



The Alutiiq Pride

THE CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



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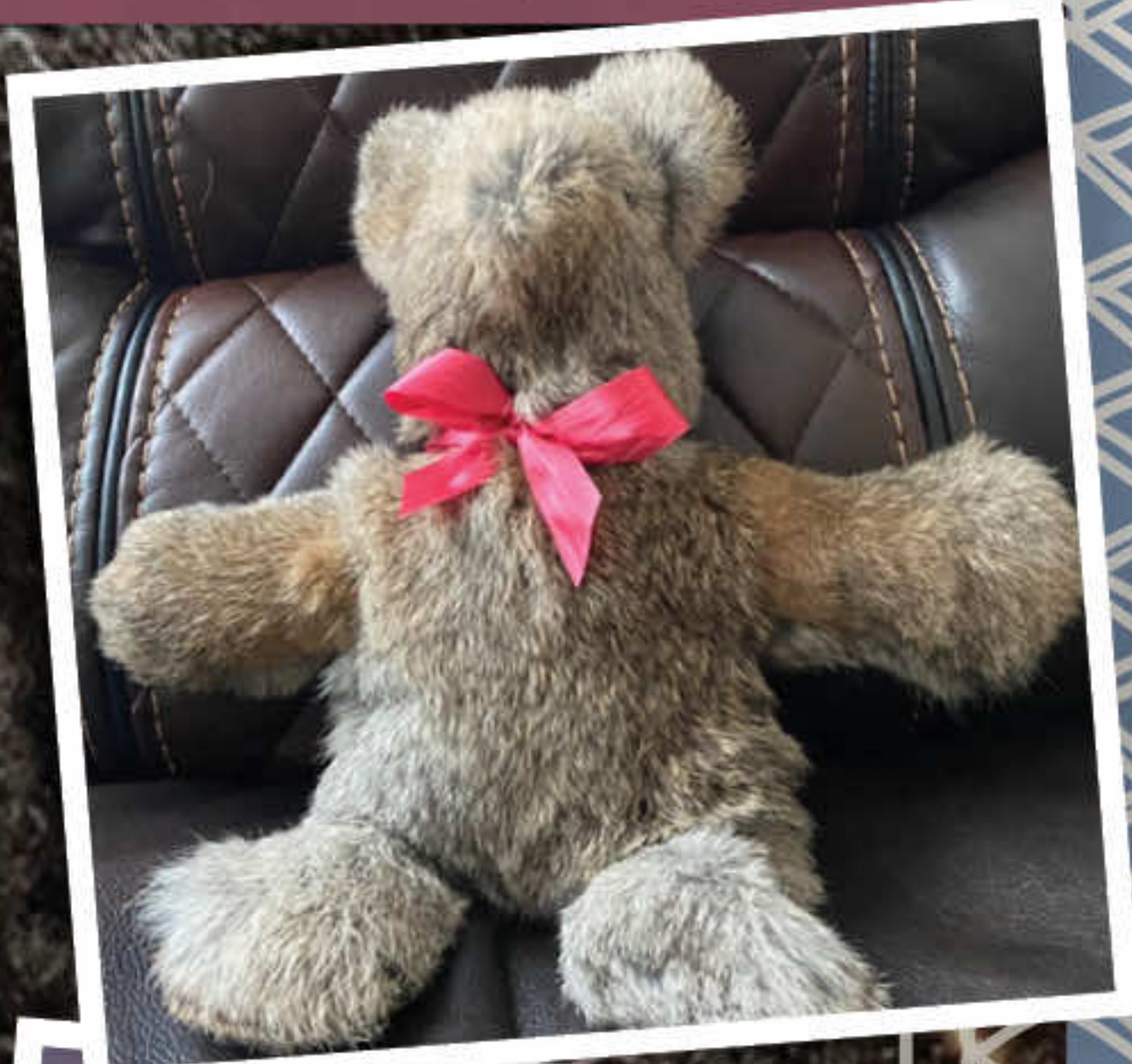


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ARTISAN SPOTLIGHT



FROM CREATION TO CONNECTION: SHARING CULTURE ONE STITCH AT A TIME

For Diane, art is a living expression of culture, identity, and connection. A skilled artisan and educator, she shares traditional art teachings both in person and online, helping people reconnect with culture through hands-on learning.

Drawing on knowledge passed down from her elders, family, and community, Diane began by selling her creations online. When people became interested in learning the skills themselves, she expanded her work to include mailed kits, Zoom classes, and instructional videos, making traditional art accessible to learners near and far.

As demand grew, tribal organizations and schools invited Diane to teach youth and community members, creating opportunities to reconnect with heritage through traditional skills.



“It leaves you with knowledge. So when you leave my class, you’re able to rebuild that same thing. I provide you with the basics and you provide the artistry.”

Today, Diane serves as a community catalyst for CRRCC and as a cultural educator with Alaska’s Indian Child Welfare Act Program, providing cultural opportunities for Alaska Native children in foster care.

Her favorite creations include practical, meaningful items such as mukluks, keychains, zipper pulls, and hats. Through every piece and every lesson, Diane continues to carry forward the traditions and teachings she was given.

Want to learn from Diane?
Follow us on Facebook for
upcoming classes, workshops,
and ways to get hands-on
knowledge with traditional art.

 [facebook.com/crrcalaska](https://www.facebook.com/crrcalaska)

DIANE
SELENOFF

TANYA
KING

BIOLOGY LAB

CROM's Biology Lab has partnered with researchers from the University of Alaska Anchorage to conduct a study at the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute to better understand how oil contaminants affect shellfish. Using cockles, an important subsistence species, scientists exposed juvenile clams to different concentrations of hydrocarbon compounds to observe how they respond. By tracking both survival and stress levels in the animals, the team is working to understand not just whether shellfish survive exposure, but how their overall health may be affected. This research will help improve how we assess the impacts of oil spills and support efforts to protect coastal ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

Stay tuned for results from this study.



CROM
UPDATE



SPRING WATER SAMPLER WORK AND COMMUNITY TRAVEL

We're gearing up for field season! The CROM Program held the annual water sampler workshop at APMI this April. The workshop is a time for CRRM staff and community members to connect and review ocean monitoring projects and goals and learn ways CROM can better support communities. After our workshop we will be stocking our mussel net for toxin monitoring so stay tuned for Seward results!

CROM staff are also preparing for community visits. During these trips we discuss ongoing projects, ways our current program can support community needs, and can brainstorm about potential future projects.

We looking forward to seeing you and getting out on the land and water this summer!



CHEMISTRY LAB

CRRM's Chemistry Lab Manager, Sierra, recently attended the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference in Bethel to talk about ocean monitoring and connection with regional samplers. Along with researchers and UAF and staff from CRRM's environmental department, Sierra spent time in the community talking about the significance of ocean acidification and how we can support monitoring!



MARINE CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL



NUTRIENTS LIKE NITRATES ARE ABUNDANT, BUT PHYTOPLANKTON CANNOT USE IT WITHOUT THE NECESSARY MINERAL: IRON

CARBON



NORMAL

All living things are made of carbon. When they die, they sink, so that carbon cannot return to the atmosphere. Therefore it is "stored."

IRON IS ADDED SO NUTRIENTS CAN BE USED.

CARBON

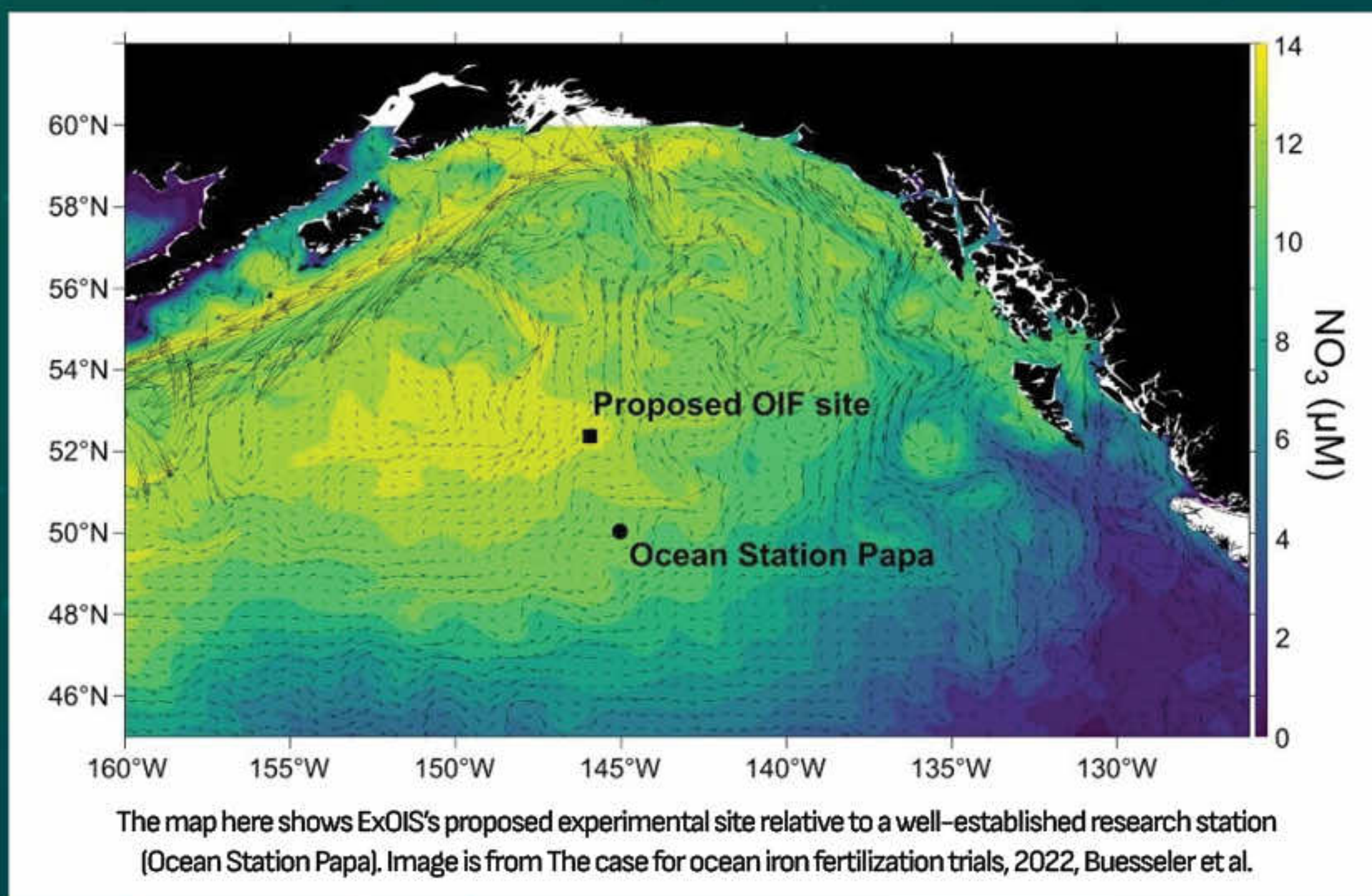


FERTILIZED

More phytoplankton growing and dying means more carbon stored.

CHARTING NEW WATERS: SCIENCE, STEWARDSHIP, AND OCEAN-BASED CARBON REMOVAL IN ALASKA

Marine carbon dioxide removal is a burgeoning industry attempting to supplement the efforts of carbon emission reduction. Many of the proposed methods involve the ocean: such as Ocean Iron Fertilization. This method seeks to stimulate phytoplankton blooms by adding iron to certain parts of the ocean. One of the places with the right conditions for this endeavor is the Gulf of Alaska. A research group based out of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, called Exploring Ocean Iron Solutions (ExOIS), has a study plan to fertilize a small patch of surface water 400 nautical miles south of Kodiak. The group plans to begin their experiment in the spring of 2027. They have gathered a group of scientists, commercial fishers, tribal liaisons and other interested parties to set guardrails for the experiment and develop policy for this fast-moving industry.



For more information, contact Sierra Lloyd, Chemistry Laboratory Manager, at sierra@alutiiqprideak.org.

LINK TO ARTICLE
<https://tinyurl.com/yshzs5s2>





COLLECTIVE ALASKA NATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Quliyanguarpet - Our Story

We recently hosted our fourth in-person Collective Alaska Native Perspectives workshop in Homer.

This three-day learning experience brings together researchers and professionals working throughout the Chugach Region to learn directly from Tribal Elders, Alaska Native mentors, and guest speakers. Participants explored topics including Alaska Native histories, cross-cultural communication, U.S. law and Alaska Native peoples, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and the Chugach Values that guide our communities.

More than a training opportunity, the workshop fosters meaningful relationships and a deeper understanding of the Chugach people, culture, and traditions. By learning directly from Alaska Native knowledge holders, participants strengthen their connection to the region and contribute to building resilient, healthy communities.

A heartfelt *Quyana* to the respected Elders who shared their wisdom and guidance: Lillian Moonin Elvsaav (Nanwalek/Homer), Sally Ash (Nanwalek), Diane Selanoff (Port Graham/Valdez), and Swen Selanoff (Chenega/Valdez).

We also extend our gratitude to our guest speakers, Heather Sauyaq Jean Gordon, Orville Lind, Greg Encelewski, and Dr. Henry Huntington, for sharing their expertise and perspectives.

Quyana to our Alaska Native mentors, Dustin Carl, Allison Carl, Michael Opheim, and Denise Eleshansky, for generously sharing their knowledge and experience. We also thank our board members, Boyd Selanoff, Nick Meganack, Dannielle Malchoff, and Ari Schablein, for their participation and support.

Finally, *Quyana* to our event planning team for their dedication and coordination, and to the CORaL Network for supporting this important work. Together, we continue to create opportunities for learning, connection, and collaboration throughout the Chugach Region.

Come share your perspective.

Join us for the next Collective Alaska Native Perspective *Ocean Monitoring* event in Seward, October 5th through 9th *tentatively*. Connect, learn, and contribute to the future of ocean stewardship. **More details coming soon!**

Follow us on Facebook for updates!  facebook.com/crrcalaska



▲ DIANE AND SWEN
ENJOYING TRADITIONAL FOOD

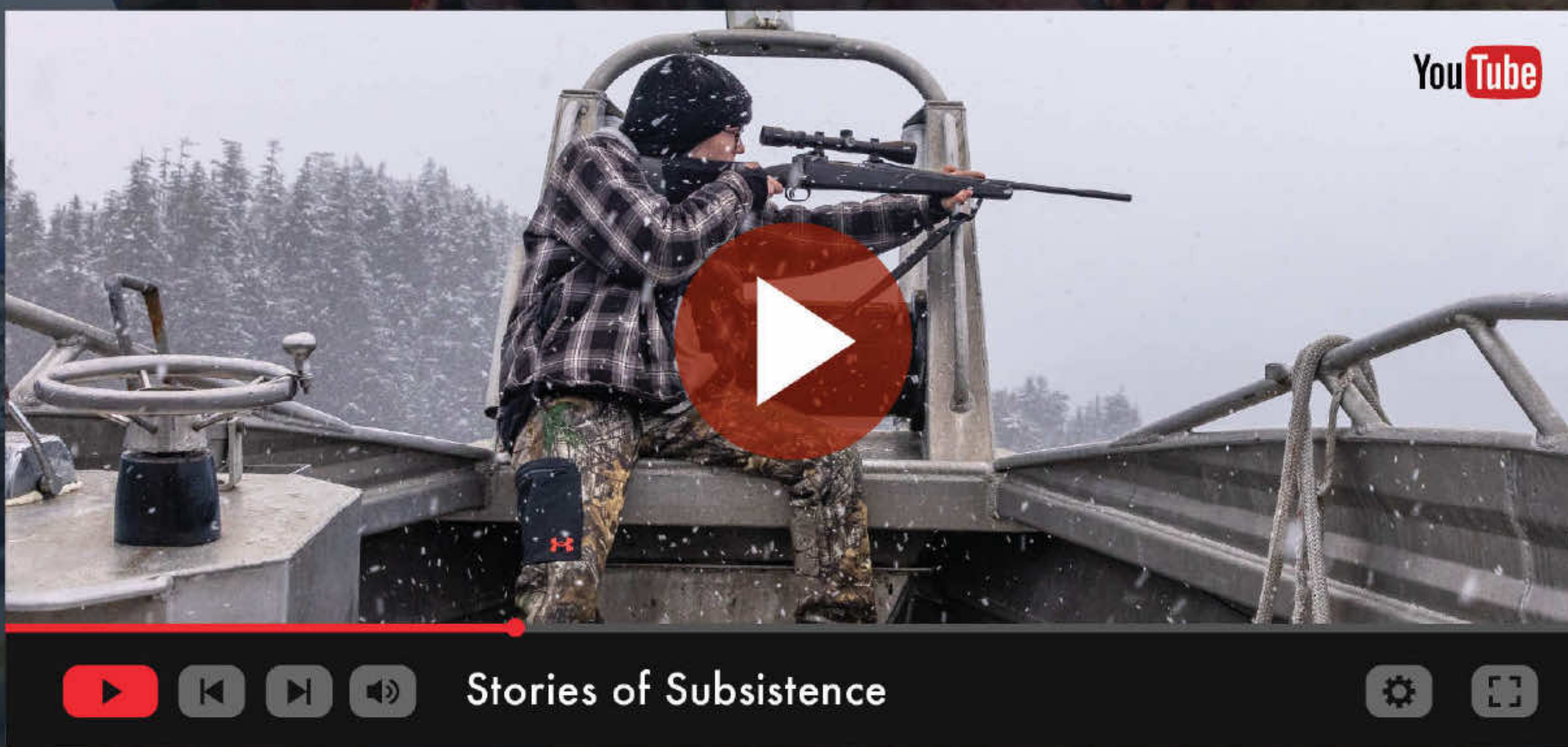


▲ BOYD SELANOFF SHARING HIS
KNOWLEDGE DURING MAP



▲ SWEN SELANOFF
TEACHING KNOT TYING

HONORING A WAY OF LIFE: SUBSISTENCE KNOWLEDGE IN CHUGACH COMMUNITIES



CHUGACH
REGIONAL
RESOURCES
COMMISSION

Mjölfrir
Film and Photography

ALASKA
HUMANITIES
FORUM

For Chugach Tribal members, hunting and fishing are far more than recreation. They are part of a subsistence way of life rooted in culture, tradition, and survival. Salmon, marine mammals, birds, and plants have long helped feed families and sustain communities across generations.

Today, that way of life is changing. Tribal members are witnessing shifts in subsistence resources, changes within their communities, and the growing impacts of climate and environmental change. These changes affect not only what can be harvested, but also how traditional practices are carried forward.



In sharing their knowledge, Chugach Tribal members offered something deeply valuable: cultural memories, lived experience, and observations passed down from generation to generation. Their stories reflect traditional customs, subsistence harvest practices, and the local changes they see unfolding around them.

This knowledge is invaluable. It helps deepen our understanding of the importance of subsistence practices and ensures that the voices of local communities remain at the center of conversations about environmental change, cultural continuity, and the future of the region.

We are grateful to all who shared their experiences and wisdom. Their stories will continue to inform our work and help others better understand the enduring importance of subsistence in Chugach communities.

WATCH THE
STORY HERE:

<https://youtu.be/9PNyJK7B8Qg>



NEW FACES

We welcomed some new faces to the
Chugach Regional Resources team within the last year!
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, PLEASE WELCOME...



DIANE SELANOFF
ASCP Community
Catalyst



RICK MERIZON
Tribal Wildlife
Biologist



CAROLYN SPENCER
Environmental
Director



JAKE COHEN
Research
Biologist



JAMIE FOODE
ASCP Community
Catalyst



DENISE ELESANSKY
Education & Outreach
Specialist



ROXIE DUCKWORTH
Grants and Contracts
Administrator



ELIZABETH MOESER
Chemistry Lab
Technician



TAYLOR BEYEA
Strategic Communications
& Data Products Lead



BRIAN HETRICK
ASCP Community
Catalyst



BOBBY-WU SMITH
Tribal Hydroponic
Trainee



URIAH HUNTSMAN
Tribal Fish
Technician



JULIUS KVASNIKOFF
Tribal Fish
Technician



JORDAN ANAHONAK
Tribal Fish
Technician



MATTHIAS EVANS
Tribal Fish
Technician



JUVENALY EVANS
Tribal Fish
Technician

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS EDITION OF *The Alutiiq Pride*

In future editions, we hope this page can be a space for our communities to share photos, artwork, stories, recipes and more. After all, this is your newsletter! CRRC works on behalf of the Chugach region Tribes to support our subsistence way of life and promote community wellbeing. We want to hear from you!

Have something you'd like to share?
Contact our IGAP Environmental Coordinator, Riley, at riley@crrcalaska.org

UPCOMING
EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

• JULY •
17-18

**Copper River
Salmon Jam**
Cordova, Alaska

• SEP •
21-25

**Mt. Eccles Elementary
School Cultural Week**
Cordova, Alaska

• OCT •
5-9

**Collective Alaska
Native Perspective
Ocean Monitoring**
Seward, Alaska *Tentatively*

• OCT •
14-16

**Seward Science
Symposium**
Seward, Alaska

• OCT •
22-24

**Alaska Federation
of Natives**
Anchorage, Alaska

Have an event coming up in your community?

Let us know so we can add it to our next newsletter! Email Denise at denise@crrcalaska.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP, KNOWLEDGE, AND GUIDANCE

AWA'AMDAH • QUWANAKCUK • QUYANA • GUNALCHÉESH • THANK YOU



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Chairman
Port Graham



BOYD SELANOFF
Chairman
Chenega IRA Council



NANCI LEE ROBART
Vice-Chairwoman
Tatitlek IRA Council



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Secretary
Qutekcaq Native Tribe



SHEILA JORDAN
Treasurer
Valdez Native Tribe



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Alternate Member
Chenega



JIM SMITH
Member
Eyak



TIFFANY BEEDLE
Alternate Member
Eyak



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