

COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND

A 25 YEAR TIMELINE | 1998 - 2023



COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND (CVRF) is a nonprofit organization, acquires the region's CDQ allocations from Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative (CVFC).



1998

- The American Fisheries Act (AFA) is enacted, increasing the pollock CDQ allocation to 10% while awarding the other 90% of the Bering Sea pollock fishery to primarily non-Alaskan interests. AFA also creates **CDQ Loan Program** to allow CDQ groups to buy pollock quota.

1999

- CVRF becomes the CDQ group with the largest stake in the Bering Sea by purchasing 20% of American Seafoods, the largest catcher/processor company in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island (BSAI) pollock fishery.

2000

- The CVRF Employment Department adds more rural recruiters. Workforce development includes salmon and halibut production training, customer service, accounting, and human resource management.
- CVRF introduces first in-house internship in its Anchorage office.

2001

- CVRF becomes the region's largest private-sector employer.

2002

- CVRF contributes to the Quinhagak airport expansion to assist in developing vital infrastructure for in-region commercial fishing operations.
- Processing facilities constructed in Kipnuk and Hooper Bay.
- CVRF Marine Safety Program begins.

2003

- CVRF enters partnership with Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp. (BBEDC), Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc. (CBSFA), Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Assoc. (YDFDA) and U.S. Seafoods for multi-species CDQ harvesting.

2004

- CVRF expands Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the Alaska Business Development Center.
- CVRF purchases 711 H Street Building in Anchorage.
- Community Service Centers in Hooper Bay, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok and Toksook Bay are completed.
- The HaullyWOOD Program is launched to offset the high cost of fuel by offering wood to heat homes. In 2006 CVRF delivers 318 tons of wood.

2005

- CVRF completes Community Service Center in Eek.

2006

- CVRF expands Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the Alaska Business Development Center.
- CVRF begins the pilot program for Youth to Work.
- Community Service Centers in Mekoryuk, Chefornak, Nighmtute, Tununak, Chevak, Goodnews Bay, Napaskiak and Napakiak are completed.
- CVRF and Mechanic/Welders (M/W) complete construction of a new halibut plant in Tununak.
- CVRF establishes Community Service Centers in Kipnuk, Newtok, Oscarville and Tuntutuliak.
- CVRF completes first decennial review under new federal CDQ statute.
- CVRF opens Community Service Center in Quinhagak.

2007

- CVRF takes over management of its 100% owned crab fleet and moves management from Seattle to Alaska.
- CVRF Board leads divestiture from American Seafoods, resulting in a \$200M gain making CVRF a direct industry participant in the Bering Sea fisheries and fundamentally shifting the business operations.
- The pollock catcher/processor the Northern Hawk is acquired by CVRF from American Seafoods along with three cod freezer/longliners: the Lilli Ann, Deep Pacific and Northern Cape.

2008

- CVRF works with the U.S. Coast Guard on a safety program so residents are able to more effectively utilize safety equipment relative to vessel size.
- CVRF Mechanical / Welders (M/Ws) help complete the Oscarville Boardwalk Project.

2009

- CVRF expands the Community Service Center in Scammon Bay, creating more meeting rooms and Youth to Work space.
- The Ciuneq program expands to include 10th graders.

2010

- CVRF partners with the Alaska Humanities Forum to develop Ciuneq—a program designed for 9th grade students in CVRF communities to support a pathway to higher education and careers, building on existing programs like Youth To Work, internships and scholarships.
- CVRF partners with the Community Service Center in Eek, creating more meeting rooms and Youth To Work space.
- CVRF Get Out The Vote and voter education effort results in over 45% voter turnout.
- CVRF tests "tiny house" concept.
- CVRF and AVTEC add offsite maritime training for Youth to Work Maritime Program.
- Tiny House Program expanded to

2011

- CVRF partners with American Honda Motor Co. to establish first-of-its-kind service-only dealerships in Eek, Scammon Bay and Kipnuk.
- CVRF partners with Designiro to launch a virtual reality training program with a digital replica of the Northern Hawk.
- CVRF completes second decennial review under federal CDQ statute.
- CVRF creates Regional Affairs Department to help support communities as needs arise.
- CVRF provides 22,500 pounds of salmon to 625 households.

2012

- CVRF partners with Typhoon Merbok hits Alaska and Bering Sea communities.
- CVRF provides response assistance to affected communities in partnership with Bethel Community Services Foundation and Calista Corp.
- CVRF completes infrastructure survey after Typhoon Merbok to assess community and major individual loss and damage.
- CVRF acquires Homer-based All Seasons Honda.

2013

- CVRF partners with several entities on fisheries research projects.
- CVRF closes the Goodnews Bay Regional Salmon Plant in Platinum in pursuit of a more fair and equitable benefits model for all residents.
- CVRF purchases the Flicka to replace the aging Deep Pacific.

2014

- CVRF consolidates all Bering Sea operations under Coastal Alaska Premier Seafoods (CAPS). This entity now houses pollock, cod and crab fishing operations.
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2015

- CVRF partners with the Alaska Delegation members, Lt. Gov. Mallot attend the CDQ Roundtable meeting to discuss program improvements and fixing the imbalanced distribution of CDQ benefits.
- CVRF partners with Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) and 35 regional tribes to acquire significant Bering Sea opilio and red king crab quota and crab fishing vessels.
- CVRF enters into an agreement with BBEDC to manage crab and tender vessels and work together in the harvest of crab quota.
- CVRF welcomes new Executive Director, Eric Deakin.

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THE FUTURE

- CVRF is the first CDQ group to successfully utilize NOAA CDQ Loan Program securing \$33 million for investment in the Bering Sea Mothership sector.
- CVRF is now the only CDQ group operating in all three sectors: shorebased, catcher-processor and mothership.



Richard Jung / NAPAKIAK
Board Member 2008-Present

"The Mechanic/Welder program and Youth to Work program are key in trying to get people into mariners training, which will be very important for the future. **All the investments that have been made in the last couple of years will pay off, helping people get more training and jobs.** These will be some of the avenues of employment for our residents. If you want to work, you can work here or anywhere else in the world."



Gabriel Olick / TUNTUTULIAK
Board Member 2003-Present

"I am thankful for the CDQ economic opportunities, Alaskanization and the fisheries investments now for the future. Thankful for the original founding fathers' work, and again thankful for the programs it provides. **Future board members will build on our current investments—and with those return on investments there is room to grow.** The focus now is to bring more resources and benefits to the communities."



Alma Kanriak / TUNUNAK
Board Member 2019-Present

"Throughout the years, CVRF has become a very positive and unified working environment where everyone respects each other's skills and knowledge—and has deep respect for elders and traditional lifestyles. At the same time, programs like Youth to Work also bring inspiration, encouragement and a vision for our youth and our communities."



Larson Hunter / SCAMMON BAY
Board Member and Current Board Chair 2015-Present

"I hold CVRF in high regard. I have the unique perspective of being a region resident, a scholarship recipient, a CVRF intern that advanced to quota manager, and now a sitting board member. CVRF is a major influence in my life, and in the lives of many others within our region. **CVRF provides opportunities to work that reduce reliance on public assistance, improve the economics in our region, and more importantly, help our residents live self-sufficient lifestyles.**"



Edgar Hoelscher / HOOPER BAY
Board Member 1998-2001, 2008-2013

"Our goal was to stand with other CDQ groups to bring benefits back to our region. In the beginning, American Seafoods gave the CDQ a chance to turn things around, even with CVRF earning a small percent. This was a highlight for many CDQ organizations including CVRF, where the goal was economics and serving the people's needs. And, even in today's down economy, CVRF is still here helping our 20 villages move forward."



Fred Phillip / KWIGILLINGOK
Board Member 1998-2000

"Early CVRF leaders like Steven White, Dick Lincoln, Louie Bunyan helped advocate for community programs and seeing those programs come to reality over the years is a real success. **CVRF's reputation and influence has grown also and today the company can access Alaska's congressional delegation and key people in Washington D.C. to help advocate for our communities.** Our leaders did a great job at building a strong foundation for us to grow."



Tim Samson / KIPNUK
Board Member 2001-2013

"A big priority for us was to help kids in our communities be less dependent on their parents' income and to create equal opportunities; to help them become independent. Teddy Angaiak of Tununak was thinking along the same lines, emphasizing the importance of CVRF youth programs. These initiatives were not only about keeping the kids active but also about teaching them to be independent, with a focus on humility."



Oscar Evon / KWIGILLINGOK
Board Member 2002-2008

"It was intimidating and humbling to work on the foundation that the early board members and the older guys laid out. The founding board members emphasized the goal to become major players in the Bering Sea—and one of the dreams was to own our own fishing boats. The biggest event was when we acquired the *Northern Hawk* and divested from American Seafoods. It was a big undertaking, but it underscored the vision of the early board members and the pains they went through to stick it out. **Now, looking back, I can say CVRF has put out more in direct benefits to individuals, families, and communities than any other organization in the region.**"



John O. Mark / QUINHAGAK
Board Member 2005-2006, 2012

The Coastal Villages Seafoods (CVS) plants in the villages were beneficial, particularly the halibut plants. **Our goal then is the same as it is today: to think and plan for seven generations and beyond.**"



George Smith / SCAMMON BAY
Board Member 1998-1999, 2004-2006

"The first CVRF Board Meeting in Chevak was at Joe Paniyak's house. Later in the fall, we met again in Chevak to officially form CVRF. **At that time, we didn't fully understand what becoming a non-profit would entail, but we knew our first order of business was to negotiate a royalty price for the company to secure a quota to reach our goals.** Over the years, Mary Austind helped us reach those goals, developing programs such as 4-Site, with the help of people like Selma Davis, Bernard Murray, Byron Ulak, Theresa Cholok, and Moses Tullim."



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Coastal Villages Region Fund is a nonprofit Community Development Quota organization providing critical services and programs to more than 9,000 residents in 20 western Alaska communities. We believe an ocean of opportunity exists to sustainably fish, to use the revenues from fishing to deliver programs, benefits, jobs, training and scholarships, and to protect our resources for generations.

CVRF began 25 years ago with a small allocation of the massive pollock fishery in the Bering Sea, and a mandate to improve lives and communities in Western Alaska. We had modest beginnings, tried different partnerships and investments, and ultimately settled on a model of investing in our own fleet and operations which is bringing the Bering Sea fishery back to Alaska, governed by Alaska values, and delivering real benefits to communities.

Our Board of Directors guides our efforts to transform sustainable harvests into a wide range of benefits supporting our communities and residents. Most of the subsistence equipment in our region arrived via People Propel®. CVRF's mechanic/welder shops keep that equipment in service, delivering children to their schools, hunters and fishers to their camps, and residents home to their families. Scholarships, job training, food and energy, even funeral aid are all provided by the rich resources of the Bering Sea.

Today our home-grown company is increasingly becoming a worldwide economic contributor. Our seafood is sold in markets all around the world, and is recognized for its sustainable sourcing as well as its excellent quality. Honda, the global engine manufacturer based in Japan, invests in innovative partnerships with us to keep ATVs and other engines serviced in our region without the expense and delays of shipping them away for repair. Our board members and executives participate in global and federal regulatory, advisory, and industry roles. We constantly push harvesters in all fisheries to be responsible actors, promoting the long term health and resilience of our natural resources.

There are many people to thank for the achievements of the past 25 years, from people like Chevak's Harold Sparck who lobbied for Alaskans' rights to share in the fishing bounty to Alaska's Senator Ted Stevens, who authored legislation to establish CDQs, **to the hundreds of employees and board members who have guided CVRF to become the company it is today.** Their accomplishments are chronicled in this 25-year timeline, which we have recorded for future generations of leaders who will look after our Western Alaska communities.