



The 341-foot factory trawler Northern Hawk. Photos courtesy of CVRF

The Northern Hawk – a 10-year point of pride for CVRF

Ten years ago, Coastal Villages Region Fund took ownership of one of Alaska’s mightiest commercial fishing vessels – the 341-foot Bering Sea pollock factory trawler Northern Hawk.

It was a monumental step not only for CVRF, but the Western Alaska Community Development Quota Program.

CVRF, based in Anchorage, is one of six nonprofit corporations holding lucrative Bering Sea catch shares under the federal program. These companies arrange for harvest of their shares for the benefit of disadvantaged Western Alaska villages.

While other CDQ companies have stakes in major fishing vessels, CVRF is alone in its outright ownership and operation of a vessel like the Northern Hawk.

The Northern Hawk previously was part of the American Seafoods fleet. In 2010, American bought out CVRF’s share of the company, using the Northern Hawk and some smaller vessels as currency.

Although the Northern Hawk has never called there, CVRF designated the village of Chevak as the vessel’s homeport.

When they get a chance to see the vessel, the villagers CVRF represents – from school kids to elders – gleam with pride, says Mike Coleman, Bering Sea operations general manager for CVRF.

PUGET SOUND HYDRAULICS, INC.

RELIABLE
MOBILE
SERVICE



DESIGN
REPAIRS
INSTALLATION

A COMPLETE QUALITY LINE OF SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT

4400 23rd Ave. West • Seattle, WA 98199 • Fax Number (206) 283-1026

(206) 283-0966



Releasing pollock from the net



Grading roe

“They know it’s their boat,” he says. “They’re not leasing the boat.”

The Northern Hawk is a sophisticated fishing machine. Capable of catching and processing millions of pounds of pollock at sea, the vessel carries a crew of 128 people plus two fishery observers. The factory ship produces a variety of products including fillets, roe, fishmeal, and oil.



The Northern Hawk at sea

A few villagers, maybe five to 10 each season, work aboard the Northern Hawk, Coleman says. But like most other large Alaska fishing vessels, the crew is global. You can find Filipino, Mexican, Vietnamese, Polish, Senegalese, and other multicultural crewmembers aboard. That presents a challenge for the galley staff who must cater to varied diets.

Last spring, the Northern Hawk completed its five-year certification at Lake Union Drydock Co. in Seattle. This fall, the Northern Hawk will install a new winch for towing a live-feed camera to help avoid bycatch.

From the beginning, CVRF has itself operated the Northern Hawk. CVRF also does its own product marketing into Europe and Asia.

There were skeptics at first that a CDQ company could own and operate such a ship.

“It was kinda rough the first couple of years as far as the industry accepting us,” says Coleman. “We’ve proven ourselves.” ↓

– Wesley Loy


VALVES PIPE & FITTINGS PUMPS HYDRAULICS HARDWARE IMS REPLACEMENT PARTS

SUPPLIES * SUPPORT * SOLUTIONS

MARINE REFRIGERATION & PLUMBING SUPPLIES

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO DO THE JOB RIGHT



A DIVISION OF 

800.562.1945

4816 15th Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98107
www.wescold.com sales@wescold.com