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**Neqsurtet Nepiit**, The Sound of the Fishermen, is published and distributed four times a year by Coastal Villages Region Fund. In 1999, expect it in January, April, July, and October. Its main purpose is to share information about scholarship, internship, training, employment, and economic development opportunities offered or coordinated by CVRF. **Comments and questions about the programs and newsletter are welcome!** Send them by fax to 543-3814, or mail to CVRF, P.O. Box 1166, Bethel, Alaska 99559. Or call toll free 1-888-795-5151.

*(Continued from page 1)*

#### **NEW SUBSIDIARY-Coastal Villages Seafoods, Inc.**

A second major project involves the operation of halibut buying stations in Toksook Bay and Tununak. For the first time, Coastal Villages will act as buyer, processor and marketing agent in the fishery. The purpose of combining the two operations is to reduce operating costs and increase the financial return to fishermen. CVSI will run this project on a breakeven basis; that is, all revenues after expenses will be paid to fishermen. An increased quota from 224,000 pounds in 1998 to 273,000 this year means there is the potential for a significant amount of revenue to be generated into the halibut fishing communities. CVSI will continue to work with Mekoryuk fishermen, and will provide a training program for Kipnuk area halibut fishermen. CVSI will look into finding a market for Kipnuk that would later be replaced when a buying station is built there.

Finally, Coastal Villages purchased Kuskokwim River sockeye salmon in 1998 as part of a pilot project to add value to fish. Working with Interior Alaska Fish Processors of Fairbanks, the fish is now ready to be processed and a marketing plan for the products is being developed. When some results are in, the 1998-99 pilot will be evaluated, and a decision made about continuing it. Adding value to local resources is a key element of creating a fisheries economy in the Coastal Villages region. For this reason, CVSI will look at any opportunity to reduce operating expenses, add value, and find the best markets for quality products.



## COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND

# Neqsurtet Nepiit



Volume 2, Issue 2

The Sound of the Fishermen

April 1999

#### *Special points of interest:*

- New Fish Company Created
- CDQ Program Expands
- Additional Scholarship Available
- Employment opportunities and application

#### *Inside this issue:*

### **BUSINESS** NEWS

#### **CVRF VISION LEADS TO ACTION**

*What the CVRF Board wants:*

*“To become a key player in the Bering Sea Fisheries and human resource development so that there is sustainable economic and commercial development of the local resources in the CVRF region.”*

-Long-term vision statement adopted in 1998

#### **NEW SUBSIDIARY CREATED: COASTAL VILLAGES SEAFOODS, INC.**

At the February meeting of the CVRF Board of Directors, a new subsidiary company was established, Coastal Villages Seafood, Inc. (CVSI). This new subsidiary fits with the intention of the vision statement above. It is responsible for operating all of the regional fisheries harvesting, processing, and marketing projects undertaken by Coastal Villages. At the organizational meeting the board elected officers: Simeon John of Toksook Bay will serve as President; George Smith of Scammon Bay as Vice President; and Peter Joseph, Sr. of Tuntutuliak as Secretary/Treasurer.

#### *Important Year Ahead*

Nineteen ninety-nine will be the year that Coastal Villages expands its operations in the region's fisheries. Three major projects are planned. The first was reported in the January, 1999 newsletter, and that is to run a salmon buying and processing business in the vicinity of Quinhagak. This will be its first year of operation. The plan is to purchase salmon at a floating processor anchored off the village as well as start up of the Quinhagak salmon plant. CVSI will purchase salmon throughout the season in W4 (Quinhagak district) and W5 (Goodnews Bay district).

In addition to the buying operation, look for employment opportunities on board the custom processing vessel and in Quinhagak this summer. If you are interested in those jobs contact Lena Mathlaw at the Bethel Office or your local CVRF coach.



*(Continued on page 12)*

*CVRF Member Villages*

- Chefornak
- Chevak
- Eek
- Goodnews Bay
- Hooper Bay
- Kipnuk
- Kongiganak
- Kwigillingok
- Mekoryuk
- Napakiak
- Napaskiak
- Newtok
- Nightmute
- Oscarville
- Platinum
- Quinhagak
- Scammon Bay
- Toksook Bay
- Tuntutuliak
- Tununak

**BUSINESS NEWS**

**CDQ PROGRAM EXPANDS,  
New villages expected to join**

A surprising turn of events means more communities will participate in the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program.



On March 9th, the State of Alaska recommended to the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS" ) that eight new communities be added to the CDQ program, including three in the lower Kuskokwim area. As a result, we welcome Oscarville, Napakiak, and Napaskiak to the CDQ program.

The move to increase village participation resulted after a community questioned why it was left out. At issue was a matter of miles, and most importantly, the difference between nautical and statute miles.

In 1991 when the CDQ program was established, a description stated that communities within 50 miles of the coast were to be eligible, if at least 50% of the resources harvested by the community were from the Bering Sea, and if the community did not have well-developed infrastructure supporting the fishing industry. When the regulations were written, however, eligible communities were defined as those within 50 nautical miles of the coast.

Levelock was left out of the CDQ program because it was not within 50 nautical miles of the coast. However, it is within 50 statute miles of the coast, and the State itself had originally used statute miles to identify eligible communities. Faced with the discrepancy, policy makers asked for a new map using statute miles. It showed Levelock and seven more communities could be included, if they met other program criteria.

In early meetings with CVRF, village leaders in Oscarville and Napakiak moved to join CVRF, if they are found eligible. Napaskiak asked that CVRF submit qualifying information on their behalf, but put off a decision on joining the organization until later.

When NMFS acts on the State's request to add villages, CVRF will file an amendment to the State asking that those two or three communities be a part of CVRF. Each community will then elect a board member to sit on the CVRF Board of Directors.

Anticipating this change, all three villages were invited to send a representative to the February CVRF board meeting, and two of them did. They got an idea of the types of issues that CVRF deals with.

CVRF has recently hired an outreach coach to help get the word to Oscarville, Napakiak, and Napaskiak residents about CDQ opportunities. If you live in one of these communities and are interested in a job, please call 1-800-959-3813.

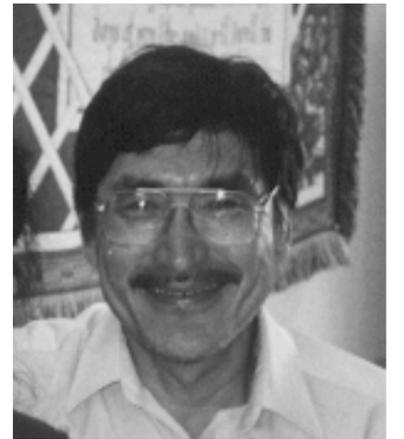
The CVRF board and staff warmly welcomes these communities. We look forward to a long and beneficial relationship!

**CVRF BOARD INFO**

**BOARD MEMBER PROFILE: Fred Phillip of Kwigillingok**

Chances are, you have met Fred Phillip. He takes his membership on the CVRF Board seriously, and as its newly re-elected president keeps a busy travel and meeting schedule to represent and promote CVRF's many interests.

In order to talk to Fred for this article, my first job was to find him. I felt lucky to find him in Napaskiak after just a few phone calls. He had already gathered up firewood to take back to Kwigillingok (most likely for the steam bath) and was waiting to talk to village leaders about CVRF. Napaskiak is expected to become a CDQ community, and has been invited to join CVRF (see related story on page 2). As Napaskiak leaders considered their options, Fred was there to tell them about CVRF, a growing company he knows well and is deeply committed to.



His involvement began in 1992, shortly after the CDQ program was put in place. Fred was seated on the original Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative board. He recalled, "after the third or fourth meeting, I was doing all the translating for the Yup'ik-only speakers." This went on until January 1998 when CVFC was dissolved after a troubled financial arrangement with its first partner company, and CVRF took over the CDQ allocations and programs. Fred was elected to chair the new CVRF board, and was unable to continue his translating. Atmak (Lillian Michael) now takes care of that, and Fred concentrates on running the meetings.

What he is most proud of is "having a board that is down to business and not afraid to ask questions." He says fellow board members are "very active, and serious about Coastal Villages programs."

Fred went to high school at Mount Edgecumbe, and spent four years in the Navy. Kwigillingok is his life-long home and he is a member of the IRA Council. Fred and his wife, Janice, have four children: a married daughter Amy Jimmy, sons Gavin, Michael, and Jeffrey, and one grandchild.

**PHOTO SCRAP BOOK FROM ANCHORAGE OFFICE**



Lisa Fitka-Olick, Tuntutuliak, did a one week internship at the Anchorage office. She is taking Business & Office Technology in Seward's Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC).



Finance Director Morgen Crow and Executive Director Norman Cohen.



Coastal Villages Region Fund Anchorage office is located on the corner of 7th and H on the second floor of this building.

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**CVRF BOARD NEWS**

**CVRF's 1999 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS**

*by Selma Davis, HR Management Specialist*

Elections were recently held for the CVRF Executive Committee. Executive Committee members make up the leadership of the full board. Voting took place during the quarterly CVRF board meeting in Bethel on February 11. The results are as follows:

- President: Fred K. Phillip of Kwigillingok
- Vice President: Edgar Hoelscher of Hooper Bay
- Secretary: Carl Dock of Kipnuk
- Treasurer: Simeon John of Toksook Bay
- At Large: Steven White of Eek
- At Large: Tommy Kusaiak of Chefornak
- At Large: Wassilie Bavilla of Quinhagak

The biggest change to the Executive Committee is in size. It has been expanded from four members to seven. Three at-large positions were added to make the group less exclusive and to gain representation from more villages. These officers will serve until the annual board meeting in the fall.

Re-elected president Fred Phillip stated: "I will put my best foot forward to work for the company and do not plan to change things overnight. I have no intentions to go on my own and will follow the board policy. I would also like to thank the board for their vote of confidence."

**BOARD TRAINING/BUSINESS PLAN EVALUATION**



On February 10th, CVRF, pursuing its commitment to Board member development, conducted a training session evaluating business proposals. Partnering with Westward Seafoods, CVRF facilitated the training by presenting fundamental questions board members would have to consider when assessing the viability of business plans submitted to them for approval. Don Goodfellow, Director of Operations for Westward, then used these questions to evaluate Kipnuk's proposed Halibut Processing Plant. Said Fred Phillip, Sr., Board President, "Everyone who attended learned a great deal. The region will benefit tremendously

from these kinds of trainings." Members from Kipnuk invited to hear Mr. Goodfellow's evaluation of their proposal also stated they benefited greatly from his insights and asked for his further assistance as they attempt to address problems he exposed. He gladly accepted.



**OUTREACH UPDATE**

**HOOPER BAY POTLATCH**

*by Byron Ulak, CDQ/Fisheries Development Specialist*

On Saturday, March 13, CVRF sponsored a potlatch in Hooper Bay. The timing of the potlatch could not have come at a better time as it coincided with the Louis Bunyan Bladder Festival potlatch. The potlatch was held in the high school gym. Approximately 300-400 people from the community and nearby villages came to feast on crab, pollock, and other fish which was provided by CVRF partner companies. Local dishes included the ever favorite akutaq, along with muktak, walrus skin, seal meat, oil bread, and other finger licking good homestyle entree's. A member of the community said that this potlatch was the best ever in terms of food and participation.



*Hooper Bay guests enjoy CDQ Harvest Potlatch.*



*Harvey Hill keeps an eye on the seafood CVRF partners donated.*



*Michael Lake, Chevak Coach with Ike Seton of Hooper Bay discussing CVRF's 4-SITE Program.*

**SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

**NEWLY CREATED JOSEPH V. PANIYAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

CVRF recently contributed \$10,000 to the University of Alaska Foundation. This contribution will be matched by the chancellor to create a \$20,000 scholarship in memory of Joe V. Paniyak, long time resident and community leader in the CVRF region.

This fund will provide a major new opportunity for UAF Rural Development students and others from the Kuskokwim region.

Other scholarship funds are available through the Louis Bunyan Memorial Scholarship Program. The deadline is June 30 to apply for Fall '99 funding.

For more information on the Paniyak Scholarship or Louis Bunyan Memorial Scholarship Program or to receive an application please contact Selma Davis at 1-888-795-5151.

JOSEPH V. PANIYAK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1st

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