

4E halibut fishery meets and exceeds quota and expectations

The 4E halibut fishery has 28 eligible residents potentially fishing this season in the region's near shore halibut fishery. Quota for this fishery was set at 27,540 lbs. for 2015 and as of mid-June this quota has been caught and exceeded by nearly 15,000 lbs., allowing our resident fishers to catch some of the neighboring 4D halibut quota which is capped at 46,535 lbs.! A handful of fishers are making direct sales in the Dillingham boat harbor while the majority are delivering to the two local processors in Togiak. It has been an exciting fishery with poundage tallying up quickly and many fishers reporting a large amount of cod bycatch taken for home pack.

A new research project began this year with ten temperature data loggers programed to survey bottom sea temperatures during the fishery. Participants will log the date, their sets, and catch information that will be correlated after the season with the temperatures to track potential feeding patterns of Pacific halibut related to water temperature. A few have gone out with resident fishers and the efforts will be encouraged next season as well to create a baseline of data. Fishers who return the loggers with their information will have their \$75 CFEC permit fee reimbursed by BBEDC.



Dockside halibut weigh-in from F/V Eagle II

Vessel Upgrade Grant participation rises with increase in funding limits and RSW's are awarded to ten resident drift fishers

2015 brought increased funding limits to the popular Vessel Upgrade Grant Program, qualified fishermen received grants up to \$35,000 for drift vessel owners and \$17,500 for setnet operations. With the expanded funding also came increased interest, bringing this year's application load to almost double what was seen in previous years. Projects for one hundred forty-five fishers met program qualifications and spending could reach 2.1 million this year for upgrades such as engine replacements, fish hold insulation, hydraulic dump beds for setnet truck operators, new outboards and other eligible items.

Along with the funding increase, the program also saw some more qualifying factors enacted for these grants. In order to meet the program's eligibility, the applicant must be able to prove a history of three previous consecutive years in the Bristol Bay commercial salmon fishery. Upon receipt of the grant funds, the grantee must agree to maintain residency in one of BBEDC's communities and their participation in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery for the three

Vessel Upgrade Grant cont. on back

Summer Employment

Summer is in full swing and jobs across the region in CDQ communities are being filled. This year BBEDC approved 94 employment positions through the Youth Internship, Seasonal Employment and In-Region Internship programs. Many of these are seasonal jobs that are necessary to meet the demands for services that the commercial fishery brings.

There are other jobs though that offer residents a unique opportunity to work and gain practical work experience in positions directly in line with their career goals. BBEDC works with partnering entities to create internships in their work places within various technical and professional occupations.

This year there are 14 In-Region Internship positions and here is what a couple of the interns have to say about their summer experience:

Health Education Intern, Jorden Lisac



Intern, Jorden Lisac

I am coming up on my last year of college at Northern Michigan University, in Marquette MI. I will be graduating in May 2016 with a degree in management of health and fitness and a minor in nutrition. This is my second summer working for BBAHC as an intern in the health education office. This job is giving me great experience and knowledge in the health

field. It gives me a good idea as to what the field will be like after I graduate and how it works.

In this internship I was able to come up with my own events and activities for the community, along with an employee wellness competition. Everything I did was to encourage a healthy lifestyle. My favorite activity I organized last year was the salmon run. This was a 5k run, every kilometer a colored powder would be thrown on participants. At the end each person should be covered in five different colors with each color having a meaning for an awareness. This was a great event to be able to plan for the community, and the end result was even better. I am excited to see how it turns out this year.

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Suzie Nunn

We had a summer intern position from BBEDC for the first time last year and it has been a great experience both this year and last! The focus of this internship is to provide information and activities for the youth of Dillingham and Aleknagik that promote physical activity and healthy eating. Jorden does a great job organizing these events. Some examples of the events she has organized is weekly

rollerblading at the Dillingham Hockey Rink, coordination of BBAHC's summer employee wellness program, a Miachi game in Aleknagik, and the highlight of the summer was the Salmon Run, a 5K run/walk to promote health. Having an intern to focus on these topics has been a wonderful addition to our Health Education Department. I am also happy to be involved in this internship opportunity because it is giving Jorden a chance to receive real life experience in her chosen career path. This internship not only benefits our department for the summer, but it also benefits Jorden's educational experience. This will be a longtime benefit for the residents of Bristol Bay.

Behavioral Health Intern, Acacia Walton



Intern, Acacia Walton

I am currently enrolled at Fort Lewis College as a junior, pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology. This summer, I have been given the opportunity to explore a part of one of the psychology related work fields. I am currently employed as a Behavioral Health Intern at BBAHC through BBEDC. This summer I will be a part of the Jake's Place staff training

as both an RA (residential assistant) as well as a Mental Health Counselor. This internship will provide me with hands on experience in an alcohol and substance abuse treatment center. Though this work may be overwhelming at times, the knowledge that it will provide to me will be well worth it. Through this internship, I will be able to narrow my choices of future career opportunities. This privilege to me is a blessing. Not everyone gets to experience hands on work before joining a corporation. So, quyana very much to BBEDC for extending this opportunity to me!



2015 Degree, Certificate, and Occupational Endorsement Graduates: *Back Row left-right: Jill Elliott, Anishia Elbie, John Mincher, Nicholas Toye, Triena Slatter, Henry Boggs, Andrew Slagle, Clint Reigh, Colette Meraz; Middle Row left-right: Stephana Kapotak, Dana Bartman, Katelyn Whitcomb, Joshua Davis, Heather Renk, Breanna Boyiddle, Rebecca Wilmarth, Joclyn Reamey, Crystal Nixon-Luckhurst; Front Row: Gust Bartman—Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree*

Congratulations Graduates BBEDC congratulates all of the 2014-2015 graduates in our region and especially those that have participated in our scholarship programs!

2014-2015 College Development Fund Graduates

Master of Education

Jill Elliott	Counseling	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Dillingham
Dana Bartman	Educational Leadership	University of Alaska Anchorage	Manokotak
Ricky Lind Jr.	Educational Leadership	University of Alaska Anchorage	Dillingham

Master of Social Work

Crystal Nixon-Luckhurst	Social Work	University of Alaska Anchorage	Dillingham
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Associate of Arts

Henry Boggs	General Studies	UAF Bristol Bay Campus	Dillingham
Destiny Burnett	General Studies	UAF Bristol Bay Campus	Dillingham

2014-2015 Harvey Samuelson Scholarship Trust Graduates

Juris Doctorate

Allen Tibbetts*	Law	Barry University of Law	King Salmon
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Master of Science

Colleen Johnson	Clinical Psychology	University of Alaska Anchorage	Dillingham
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Bachelor of Science

Mindy Heyano	Public Health	Central Washington University	Dillingham
Megan Hurlburt	Nutrition/Dietetics	Stephen F. Austin State University	Dillingham
Ward Hurlburt*	Aeronautical Science	Le Tourneau University	Dillingham
Anna Quist	Wildlife Biology	Colorado State University	Naknek
Bethany Tennyson	Psychology	Boise State University	Dillingham
Luke Wilson	Business Administration	Bemidji State University	Naknek

Bachelor of Arts

Matilda Kazimirowicz*	Elementary Education	University of Alaska Anchorage	Ekwok
Shawna Wilson	Elementary Education	University of Alaska Fairbanks	Naknek

Associate of Arts

Heidi Chiklak*	General Studies/Ministry	Alaska Christian College	Dillingham
Rebecca Wilmarth	General Studies	UAF Bristol Bay Campus	Ekwok

Associate of Applied Science

Natasha Nielsen*	Nursing	UAA (Bristol Bay Campus)	Dillingham
Joclyn Reamey*	Nursing	UAA (Bristol Bay Campus)	Dillingham

*Denotes December 2014 Graduate

The Arctic Tern Program provides grants of up to \$6,000 to each BBEDC community to be used to support and foster jobs, employment activities or learning opportunities for young residents up to 17 years of age. Recently, the Togiak Traditional Council used their Arctic Tern Grant for a community clean-up and sent the following thank you.



2015 Community clean-up, another success story

The Traditional Council of Togiak Environmental Program would like to express a huge thank you to donors and supporters of our annual community clean-up May 26-28, 2015. Thank you BBEDC- Arctic Tern, ALPAR and Youth Litter Patrollers, BBNC, BBAHC, AVEC, City of Togiak, AC Donors and Company, Togiak Bay Supply, Togiak Natives Limited, Everts Air Cargo, Togiak Health Clinic, Summit Consulting Services, Gorilla Fireworks, LCG Lantech, Inc., Togiak Fisheries, Togiak Seafoods, ANTHC, and artists Sherry Abraham, Nellie Pauk, Amanda Foster, Maryann Lowery and Brian Abraham for their donations of local artwork.

At least 1,700 ALPAR litter bags were collected, making 2015 one of the best years ever. Other items collected included: old vehicles, scrap metal and tires. Trash bags were picked up by city employee Robert Nanalook, Jr. and youth patrollers, Aaliyah Upton, Charity Andrews and supervisor, Kiara Wassillie. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this clean-up a success!

Permanent full-time position available

BBEDC is currently recruiting for the position of Regional Fisheries Coordinator. This position is part of the Regional Fisheries department that manages many of BBEDC's fisheries programs. The primary role of the Regional Fisheries Coordinator is to implement and manage programs approved by the BBEDC Board of Directors, work closely with the Regional Fisheries Committee to develop a program budget, process program applications, provide outreach and coordinate with BBEDC staff for the development of fisheries related projects for BBEDC communities. For a full job description and application go to www.bbcdc.com, visit the Regional Fisheries office or call 842-4370.



BBEDC ice barges are available this season on the east and west side. The Bristol Maid is stationed in the Nushagak Bay off of Clarks Point and fishers can find the Bristol Lady in the Naknek/Kvichak District at the Y of the Naknek River. The Bristol Maid is operated by Trident Seafoods (VHF channel 73 or 78a) and the Bristol Lady is operated by Ocean Beauty Seafoods (VHF channels 80a, 05, and 74). 2015 ice prices remain the same at \$250 per ton. Good luck and good fishing!

Wanted: Affordable Boat

Priced a new Bristol Bay gillnetter lately? If you haven't, prepare for some serious sticker shock. There are some excellent boats being built in the \$500,000 range, and a few topping out at more than \$900,000.

What do you get for up to three-quarters of a million dollars or more? Insulation and refrigeration of course -- that's standard these days. Twenty-five thousand pounds under the hatches, and with 700-plus HP, nearly 30 knots with 10,000 lbs. of salmon on board. You also get an extremely competitive fishing platform, with lots of work deck and powerful equipment that in the hands of a competent skipper can really rack up the poundage.

Buying one is beyond the reach of the average watershed resident, unless maybe you won the lottery or have a rich and generous uncle. But there may be a more affordable way to stay competitive in the Bristol Bay salmon industry.

A year ago BBEDC's Regional Fisheries Development Program reached out to a number of West Coast boat builders with a proposal. Design an affordable turnkey boat, ready to fish, that can carry 10,000 pounds of refrigerated fish. Give it some speed, 16 knots empty, and eight knots loaded. Flush decked, reel and roller, basic electronics -- plotter, depth sounder and radar -- and crew space for four. And keep the cost around \$300,000.

Those who have been in the Bristol Bay fishery for a while will remember when you could buy a new Rawson for less than \$20,000. In fact, BBEDC originally called this the "New Rawson Project" -- not because we want to build a Rawson, but because we want to see a boat built that can fill a similar economic niche that Ron Rawson's boats filled in the early 1980s -- an affordable, no-frills boat able to compete with the Moductechs, Marcos and Wegleys appearing in Bristol Bay fishery as the first early power boats -- the wood-hulled conversions, the Bryants and Commercials -- were becoming obsolete.

Today, even with help from BBEDC's Vessel Upgrade Program, many of the older Rawsons and other older boats are becoming obsolete -- especially the non-chilled boats -- in the face of the competition from mostly non-resident fishers able to buy modern, state-of-the-art gillnetters costing \$500,000 or more. The new boats meet what markets are increasingly demanding to earn the best ex-vessel prices: high quality, chilled salmon.

Of the several companies that responded to BBEDC's "New Rawson" proposal, two came close to meeting the specs the RFD program sought. One independent boat builder and Bristol Bay fisherman is building a C-Model fiberglass Wegley



he plans to fish in 2015 and demonstrate after the season. The other, Strongback Metal Boats, is building a prototype (pictured above) the company plans to bring to the Bay in late July.

Strongback and Kvichak presented their ideas to BBEDC's Regional Fisheries Committee this spring, and the committee found Strongback's presentation the most promising largely because of the anticipated cost of acquisition. Then, at the end of May, four Bristol Bay fishermen, all with serious interest in the Strongback boat, visited the builder's shop in Bellingham, WA to review progress and offer their opinions. All had suggestions for minor modifications on the 18-inch draft flush-decked aluminum stern-picker, and capable of packing 12,000 pounds of refrigerated salmon under the hatches. Powered by a tractor-jet driven by a 425 HP John Deere diesel, the boat is designed to make 17 knots empty. With crew space for four, basic electronics and anchor winch, the boat is priced at \$330,000. A prop version would cost about \$305,000, the builder said.

Based on current lending trends, loan payments for a vessel in this price range will likely be between \$20,000 - \$25,000 annually. Incorporating CFAB's newly adopted longer term loans (20 years) with BBEDC's Vessel Acquisition Program benefits, may make loan payments more affordable for BBEDC residents -- as would standardizing the design to eliminate cost-inflating changes from custom modifications. Also under discussion is the idea of boat-buyer "sweat equity," where local residents could participate in the construction of their own vessel, lowering the cost and providing regional economic opportunity while building a new generation of affordable Bristol Bay boats for the next generation of Bristol Bay fishers.

BBEDC's staff would be happy to provide any information available about the boat builders that we have contacted and have in turn provided us information. BBEDC is not endorsing any specific manufacturer but instead are advocating for designs that speak to safety, productivity, and affordability.

If such an opportunity interests you, contact BBEDC's Regional Fisheries department for more information.



Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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BBEDC CDQ Communities

Aleknagik	Manokotak
Clarks Point	Naknek
Dillingham	Pilot Point
Egegik	Port Heiden
Ekuk	Portage Creek
Ekwok	South Naknek
King Salmon	Togiak
Levelock	Twin Hills
Ugashik	

Vessel Upgrade Grant cont. from page 1

following consecutive years or the grant becomes a loan the fisher is required to repay.

These qualifying factors are also reflected in the newly created RSW Purchase Program that in spring of 2015, offered ten, 7.5 ton Refrigerated Sea Water systems to qualifying salmon fishermen for installation in their commercial vessels.



BBEDC received 11 applications for the new program and awarded systems to fishermen across the region. Four went to fishers from Dillingham, and there is one unit each going to Togiak, Manokotak, Aleknagik, King Salmon, Naknek, and Ugashik. Prior to applicants picking up their units, they must provide BBEDC with evidence of adequate hydraulic capacity, insulated fish bins and plumbing to run the unit successfully. All recipients also either already have or will take part in an RSW operators training and will have their initial startup performed by a certified technician.

Togiak resident Larry Arnariak (*pictured at left*) who captains the F/V Deion Kobe took part in both the RSW Purchase Program and the Vessel Upgrade Program this year, and is excited to chill his fish while watching from his newly erected driving station over his cabin!

For more information, including complete program policies and applications, visit www.bbcdc.com, your community liaisons or the BBEDC's Regional Fisheries Development office. The application period has ended for 2015 but we encourage all interested fishers to review the policies and check back in early 2016 for another opportunity to apply.