



COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND

Neqsurtet Nepiit

“The Sound of the Fishermen”

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

GOODNEWS BAY REGIONAL SALMON PLANT – OPENING IN JUNE! POLLOCK PROVIDES!

Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF) is proud to announce the opening of the brand new Goodnews Bay Regional Salmon Plant in Platinum, Alaska! **The plant will begin buying salmon in mid-June, and the grand-opening ceremony will be held on July 23 in Platinum.** This \$35 million facility will provide 125 new positions for residents wanting to work and earn money while staying closer to home. The dormitories and cafeteria are very nice by seafood industry standards, and CVS will be paying its processors an unprecedented entry wage of \$9.00 per hour to work at the new plant, as well as at the seven other existing CVS plants in the region. This hourly wage is about 25% higher than the average starting wage in Dutch Harbor!

It is important to note that the new plant – as well as the seven existing CVS plants – were paid for with CVRF’s earnings in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. Without pollock, we would have no plants, no tenders, and no market for our fishermen or processing jobs for our residents. Pollock has been covering not only the constructions costs, but the annual operating costs (losses) that we have been incurring in trying to build a sustainable salmon and halibut industry for our region. **The new plant will cause a result in CVRF to becoming one of the very largest employers in our region, providing more than 400 jobs for our residents and providing more than 600 fishing permit holders with a lasting market for their salmon and halibut.** Pollock Provides!



*The Goodnews Bay Regional Salmon Plant
125 more jobs!*

2009 Tender Fleet Upgrade – In addition to the new processing facility, CVS is expanding its tender fleet operations in 2009 and will be providing a total of eight salmon and halibut tenders throughout the region. The tenders will provide better convenience to our fishermen, ensure better quality of the fish, and provide an ample volume of salmon to the new plant in Platinum. The halibut fishery will continue to be served by the Leo, but the Leo will be assisted in 2009 by new shuttle tender that is intended to improve both fish quality and service to the fleet. Salmon fishermen will be served this year by the Kelly Mae, Flying D and Elsie M in the Kuskokwim River; by the Camai, and a shuttle tender in Kuskokwim Bay, and by the Eider in Goodnews Bay. CVS’ tender capacity in 2009 will be nearly triple the capacity from 2008. We expect the volume and quality of fish products to rise, and we hope the fleet is pleased with the improved service.

More Money to Fishermen – With the new processing plant and upgraded tender fleet, it is the hope of the CVRF Board to eliminate limits on salmon deliveries – which means more deliveries to CVS and more money earned by fishermen. As we begin to handle more chum salmon, we also need to work together to improve the market for chum. This will be

Continued on page 2

CHEFORNAK • CHEVAK • EEK • GOODNEWS BAY • HOOPER BAY • KIPNUK • KONGIGANAK
KWIGILLINGOK • MEKORYUK • NAPAKIAK • NAPASKIAK • NEWTOK • NIGHTMUTE • OSCARVILLE
PLATINUM • QUINHAGAK • SCAMMON BAY • TOKSOOK BAY • TUNTUTULIAK • TUNUNAK

made easier if our fleet and processors continue to be diligent in maintaining the quality of the fish. CVS will be paying \$0.15/pound for chum to start the 2009 season, triple the price we were able to pay for chum in 2008. It is our hope to pay even more in the years ahead, but at present our chum and other salmon and halibut operations must continue to be subsidized by our earnings in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery.

Notices and announcements will be made for fishermen for fishing schedules this season.

Making Coastal Villages Seafoods Sustainable – It has been estimated that CVRF will become the largest private sector employer in the region in 2009. This accomplishment could not have been reached, and cannot be sustained without substantial financial support from the Bering Sea pollock fishery, which provides roughly 85% of CVRF’s revenue stream.

The CVRF goal is to make CVS self-sustaining in the years ahead. Once we have achieved this, we will be able to pass along further improvements in CVS financial operations to our fishermen and processors in the form of better prices and wages. For our region, we will then also be able to devote earnings from the pollock fisheries to new economic development projects, rather than to the continued subsidization of CVS’s salmon and halibut operations. A primary purpose stated in the federal CDQ statute is to “achieve sustainable and diversified local economies.” We are well on our way with CVS and excited about the positive developments that are coming to fruition in 2009.

High Quality Fish – CVS would like to remind the dedicated fishermen of the region that the icing and bleeding of salmon in 2009 is mandatory so that we may maintain the highest quality and so that we can sell our fish as a premium product and get the highest possible price. Together, we are already building a niche in the market for our salmon by emphasizing to buyers the quality resulting from the icing and bleeding practices of our fleet. We must continue to adhere to this practice, as even a single poorly-handled fish can harm all of us!



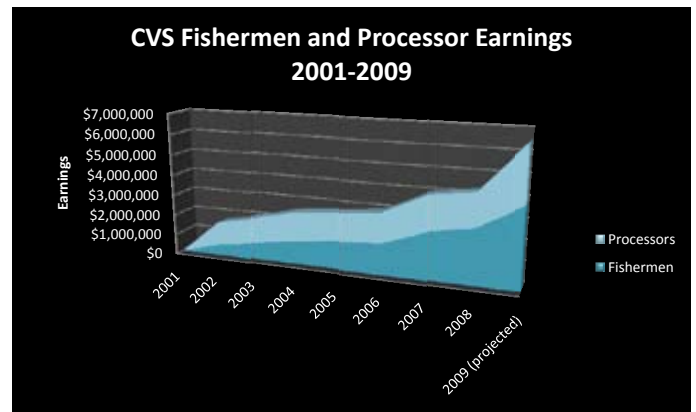
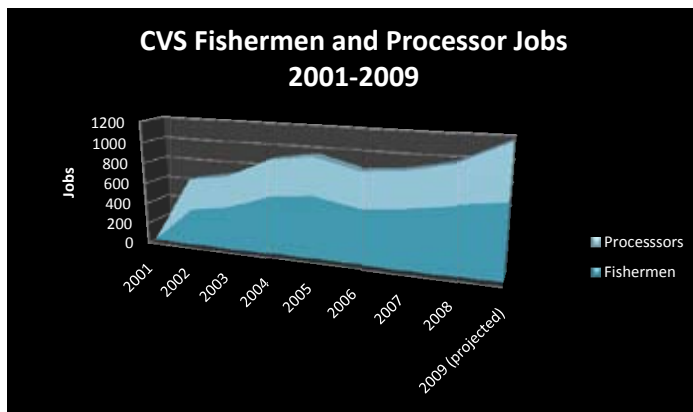
2008 Quinhagak group photo



2008 Quinhagak workers heading home after a busy season at the plant



Paul Abraham fishing for halibut



CAMAI

A Yup'ik word meaning "a warm, genuine hello."



The Camai is a new tender in the CVS fleet. It was acquired by CVS in May of 2009 and will be stationed during the 2009 salmon season near Quinhagak. The Camai is 115 feet long and 34 feet wide, with twin engines and a shallow draft. The vessel will have four crew members working on-board during the fishing season this year with an additional 4 fish pitchers to expedite unloading of fishermen's boats. The Camai is an important part of the comprehensive improvements that our resident fishermen will experience this season stemming from the new Goodnews Bay plant in Platinum. Camai!

POLLOCK PROVIDES!

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Kwigillingok

Timothy Samson, *Vice President*
Kipnuk

Paul Tulik., *Secretary*
Nightmute

Evan S Evan, *Treasurer*
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Newtok

Frank Berezkin
Oscarville

Henry Williams
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Vacant
Scammon Bay

Harry Tulik
Toksook Bay

Felix Albert
Tununak

2009 CVRF Board of Directors



Back row (left-right): Evan S. Evan, Morgen Crow, Oscar Evon, Paul Tulik, Timothy Samson, Andrew Boy Scout, Edgar Hoelscher, Helen Kaganak, Richard Jung, Sanky Ulak, Felix Albert, Gabriel Olick, John Andy, Harry Tulik
Bottom Row (left -right): Henry Williams, Wassilie Bavilla, James Lewis, Frank Berezkin, Walter Tirchick, Daniel Olrun Sr.

2009 CVRF Executive Committee

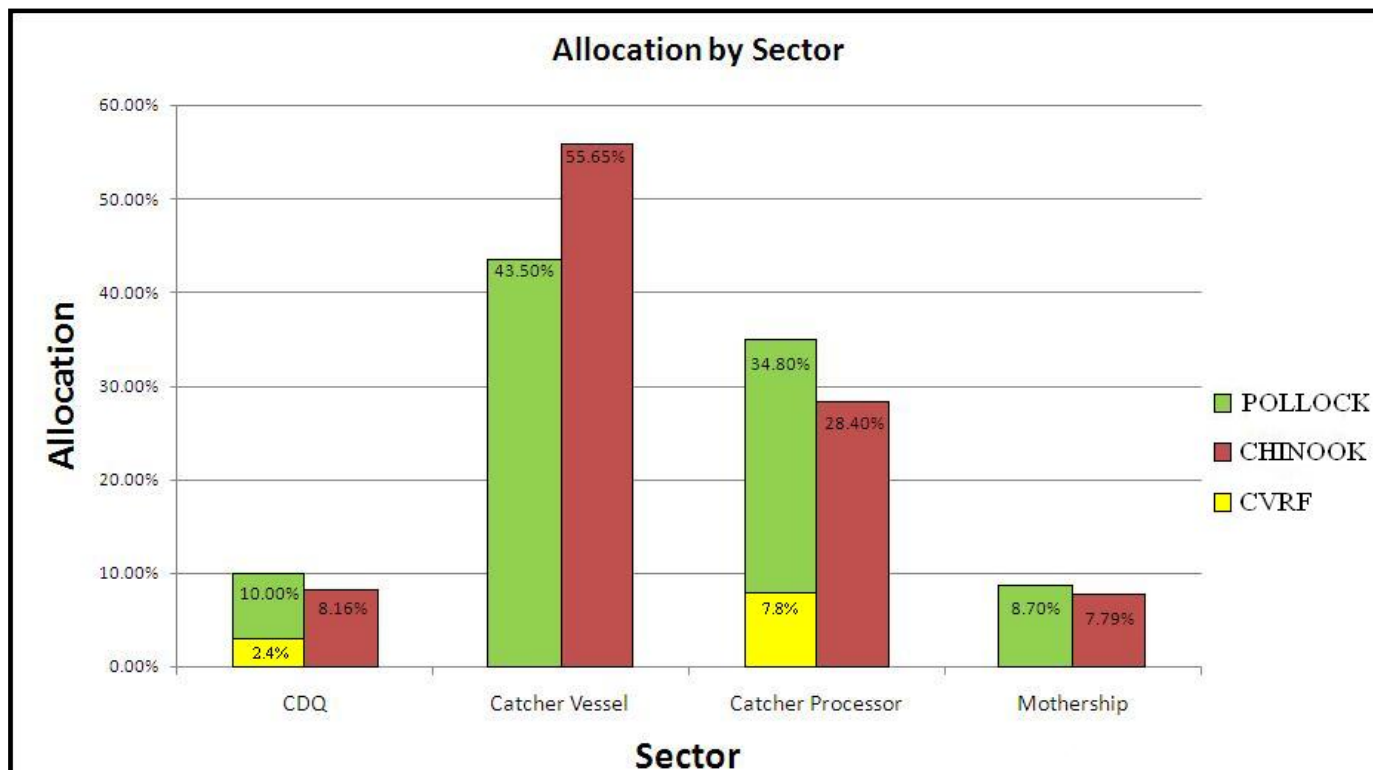


Back row (left-right): Wassilie Bavilla, Gabriel Olick, Morgen Crow, Daniel Olrun Sr., Evan S. Evan
Bottom Row (left -right): Paul Tulik, Oscar Evon, Timothy Samson

New Limits on Chinook Bycatch in the Pollock Fishery

Chinook Cap (60,000): On April 6, 2009, the North Pacific Council adopted a “hard” cap on Chinook salmon bycatch for the first time in the 50-year history of the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. If the hard cap (60,000 Chinook) is caught by Pollock vessels, the Pollock fishery will shut down. The Bering Sea Pollock fishery exceeded 60,000 Chinook in each of 2005, 2006 and 2007 -- the new hard cap would have prevented that from happening and reduced Chinook bycatch by about 90,000 salmon.

Effective Cap (47,591): In addition to the upper hard cap of 60,000 Chinook, the North Pacific Council also stipulated that if any sector of the Pollock fishery exceeds its share of an effective cap of 47,591 Chinook per year for three years out of seven, that sector’s cap will permanently drop to its share of 47,591 instead of 60,000. In other words, the effective Chinook cap in the Pollock fishery is 47,591.



Incentive Program Agreement (IPA): In addition to the hard cap (60,000) and effective cap (47,591), the North Pacific Council also adopted measures that will cause Pollock vessels to participate in an “Incentive Plan Agreement” or IPA. The IPA must include significant penalties and incentives to cause Pollock vessels to “avoid Chinook salmon bycatch” at all levels of salmon abundance. This is intended to ensure that, even in years when Chinook bycatch in the Pollock fishery is far below 47,591, that Pollock vessels have major incentives to avoid every possible Chinook.

Expectations: The experts involved in the Chinook bycatch decision were emphatic that, while the new measures will reduce Chinook bycatch in the Pollock fishery, they will probably not result in miraculous increases in the Chinook salmon returns to the Yukon River, the area of chief concern. This is partly because 40% or more of the Chinook bycatch in the Pollock fishery is not from western Alaska, and partly because there would be significant natural mortality of the western Alaska Chinook even if it were not caught by the Pollock vessels. It is also because the Yukon Chinook fluctuations involve much more than just the Pollock fishery: they involve inter-river allocation issues, U.S./Canada treaty requirements, food competition on the high seas (increased salmon hatchery production), global warming, lower water levels along the Yukon, and other causes. During the 1970’s and 1980’s, for instance, the then-foreign pollock fleets were catching even more pollock (and presumably chinook bycatch) than today, and in addition, there were high seas driftnet fishing vessels intercepting hundreds of thousands of western Alaska chinook in some single years alone. The data in the 762-page Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) upon which the North Pacific Council’s April decision was based therefore suggests that even a complete shut-down of the Bering Sea Pollock fishery would not result in a significant improvement for fishermen along the Yukon River, or Kuskokwim or Bristol Bay rivers either. The Pollock restrictions will ensure that the Pollock fishery minimizes Chinook bycatch, but will not solve all of the Yukon Chinook concerns.

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CVRF Record and “Pro-Rata” Issue: CVRF’s Pollock vessels already have the lowest rate of Chinook salmon bycatch in the entire Pollock fishery. CVRF has pushed hard over the past 10 years -- at great financial cost -- to change how its pollock vessels were operating so that they avoid salmon bycatch. A major benefit of the North Pacific Council’s action on April 6, 2009 will be to force other Pollock vessels to begin taking some of the same steps that CVRF has already been taking. Unfortunately, however, much of the Pollock fleet will not be required to become as clean as CVRF -- because the North Pacific Council set the Chinook bycatch cap for the inshore Pollock sector higher than the Chinook caps for the offshore sector (in which CVRF is a major investor) and for the Western Alaska CDQ Sector (in which CVRF’s 20 villages and 45 other coastal Alaska villages participate). Our sectors will get shut down before the inshore sector does, and the inshore sector will be authorized by the Council’s action to continue to take more Chinook bycatch per ton of Pollock than any of the other participants. The North Pacific Council based 75% of the sector allocations of Chinook bycatch on “history” (meaning the sector received more Chinook if had been catching more Chinook bycatch than anyone else) and only 25% on the “pro-rata” amount of Pollock that each sector catches.

Participation by CVRF Leaders: More than 100 residents from CVRF’s 20 member villages travelled to Anchorage to attend CVRF meetings and spent six long days attending the North Pacific Council meeting while it worked on Chinook salmon bycatch. Attendees included many of the chiefs of our village tribal councils, many of the CVRF board members, many of the CVRF region staff, and many residents who have participated in CVRF programs paid for with Pollock earnings. All who attended had the opportunity to read the materials, listen to the experts, and talk with neighbors, including residents further upriver who do not receive the benefits from Pollock that we do, but who share our tradition as subsistence Chinook fishermen. The common points that our residents made during public testimony were:



- (1) We are first and foremost Chinook subsistence users
- (2) We are also beneficiaries from the Pollock fishery
- (3) Our CDQ program has grown beyond the data in the EIS
- (4) Pollock vessels should be penalized for failing to avoid Chinook
- (5) We are concerned that Western Alaska has been divided

As a team, we struggled with articulating our concern for both Chinook and Pollock. In fact, we wore buttons that said "I Love Chinook and Pollock" -- and each day others at the meeting asked to wear the buttons too. It is a difficult issue. It was an honor to work together and to support each other.

Next Steps: The CVRF Board of Directors met immediately following the Council's decision. They directed CVRF staff to become pro-active in developing the details of the Incentive Program Agreement (IPA) -- the measure that will ensure that Chinook bycatch in the Pollock fishery is at its lowest possible level, below both the hard cap (60,000) and effective hard cap (47,591). The CVRF Board also reflected on the historic occasion of having so many of our residents come together on a difficult and important issue. We are subsistence users of Chinook salmon, and we are also Pollock fishery participants. The Council's decision on April 6, 2009 was a step forward in protecting our Chinook subsistence needs, while also allowing Pollock benefits to continue to flow into our villages. We can have both, Chinook and Pollock. In fact, we already do have both. Working together, we have the opportunity to ensure that future generations have both too.

SCHOLARSHIPS – For the second year in a row, CVRF is pleased to offer \$500,000 in scholarships to our residents through the Louis Bunyan Memorial Scholarship Program! For the spring 2009 semester, CVRF awarded 64 region residents a total of \$202,929 to attend university and vocational training. This fall, just under \$300,000 will be available to interested region residents who want to pursue a higher education. Our earnings from the Bering Sea Pollock fishery continue to pay for more than 80% of the scholarships we award to our residents. **Pollock provides!**

INTERNSHIPS – CVRF is currently seeking interested applicants for internship positions at CVRF offices and at our subsidiary Coastal Villages Seafoods plants. The CVRF internship program is geared towards providing residents with a meaningful introduction to CVRF and its various enterprises. For some from our region, an internship has already been the first step towards a rewarding career and a chance to advance up the ranks in CVRF and CVS. **Pollock provides internship wages for our residents!**

TRAINING – CVRF has awarded training funds this year to a resident to pursue a certification in Airline Transportation. Another resident has been awarded training funds for welding training after attending the Alaska Job Corps. **Pollock provides training funding for our residents!**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP – CVRF continues to strongly support our youth as a an investment in the future of our 20 communities. Through the CVRF Youth Leadership Program, CVRF contributes to youth-related activities such as the youth-to-work program and by providing an opportunity each year for 20 youth to attend the AFN Elder and Youth conference.

Contributions/Donations: CVRF provides contributions/donations to youth groups who are interested and willing to attend events to assist their development as responsible youth and future leaders. Although a total of \$35,000 is available this year, youth groups are more likely to be assisted by CVRF if they are willing to find and/ or raise matching funds. The matching efforts will maximize this portion of the program

In 2009, we have contributed to five separate requests. The Napaskiak school received \$583 to assist in sending Henry Williams to attend an award ceremony in Anchorage, and also received \$1,500 to send tap dancers to the Camai Dance Festival in Bethel. Quinhagak Youth received \$3,000 to assist in sending youth groups to Scammon Bay and Chevak in May. The Toksook Bay Youth Group received \$905 and the Tuntutuliak Youth Group received \$438 as matching funds to send youth to Quinhagak's "Singspiration" in April.

Youth To Work: Now in its third year, the Youth To Work program has grown from serving two communities to serving six! The six communities that will be participating in 2009 are: Chefnorak, Chevak, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwigillingok, and Toksook Bay.

This 4-week program provides youth the opportunity to gain actual work experience while providing assistance to elders in the village.



LBMS recipients who were attending UAF in Fairbanks during the Spring 2009 semester



Recruiting at UAA in Anchorage



Darren Cleveland, Shannon Tulik, and Renee Avugiak were attending the Kuskokwim University Campus in Bethel during the Spring 2009 semester



2008 Chefnorak Youth To Work employees with their paychecks



2008 AFN Elder and Youth participants in Anchorage



Delivering heating oil in Hooper Bay



Napaskiak heating oil recipient



Toksook Bay heating oil recipient

POLLOCK PROVIDES!

The program gives our youth the experience of: applying for a job, interviewing, reference checks, completing hire paperwork, working out a schedule, assigned tasks/duties, timesheets/daily time logs/leave requests, and paychecks!

AFN Elder & Youth Conference: Keep an eye out for advertisements this summer to apply for this program to travel to Anchorage in October 2009 for the Elder and Youth Conference.
Pollock provides funding for the CVRF Youth Leadership Program!

HEATING OIL – In July 2008, CVRF created the Pollock Provides Heating Oil program to provide relief to households affected by the high costs of heating oil. Each community was able to pick one household per month between August and December, and the program assisted 65 households in our region during that period.

Before each community was able to take advantage of this program, the CVRF governing body in the community was required to pass a resolution adopting guidelines for administering the program and acknowledging that CVRF Pollock earnings pay for most of the heating oil and most of everything else that CVRF does. A total of 18 of out of our 20 member communities chose to participate in the program by passing the resolution.

CVRF initially decided to discontinue the program after 2008, but because of the extremely high heating oil prices this winter and of the strong support for the program from our residents, the CVRF Board decided to extend and expand the program through June of 2009 (the time when the first fuel barges arrive and when the price of heating will hopefully come down). A total of 498 drums was made available in 2009 and each community was provided a share based on their population (refer to the 2009 Programs Brochure).
Pollock Provides the CVRF Heating Oil Program!

CDQ PROJECT FUND – The CDQ Project Fund program was created by the CVRF Board to provide our member villages with opportunity for economic development. Fisheries-related projects are supposed to be given a priority under the program, but any project that benefits the WHOLE community can be implemented.

In 2009, new guidelines were adopted by the CVRF Board of Directors to streamline the program and make it easier for the governing bodies of CVRF member villages to access the funds. Instead of applying for each project through CVRF, the governing body of the village must simply pass a resolution through which it agrees to abide by the program's rules (as with the Heating Oil program, the resolutions also acknowledge that the program is being paid for by earnings from the Bering Sea pollock fishery). Once the village has adopted the resolution, the funds are given to them in a lump sum and later the village must submit a report to CVRF on how the funds were used. **Pollock Provides the CVRF CDQ Project Fund!**

APPLY NOW!

Salmon/Halibut Processor Jobs

AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER!

General Employment Requirements are:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
 - Able to work 16+ hours a day
 - Able to lift 50-70 pounds
 - Able to pass a pre-employment drug test
- Able to work well with people from other cultures
 - Understand and communicate in English
- Able to follow directions and maintain a safe and efficient working space

Benefits Include:

- Room and Board
- Opportunities for Advancement

Contact your local CVRF Office
or the main Anchorage office at
888-795-5151



FOR EMPLOYER IN THE REGION!

2009 Salmon Plants & Tenders (map)

- Goodnews Bay Regional Salmon Plant – Platinum, AK
- 125 Processing Positions
- Quinhagak Regional Salmon Plant – Quinhagak, AK
- 125 Processing Positions

Salmon Tender Fleet

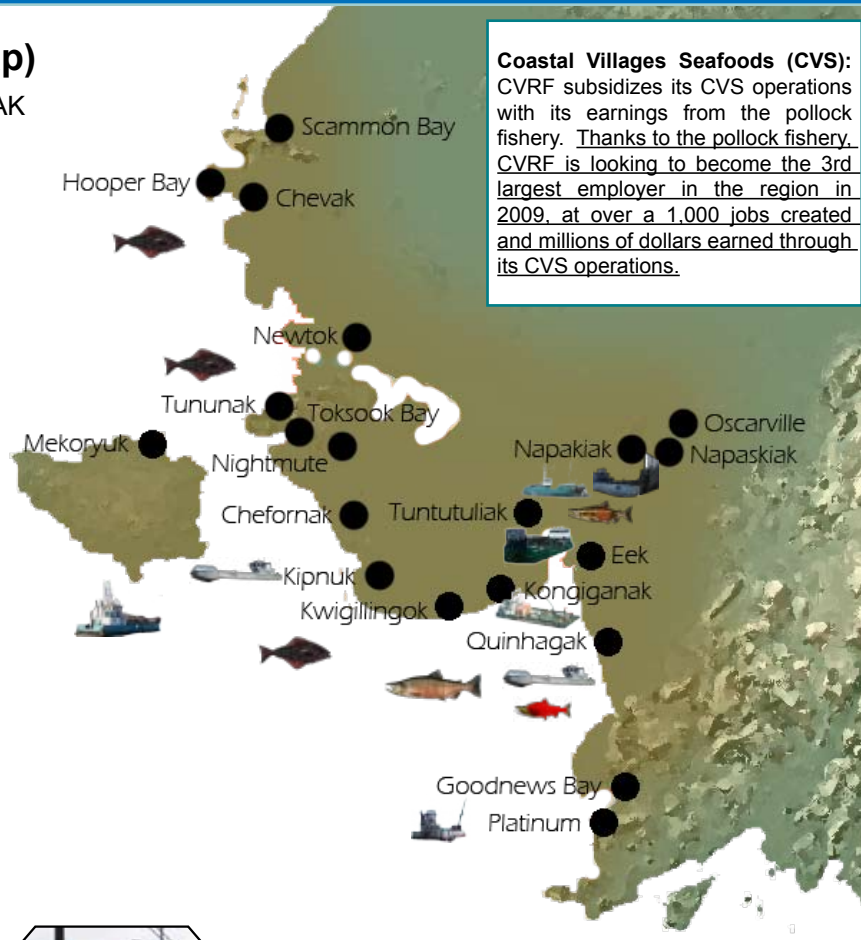
- Kelly Mae – Kuskokwim River
- Camai – Kuskokwim Bay
- Flying D – Kuskokwim River
- Elsie M – Kuskokwim River
- Shuttle Boat – Kuskokwim Bay

2009 Halibut Plants & Tenders

- 25 Processing Positions – Toksook Bay
- 25 Processing Positions – Mekoryuk
- 25 Processing Positions – Tununak
- 22 Processing Positions – Chefnak
- 10 Processing Positions – Kipnuk
- 5 Processing Positions – Hooper Bay

Halibut Tender Fleet

- Leo – South Nunivak
- Shuttle Boat – South Nunivak



Coastal Villages Seafoods (CVS):
CVRF subsidizes its CVS operations with its earnings from the pollock fishery. Thanks to the pollock fishery, CVRF is looking to become the 3rd largest employer in the region in 2009, at over a 1,000 jobs created and millions of dollars earned through its CVS operations.



Goodnews Bay Regional Plant



Quinhagak Regional Plant



Halibut Plants - Six Total



Camai (Salmon)



Kelly Mae (Salmon)



Leo (Halibut)



Flying D (Salmon)



Elsie M (Salmon)



Eider (Salmon)



Shuttle Boats - 2 Total (Salmon & Halibut)



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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 (888) 795-5151 or at (907) 278-5151, or fax your request to (907) 278-5150.

COASTAL VILLAGES REGION FUND STAFF

Executive Office

Morgen Crow	Executive Director
Trevor McCabe	Operations Director
Richard Monroe	Investments Director
Patty Murphy	Executive Administrator
Gretchen Williams	Administrative Specialist

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Angelique Anderson	Employment Specialist
Darla Graham	Employment Specialist

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Neil Rodriguez	Community & Governmental Manager
Mary Spellens	Funding Coordinator

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Dawson Hoover	Programs Manager
Lloyd Black	Program Specialist
Diane Atti	Program Assistant

Projects Department

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Michael Bird	Senior Project Manager
Larry Toney	Platinum General Foreman

Region Staff

Community Liaisons

Chris Dock	Kipnuk
Abraham Rivers	Scammon Bay
Nellie Abraham	Chefornak
Richard Tuluk	Chevak
Carla David	Eek
Ruth Bright	Goodnews Bay/Platinum
Steven Stone	Hooper Bay
Amanda Hoelscher	Hooper Bay
Darlene Daniel	Kongiganak
Staci Igkurak	Kwigillingok
Marianne Williams	Mekoryuk
Eleanor Miller	Napakiak
Laura Evan	Napaskiak/Oscarville
<i>Vacant</i>	Newtok
Jennifer Anthony	Nightmute
Mary Hill	Quinhagak
Anna John	Toksook Bay
Nick David Jr.	Tuntutuliak
<i>Vacant</i>	Tununak

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Stuart Currie	CVS President
Larson Hunter	Fisheries Coordinator
Marlene Kiokun	Fisheries Coordinator

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Eric Deakin	IT Manager
Shellie Johns	Controller
Nicholas Souza	Purchasing Manager
Jamie Tovanche	Senior Accountant
Jim Engel	Senior Accountant
Timothy Hillyer	Fisheries Accountant
Cheryl Mattson	Accountant
Renee Kendall	Accountant
Cindy Martin	Payroll Specialist
Catherine Robeson	Accounts Payable Supervisor
Peter Speaks	IT Administrator
Patrick Cleveland	Purchasing Assistant
Danielle Boeck	Purchasing Assistant
Desiree Ulroan	Accounting Clerk
Thecla Ulroan	Accounting Clerk
Chadwick Shavings	Expeditior

Mechanic/Welders

Theodore Brown	Eek
Lambert Kairaiuak	Chefornak
Norman Pingayak	Chevak
Albert Toniak	Goodnews Bay
Paul Joe Jr.	Hooper Bay
Joe Joseph	Kongiganak
Herman Beaver	Kwigillingok
Lindgren Mathlaw	Mekoryuk
Patrick Black	Napakiak
Jackie Larson	Napaskiak
Isadore Anthony	Nightmute
Jacob Rivers	Scammon Bay
Thomas Julius	Toksook Bay
<i>Vacant</i>	Tununak