# QANEMCIT

### July 2021

Nunaput umyuallgutkut pinirluteng-llu, Tegganerput qigcikluk pirpakluki-llu, ayagyuaput-llu ciuliqagcimaut yuuyarakun





Qaspeq Friday photos on social media @avcpalaska

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



July 30, 2021

The summer is quickly coming to an end. I hope you have had the opportunity to get those summer projects done. Summertime is when we spend time with family and get ready for all the fall activities. This year, like last year has been very challenging.

Operationally, AVCP began a soft re-opening in early June. On June 1st I returned to my office after 65 weeks of remote work during the pandemic. Like many of you, I was at first very apprehensive. I wore my mask and brought hand sanitizer to work and made sure I had some in my car. I sat at my desk and noticed that my calendar on the wall still showed March 2020. My office

windowsills, furniture, desk and my computer were all dusty. The first thing I did in my office was to check to see if anyone else was here. It seemed so quiet. I spent at least half the day just cleaning up. My mind went back to the day in March of 2020 when the decision was made to send everyone home.

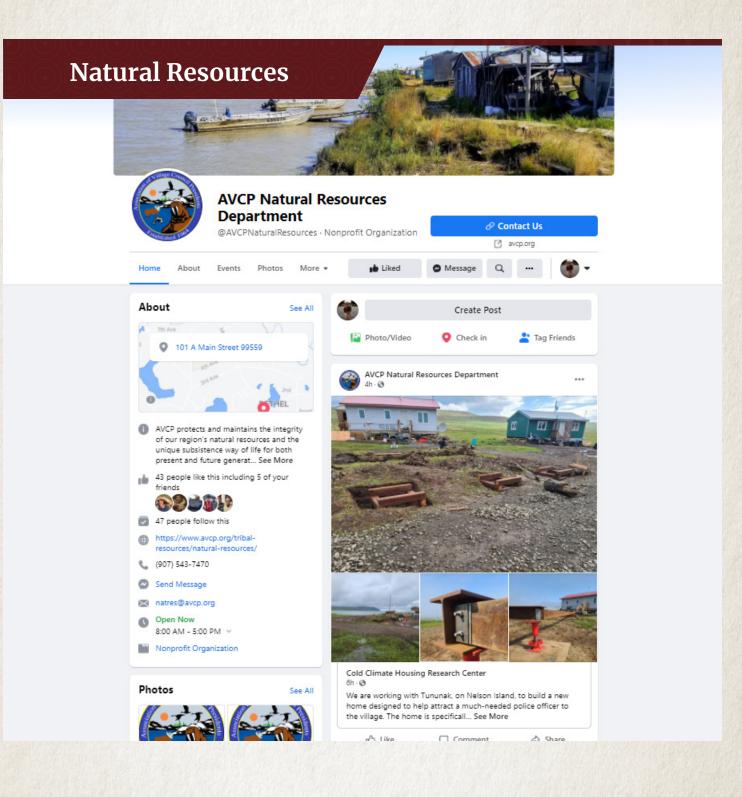
At the beginning of Covid-19 I knew I had to come up with a goal, as CEO, for our organization to get through this unprecedented challenge. I said that our goal would be to come out the other end, standing up. That is still our goal. The pandemic is still not done even though restrictions are being lifted. With the new variant, we are being even more attentive to all the precautions we have in place to protect our employees and our organization. We work in tandem with YKHC to monitor the changes across our whole region because we have AVCP staff in many of our villages.

As we are starting to open AVCP up more and more, we are adjusting our policies and procedures based on surveys, CDC guidelines, YKHC recommendations and using our best judgement in making decisions to protect our staff, our organization and our communities.

As we have been reminded, "we are not out of the woods yet." We are looking forward to the AVCP annual convention to be held on September 22, 2021. This will be a hybrid convention. Our region faces many challenges, as the theme of the convention this year is "We Will Survive This Pandemic With Hope and Resiliency." Take care.

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Natural Resources now has it's own facebook page! Join us at www.facebook.com/AVCPNaturalResources/ to see all of the exciting new content concerning natural resources within our region.

# Yukon River Salmon Disaster: Neighbor Helping Neighbor

July 22, 2021

### **Status of Salmon**

The Yukon River, from the mouth of the river as it empties into the Bering Sea all the way to the headwaters in Canada, is experiencing an unprecedented situation with salmon this summer. Throughout the whole river, including within the AVCP region, there has been no opportunity for subsistence users to catch salmon to put away for the winter. In other parts of the State, such as the Bristol Bay Region, the salmon season has been successful. The Bristol Bay donation of salmon to the Yukon River villages is a story about "neighbor helping neighbor" during a disaster.

#### Bristol Bay Salmon Headed to the Lower Yukon River

Through an amazing number of organizations working together there are king and chum salmon caught in Naknek and King Salmon in the Bristol Bay Region being donated to the Yukon River villages. The organization responsible for this is Sea Share. Sea Share is working with both the TCC and AVCP regions to distribute 25,000 pounds of fish. Half the fish will go to the villages on the Lower Yukon River. Sea Share is a nonprofit whose mission is to engage the seafood industry in a collective effort to improve nutrition for the people served by food banks and feeding centers.

On the Lower Yukon River, the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association through their local processing plant, Kwik'pak Fisheries, will receive the donated salmon to deliver to the communities along the Yukon River from Russian Mission to Nunam Iqua.

Sea Share is partnering with Lynden, Northern Air Cargo, Everts and Alaska Air to fly the fish to Anchorage. From there Everts will fly half the total amount of fish to Emmonak to hand over to YDFDA for repacking to be delivered to families along the Lower Yukon River.

Kwik'pak Fisheries will re-box the frozen fish in Emmonak and prepare for distribution to the villages on the Lower Yukon River, to be delivered by tender boats. One tender boat will head up the Yukon to deliver from Russian Mission down to Pilot Station. Another tender boat will bring the fish to St. Mary's to Mt. Village. A third tender boat will deliver from Kotlik to Nunam Iqua. This process will take about 3-4 days to deliver all the fish after it is delivered to Emmonak. As of today, July 22, the salmon has been flown into Anchorage. The salmon is expected to land in Emmonak on July 23rd or 24th.

#### AVCP collaborating with YDFDA on salmon donation

The six Bristol Bay fish processers: Alaska General Seafoods, Leader Creek Fisheries, North Pacific Seafoods, Ocean Beauty Icicle, Silver Bay Seafoods and Trident Seafoods have worked through Sea Share for Bristol Bay salmon to be donated to both the AVCP and TCC Regions along the Yukon River.

AVCP has been assisting Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association by coordinating with the Tribes in the communities from Russian Mission to Nunam Iqua on the Lower Yukon River to identify each communities' point of contact to receive the donated salmon.

On the Lower Yukon, there are 10 villages receiving the salmon including Russian Mission, Marshall, Pilot Station, St. Mary's, Pitka's Point, Mt. Village, Kotlik, Emmonak, Alakanuk and Nunam Iqua. Considering there is more than one tribe in four of the villages, the total amount of Tribes benefiting from the donated salmon on the Lower Yukon is 16 Tribes.

Each community will work through their Tribal Office to determine how the salmon will be distributed in each village. In the villages where there is more than one Tribe, the Tribes will work together on prioritizing who will receive the salmon. Since there has been no fish to share, as is our tradition, the Elders will receive the first donated fish in each community.

### **Helping our Villages**

The idea for helping the villages on the Yukon River came from the fish processors in a meeting they had in King Salmon on July 1st. Sea Share was asked by the processors to help coordinate the project and to see that the salmon get to the families that need it along the Yukon River. We know that the donated salmon will not be enough to fulfill all the needs for the winter. But, it is certainly greatly appreciated and we are thankful to our neighbors in the Bristol Bay region. On behalf of our villages-Quyana-thank you.

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For additional information, please contact AVCP Communications Director, Gage Hoffman at 907-543-7308 or email at ghoffman@avcp.org

AVCP is a regional nonprofit tribal consortium comprised of the 56 federally recognized tribes of the YK Delta. The geographic boundaries of AVCP extend from the Yukon River Village of Russian Mission downstream to the Bering Sea coast, north up through Kotlik and south along the coastline to Platinum and then extending up the Kuskokwim River to Stony River, including Lime Village on the Stony River tributary. The area encompasses approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles, in Western Alaska.

# **NEW HIRES**



### **Meet our new Communications Director!**

Gage "Ciquyaq" Hoffman

Affliated Tribe: ONC

Gage started on Monday, June 28th. He previously worked at YKHC in the Communications Department.

We look forward to your work here at AVCP, Gage!

Here is a personal statement from Gage himself: "Waqaa everyone! I am really excited to be a part of this organization and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. Quyana."

### **Meet our new Facilities Director!**

Jim Kohl

Jim is a man of few words. We thank you for joining us, and look forward to working with you!



Helen "Paninguar "Paul Kipnuk Traditional Council Working in: ICWA

"Hello everyone! Its so good to be back to work after 2 years off! I love to help families and children who are in need of help. I so missed doing what I did. I look forward in working with coworkers and others in my line of work I do. Alright everyone enjoy your day, and have fun picking berries!"





Chelsea Andrew Working in: TWD

Nadia "Arnaq" Duffy Iqurmiut Traditional Council Working in: Environmental Planning





Marilyn "Angutaq" Egoak Organized Village of Kwethluk Working in: Realty

"Looking forward to working with you all!"

# COVID-19 and NEOs



Pictured: Participants of the July 14 & 15 2021 New Hire Orientation. This was the first in-person New Hire Orientation since February 2020!

AVCP New Hire Orientations consist of a review of the AVCP Handbook, guidelines, and presentations on the variety of departments and projects of AVCP. The purpose of the orientation is to have new employees introduced and informed of their new work-place, as well as giving them a chance to ask clarifying questions on the topics at hand.

With the safety regulations in place during COVID-19, in-person New Hire Orientations were put on hold. In their place was a safe but impersonal presentation packet to be reviewed and signed once read. This orientation method was effective, but lacked the engagement and clarity of in-person presentations. "If someone had a question about the information in the packet, they had to email it to me and I would forward it to the relevant department," said Norman Michaels, the facilitator of NEO's.

With the reintroduction of in-person presentations, new hires are able to ask their questions directly and have them answered in real time; this allows for a back-and-forth engagement that encourages new hires to really think about the information being given to them. We are excited to be able to engage with our employees once again and experience that social interaction that packets lack.

# **Employee Spotlight**



Pictured: Alvin Jimmie Sr., AVCP VPSO Coordinator and Major General Saxe pose at the Bethel National Guard Readiness Center.

#### ALVIN JIMMIE SR., AVCP VPSO COORDINATOR, AWARDED THE ALASKA COMMUNITY SERVICE MEDAL

Major General Saxe presented The Alaska Community Services Medal on behalf the Governor of the State of Alaska at the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) sponsored Town Hall event in Bethel, Alaska, Thursday, April 8, 2021.

The event happened at the National Guard Readiness Center where approximately 30 people gathered to participate in the Town Hall Meeting.

The Medal was presented to Alvin Jimmie Sr. "for outstanding community service in Bethel. Your dedicated service as a village public safety officer, a mentor, and continued support of river watch demonstrates your commitment to the people of Bethel. Your achievements reflect great credit upon yourself, your community, and the State of Alaska."

Congratulations to Mr. Alvin Jimmie Sr., AVCP VPSO Coordinator in receiving this honorary medal.



Pictured: The Alaska Community Service Medal awarded to Alvin Jimmie Sr., AVCP VPSO Coordinator



#### TRIBAL ID PRINTER SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Monday - Friday in the afternoons, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: Tugkar Building (3rd and Main)

We take walk-ins!

To schedule an appointment, contact Katrina Tinker at 907-543-7384 Please call if you have any questions.

Masks are recommended but are not required. Non-vaccinated participants are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

