

The New Company in Town, Premier Harvest, LLC Continued

The live crab leaves Adak at approximately 6pm on Alaska Airlines and within 24 hours, the crab has arrived at domestic and international destinations for seafood markets to sell and restaurant chefs to prepare.

The live crab industry is good, but the fish plant also contains fish processing equipment worth millions of dollars capable of processing millions of pounds of fish, but not being used at this time. An idle plant has a ripple effect on local businesses and industries. The fishing vessels do not come to Adak unless seeking shelter from a storm or to pick up parts and supplies freighted in on Alaska Airlines.

Restaurants shut down, grocery stores are much quieter, port services are idle, and the fuel company sells much less fuel. The City of Adak's tax revenue also decreases proportionately from slackened sales within the City, creating a funding gap for necessary equipment, as well as funding for operations provided by a local government.

Premier Harvest owners, Dustin and Lisa Anderson, are very aware of the importance the fish plant plays in the local economy. The Andersons are hoping to bring the plant up for long time operational use instead of the intermittent short term operational status the plant has had for the last few years.

The Adak fish plant has not had a long term operator since before 2009. Icicle came in late 2009 and left in late 2012, citing operational costs, previous contract commitments that did not allow the company to explore other markets, and the low global price for cod.

After Icicle left in 2012, the lease on the equipment was terminated and the lien holder, under direction of the Federal Government as the underwriter, directed that the equipment in Adak be sold – in bulk or in lots to bring in the most money in order to recover the unpaid loan principal for the processing equipment. The auction, held in June 2013 was attended by fish processors, entrepreneurs, scrappers and the City of Adak. The first order of the auction was to try and sell the plant equipment as a lot.

As the bidding opened in Anchorage for the entire lot, there were a few, until there was just three, including the City of Adak. City Manager, Layton Lockett, put in the winning bid of \$1.8 million (\$2.1 million after commissions and fees). Though the equipment now belonged to the City of Adak, the building housing all of the processing equipment belongs to the Aleut Corporation. Therefore, any processor willing to come to Adak, had to negotiate with both the City of Adak and the Aleut Corporation before processing any fish in Adak.

John Lowrance founder of Leader Creek Fisheries and his partner Joe Kelso co-founder with Lowrance in Ekuk fisheries decided to open the plant in Adak as the Adak Cod Cooperative. Lowrance and Kelso made building improvements including an on-site galley and line improvements, including a filet line for the cod. The future looked bright for the newly formed Adak Cod Cooperative.

Unfortunately, the logistical and operational costs were just too much for a fish plant producing filets, instead of utilizing the whole cod. Cod processors can sell the entire cod fish; heads and guts for fish meal and fertilizer companies, milt to Asia, the gutted and beheaded cod body to seafood wholesalers and food processors for fish fillets and sticks, making processing operations more feasible and profitable.



A Pacific Cod waiting for further processing

After Premier Harvest obtained both the lease and a purchase agreement on the equipment with the City of Adak, the Andersons proceeded with building improvements beginning with the roof. A drone fitted with a "Go Pro" camera was sent up to take aerial photos to survey the repairs needed. Once up on the roof, it was found that multiple repair jobs had already been completed over the years in the same areas. As they peeled away one repair thinking they would be able to make a permanent repair to the roof, they found several underlying repairs, which made the job much more difficult and costly than the original estimate.



USCG Cutter Alex Haley at pier. "Blue Shed" Fish Plant in background with many roof repairs.

Carefully balancing crab and fish processing operations for long term success is the goal of the Andersons and Premier Harvest, LLC. We, the residents of Adak, are hoping for fish processing in 2016.



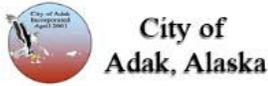
Spring Clean-up Time in Adak

May 23, 2015
10:00 AM
City Hall

Bags and gloves will be provided to anyone who would like to help clean-up Adak. Adak Fresh will be donating the flatbed truck for metals clean-up too!



Relax afterwards and enjoy the BBQ. Burgers and Hot Dogs will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert for everyone to enjoy.



The City has signed up with a community notification system called Nixle. In the event of an emergency or other relevant community advisory, this system will notify residents in real time. We hope this will become an easy to use tool to stay informed and share information, without having to maintain cumbersome lists.

To register, text ADAK to 888777 from your cell phone, or visit our website at www.adak-ak.us. You can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time and you can customize your alert preferences. Connect and stay informed!

The Barge has arrived and Traffic has increased

We would like to remind you; with the extra population and vehicles on island to drive carefully. Stop at intersections, use turn signals, watch your rear view mirror and more importantly, buckle up!



Adak's Red King Crab Fishery Study set for September 2015

Linda Kozak's report to ACDC stated the Red King Crab Fishery for Adak is moving forward quickly. The Crab Plan Team, ACDC and ADF&G have signed an agreement with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Mike Rosenthal, skipper of the Crabber "Vixen", to conduct the study beginning September 2015. Get your copy of the ACDC minutes by calling Mary Nelson at 592-2335 or e-mail your request to acdc_mary@adaktu.net.

College Student Looking for Hosts on Adak

Ryan Scheussler, a graduate student at MO U is looking for families to host him one or two nights while he visits Adak. Mr. Scheussler is coming to Adak from July 2 – July 12. Scheussler would like to stay with and meet as many families as possible while he is here. If you are interested in hosting Mr. Scheussler for a night or two this summer, please contact Debra Sharrah at City Hall.

It's Time to Plan for the Fourth of July

Each year the City of Adak and the Recreation Department host several events in connection with the Fourth. Volunteers are needed to plan the Dolly Varden tournament, parade, beach events, BBQ and Pot Luck. Please sign up at the City of Adak if you are willing to plan or coordinate Fourth of July activities.

MAY

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Adak Rainbow Run for Health

Bristol Bay Health Corporation and Eastern Aleutian Tribes Medical Clinic held a 3K rainbow Run for Health in conjunction with a community wide health fair covering important topics like tobacco use, drug and alcohol abuse, weight control, sugar in-take and exercise. Participants received a free t-shirt and were invited to tie dye their shirts afterwards. Many thanks to Suzie Nunn and Jeff Beck for the great education and materials provided by Bristol Bay Health Corporation.



A group of runners at the starting line



A group of runners finishing the course



Alicia Bennett shows off her tie-dye work

- May 5 -- Cinco De Mayo
- May 10 – Mother's Day
- May 13 - USFWS Walk-about 1:45pm Refuge Office
- May 16 - Movie Night with Chief Tannehill
"Boxtrolls" 6:15 pm Community Center
- May 20 – City Council, 5pm Council Chambers
- May 22 – School's Out Watch for Playing Children
- May 23 – Spring Clean Up Day 10 am City Hall, BBQ
3 pm.
- May 25 – Memorial Day. Flag Raising at Veteran's
Point 9 am.



FROM THE WILDSIDE

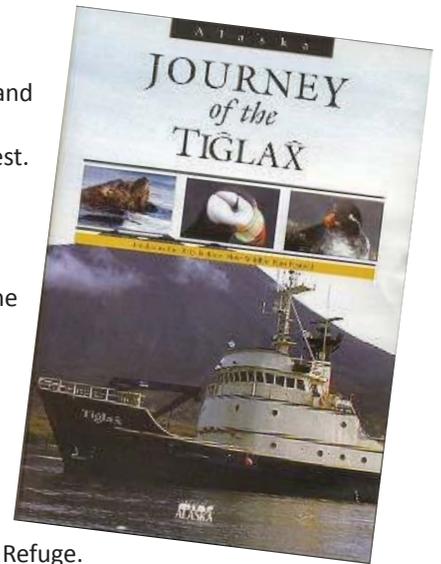
May 2015

Adak Office: Open for Summer

The Refuge's Adak office (146B Sandy Cove) is open from May through September. Stop by and see what's new! Please call before visiting, as we may be out mowing, cleaning, caulking, or working in the lab, but will happily open the visitor center and answer questions upon request. Best numbers to call: 592-2406 (rings at both the office and lab) or 299-4709 (Lisa's cell).

Return of the Tiglax

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge's 120' ship R/V *Tiglax* is currently working in the Gulf of Alaska on a Scripps Institution of Oceanography charter recovering whale recording buoys, followed by a UAF/GLOBEC charter conducting Seward Line oceanographic surveys and plankton sampling. The ship will return to Homer for a few days in the middle of May to take on supplies for the field camps, then head west, dropping off camps and gear along the way. Her first visit to Adak is scheduled for 24 May, and she'll be in and out a number of times throughout the summer. To learn more about the *Tiglax* and the projects she supports, stop by to pick up a summary sheet or watch *The Journey of the Tiglax*, 30 minutes of dramatic scenery offering an inside look at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.



Field Projects in 2015

There will be lots of interesting things happening this summer on the Refuge. We'll be conducting nearshore surveys in the eastern Aleutians and Pribilofs from the *Tiglax*; monitoring seabirds at field camps in the southeast at St. Lazaria Island (near Sitka), way out west to Buldir (just a stone's throw from Attu), and all the way up to Cape Thompson (Chukchi Sea); restoring habitat by removing introduced foxes at Chirikof Island (southwest of Kodiak); surveying ptarmigan at Attu; checking for contaminants at Amchitka; and investigating myriad other things along the way. The Refuge will also support partners' projects, including post-eruption work at Kasatochi, seismic equipment maintenance at Amchitka, auklet research at Gareloi and Buldir, murrelet studies at Adak, aerial and ship-based sea lion monitoring throughout the Aleutians, and sea otter surveys in the Near and Rat islands. Additional projects will take place on the Refuge but independent of our support; check out the *Prehistoric Resilience in the Islands of the Four Mountains'* Facebook page to learn more about their ongoing multidisciplinary work.

Once the Refuge field camps are deployed, each checks in with the Adak office at least once a day, from mid-May to mid-September. Some camps are able to call by phone, but *Tiglax* and all the Aleutian and Alaska Peninsula camps check in twice a day via HF radio, at 9 am and 9 pm. These remote camps also have emergency satellite pagers, allowing us to warn them of impending volcanic eruptions or tsunamis and relay urgent messages at any time of day. If you've ever had an urge to be the Voice of the Aleutians, stop by the office someday at 9 am or pm and take a turn broadcasting the weather for the camps!

Let's Go for a Walk!

With the snow retreating and the grasses just beginning to grow, spring offers some of the nicest conditions for exploring Adak's lower elevations. Later in the summer coastal areas turn into a maze of tussocks, and you have to choose between weaving your way through putchki groves taller than you, or trying to balance on top of it all, hopping from wobbly clump to clump, lurching and falling into hidden holes and crevices. But right now last year's grasses are dead and flattened, all the holes and other perils laid bare and easy to navigate. You can see where you are stepping, stay relatively dry, and cover ground effortlessly and quickly. It's a great time to go out adventuring, so come join us for a...

WEDNESDAY WALKABOUT !

Where: Meet at the Refuge office (146B Sandy Cove)
When: Wednesday 13th May, 1:45 - about 3:45 pm (weather permitting)
Who: Everyone is welcome - we'll choose a walk to suit participants
Call Lisa at 592-2406 for details

