



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Preliminary Report on 2005 CVRF Activities

Our Vision

From our position as a key player in the North Pacific, we can build and expand our support for sustainable community and economic development of the local resources in the CVRF communities.



Oscar Evon, President

To the Residents of CVRF Communities:

2005 will prove to be one of those years where issues crucial to the future of the CDQ program for our 20 communities were set into play. Our company vision is already becoming a reality for our communities.

REGULATORY CHANGES

• Non-Fisheries Related Economic Development (NFRED)

o We have patiently waited for the North Pacific Council and its process to implement the \$2 million annual allowance (e.g. 20% of the previous year's pollock revenue) for non-fisheries related economic development projects (NFRED) in our region. Amendment 71 has languished in the system since June 2002. Now we have worked with several other CDQ groups to find a fix for this issue at the federal level. In the meantime, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) overturned the State of Alaska's recommendations on allowable projects. This development allows that smaller projects can actually go outside the restrictions set in place by the State. These projects are now technically allowable. This means that additional projects identified by our communities will begin to move forward.

• Community Eligibility

o The recently passed federal transportation bill included a permanent fix to the community eligibility issue. NMFS attorneys had interpreted federal legislation and regulations

to require a periodic reassessment of all 65 CDQ-eligible communities. This reassessment may have resulted in some communities getting kicked out of the program. The 6 CDQ groups worked with the Alaska congressional delegation to find a solution to the problem.

• Allocation Stability

o Although we have done what is necessary to produce an effective Community Development Plan by incorporating information directly from our communities utilizing the Ciunerkam Tangruagutii (CT) process and presentation of our arguments for restoration of allocation, we also realize that energy focused on the application process is energy taken away from directly bringing CDQ benefits to communities. Stability in allocations has been granted to the inshore sector and to the Seattle owners of Bering Sea operations via the American Fisheries Act. CDQ is the only remaining sector that suffers from the competitive instability of variable quotas. Any energy focused on allocations can be refocused directly on community development.

• CDQ Oversight

o The State of Alaska must relinquish oversight of the program to the communities. The autonomy of the CDQ groups will provide for development of the communities that makes sense. CVRF is governed by the Board of Directors elected by our communities. Governance of the company should not be diluted by CDQ oversight.

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

• Royalty Contract Negotiations

o To maximize the value of our fish for our communities, we have spent considerable time in 2005 negotiating our royalty contracts for 2006 and beyond. We have held out with an eye for the future.

• Salmon Buying and Processing

o Quality is up! 60% of the Bethel and Kuskokwim deliveries had bleeding and icing compliance.
o Unfortunately, our salmon harvest this year was below average, however all salmon harvested has been sold.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Oscar Evon
President
Kwigillingok

Timothy Samson
Vice President
Kipnuk

Wassilie Bavilla
Secretary
Quinhagak

David Bill, Sr.
Treasurer
Toksook Bay

Eric Olson, Sr.
Executive Committee Member
Hooper Bay

George Smith
Executive Committee Member
Scammon Bay

Jonathan Lewis
Executive Committee Member
Chefornak

Board Members

John Pingayak
Chevak

William Brown
Eek

Jack Stewart
Goodnews Bay

Ralph Kiunya
Kongiganak

Hultman Kiokun
Mekoryuk

Nicholas Paul
Napakiak

Helen Kaganak
Napaskiak

Peter John
Newtok

Jimmy George
Nightmute

Frank Berezkin
Oscarville

Henry Williams
Platinum

Gabriel Olick
Tuntutuliak

Andy Charlie, Sr.
Tununak

o Preliminary numbers indicate that we employed 365 region residents in our plants. We purchased salmon from 426 fishers who made 8,800 deliveries for a round volume of 2.6 million pounds. 57 fishers participated in our herring incentive program and a record number of halibut fishers landed the entire 4E quota except for 40,000 pounds, representing a record harvest of our local CDQ resource.

- **Our plants have processed a substantial amount of CDQ halibut during 2005. At the time of this printing, we will have harvested nearly all the CVRF 4E halibut quota.**
- **Support for herring fishery including region crewmembers.**
- **Media initiatives this spring provided the region with a true picture of the Bering Sea fishery, the industry, the program, and our company working for our communities.**
- **Bylaw work. The CVRF Board of Directors is recognized as a leading governing body in the region, in the CDQ program, and the industry. The Board moved forward with some revisions that updated our corporate bylaws to reflect our advancement as a company.**



Oscar Evon

Looking to 2006

One of the most important acts of 2005 will be planning and setting direction for 2006 and beyond. We have the financial means to make a difference. Our consolidated net assets reached over \$80 million at the end of 2004. Our existing investments are generating over \$40 million each year. Our communities know that we have the money. We are reevaluating our presence in the salmon fishery. The limited processing capacity in Western Alaska has placed us at the mercy of south central Alaska's ability to process both the Cook Inlet fish, but also our round buy and fly salmon. Water depth and clean processing water present a problem for the Quinhagak operation. Fisherman have had trouble entering the river during low tide. Our water supply for processing has also raised concerns.



Board Orientation:

Back Row (L-R): Ralph Kiunya, Tim Samson, Jimmy George, Hultman Kiokun; *Front Row (L-R):* William Brown, Oscar Evon

We have been cooperatively working with the Governor's Blue Ribbon Committee on CDQ's. We have provided them with all of the requested information and we hope that they will understand the importance of the program to our distressed communities. According to their report that uses 2004 numbers, we have moved into first place with the largest revenue, net assets, and net income. Our company is also the most effective in terms of general and administrative expenses relative to revenues. Our ratios are also best in the categories of professional and consulting, accounting, and top five compensated. Our Board expenses are within 0.7% of first place. I am certain that our program expenses are at the top, when considered on a sustainable basis. Each community resident should be proud of the independent verification of our company and its effectiveness.

2005 has been a year of fulfillment of our vision. We are set to be able to build and expand our support for development of our communities by regulation, by means, and by motivation.

Thank you for your interest in our communities,

Oscar Evon, President

Dedication to Wassilie Bavilla: a CVRF Founding Member

After 20 years serving western Alaska fisheries rights and issues, Wassilie Bavilla is leaving Coastal Villages Region Fund as more than just a Board Member from Quinhagak. He is leaving a legacy.

In the late 1970's, Wassilie was introduced to Harold Sparck, of Bethel, at a Quinhagak Tribal Council meeting. Paul Mark, the tribal council president, wanted the tribal council to hear what Harold had to say.

It was the first time Wassilie learned about offshore fishery industries in the Bering Sea. At that time, it was foreign business. They were right at the coastal villages' doorstep, yet the villages had nothing to do with it. Harold proposed fishermen from the coastal villages could have their own fishery. All they needed to do was get approved for a scientific study to verify their ability to have a fishery, and then go fish.

Soon after, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (BSFA) received a \$150,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans (under the US Department of Health and Human Services) to perform a fishery feasibility study. Under the guidance of BSFA and other western Alaska fishery advocates, Wassilie teamed up with Louis Bunyan of Hooper Bay, David Bill of Toksook Bay, Joe Paniyak of Chevak, and Howard Amos (later replaced by Charlie Spud) of Mekoryuk, to make up the Development Review Committee (DRC). The resulting scientific study verified Bering Sea coastal communities could have a fishery.

Then Wassilie and the DRC members started to petition the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to allow coastal communities' participation in Bering Sea fisheries. Their work with the Council was time consuming. Wassilie and the other members "volunteered" much of their time and own money to keep their effort going. They had no staff or budget, but that never deterred them from traveling to address the Council at every meeting.

The Council agreed to implement the Community Development Quota (CDQ) program in 1991, and Wassilie was there. "We were very happy", he says of his team; however they didn't dwell on celebration.

They wasted no time in looking for partnerships.

Wassilie and the other members of the DRC created the Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative (CVFC) in 1992, and their first order of business was a partnership with Golden Age Fisheries, of Seattle. Golden Age Fisheries was to harvest the pollock allocation. From this partnership, the Imapiqamiut Partnership (IP) was formed as the manager and owner of the factory trawler, F/V Brown's Point. Twenty-seven percent of pollock was allocated to CVFC.

In 1997, Brown's Point underwent foreclosure proceedings. The State of Alaska recommended, unless there be significant changes in the management (most specifically the dissolution of the IP), CVFC's pollock allocation should be terminated. Under such extreme circumstances, the CVFC was dissolved in 1998. Its successor Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) was formed to manage the CDQ.

Wassilie gave all his strength and determination to forge through the breakdown of CVFC. Wassilie's unwavering resolve served as inspiration to the Board and everyone who worked to develop CVRF. He believed in its purpose. Wassilie dedicated his focus on building CVRF into the most successful CDQ group that it is today.

From there being 'nothing' for people to do in Quinhagak, now there is real industry – a salmon and halibut processing plant. From

there being no expectation of work to viable fishery operations is testament to Wassilie's focus on a goal. He believes Quinhagak has changed for the positive. "Everybody is fishing and working. More people from other villages are coming to work. That's what we wanted, for people to work."

About CVRF, Wassilie says "They made a good economy... It's good for young people and future generations." Asked what he wanted people to remember of his time with CVRF, Wassilie said with a smile "He brought all this stuff into Quinhagak."

"Wassilie had a vision. He connected the Bering Sea fishery to those who needed employment opportunities", says Morgen Crow, Executive Director of CVRF, "he



Wassilie Bavilla

continued

continued

dealt with the problems by keeping the greater goal in mind...he never wavered in his work to fulfill his vision." Morgen does not hesitate to assign the direction and success of CVRF to the will and role Wassilie delivered throughout its history.

Oscar Evon, Board President, said Wassilie not only did a lot, but he "expected a lot" from the Board and everyone working for CVRF. Wassilie's effort was always strong even while he was undergoing treatment for cancer, in 2003. "He fought for [CDQ] allocation levels", which is always a tough fight. Oscar hopes Wassilie "continues his work for economic development, and keep a positive spirit in his work and health."

"I've worked with Wassilie a long time, ever since we first tried to get the Japanese to involve us in the fishery in the Bering Sea in the '70s. They never talked to us, but we never stopped trying." Longtime Board Member David Bill, of Toksook Bay, said. He thinks Wassilie's most important role was bringing employment to the villages. His wish for Wassilie in his future is a return to the Board.

George Smith of Scammon Bay said Wassilie's quiet concentration and sound messages at the meetings gave strong guidance to the Board. "He didn't always speak, but when he did, it was powerful."

Wassilie's wish for CVRF is that it will someday not only help fisheries economy, but someday play a helpful role in community operations. So what is left to do for someone who has reached his goal? Fulfilled his vision? "Now I'm 'babysitter man'," Wassilie is satisfied to say. "I think I need to be with my family, I like to do that", and he proudly reports he has three grandchildren and one on the way in December.

Farewell to one of the true founding members of CVRF. When we think of Wassilie as he leaves the Board, we can think of what Morgen said about his departure: "We owe a lot to Wassilie."

Because of Wassilie's commitment to the people of our region and his success with the CVRF Board, this issue of Neqsurtet Nepit is dedicated to him.

Quyana, Wassilie

Board Activity

The Annual Coastal Villages Region Fund Board Meeting is scheduled for November 16 – 19, 2005, at the Learning Center in Bethel.

This summer Jimmy George was appointed to represent Nightmute and Hultman Kiokun was appointed to represent Mekoryuk, after the previous board members resigned from their positions.

Elections for the CVRF Board of Directors took place the first week of October in Kwigillingok, Napaskiak, Newtok, Platinum, Quinhagak, Tununak, and Tuntutuliak. Results for these communities elections will be announced at the Annual Board Meeting. Look for results in the Winter Newsletter.

The 2006 CVRF Full Board Meeting schedule will be available after the Annual Board Meeting, and will be published in the next newsletter.

Blue Ribbon Review

In the spring of 2005, Governor Murkowski appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to review the western Alaska CDQ program. The North Pacific Council recommended the creation of this Committee, and its primary purpose was to review the process by which the State of Alaska uses evaluation criteria in determining allocations of fish among the six CDQ groups.



Committee members walk through plant with Mekoryuk community members.

The Committee was chaired by Ed Rasmuson (Chair, Rasmuson Foundation and North Pacific Council member) and facilitated by Carl Marrs (Marrs and Company). Committee members also included Tom Case (University of Alaska), Stephanie Madsen (Pacific Seafood Processors Association and North Pacific Council Chair), Dennis Metrokin (President, Koniag, Inc.), and Ron Miller (Executive Director, Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority).

During its work in summer 2005, the CDQ Blue Ribbon panel traveled to communities throughout western Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, and the Pribilof Islands; including visits in the Coastal Villages region to Hooper Bay, Toksook Bay, and a brief visit in Mekoryuk. CVRF board members, staff, and community residents met with Blue Ribbon members a number of times during the process, both in the region and in

Anchorage.

The Blue Ribbon Committee's report was delivered to Governor Murkowski on September 14, 2005. The report could result in significant changes and improvements to the CDQ program if implemented. The four key recommendations in the Blue Ribbon Committee report are as follows:

(1) Lengthen Allocation Cycle -- The Blue Ribbon Committee recommended extending the allocation cycle for CDQ groups to a 10-year cycle, rather than the current 3-year cycle. This would provide greater stability to CDQ groups in setting their business plans, and would reduce tension among the six CDQ groups that has resulted from nearly constant competition for CDQ allocations;

(2) Change Role of State of Alaska - The Committee recommended reducing the State's role in the investment planning of CDQ groups, but increasing the State's role in the prevention of fraud and mismanagement, and in ensuring improved transparency and reporting to the communities represented by the CDQ groups;

(3) Reduce Role of NMFS -- The Committee recommended eliminating the review of CDQ activities by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which duplicates State review. Under the Blue Ribbon Report, the role of NMFS would be limited to fisheries management, as it is for other participants in the BSAI



Blue Ribbon Committee meets with Hooper Bay community members

continued

continued

groundfish fisheries.

(4) Allow up to 20% Non-Fisheries Investments -- The Committee recommended allowing CDQ groups to invest up to 20% of their earnings in non-fisheries investments in the region. This recommendation expands upon previous efforts to clarify and authorize non-fisheries investments by CDQ groups.

The Blue Ribbon Committee also collected financial data from the six CDQ groups, which showed, among other things, that CVRF had the highest net assets and revenue among the six CDQ groups for the year 2004. The data showed that CVRF spent the second highest amount on programs, and that CVRF's net assets were 33% above the average of all the CDQ groups. In fact, CVRF's revenue was \$31,086,026 above the average of all the CDQ groups. Program expenses for 2004 were \$11,582,914, with only 5 percent having been spent on general and administration costs.

Neither Governor Murkowski nor the Alaska Congressional Delegation has clearly indicated yet to what extent or how soon the Blue Ribbon recommendations will be implemented.



Toksook Bay community welcomes the Blue Ribbon Committee with a feast.

HIGHLIGHT ON: Angela Chinglak Community Liaison – Goodnews Bay

Angela Chinglak is one of CVRF's newest community liaisons. She manages the CVRF Goodnews Bay office and covers the village of Platinum as well. Angela has worked for Fish and Game and worked as a processor for American Seafoods and Peter Pan. This summer she helped implement a project surveying the Salmon River. She worked with an ADFG biologist who used a portable shocker to collect fish, which are identified by species. The shocker does not kill the fish and they are released back into the stream after they are identified and checked for parasites and diseases.



Magnuson-Stevens Report

The United States Congress is in the process of reviewing and possibly changing the law that governs the federal fisheries between three and 200 miles off Alaska's shores -- including the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) was first enacted in 1976 to "Americanize" these fisheries which until then were fished only by foreign fishing vessels. The MSA has been updated a number of times since 1976, including most recently in 1996 when the Alaska Congressional delegation succeeded in adding amendments to give permanency to the CDQ program.

At the suggestion of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) has been working with the other CDQ groups since the early part of 2005 to develop amendments that will strengthen the statutory basis for the CDQ program in the MSA. On October 7, 2005, following months of meetings, discussions, and negotiations, CVRF joined Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), and Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA) in submitting a proposal to the Alaska Congressional delegation to improve and strengthen the CDQ section of the MSA for the benefit of Western Alaska communities and future generations of our residents. CVRF, BBEDC, NSEDC, and YDFDA collectively represent more than 96 percent of the participants in the CDQ program.



Morgen Crow, Trevor McCabe,
Robert Williams, Robin Samuelson

The joint proposal would incorporate into the MSA the framework recommended by the Blue Ribbon CDQ Committee (see separate article in this newsletter) relating to State and Federal oversight of the CDQ program. Under the framework, the allocations to each of the six CDQ groups would be evaluated every ten years instead of every three, and each CDQ group



Eugene Asicsik (NSEDC), Robin Samuelson (BBEDC),
Morgen Crow (CVRF), Ragnar Alstrom (YDFDA)

would have a greater role in setting priorities for the ten-year cycle. At Senator Stevens' suggestion, the proposal would also create a CDQ Panel with one representative from each of the six CDQ groups. The CDQ Panel would have a role in the oversight of the CDQ program, and would also likely foster improved cooperation among the six CDQ groups. As with the Blue Ribbon recommendations, the CVRF/BBEDC/NSEDC/YDFDA proposal would increase the role of the State of Alaska in monitoring the CDQ groups to detect any fraud and in ensuring that the CDQ boards of directors and CDQ communities are fully informed about the activities of their CDQ groups. Related to the MSA reauthorization effort, the CDQ groups are also collectively reviewing whether measures are needed to protect the tax-exempt status of CDQ groups.



Carl Marrs, Morgen Crow, Robin Samuelson

Senator Stevens, Congressman Young, and Senator Murkowski are reviewing our proposal for the MSA reauthorization legislation. Broad bills to improve and reauthorize the MSA are expected to be introduced in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives by the end of 2005. CVRF, BBEDC, NSEDC, and YDFDA remain hopeful that the U.S. Congress will take action to strengthen the CDQ program.

Current CVRF Projects

Fisheries Support Centers

A community liaison for Scammon Bay was recruited in September. Abraham Rivers will also be supervising the mechanic at the FSC. A mechanic was recruited to work in the Eek FSC. CVRF project manager met with the contractor to discuss necessary adjustments and repairs, which will be made to address settling of the building.

A series of meetings are taking place to assess the feasibility and levels of local commitment from different communities. Preliminary designs have been drawn up with our engineers. Contractor availability is a problem for 2005-06 winter construction activities, but we have a verbal commitment from them to proceed with construction in multiple sites by spring. We hope to have materials ready for construction at additional sites in the spring. However, we are concerned about the possible constraint to the availability of steel for the foundations do to multiple factors (worldwide demand and domestic supplies being used for reconstruction after hurricanes).

We continue focusing on site control issues; community involvement and making plans for early spring start up at multiple sites.



Fisheries Support Center at Scammon Bay

Kuskokwim Environmental Learning Program (KELP)

The first year of this program is what we hope is a glimpse of what will be an ongoing summer camp. The Kuskokwim Environmental Learning Program was successfully completed by Lower Kuskokwim School District. The program was made possible with matching funds from CVRF. Capitol investment in computers and laboratory and other field research equipment was made. The Platinum School was modified into a Science Learning program, which can house groups of students from our region. Two consecutive two-week programs were held, the first with sixteen girls and the second with eight boys, all of junior high school age. CVRF will begin to work with LKSD in the next months to secure outside funding to assure the future of this program.

Applied Fisheries Research

Eek Age-Sex-Length Research: In association with ADFG, Stella Alexie, Eek's community liaison managed field research in which local subsistence fishers were paid to collect data on their catches and take tissue samples for DNA sampling. This sampling activity was completed by July and DNA analysis is ongoing.

Quinhagak Age-Sex-Length Research: In Association with ADFG, the Quinhagak community liaison, Grace Friendly managed a research station that employed three youth interns. The site was posted to the landing area at the CVS plant. The interns collected data on the commercial catch and took DNA samples for later analysis.



Eek fishermen train with Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Mapping Project

Over flights and associated aerial photography were completed in early September. The State is working closely with the project sub-contractor (GPS Incorporated) in formatting and finalizing the preliminary drafts. The CVRF project director is scheduled to attend a series of community meetings with village authorities who will provide their input to assure the maps are detailed as possible. This has been completed in five of the 14 project communities. This information is given back to the State and GPS who incorporate local knowledge and community feedback into the final maps.



Aerial photo of Quinhagak

Human Resources Update

Human Resources Update

Coastal Villages Region Fund is growing!

Paul Varady was hired as the Project Manager. Amy Sparck was hired as the Communications Coordinator. Kevin Kennedy was hired as the new Vessel Manager. Michael Lake was hired as the Project Assistant. Jenny Koenig has started as the Program Coordinator. Peter Speaks was hired as the IT Specialist. Angela Chinglak started as the Community Liaison in Goodnews Bay. Grace Friendly recently started as the Quinhagak Community Liaison. Abraham Rivers was hired as the Community Liaison in Scammon Bay. Amanda Hoelscher was hired as the Community Liaison in Hooper Bay.



Paul Varady
Project Manager



Amy Sparck
Communications Coordinator



Kevin Kennedy
Vessel Manager



Angela Chinglak
Community Liaison,
Goodnews Bay

We are currently in the process of interviewing candidates for Administrative Assistant and Chief Finance Officer in our Anchorage office. We are also recruiting for Community Liaison Aides in Napakiak and Tununak.

4-Site

Scholarship, Internship, Training, Employment Program

Scholarship

The LBMS committee met on August 9, they approved 43 applicants totaling \$112,400 for the fall 2005 funding period.



4-Site Job Fair

Internships

Edna Beebe from Eek started her internship August 1, 2005 in Anchorage. She completed her internship on October 28, 2005. Three youth interns worked on the Quinhagak salmon sampling project. Two fish tech interns on the Kanektok River Weir are currently working under the internship program.

Training

Eight CVS managers attended HAACP training. Seven CVS managers attended safety training. Marine Safety training was conducted in six communities with thirty-eight attendees. Salmon Icing/Bleeding training was held in five communities with 37 attendees. New crewmembers will attend the Orientation for Success prior to the "A" Season.

Employment

There were 279 CVS workers, 70 at-sea and on-shore processors totaling 349 workers reported in the 3rd quarter. Recruiting for the upcoming seasons started in the 3rd quarter, and will continue throughout the 4th quarter.

Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement classes continued in Chefnak, Chevak, Eek, Goodnews Bay, Hooper Bay, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Mekoryuk, Napakiak, Newtok, Quinhagak, Tuntuliak, and Tununak.

JA training for our community liaisons was conducted on August 26, 2005, in Bethel. Janet Craig, from JA facilitated the training in Bethel. This yearly training assures that our community liaisons are prepared for teaching JA to our local students.



David Albert teaches Junior Achievement at Newtok



**To All Coastal Villages Seafoods, LLC
2005 Season Employees & Fishermen**

Thank You!! Great Job!! Congratulations!!!

Because of your commitment, time and hard work this year we had an efficient and successful season. We could not have done so well without you.

We hope to see you again next season!

From the staff at Coastal Villages Seafoods.

Remembering Summer Fish Camp and Village Fish Processing

by Nellie Charlie-Kiunya

My family started to fish for King Salmon when people started catching the first smelts. This was a sign that the Kings were in the Kuskokwim River. My parents used to tell us that the first Kings were called the “bottom or lower swimming Kings”. They made strips out of the fish and the roe was dried to be used for dog food during the wintertime. My parents used to tell us that in the olden days, the fish roe was also used for making akutaq or other Yupik Eskimo Deserts. Now, I hardly see fish roe being dried due to fewer families owning dogs and cultural changes.



Nellie Charlie cutting fish

My late Father, Phillip K. Charlie Sr., along with my older brother or sister would go fishing and bring home many fish to cut. My nieces, cousins and me would look forward to the smaller fish so we could get a chance to learn how to cut fish too. Watching my mom and older sisters cut fish; we would be anxious and excited to gather the fish hearts. The hearts were put on sticks and cooked on the fire. The fish were hung to dry with their esophagus and stomach still attached. As soon as the fish were dried or smoked, we took some of the dried esophagus for snacks.

My mom and older sisters would cut off the fish heads and remove the gills. The fish heads were washed and put into an underground hole with certain green grass added on the sides. Then they were mixed with male fish milt to “cook” underground until they were ready to eat.

The King Salmon was made into strips after being soaked in salty water or water with soy sauce and brown sugar. The fish backbone with meat was half dried and made into boiled ‘gaamarlluk’ or half dried boiled food.

The tails and fins were cooked separately or mixed with the whole fish for stew.

The King Salmon and Silver Salmon made good salted fish, which was packed in buckets with a lot of rock salt and little bit of water. We enjoyed the salted fish later during the fall and winter, after they were cut into small pieces and soaked in water. The best compliment to salted fish is to eat it with crackers or home made bread and tea.

The fish were smoked in smokehouses. My family’s smokehouse was a double smokehouse that we shared with my cousin.. It was made of big round logs and was the biggest smokehouse at “west” Tuntutuliak Fish Camp. Sometimes, my late mother would cook fish stews or boiled fish in the smokehouse. We would eat in the smokehouse or at our fish camp house.

My late parents used to tell us not to waste fish, to always clean up around the fish racks and where the fish were cut. The unused fish heads and guts were always buried underground. When the fishing season was over, the dried fish were packed in tank barrels or buckets. They were moved back into the village for the fall and winter. With the knowledge acquired from subsistence living on fish, I have my own fish camp below Bethel. It is currently used by my youngest brother. I will not forget the wonderful memories of fish camping with my family.



Nellie's fish camp today



COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND
711 H Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Anchorage, AK
Permit #141

Toll Free: 1(888) 795-5151
Telephone: (907) 278-5151
Fax: (907) 278-5150

Neqsurtet Nepiit, “The Sound of the Fishermen”, is a quarterly newsletter that is distributed by Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) to share information on the scholarship, internship, training, employment and economic development opportunities that we provide to our member communities. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please call the CVRF Anchorage office at 1 (888) 795-5151 or at (907) 278-5151, or fax your request to (907) 278-5150.



2005 Crew at Quinhagak Plant
This year's Quinhagak plant workers
benefited from Wassilie Bavilla's hard work.