

Tetra Tech ECI

Each year, tourists and visitors to Adak, ask the same question – what are all those trucks driving around about? Where did they come from and what are they doing? This year, the UXO removal, LUC - Land Use Control, and IC - Institutional Controls contract was awarded to Tetra Tech ECI by the United States Navy.

While the Island and most of the property on Adak Island was given to the Aleut Corporation or the City of Adak, upon closure of Adak Naval Station, The United States Navy still maintains control over certain lands and facilities. These include the infamous Parcel 4, partially surrounding Lake Andrew and the several buried landfills around the Island.

During World War II, when the United States Military believed a Japanese invasion by ship was imminent, Adak Island was occupied and built up for strategic defense purposes. To prevent the Japanese from getting a foot hold on our land, defensive measures, including burial and camouflaging of "Rommel" stakes, and the burial of incendiary materials like white phosphorous in packages that could quickly be made "active" by inserting a detonation device were placed at strategic locations around the Island. Parcel 4 is the last parcel of land with known UXO.



Jerrett Patterson, Adak Site Manager Tetra Tech

When a company like Tetra Tech is awarded such a contract, the logistics team gets on the job immediately. Equipment and supplies are procured, the barge is scheduled and hiring begins. This year, Tetra Tech commissioned a barge that arrived in April with 21 trucks, several pieces of heavy equipment, graders, dozers dump truck, and of course office equipment and supplies. The trucks are assigned to teams of 3 or more workers for the duration of the work period, usually April through October each year.

Every morning, except Sundays, the crew gathers in the Adak Community Center for the morning briefing and safety meeting. The number one priority of Tetra Tech is the safety and well-being of their workforce. A weather report is given, the day's event calendar, safety reminders such as proper lifting techniques and exercise suggestions are imparted to the crew. These morning meetings are also the last chance to get breakfast with the Bluebird Café on hand selling breakfast burritos and drinks.

After the general meeting, site Manager Jerrett Patterson, then travels to the construction and maintenance meeting held at the shop on at the corner of Raven and Public Works Road. The construction crew, responsible for road maintenance to and from the work site and land use controls at the buried landfills, gets a schedule of tasks for the day. Maintenance is notified of vehicle repair issues as well.

This routine will be followed every work day until Tetra Tech is done and loads the barge to return the equipment and supplies in October.

The bidding process for next year's UXO removal and land use control contract for the United State Navy started this April, with several environmental clean-up companies arriving for a site visit and orientation with Justin Peach, United States Navy Adak Island project coordinator. The award process takes approximately 4 months after the RFP submission date. Then the rush is on to get the trucks, equipment and personnel secured for next year.



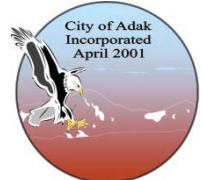
Tetra Tech morning meeting and time punch

Call for Candidates Adak City Council

Interested persons who meet the requirements as defined in the City of Adak Code of Ordinances, section 3.03.05, may file for candidacy with the City Clerk starting July 31, 2015 at 8:00am until September 7, 2015 at 5:00pm. There are four seats for consideration.

- SEAT 1A - 2 Year Term
- SEAT 1B - 2 Year Term
- SEAT 2A - 3 Year Term
- SEAT 2B - 3 Year Term

The local election will be held in conjunction with REAA 8, ARSD School Board Election, Section II, Seat D; October 6, 2015.





The USCG Cutter Sherman, stationed in Hawaii Visited Adak 24th -26th. Below, the crew on The Quarter Deck awaits people with business and visitors interested in a tour of the boat.





Sea Fisher Crew gets some R&R at the gym after several days in Adak waiting for parts and repairs.

Subsistence Permits Required for Salmon

The City of Adak recently received its copy of the "Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish" from the Federal Subsistence Board. Adak is listed as a community where a permit is required to harvest salmon, of any kind.

Unfortunately, the permits for Adak are issued from Dutch Harbor and cannot be issued locally. If you plan on any kind of subsistence harvesting of salmon, please contact Kathleen Herring, ADFG, at 907-581-1239. She will send you a permit to sign, once you return the signed permit to Kathleen via fax or e-mail, she will sign the permit and return to you. Each permit is good for 25 salmon. You may request as many permits as needed throughout the season.

Hey Kids - Let's Dance with Alena!

Explore basic dance techniques and combinations of Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet and Creative Movement from a Dancer/Choreographer/Instructor



July 7-9, 2015 1:00 - 2:30pm
Ballet Room upstairs in the Community Center! Co-ed!

Athletic Clothing & socks or barefeet

Call Debra to sign-up - 592-4500

JULY

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

FOURTH OF JULY SCHEDULE

- PARADE:** Meet at 10am to decorate at Bob Reeve High School Parking Lot
- BEACH EVENTS:** 1 PM Kuluk Beach
Polar Dip, Crab Crawl, Limbo, Tug-o-War
Sack Races and other fun
- BBQ/POTLUCK:** 5 PM Community Center
- BONFIRE:** 9 PM Kuluk and Bayshore
- FIREWORKS:** 11 PM Kuluk and Bayshore
- DOLLY DERBY:** June 27 – July 3. Adults \$10, children free. Get your tickets at City Hall or at the Weigh and Measure site 168 D Garage 7pm – 10pm 6/27 – 7/3.



Halibut Season! The F/V Katie Jean and the F/V Norcoaster at the Small Boat Harbor.

Pete Hartman and the Adak Fresh crew is on hand to buy and ship fresh halibut across the U.S.



- 6/27 – July 3 - Dolly Varden Derby
- July 3 – City of Adak closed
- July 4 – Independence Day
- July 7-9 – Dance Workshop 1-2:30pm, ballet room
Upstairs community center
- July 15 – City Council 4:30pm, Council Chambers
- July 18 – Movie Night with Chief Tannehill, 6pm



FROM THE WILDSIDE

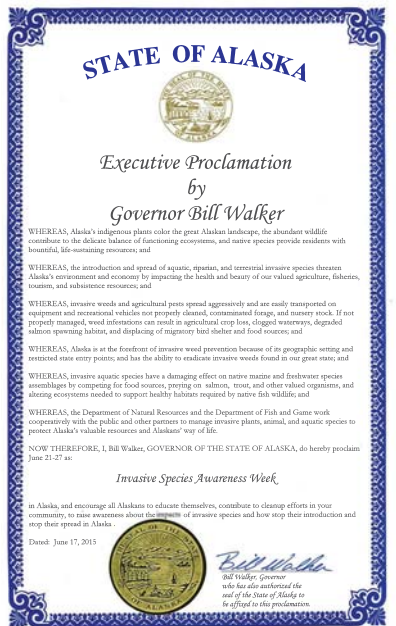
July 2015

Invasive Species Awareness Week

In honor of Alaska's native plants and wildlife and their contribution to the delicate balance of functioning ecosystems, and in recognition of the threat invasive species pose to Alaska's environment and economy, Governor Bill Walker proclaimed June 21-27 as Invasive Species Awareness Week. He encouraged all Alaskans to learn about the impacts of invasive species and how to prevent their introduction and spread.

Adak's invasives...or are they?

Here on Adak we have many introduced species, but not all are invasive. In order to be considered invasive, a species must be introduced (not native to a specific location), but must also adversely affect the habitats and bioregions they invade economically, environmentally, or ecologically. Invasive species cause damage by dominating a region or threatening biodiversity, by preying upon or outcompeting native species or removing natural controls (such as predators or herbivores).



Most of the non-native species on Adak are plants introduced by people planting gardens or by contractors spreading seed mixes to revegetate disturbed areas. Some species are widespread near town (like the little white "lawn daisies" in our yards, or the spruce trees), but have not affected native vegetation, so they are not considered detrimental or invasive. Orange hawkweed (left) has had catastrophic effects on natural diversity in other areas in Alaska, but so far it has not been found beyond the disturbed areas on Adak; we are not sure yet if it poses a threat here.



Adak also has an introduced fish species: rainbow trout (above right) and steelhead (anadromous version of a rainbow trout) were stocked by the Navy in the late 1950s, by Alaska Department of Fish and Game in 1968-1974, and by USFWS in 1974-76. They were released in most of the streams and lakes on at least the north half of the island, and are still regularly caught in many places. They aren't considered invasive, because they don't adversely affect native species or the environment.

There are no native land mammals in the central and western Aleutians, but four species were introduced on Adak. Arctic foxes (right) were stocked by fur ranchers in the 1920s. The introduction of foxes had devastating direct effects on birds; ground nesting birds were extirpated or reduced to low population levels over broad ranges. There were also indirect effects: the loss of seabirds resulted in a loss of seabird guano, rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, and island soils became nutrient-impoverished, which coincided with strong shifts in the structure of plant communities. In order to restore habitat and save native species, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) has since eliminated invasive foxes from most islands in the Refuge, including Adak. On many larger islands, remnant populations of seabirds persisted on offshore islets, and these quickly recolonized the main islands once foxes were removed. Populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, ptarmigan and possibly passerines also increased following fox eradication.



Recovery of some bird populations on Adak has been less noticeable, probably in part due to the effects of another invasive mammalian predator: Norway rats (left), which were inadvertently released on Adak during World War II. Rats negatively affect burrow and crevice nesting birds primarily by eating eggs. Presently the Refuge is actively involved in prevention of rat introductions from ships to islands that don't already have rats. We have a harbor defense plan in the Pribilofs, and a rat response team and supplies set up, ready to respond when there's a shipwreck on or near an island. Here on Adak, we can help by keeping rats off the boats that stop here, to minimize the risk of Adak's rats hitching a ride to rat-free islands.



Caribou (left) were brought to Adak in the 1950s to provide recreational hunting opportunities for personnel stationed here. The Aleutians did not evolve with large herbivores, and they can change the vegetation structure and composition and cause significant erosion. Caribou tend to overgraze favored areas before moving on, but on an island, their range is limited. As an island reaches carrying capacity for an invasive grazer, herd size typically declines because of increasing damage to vegetation and soils. Eventually the population crashes after a severe winter; such die-offs may result in the extinction of the herd (as occurred with reindeer on St. Matthew Island). With the closure of the Adak Naval Air Station, we are very concerned that the Adak herd will grow unchecked and severely damage the island's habitat, and expand their range to other islands. Currently the Refuge is interested in how many, how often, and what kind of caribou (e.g. bulls, cows, calves) are swimming to Kagalaska Island. The Refuge would like to regularly count, and eliminate, caribou on Kagalaska Island to find answers to these questions.

The fourth land mammal introduced to Adak is cats (right). We're not sure how established they are, but for at least the last ten years feral cats have been spotted outside the town area. In recent years they've been observed as far afield as the Lake Andy and Clam Lagoon seawalls. Study after study documents the toll feral cats take on wildlife, especially on island ecosystems that have evolved without terrestrial predators. Rat haters might embrace the idea of hungry cats roaming Adak, but employing a non-native, invasive predator to control a problem species can have unintended serious consequences. Cats won't extirpate rats from Adak, and they destroy much more than rats – the collateral damage does not justify the use of cats as ratters. We can help prevent this problem becoming worse by being responsible pet owners: keep your cats indoors, and get them spayed/neutered.



Invasive species elsewhere on the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Foxes and rats have caused damage on many islands, but they are not the only introduced species on the Refuge. During the last century, cattle and reindeer were stocked on islands that are now within the Refuge. Reindeer, native to Siberia, were stocked in Alaska primarily between 1892 and 1902, and were introduced on six islands that are partly refuge-owned and partly private land. Currently cattle persist on seven islands with Refuge-owned land; two islands are entirely Refuge. Reindeer and cattle overgrazing can result in long-term plant community changes and interfere with nesting of native birds, especially shorebirds and waterfowl. Feral island cattle trample nests, compact the soil, and cause down-cutting of streams, lowering of the water table and soil erosion. Burrow-nesting seabirds are directly affected, especially where introduced foxes are also established. Large populations of ancient murrelets and Cassin's auklets disappeared from Sanak Island after foxes and cattle were introduced, for example. Horses were introduced to several mixed ownership islands where cattle were also introduced. In some ways, horses are worse for the vegetation on the islands and cause more erosion than cattle.

So what are we doing about all these potentially harmful invaders? The Refuge was established to conserve marine mammals, seabirds and other migratory birds, and the marine resources upon which they rely. If introduced species are damaging bird populations or their habitat, then we try to remove them, if possible. We have eliminated introduced foxes from most islands, and the recovery of ground nesting seabirds and waterfowl is remarkable. Norway rats have been eradicated from one Refuge island, but eliminating rats from islands where they are established is a major undertaking and is not anticipated for large islands in the near future. Because of the extensive habitat damage introduced hoofed animals cause, they are considered invasive species when they occur on Refuge islands; islands with mixed ownership are more complicated, especially if a community is present. We eliminated reindeer from Hagemester, a Refuge-owned island, but we do not plan to eliminate reindeer on the remaining two islands, which are not entirely under Refuge administration, nor caribou on Adak, unless island co-owners desire it. Cattle have been removed from three Refuge islands, and we are currently writing a document to explain to the public our plans for dealing with cattle grazing on Chirikof and Wosnesenski islands.

Deer mice, house mice, arctic ground squirrels, marmots, rabbits, voles and shrews were also introduced to some islands. Although most rat and mice introductions were accidental, other rodents were intentionally stocked by fox ranchers as alternate prey for their furbearers. Arctic ground squirrels (below) were farmed on some islands for the same reasons foxes were raised – as a source of marketable furs. The total acreage where these exotics occur is slight compared with foxes, rats and ungulates. Also, compared to foxes and rats, most of these species cause less of a problem for seabirds. Determining the effect of these introduced mammals on islands' natural biodiversity helps us decide whether control measures are warranted. Another inventory recently underway examines invasive plants and marine invertebrates.

The goal of the Refuge's invasive species program is to protect and restore the natural diversity of Refuge islands. The results have been dramatic over the last 50 years. Judging from the response in areas we have monitored, the project to remove alien foxes has likely increased populations of 15 to 20 bird species by more than 200,000. That number should continue to rise for several decades. One endangered species has been restored and several endemic forms saved that formerly had been candidates for the Endangered Species List (Evermann's rock ptarmigan, for example).



Preventing new introductions of exotics and removing existing infestations are the most effective management actions to protect the native wildlife given in trust to Refuge stewards.

Wonderful Walkabouts!

As if to make up for May's rain and wind, Wednesdays in June were graced with mostly lovely, calm, sunny weather. We are venturing out in smaller groups now, without Miss Molly and Miss Muey here to help keep track of everyone. One benefit is everyone has a chance to ask questions and have them answered, and it is easier to stop and investigate interesting discoveries. The drawback is not everyone can come each week; there are lots of "Please, Miss Lisa, can we come again next Wednesday???" ...Any volunteers to lead a Friday Frolic?

