

COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND

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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**

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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!

* Note: At press time Napaskiak had moved to join CVRF

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.

CVRF Staff and locations**Juneau Office**

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Executive Director

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Byron Ulak

CDQ/Fisheries

Development Specialist

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CVLI Business Manager

Lena Mathlaw

Employment Manager

<<To Be Filled>>

Administrative Assistant

Chevak Office

Toll free: (800) 560-7250

Moses Tulim

Halibut CDQ Administrator

Michael Lake

CVRF Coach

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for work?

We are currently recruiting for the following seafood processor and/or seafood apprenticeship/internship positions. For more information or an application please contact your local CVRF Coach or Lena in the Bethel office at 1-800-959-3813 or 543-3813.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Species/Location</u>	<u>Positions</u>	<u>Length of Contract</u>	<u>Pay Rate</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
Westward Seafood, Inc.	Dutch Harbor	Production Apprentice	1-2 years	\$6.50/hr	Open Until Filled
	Dutch Harbor	Environmental Apprentice	1-2 years	\$6.50/hr	Open Until Filled
	Dutch Harbor	Administrative Apprentice	1-2 years	\$7.50/hr	Open Until Filled
	Seattle, DH, & CVRF Region	Rural Recruiter Intern	1-2 years	\$11.00-\$14.00 hr.	Open Until Filled
Tyson Seafood Group	Hake	Processors	60 days +	Case	mid-April
	Hake	Galley Apprentice	60 days +	Daily	mid-April
	Hake	Engineer Apprentice	60 days +	Daily	mid-April
Wards Cove Packing	Salmon	Processors	approx. 6 weeks	\$6.10 hr/plus OT	end of April
Icicle Seafoods, Inc.	Salmon	Production Super. Apprentice	1 month	hourly	mid-June
	Salmon	Maintenance Apprentices	2-6 months	hourly	mid-June
	Salmon	Maritime Apprentice	2-4 months	daily	Open Until Filled
	Salmon	Quality Assurance Apprentices	1-6 months	hourly	mid-June
	Seattle, etc. Salmon	Safety & Health Apprentice	0-6 months	hourly	Open Until Filled
	Seattle office	Accounting Apprentice	0-6 months	hourly	Open Until Filled
	Seattle, etc. Salmon	Admin. Assistant Apprentice	1-6 months	hourly	Open Until Filled
	Seattle	Marketing Assistant	1-6 months	hourly	Open Until Filled
	Seward	Safety, Health & Admin. Assistant	1-4 months	hourly	May 1st
	Salmon	Tendering deck positions	1 month	hourly	July 1st
Norquest Seafoods, Inc.	Salmon	Processors	summer	\$5.65 hr/plus OT	Open Until Filled

Bernard Murran of Hooper Bay worked as a processor “almost every season every year for 4 years.” He recalls: **“Good fishing was when everybody worked as a team, when there was good weather...the equipment worked well...foremen supervised effectively, and when output in quantity went with excellent quality... When that was accomplished we went home happily and vowing to come back to do it all over again.”**

Bernard continues to work for CVRF, but on land now. He is has been promoted to Career Development Coach.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS & INFO

Q: What is a CVRF Coach?

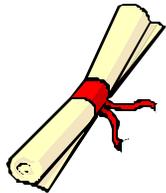


A: A coach is a knowledgeable person who works for CVRF to help others find employment, training, scholarships, and internships with the company. One part of their job is to interview and screen those who apply for seafood processing jobs. CVRF has eight coaches who live in member villages. A coach is a very important part of CVRF's plan for economic and human resource development. Coaches are there to help people use opportunities CVRF has created. After you read this, they want to hear from you.

HONOR ROLL

CVRF helps people get jobs in the fishing industry, with partner companies. Congratulations, these people successfully completed their contracts:

GREAT job to the following individuals who completed their "A" Season contracts with Tyson Seafood Group.



- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Aiaginar, Jimmie | Mathew, Magdaline | Slats, Michael |
| Bill, Julia | Perrusquia, Mary | Smart, Patty |
| David, Carl | Phillip, Eric | Tinker, Tommy |
| Francis, Harry | Ramos, Marcello | Wasky, Patrick |
| John, Thomas | Rivers, Billy Jr. | Wassillie, Robin |
| Kokrine, Edward | | |

There are others who completed "A" Season contracts, but at newsletter printing time were still working for Tyson Seafood Group. They will be recognized in the next issue.

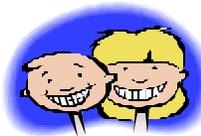
SUPER job:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Lake, David | Rapheal, Julius | Smith, Peggy |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|

for completing contracts with Icicle Seafoods, Incorporated during the Opilio Crab Season. Again, there are other individuals currently working who will be recognized in the next issue.

EXCELLENT job to those who completed a contract with Westward Seafoods, Incorporated in Dutch Harbor, Alaska!

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Andrew, Simeon | Galila, Bessie |
| Duny, Gabriel | Joshua, James |



Other individuals currently working will be recognized in the next issue.

"The best part of fishing is when you know the contract is over and know that you are going home...I felt that I had accomplished something I thought I'd never accomplish, made me believe in myself to be strong when going through hard times..."
Michael Lake, crab vessel Silver Spray, June 5-August 29, 1998.

CVRF Coaches

Bernard Murrin
Career Development Coach
Hooper Bay
(907) 758-4330
Toll free: (800) 969-4330

Michael Lake
Chevak
(includes Scammon Bay)
(907) 858-7250
Toll free: (800) 560-7250

Jack Stewart
Goodnews Bay
(includes Eek, Platinum, & Quinhagak)
(907) 967-8222

Emil Amik
Kipnuk
(includes Chefornak)
(907) 896-5055/5432

Jesse J. Igkurak
Kwigillingok
(includes Kongiganak & Tuntutuliak)
(907) 588-8114

Fritz David
Mekoryuk
(907) 827-8141

Deanna Paul
Napakiak
(includes Oscarville & Napaskiak)

Katherine Charles
Newtok
(907) 237-2156

Joanne Nevak
Toksook Bay
(includes Nightmute & Tununak)
(907) 427-7050

4-SITE PROGRAM UPDATE

The second meeting of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Employers Council (YKDEC) was held on March 19th. The YKDEC meeting focused on identifying priority areas for volunteer task forces to begin to narrow down to one doable goal and the first action steps to advance the projects' goals. Project areas of interest included: career development; management practices; employment outreach; Tribal College initiative; mentoring programs; and impact of social conditions on the business sector.

If you would like more information on the YKDEC, or would like to have a representative of your organization participate on the council, please call Mary Oslin at 1-888-795-5151. The next YKDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April 1999.



JoAnn Bennett, Westward Intern from Chevak and Jolene John, Division of Public Assistance in Juneau.



Barbara Cowboy, Community Development Specialist from DCRA and Carol Piakak, Personnel Manager from LKSD



Fritz David, Coach from Mekoryuk and Gene Peltola, CEO-President from YKHC



(left to right) Desiree Moses, Anchorage CVRF; Dee Stelmach, DOL; Selma Davis, Anchorage CVRF; Susan Taylor, Bethel Chamber of Commerce; Fran Reich, AVCP; Barbara Cowboy, DCRA; Carol Piakak, LKSD; Mary Gaffield, LKSD; and Flora Olrún, DCRA (sitting).

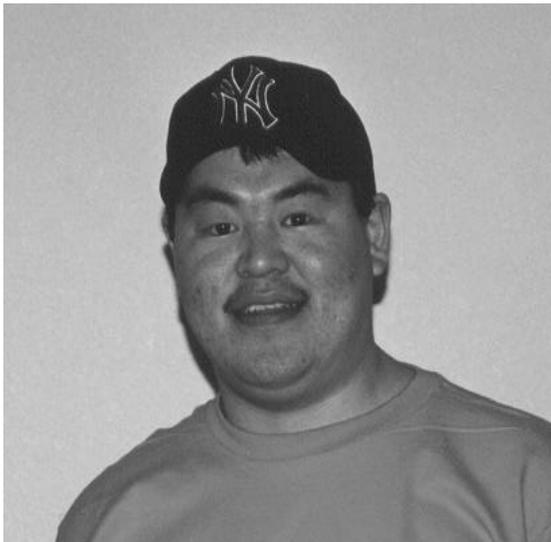
4-SITE PROGRAM INTERNSHIP INFO

An important component of the 4-SITE program is to facilitate internships with partner companies. Internships provide valuable hands on learning experiences. While working, interns receive a housing stipend and per diem to help cover their living expenses.

The following intern profile is intended to promote the program by showing real people and telling about their experience. In past issues we profiled Dale Smith (Operations Intern, Tyson Seafood Group), Kendra David (Human Resources Intern, Tyson Seafood Group), and JoAnn Bennett (Accounting Intern, Westward Seafoods). If you are interested in an internship, call Mary Oslin 1-888-795-5151.



INTERN PROFILE: Steven Whitman of Mekoryuk



Steven Whitman grew up in Mekoryuk and graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1997 with B.A. in Business Administration: Management emphasis. He then went to work in a CVRF-sponsored Apprenticeship program with Westward Seafoods in Dutch Harbor. As Administrative Apprentice, Steven focused on a broad range of areas in Office Administration such as: Payroll, Human Resources, Production Accounting, Data Entry, and Fishing Vessel Accounting.

After a year with Westward, Steven accepted a Fishing Vessel Management Internship in Westward's Seattle offices. Steven's talent in Accounting and Business, plus his excellent performance as Administrative Apprentice, made him a perfect choice for management internship. He has learned to write policies, design complicated spreadsheets for use in business decisions, and negotiate with crew members and vendors in the industry. Don Goodfellow, Vessel Operations Manager for Westward, says that a primary focus

of the internship is on reasoning and judgement related to business management decisions. Steven has been integral in supporting Don and the crew members during vessel renovations and has learned a great deal about the intricacies involved in such projects.

Overall, Steven has enjoyed his experience with Westward, and plans to apply his skills and knowledge upon return home to his community in the future. "As an employee of Westward Seafoods, my success is the result of having very good supervisors, co-workers, and most important, friends and family." Westward says that Steven's success is due to his natural enthusiasm, curiosity, and openness to learning.

REMINDER!

REMINDER!

REMINDER!

REMINDER!

REMINDER!

1999 Louis Bunyan Memorial Scholarship Deadlines:

Fall Semester

June 30

Winter/Spring semester

October 31



OTHER NEWS**VOLUNTEERS HELP WITH TAX PAPERWORK,
Almost 700 returns filed***by Moses Tulim, Halibut CDQ Administrator*

An impressive number of CVRF fishermen and residents got important income tax help once again from the Alaska Business Development Center (ABDC) and volunteer tax team members from the University of Alaska Anchorage. CVRF, local tribal, municipal and non-profit organizations and village corporations also helped with the effort.

Working in five communities, the tax volunteers assisted close to 700 residents of Quinhagak, Kwigillingok, Toksook Bay, Mekoryuk, Hooper Bay, and communities near by. More than 660 returns were filed, including some multiple year filings.

About five years ago the Internal Revenue Service came up with a list of Western Alaska villages that had compliance problems and were in need of qualified tax help. A major impact of non-compliance was loss of commercial fishing permits and losing out on tax refunds.

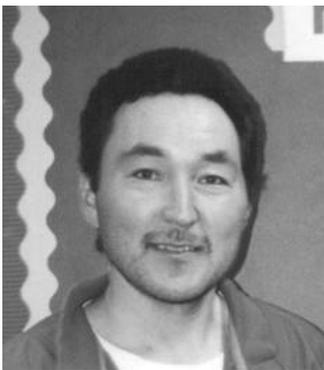
In response, this is the fourth year that ABDC has brought its tax and loan program volunteers to the region. The results are positive.

Benefits include retention of commercial fishing permits. Many fishermen are now in compliance with tax reporting requirements, and keeping necessary records and receipts for annual filing.

Another benefit is tax refunds. More residents are getting refunds because of the ABDC effort. In the past, these refunds may not have been realized due to non-filing of tax returns. Refunds are a welcome boost.

Education in tax filing is yet another benefit. People are taught to keep financial records through-out the year to use in preparing their annual tax return. As a result, more residents are getting tax refunds as mentioned, and/or owe less money to the IRS.

A big thank you goes to *Mr. Larry Stokes of ABDC* and the trained *volunteers from the University of Alaska Anchorage* for their help.

STAFF PROFILE: Byron Ulak, CDQ Fisheries Development Specialist

CVRF extends a happy welcome to Byron Ulak who filled our newest staff position in January. Byron moved to Anchorage from his hometown of Scammon Bay to take the job of CDQ Fisheries Development Specialist. In this position he “pulls down numbers” pretty much everyday to make sure CVRF fishing partners are within their allocations, and to keep track of by-catch. This is the CDQ manager part of the job, and learning it has occupied much of his time so far.

The second part of the job involves fisheries development. Here he will join staff members Robert Sundown and Moses Tulim in their work with member villages to develop economic opportunities for the CVRF region. Byron said, “There are so many opportunities out there, but support for them is lacking.” This is where CVRF can make a difference and “working for our people, to their benefit and the region’s benefit” is the best part of the job, he shared.

Byron is close to earning a degree in Rural Development at UAF, and believes his educational experience gives him tools he needs to succeed in today’s work world. Along with his new job he is continuing to take classes, and is doing an internship with the World Trade Center at their Anchorage office.

He made the move to Anchorage by himself in January, leaving his wife Darlene and 11 year old daughter Nadine to finish her school year in Scammon Bay. Since then, Darlene came to Anchorage when new baby Denae Kaci arrived two months early, on March 6. Nadine will still join them when school is out. Byron said adjusting to life in Anchorage has been tough, but having the family together again will help. He hopes city-life will grow on all of them. Meantime, he says the people he works with are great, he “couldn’t ask for better co-workers.”

FISHERIES UPDATE

FISHING IS OUR BUSINESS

Pollock The 1999 "A" Season ended March 14. The entire 9,820 metric ton quota was harvested by Tyson Seafood Group. The "A" Season fishery is the most valuable because that is when pollock with roe are taken. Pollock roe is mostly valuable because that is when pollock with roe are taken. Pollock roe is mostly sold to Japan, as salmon and herring eggs are. During the "A" Season CVRF recruited 24 individuals to work on Tyson vessels. Over 70% of workers from the region are expected to complete their contracts.



Tyson Seafood Group went up for sale late last fall. As a result, CVRF is advertising for a new pollock CDQ partner. The new partner may be the company that buys Tyson, or it could be another company able to provide substantial benefits to the region. A decision on which company will harvest CVRF's 1999 "B" Season and 2000 pollock CDQ will be made this summer. A second CVRF partner,

Westward Seafoods, Inc., has a part of the "B" Season CDQ allocation. Westward did not harvest or process any of the "A" Season pollock CDQ, but did hire 30 CVRF residents for jobs at their plant in Dutch Harbor and on catcher vessels. The "B" Season harvest will start around August first. **Jobs are available.**

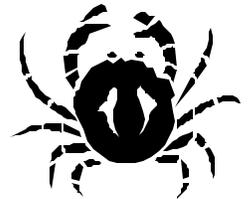
Pacific cod Our harvesting partner is Westward Seafoods, Inc. A vessel breakdown during the 1999 open access pollock "A" Season, and the inability to get it fixed has forced changes in our fishing plans. Instead of using a trawl vessel around the Aleutian Islands, CVRF and Westward are now working with the Alaskan Leader group to longline in the Bering Sea. Harvesting will begin in late summer.



Other groundfish CVRF has CDQ allocations for a variety of other commercially valuable species. These include rock and flathead sole, Atka mackerel, Pacific Ocean Perch, and black cod (also called sablefish). CVRF's two partners for these fisheries are Iquique US and the Ocean Harvester. They will start harvesting soon and continue through-out the year. Two CVRF residents work on the Ocean Harvester crew, and positions are available on Iquique's trawl vessels. **Call us for job information.**

Halibut CVRF receives allocations in Area 4D (St. Matthew Island area) and Area 4E (Nelson/Nunivak Island area). The Ocean Harvester catches halibut in Area 4D, along with its black cod fishery. The quota for Area 4E was increased this year. See page 12 for more information on Area 4E. By the way, **anyone interested in getting a CDQ Halibut fishing permit**, please call Moses Tulim at 1-800-560-7250. Those who got CDQ cards last year, do **not** need to reapply.

Crab CVRF has a CDQ allocation for four crab fisheries: opilio, St. Matthew king, Bristol Bay king, and Bairdi tanner crab. To date, our crab vessel, the Silver Spray, has participated in the open access opilio fishery. As of March 15, the vessel had harvested over 770,000 pounds of crab. The Silver Spray starts the opilio CDQ season at the end of March. CVRF's quota for this fishery is about 1,600,000 pounds. Due to the CDQ fishery's late start, CVRF will use three boats in addition to the Silver Spray to harvest opilio crab. During the open access fishery. **Glen Charlie** from Scammon Bay worked as a crew member. **Jobs are available** on each vessel harvesting CVRF's crab CDQ.



**CALL TOLL FREE ABOUT AVAILABLE JOBS
(800) 959-3813**

CVRF Board of Directors

Tommy Kusaiak
Chefornak
(907) 867-8936

Peter Boyscout
Chevak
(907) 858-7026

Charlie Chingliak
Goodnews Bay
(907) 967-8116

Edgar Hoelscher
Hooper Bay
(907) 758-4015

Carl Dock
Kipnuk
(907) 896-5532/5515

John Phillip, Sr.
Kongiganak
(907) 557-5227

Fred Phillip
Kwigillingok
(907) 522-8114

Abraham David
Mekoryuk
(907) 827-8512

Isaac Paul
Napakiak
(907) 589-2627

Peter John
Newtok
(907) 237-2513

Joseph Post
Nightmute
(907) 647-6413

Ignati Jacob
Oscarville

Henry Williams
Platinum
(907) 979-8114

Wassillie Bavilla
Quinhagak
(907) 556-8133

George Smith
Scammon Bay
(907) 558-5526

Simeon John
Toksook Bay
(907) 427-7212

Peter Joseph
Tuntutuliak
(907) 256-2841

Andy Charlie
Tununak
(907) 652-6613

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.

**Happy Birthday!**

Bobby Dock, Anchorage-April 16
Moses Tulum, Chevak-April 26
Desiree M. Moses, Anchorage-May 5
Joanne Nevak, Toksook Bay-May 17
Fritz David, Mekoryuk-June 6

Welcome to the CVRF Family!

Byron and Darlene Ulak welcome their new baby, Danae Kaci born March 6th.

Bernard and Louisa Murran welcome their third child, Agnes.

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 steambath) 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.



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.

PHOTO SCRAP BOOK FROM ANCHORAGE OFFICE



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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.

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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.

