to coordinate backhaul for the remaining waste.

For Nome, the area of focus was Safety Sound. Items gathered included cabin supplies, plastic containers, motor oil containers, gas cans, and propane tanks.

NSFR&D's Clean Waters cleanup efforts plan to focus on Gambell and Teller in 2024, and Brevig Mission and Wales in 2025.



Boats recovered in Elim were returned to Moses Point.



NSEDC Fisheries Research & Development fisheries biologists selected salmon and harvested eggs and milt for fertilization and incubation at NSEDC.

Harvesting Salmon Eggs to Support Health of Future Runs

The riverside becomes a science lab each summer as NSEDC's Fisheries Research & Development Department biologists conduct egg-take activities. Eggs and milt are collected from spawning salmon and taken back to NSEDC labs for fertilization and over-winter incubation. Projects focus on locations with high potential impact on increasing healthy salmon populations.

This September, biologists ventured up Nome's Snake River to a site for egg and milt collection. After a slow drive up the Glacier Creek Road, the crew loaded on four-wheelers and side-by-sides to access the river, in search of fish ready for spawning.

With a beach seine, biologists corralled salmon and selected two male and two female coho for the project, returning the other species to the river for their journey to spawning grounds. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) issues an Aquatic Resource Permit to NSEDC for egg-take activities. Per permit stipulations, researchers carefully document steps in the egg-take process, noting all fish, those saved and those returned to the river. NSEDC works closely with ADF&G for salmon rehabilitation

projects as well as salmon enumeration throughout the field work season.

Biologists meticulously moved through the steps of the egg-take process in the shade of a tent, to avoid direct sunlight. UV exposure reduces the chance of egg survival. The females were cut from the urogenital opening up through the body cavity to expose the ripe eggs. The eggs were transferred from a disinfected, stainless bowl to an isolated, labeled ziploc bag and carefully loaded in a cooler to ensure a safe journey to town.

Among other tasks at the river, biologists collected milt from the males and also removed the small ear bones, or otoliths, from the heads of the sampled salmon. Otoliths enable researchers to monitor the success of rehabilitation projects from season to season. During the incubation phase in the lab, the then-microscopic bones are assigned a thermal mark through abrupt, scheduled temperature changes in the incubator water. Voucher samples are sent to the ADF&G Mark, Tag, and Age (MTA) Lab to confirm that the thermal mark observed on the otoliths matches the assigned mark. When the adult salmon, like those caught this fall day, return to the river, the collected otoliths are sent

to the MTA lab to be analyzed. This information is used to determine if any of the sampled salmon are returners from past seasons' egg-take and incubation efforts.

Once back at the NSEDC lab, biologists dispersed milt evenly over the eggs and mixed them with water to



Biologists fertilized eggs in the NSEDC lab.

induce active fertilization. The eggs were then water hardened, disinfected, and loaded into heath trays for incubation, where they will mature over the winter. In the spring, when access to the river reopens, the unfed fry will be released back to the river with a little head start on survival.

Internship Program Gives a Well-Rounded View of NSEDC

NSEDC's summer internship program gives regional residents and scholarship recipients the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and professional development as interns working alongside staff at NSEDC's office locations and departments. During ten weeks of summer 2023, Roberta Cooper joined the NSEDC staff in Unalakleet, worked for

a short time in the Anchorage office, and visited Nome's operations.

A Unalakleet resident, Roberta said that the internship provided the opportunity to enhance her professional skills and build on her knowledge about NSEDC's role in the region. While most of her work was with the Employment,

employees do in the region."

Roberta is an astronomy major at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ, where she is able to utilize skills built during her internship. "My astronomy major is not very related, but there are aspects of the internship that related, including the teamwork-oriented environment and gaining experience in data processing." Roberta encourages others to take advantage of this opportunity even if it doesn't directly relate to your field of study. "While obtaining work experience related to your studies is important, there are still many other valuable work experiences to learn," she said.

Roberta says the internship helped her realize the value of getting involved with regional organizations. "By taking advantage of this opportunity NSEDC offers, I learned so much more about them and their role in our communities."



Roberta Cooper snaps a "selfie" from her desk at NSEDC.

"By taking advantage of this opportunity NSEDC offers, I learned so much more about them and their role in our communities."

- Roberta Cooper

Education, and Training Department, she also spent time with the other NSEDC departments, including Fisheries Research and Development and NSSP operations. "This internship changed how I see all NSEDC workers, especially the processing workers. I grew up with the NSEDC office and NSSP (Norton Sound Seafood Products) in Unalakleet, but I didn't fully realize the work NSEDC



Learn more about our summer internship opportunity.

Visit nsedc.com or

call EET Program Director Leslie Ladegard: 907-274-2248.

Boiler Maintenance Training Comes to the Region

NSEDC is supporting boiler maintenance and repair training in Bering Strait region communities. So far this fall, two instructors have offered courses in Shaktoolik, Koyuk, and Unalakleet, training seventeen students with these valuable skills. Instructor Dan Phinney shared that through collaboration with the cities and local schools, combined with the collective efforts of the students, the class was able to repair eleven oil heaters for elders in the communities.

The need for training in oil burner repair is well understood. Dan Phinney says, "Many community members have expressed a keen interest in continued learning opportunities, highlighting the importance and impact of such initiatives within the communities. It's evident that there's a significant need for more comprehensive training in repairing oil burners."

NSEDC will continue to work with local entities to bring boiler maintenance training to each community in

our region. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact NSEDC's EET Department to learn more about opportunities available with Community Based Training funds within your community.



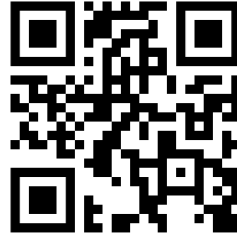
Oil burner repair course set up hands-on repair for boilers in Unalakleet.



Scholarship recipients attended the student appreciation dinner in October.

MyCache Celebration

The MyCache partner organizations met in Anchorage in October for a student appreciation dinner for MyCache scholarship recipients. Partner organizations gathered around the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention to treat scholarship recipients to dinner and dancing from Unalaqliq Iñuutchak “Unalakleet comes to life.” This yearly celebration is one of the many ways regional scholarship recipient students are supported by the MyCache organizations.



Are you embarking on a new educational journey? Go to my-cache.org to apply for six regional scholarships in one place!

Scholarship & Training Updates

Vocational Training Minimum Hours Reduced, Welding Program Funded, Growing Our Own Teachers Expands

The NSEDC Board of Directors recognizes the ever-increasing need for a skilled workforce. During their third quarter meeting in November, the board addressed training needs in preparation for possible employment opportunities related to upcoming regional projects including the Port of Nome expansion and the Graphite One mine project.

Items discussed included reducing minimum hour requirements for regional residents to qualify for vocational scholarship funding. The change eliminates the 500-hour minimum contact hour requirement for vocational scholarships. NSEDC vocational scholarships will now be awarded based on a set range: \$1,750 for trainings up to 250 hours and \$3,500 for trainings surpassing 250 hours, with funding not to exceed the cost of tuition and fees. This change in minimum hour requirements opens up more opportunities for students to utilize NSEDC funding for vocation-related trainings and courses, which often have a variable number of hours required

for completion.

The board also voted to set aside a pot of funding to support development of a regional welding training program, seeing a probable increase in demand for skilled welders in the Norton Sound region. NSEDC staff will coordinate development of this training program in cooperation with former Nome resident Brian Walsh and other regional entities to meet the interest of students across the region. Keep an eye out for program details from the NSEDC Employment, Education, and Training Department.

The Growing Our Own Teachers student loan repayment program has expanded to explicitly extend the scholarship opportunity to resident certified school counselors in the Norton Sound region. NSEDC supports regional residents in their endeavor to support our school districts and students through this important role.

For more specifics on NSEDC scholarships and training programs, visit NSEDC online at www.nsedc.com.

What are you your goals?

NSEDC has education, employment, and training programs to support your goals for the future. Find out more about NSEDC scholarships and programs for Norton Sound regional residents at nsedc.com.



Joining the Full-Time Team

NSEDC has an amazing crew of employees. We love to see seasonal and part-time employees take that next step to join the ranks as a full-time member of our staff. Meet some of our “new” employees!



Joe Kinneen Safety & Training Coordinator

Joe started with NSEDC in the Fisheries Research & Development Department doing summer work as Fisheries Technician for two years and as a crew leader for three to help pay for school at Fort Lewis College. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism and multimedia studies, he worked at Alaska's News Source (ANS) in Anchorage, telling stories that were close to home regarding fisheries and other activity in the Norton Sound region. Joe now utilizes video and voice over production experience gained at ANS in his new position with NSEDC as the Safety & Training Coordinator.

Joe shares, “I wanted to work somewhere that is as invested in the Norton Sound region as I am. In my experience working at NSEDC, I've found that there's value in work that I do, which is always a good motivator. As long as I can work for a place that shares that pride, I can expect myself to show up ready to do my job.”



John Wade Fisheries Biologist

After graduating from high school in Nome, John applied to NSEDC to be a Fisheries Technician for the summer and really enjoyed working as part of the team. Studying biology, John attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks for three years and transferred to the University of Alaska Southeast for his remaining one and a half years. Each summer back in Nome, John returned to NSEDC to work as a fish tech.

In fall of 2022, John graduated with his degree in biology and shortly thereafter applied to NSEDC to fill a fisheries biologist position. John says he applied because he thought he understood the concepts well and he liked the company after working seasonally for five years. “For others that are interested in fisheries,” John says, “there is so much to learn and understand and it's always exciting hear about all the different types of research and studies that happen all over the state.”

Current Job Openings:

Facility & Fleet Manager (Nome or Unalakleet):

The Facility & Fleet Manager develops and provides oversight of maintenance and repair programs and procedures for NSEDC-owned facilities and vehicles. The position oversees repair and maintenance personnel.

Human Resources Specialist (Anchorage):

The Human Resources Specialist assists the Human Resources Director with coordinating and implementing services, policies, and programs, including employee recruitment, administering employee benefits and more.

Quota Analyst (Anchorage, Nome, or Unalakleet):

The Quota Analyst assists in managing and administering all quota activities and fishery acquisitions/investments (primarily non-regional). This includes, but is not limited to, Community Development Quota (CDQ) and Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) harvest-related negotiations, allocations, monitoring, reporting, and regulations.



Linda Cooper Assistant Plant Manager

Linda Cooper started work with NSEDC as Gear Shed Coordinator at Unalakleet's NSSP seafood plant in the summer of 2022 and in the beginning of summer 2023. Through this position, she built experience and learned about NSSP processes. Linda worked various positions on the processing floor at the plant, learning the roles there. She also worked with fishermen, not just with gear, but with a variety of needs and tasks. Through this exposure, Linda set her sights on the Assistant Plant Manager position, working on the number of certifications required to fill this role.

Linda applied for a full-time position with NSEDC because she was amazed at the operations within NSSP and the opportunity to serve not only her community in Unalakleet, but the surrounding communities as well.

Linda shares, "NSEDC really values their employees. This creates a motivating environment. I would recommend employment at NSEDC to anybody who is interested in serving the region through fisheries and extending into community benefits and secondary education and vocational training."



Learn more about open positions
with NSEDC on our website!

Questions? Contact hr@nsedc.com
or call (907)274-2248 for more
information.

www.nsedc.com/employment

*Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
offers an attractive compensation and benefits package
including competitive pay, 401K retirement program,
and comprehensive healthcare options.*



Simon displays his plaque awarded by NPFMC in honor of his years of service.

Kinneen's Service Ends with NPFMC

NSEDC Vice President and Chief Business Officer Simon Kinneen ended nine years of service with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) this summer. The NPFMC is the governing body tasked to manage federal fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and the Bering Sea.

Simon was first nominated by the Governor and subsequently appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to the NPFMC in 2014 (and again in 2017 and 2020) and served the last five years as Council Chair. Simon says, "It was quite an honor to work on such important issues that the Council wrestled with during the time I was there."

"Many challenges still loom as the fisheries work to adapt to changing environmental conditions, but the Council, their staff, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the public participants are continuously striving to use the best information available to make sound decisions and ensure sustainability and productive fishing opportunities going forward."

The NSEDC Board of Directors recognized Simon for his service on the Council at the third quarter board meeting in Nome in November.

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