



# The Alutiiq Pride

THE CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO

*Nick Meganack*  
(Nick Meganack)

FOR WINNING BEST IN SHOW  
FOR OUR 2025 PHOTO CONTEST!

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ALUTIIQ  
PRIDE  
MARINE  
INSTITUTE

# ALUTIIQ PRIDE MARINE INSTITUTE PURCHASE!

Welcome to our Spring Edition of the Alutiiq Pride newsletter! This issue, we are thrilled to announce our purchase of the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Seward!

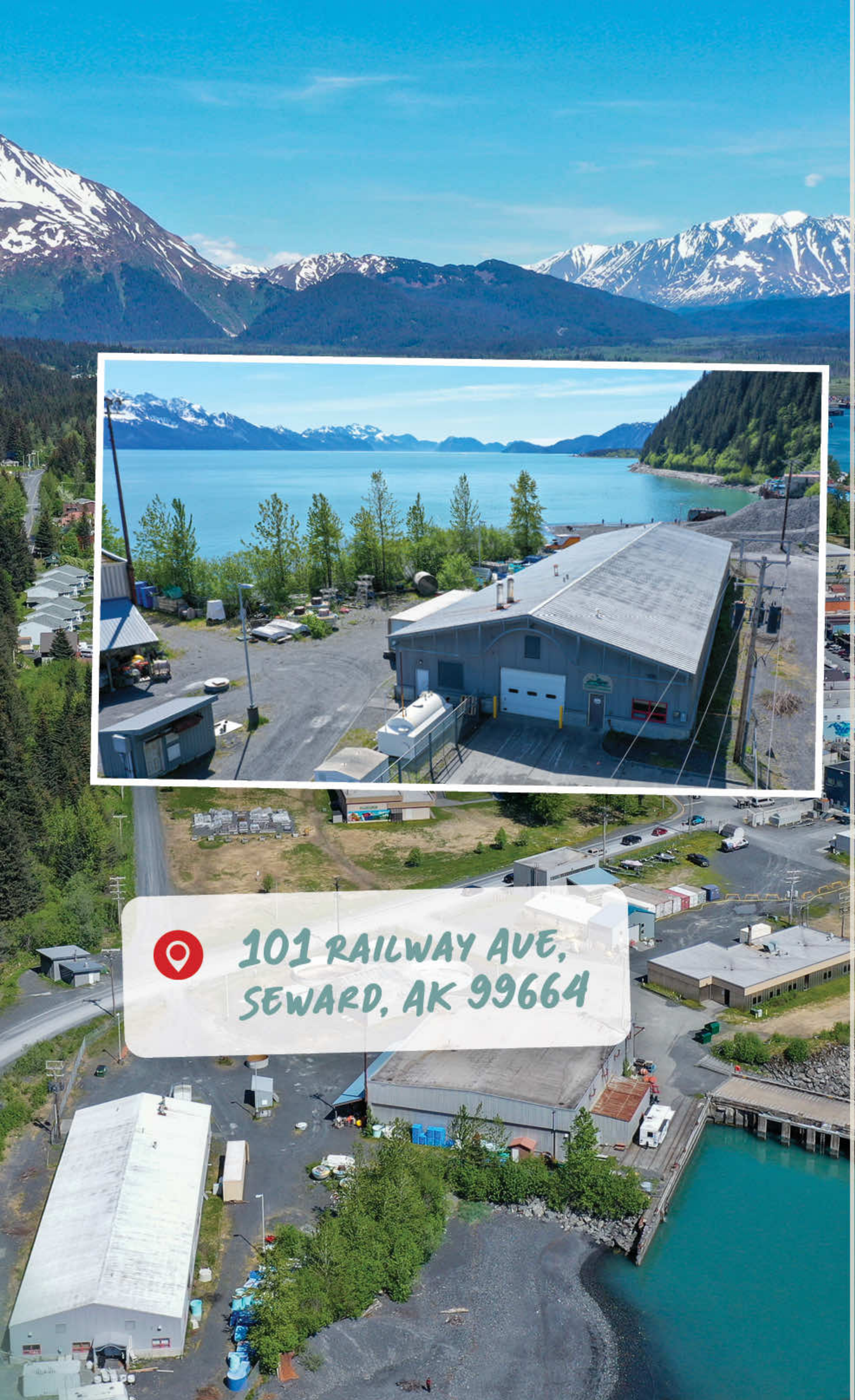
Acquiring our hatchery, mariculture technical center, and research institute facilities from the City of Seward has been a long standing goal of our organization. For us, this purchase represents the culmination of ongoing efforts of the CRRC Board and staff to fulfill our organization's mission which supports the seven Tribal communities of the region. APMI belongs to CRRC, but, ultimately, it belongs to our Tribes as we work on behalf of our communities to create meaningful, positive change in our region with regards to subsistence rights, food security, sovereignty, and cultural continuity. For our Tribally led organization, this is more than property acquisition. This is Land Back.

This purchase would not be possible without the continued support of the First Nations Development Institute and the NDN Collective. We are grateful to work with organizations that align with our values of uplifting communities, creating sustainable development, and supporting Tribal sovereignty. The First Nations Development Institute team has been on this journey with us since the beginning, recognizing the impact that we can accomplish through our work at Alutiiq Pride. Their vision is our vision: thriving, vibrant Native communities. The NDN Collective, a nonprofit that operates across the Turtle Islands is dedicated to "building Indigenous power". NDN Collective has supported CRRC through their diverse ecosystem of funding opportunities to secure the crucial final funding to purchase APMI. We are grateful to work alongside these organizations in a community of care to accomplish important goals just like this one.

**QUYANA. AWA'AHDAH. QUWANAKCUK.  
GUNALCHÉESH. THANK YOU.**

Please join us in celebrating this momentous event in CRRC history!





101 RAILWAY AVE,  
SEWARD, AK 99664

# OUR MISSION

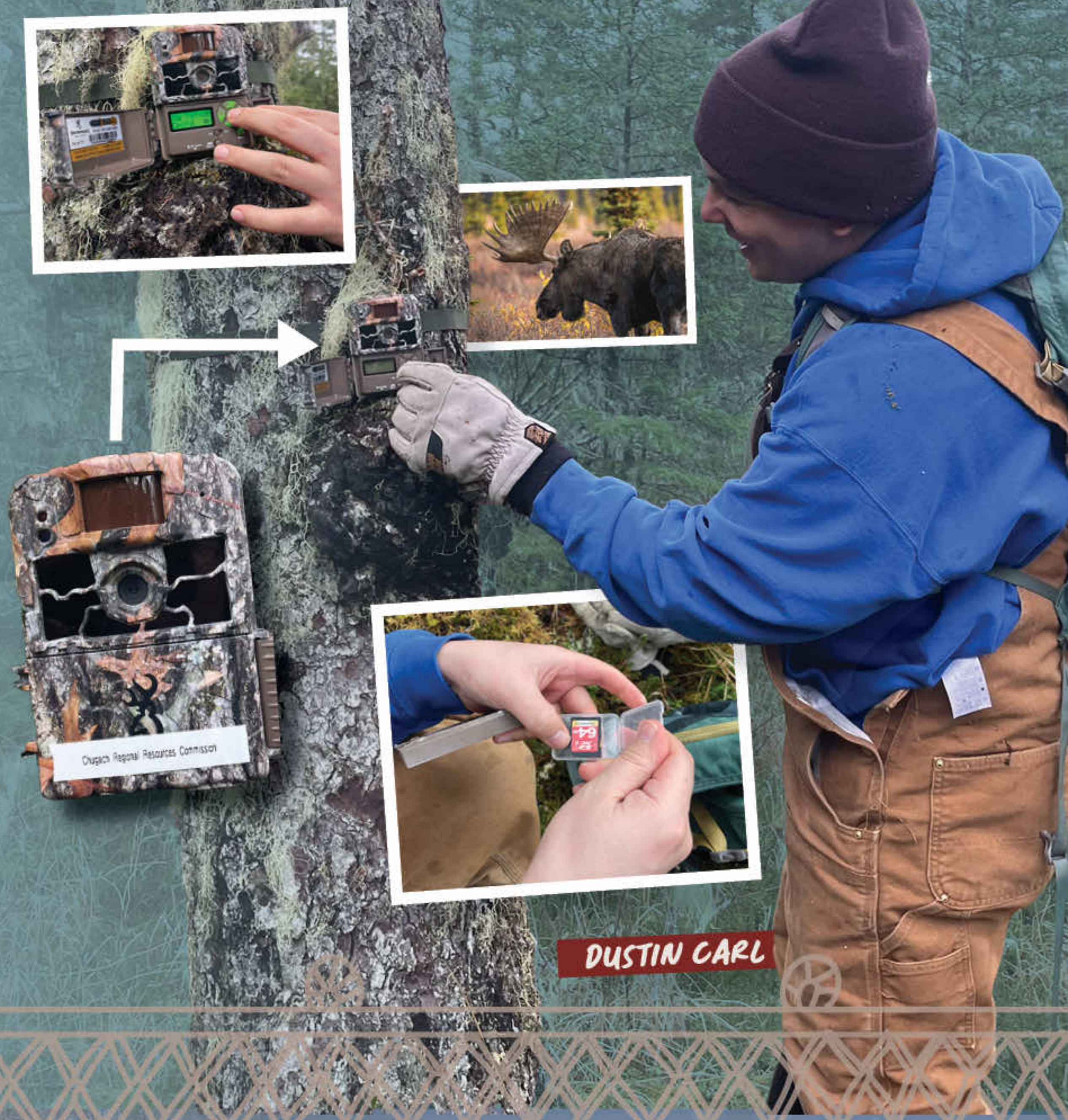
To protect, rebuild, and conserve the Chugach environment and natural resources while promoting Tribal sovereignty and the protection of a subsistence lifestyle. We strive to assure bio-cultural restoration and conservation, sound economic development, and stewardship of the natural resources in the traditional use areas of the Chugach region while bringing Tribal voices to the forefront of natural resource management processes.

We are the leading inter-Tribal fish and wildlife commission. The CRRC is founded as a community-based, Alaska Native, natural resource management organization. Community resiliency and self-determination are central threads interwoven throughout all our activities.



## PORT GRAHAM MOOSE SURVEYS

Check out these photos from our Tribal Wildlife Biologist, Dustin and our Tribal Fish Biologist, Maddie from their recent trip to Port Graham. While there, Dustin checked on the game cameras that are capturing important information for our Tribal Fish & Wildlife's ongoing moose survey project. This project focuses on addressing community concerns about the subsistence moose harvest opportunities for this important food source. These 27 game cameras will help our team monitor moose in the Port Graham area.



DUSTIN CARL

## NANWALEK SALMON ENHANCEMENT TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

The Nanwalek Salmon Enhancement Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) project has been a meaningful collaboration focused on youth education and preserving Indigenous knowledge. Led by the Chugach Regional Resources Commission in partnership with the Nanwalek IRA Council, Alaska Pacific University, and the Center for Braiding Indigenous Knowledge and Science (CBIKS), the project began in summer 2024 with training in Nanwalek. Interns Rebecca Tanape and Pauline Berestoff received guidance on interview methods and research ethics from CRRC, APU, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and others.

Throughout the summer, Rebecca and Pauline led 17 filmed interviews with Tribal members and fisheries experts, documenting personal stories, ecological knowledge, and historical perspectives

about the English Bay Lakes salmon system and weir program. The interviews, filmed by Bjørn Olsen, also included two ADF&G biologists to provide additional context.

The team—along with CRRC staff and Tribal biologists—is now transcribing the interviews to ensure accuracy. These transcriptions will inform educational tools, website content, and a film. CBIKS is also exploring the creation of school resources like a comic book, coloring book, or curriculum based on the material.

The ultimate goal is to support Nanwalek in developing Tribally led salmon education for younger generations, emphasizing the deep cultural and ecological ties between the community and their salmon fisheries. This initiative underscores the value of TEK in Tribal resource management and cultural preservation.



MADELINE LEE



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

# eDNA Lab

APMI's Biology Lab is kicking into gear this spring! Dustin Carl, Tribal Wildlife Biologist, has been out around Resurrection Bay collecting water samples in hopes of identifying an increase in herring DNA during their spring run. All living things are made up of DNA; plants and animals can shed their DNA into the environment, where it can be found even after they may no longer be in that area. This is known as environmental DNA (eDNA). These are small fragments of DNA that can be found in all types of environments, including soil, air, and water! Our staff collect samples by filtering 2 liters of water on-site; the filters are then brought back to the lab for processing.

The lab is focusing on herring as a traditionally significant species that experienced a population collapse in the 90s. Dustin collects samples before, during, and after they spawn to look for increases and decreases in herring eDNA. As part of the Chugach Regional Ocean Monitoring program, the lab has also been incorporating eDNA methods for monitoring potentially harmful algae near the communities. APMI continuously works to develop effective and non-invasive ways to monitor subsistence resources whether it is identifying herring movement or understanding trends in algae!

DUSTIN CARL



## ALUTIIQ PRIDE MARINE INSTITUTE

# WELCOME 3 MILLION OYSTERS

FROM  
JAMESTOWN  
KONA HATCHERY

On December 21, 2024, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute received 3 million juvenile oysters from Jamestown Kona Hatchery. This exciting acquisition supports a collaborative effort with the Kachemak Shellfish Mariculture Association (KSMA) and the community of Larson Bay to develop a new oyster nursery system.

Unlike native Alaskan clams, oysters require more intensive care. They need warmer water temperatures and additional feeding to thrive in our environment. After just four months in the hatchery, the oyster population has remained strong—now totaling just over 2 million—and has more than doubled in biomass, marking a promising start to this initiative.



## KIDS CORNER

# HEALTHY FOODS FOR SEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our Asisqat neq'rkak - Healthy Foods program supports food security and food sovereignty across the region. One of the program projects utilizes hydroponic cabinets and Connex boxes to grow fresh, healthy greens in our Tribal communities. Qutekcak Native Tribe has recently donated one of their hydroponic systems to Seward Elementary School. The students will work with CRRC Healthy Food Coordinator Allie Toloff and the Tribe to grow lettuce, herbs, kale, and more! This is a wonderful learning opportunity for Seward-area youth and a way to foster well being in our Seward community school. Thank you to Qutekcak for this generous donation!





## CANP & ELDER SPOTLIGHT



IKAMAT DANCE GROUP



DEVIL'S CLUB SALVE



WEAVING HANDICRAFT



POT LUCK



BOB LADD



JACK HOPKINS

PETE KOMPCKOFF



## COLLECTIVE ALASKA NATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Quliyanguarpet - Our Story

CRRC recently hosted our third in-person Collective Alaska Native Perspectives workshop in Cordova—a powerful three-day gathering for researchers and professionals in the Chugach region to learn from Tribal Elders, Alaska Native mentors, and guest speakers.

Topics included Alaska Native histories, cross-cultural communication, U.S. laws and Indigenous rights, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This workshop fosters connection, cultural understanding, and deeper relationships rooted in Chugach values.

We deeply thank Elders Leona Olsen, Bob Ladd, Jack Hopkins, Lennette Ronnegard, Diane Ujioka (Native Village of Eyak), and Pete Kompkoff (Chenega) for sharing their invaluable wisdom.

Gratitude also to our guest speakers, mentors, Bjørn Olson (photography/videography), the Ikamat Dance Group, the event planning team, and the CORaL Network.

AWA'AHDAH. QUYANA. GUNALCHÉESH. THANK YOU.

## ELDER SPOTLIGHT



### ELDERS AT CANP

We are so grateful that six amazing Elders from the Native Village of Eyak and Chenega joined us in Cordova for our 2025 Collective Alaska Native Perspectives event. We appreciate the knowledge they shared with us and we hope they enjoyed a taste of our region at our delicious Traditional foods potluck!





QUYANA • THANK YOU

QUYANA • THANK YOU

Quyana to everyone who helped make our 23rd Annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering a success!

Held on March 27, 2025, at Changepoint in Anchorage, the Gathering welcomed Tribal members, Elders, and partners from across the Chugach region for a full day of workshops, storytelling, and community connection.

This year's theme, Chugach Quliyanguarpet – "Our Story" – centered on honoring our shared histories, resilience, and traditions, while looking ahead to the future of our region. With support from our co-hosts, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) and Alaska SeaGrant, we hosted engaging workshops and panels throughout the day. Topics included sustainable fisheries and tourism, subsistence rights, regional recovery after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill and 1964 earthquake, and the importance of working together for future generations.

Expert panelists and researchers—including Rob Campbell, Morgan Bender, Nathan Wolf, Stephen Payton, Jessica Glass, Andie Wall, Raven Cunningham, and Syverine Bentz—shared insights into ongoing projects and invited dialogue with attendees.

We were honored to showcase artwork from Sonya Ash-Selanoff, Tatiana Selanoff, Arthur Kompkoff, Julie Johnson, Mollia A. Nick, and to welcome Kanisha Tideman, who offered traditional tattooing. A big thank you to our expo booth partners including Chugach Heritage Foundation, Alaska SeaLife Center, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, and more.

Thank you as well to our silent auction donors, our photographer and videographer Bjorn Olson, and the entire CRRC planning team. We are also grateful to Changepoint for hosting us in such a welcoming venue.

Most importantly, thank you to the Elders, youth, and Tribal members who joined us. Your presence, voices, and stories are what make this Gathering meaningful. Together, we celebrated our culture, strengthened our connections, and continued writing our story.

Quyana from CRRC, Alaska SeaGrant, and PWSRCAC.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



• MAY •  
**8-15**  
**Hydroponics Webinar**  
Join CRRRC and the Kodiak Archipelago Leadership Institute to learn about growing fresh greens in hydroponic units

• MAY •  
**21-22**  
**Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society**  
Electro-fishing course • Anchorage, Alaska

• MAY •  
**10** THROUGH **10**  
**Applications open for the Alaska Knowledge, Science, and Education Alliance (AKSEA)**

• MAY •  
**30** THROUGH **1**  
**Seabird Festival**  
Seward, AK

• MAY •  
**12-13**  
**Native American Fish & Wildlife Society 42nd Annual National**  
Riverton, Wyoming

• JUN •  
**8**  
**World Oceans Day Festival**  
Seward, AK

Have an event coming up in your community?  
Let us know so we can add it to our next newsletter! Email Robin at [robin@crrcalaska.org](mailto:robin@crrcalaska.org).

**THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP, KNOWLEDGE, AND GUIDANCE**  
*AWA'AHDAH • QUWANAKCUK • QUYANA • GUNALCHÉESH • THANK YOU*



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