



## YK Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Work Session

### Subsistence and Food Security Focus Area Action Planning Results

**Thursday, October 21, 2021 | 10:00am -12:00pm**

**Link to recording:** <https://www.avcp.org/tribal-resources/community-development/regional-comprehensive-economic-development-strategy/>

**Facilitator:** Jackie Qatalina Schaeffer, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

**Team Support:** Heather Stewart, Agnew::Beck Consulting

**Participants:**

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Steven	Alexie	Donlin Gold
George	Anderson	Chignik Intertribal Coalition, Ivanoff Bay Tribe Environmental
Samantha	Angaiak	Donlin Gold
Rahnia	Boyer	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC)
Clarence	Daniel	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Community Development Division
Randall	Friendly	University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), Graduate Student
Jack	Hebert	Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)
Krista	Heeringa	Alaska Climate Adaptation Science Center (AK CASC)
Jennifer	Hooper	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Natural Resources Division
Brent	Hove	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Department of Environmental Health and Engineering (DEHE)
Paige	Jones	Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), Natural Resources Division
Tisha	Kuhns	Calista Corporation, Vice President Land Natural Resources (from Bethel)
Paul	Larson	University of Alaska Fairbanks, wildlife biology/conservation student (from Napaskiak)
Joie	Millet	Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP)
Jackie	Qatalina Schaeffer	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Community Development Manager
Jonathan	Samuelson	The Kuskokwim Corporation
Meg	Smith	Donlin Gold, Human Resources
Miranda	Strong	Calista Corporation, Government Relations
Kira	Wilkinson	Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF)
Michael	Williams Sr	Chief of Akiak Native Community, Chair Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Akiak resident
Rebecca	Wilmarth	Donlin Gold
Kristina	Woolston	Donlin Gold

**Objective:** Review progress on priority CEDS actions, define next steps for implementation, and track progress toward key indicators.

#### Agenda:

**A. Welcome, Logistics, Roll Call, Breakout Purpose and Agenda Review**

**B. Strategy/Action Introduction and Knowledge Sharing**

### CEDS Action(s):

- Mentor younger generations to take larger roles in stewardship and resource management.
- Better incorporate local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and concerns in fish and wildlife management.
- Prioritize community-based participatory research.

### C. Action Planning

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
<b>Task A.</b> Include youth seat on this Subsistence CEDS working group.	<b>Lead:</b> AVCP	n/a?	<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, confirm youth representation on CEDS Subsistence Working Group.
<b>Task A. Progress Update: Success!</b> At the last CEDS Committee meeting, the Committee committed to having youth keynote speaker(s), and invited Randall, Jaden and Paul to join this group.			

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<b>Task B.</b> Participate in resource-management meetings, including: RACs, in-season management teleconferences, Native Corporation meetings, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include youth seats on Tribal Councils, fishery boards/committees, other subsistence related committees/boards</li> <li>• Participate in North Pacific Fisheries Management Council</li> <li>• Native Corporation meetings</li> </ul>	<b>Lead:</b> Communities <b>Contacts:</b> North Pacific Fisheries Management Council: Mellisa Johnson is on the Advisory Panel. Another Indigenous woman from Nome, Rose Fosdick, is on the Ecosystem Committee.	n/a?	<b>Tribes and local advisory bodies:</b> Invite more youth participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold discussions with Elders to walk youth through what happens at the meeting, how to participate.</li> <li>• Prepare youth for participation with mock meetings, e.g., at schools.</li> </ul> <b>CEDS Committee:</b> Encourage community organizations and Tribes to form focus groups with Elders and youth (Akiak model). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring the youth seat on these boards to AFN as an objective for AFN to oversee since they have contacts with all villages.</li> </ul> <b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, review task, lead and contacts. Are more updates needed?

**Task B. Progress Update:** AVCP Natural Resources regularly interacts with these councils. 33 tribes organized into the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC). KRITFC has been successful in getting villages engaged to help manage fisheries on Kuskokwim. KRITFC worked with the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (YRITFC). KRITFC has an agreement (MOU) with USFWS to co-manage Chinook salmon and other species of concern on Kuskokwim River.

In Akiak, regular focus groups involve students in discussing the status and data on Chinook and other species and include youth recommendations along with Elders' recommendations. A Kuskokwim management group is advising on the State side on the river and with USFWS where the river is Federalized. Youth are involved in openers, putting up fish, and the fisheries program.

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<b>Task C.</b> Create a video guide covering topics such as running to be on Council, what it is like to have an internship and/or participating in / presenting to Councils. This could be an internship project.	<b>Lead:</b> Western Alaska Partnership  <b>Partners:</b> KYUK (Katie Basile katie@kyuk.org)		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, review task, lead and partners. Are more updates needed?
<p><b>Task C. Progress Update:</b> No updates given on the video guide.</p> <p>Working group members suggested discussing this idea with school districts as a possible high school class project. LKSD has a READY program for tribal management certification, adding Robert's Rules and a session like "So you want to be on your tribal council, what do you do next."</p> <p>Working group members also suggested utilizing phone apps in council meetings.</p> <p>UAF/TCC has been working on developing trainings that help prepare people to engage at the state and federal regulatory process.</p>			

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<b>Task D.</b> Document the opportunities offered by existing internship and youth leadership programs (e.g., supporting partners, types of projects, exchanges, etc.). Identify any regions that are under-represented by existing programs. Establish a talent bank for YK Delta job seekers in natural resource careers.	<b>Kuskokwim Leads:</b> ONC (Janessa Esquible) and Napaimute  <b>Yukon Leads:</b> YRDFA  <b>Coastal Leads:</b> CVRF and USFWS could do more to involve youth, hire interns, etc. in coastal areas.  <b>Partners:</b> School districts, Alaska EXCEL program		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, review task, lead and partners. Are more updates needed?
<p><b>Task D. Progress Update:</b> Working group members discussed the 2021 CEDS Work Session keynote, which featured regional student technicians hired by the Yukon Delta NWR. Brian Daniels (USFWS): hiring local technicians in biology is a priority of the Refuge's waterfowl program. Interested people are encouraged to contact the Refuge or join ANSEP and access these jobs through ANSEP.</p>			

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<b>Task E.</b> Create a Lower River and Upper River youth exchange so the future users of the resource will understand why we need to conserve and have escapement for the upper river users.	<b>Lead:</b> TBD  <b>Partners:</b> EXCEL Alaska		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, review task, lead and partners. Are more updates needed?
<p><b>Task E. Progress Update:</b> No updates given.</p>			

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<b>Task F.</b> Create an exchange among Arctic, Yukon and Kuskokwim River fisheries programs.	<b>Lead:</b> TBD <b>Partners:</b> YRDFA, ONC, Yukon Intertribal Fish Commission, Calista, ONC, Excel Alaska		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, review task, lead and partners. Are more updates needed?  <b>Organizations involved in these collaborations:</b> share information about the work that is happening, e.g., at ATCEM ( <a href="https://www.atcemak.com/">https://www.atcemak.com/</a> )
<p><b>Task F. Progress Update:</b> Jonathan Samuelson (Kuskokwim Corp, KRITFC) talked about collaborative work between our work on the Kuskokwim, the Yukon Intertribal Fish Commission and Norton Sound. We have plans and ideas to continue this collaboration, share stories, knowledge, and meeting processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George Anderson would like to attend any upcoming exchange meetings. He believes BB and YK have a lot of issues in common. <a href="mailto:g.anderson@chignikcoalition.org">g.anderson@chignikcoalition.org</a></li> </ul> <p>Jennifer Hooper shared that the salmon crisis has been a catalyst for building partnerships and collaboration between the two river systems, starting with the most recent salmon bycatch efforts at the last NPFMC meeting. Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions have been experiencing salmon disasters for ~30 years, bringing local and indigenous perspectives to North Pacific Fisheries Management Council.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the MSA<sup>1</sup> include two tribal seats on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).</p> <p>ICC is developing a Co-Management Action Plan among North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Bering Straits, Kuskokwim, and Yukon.<sup>2</sup></p>			

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<b>Task G.</b> Develop a career pathway for subsistence and natural resource management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand on USFWS Native Relations Training Program to improve the dialogues and collaborations to make it more equitable and welcoming. This includes trainings and possible coordination with Alaska Pacific University (APU).</li> </ul>	<b>Lead:</b> TBD <b>Partners:</b> Tanana Chiefs Conference, UAF/APU BIA Pathways Program		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, identify a lead or platform to share information on these programs. Miranda Strong will ask First Alaskans and report back.
<p><b>Task G. Progress Update:</b> Working group members discussed the 2021 CEDS Work Session keynote, which featured regional student technicians hired by the Yukon Delta NWR. Brian Daniels (USFWS): hiring local technicians in biology is a priority of the Refuge's waterfowl program. Interested people are encouraged to contact the Refuge or join ANSEP and access these jobs through ANSEP.</p>			

<sup>1</sup> MSA = Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. "October 26, 2021 — The following was released by the Pacific Fishery Management Council: Leaders of the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils concluded their second biannual meeting in 2021 last week by videoconference. The Council Coordination Committee meeting provides the Councils and heads of the National Marine Fisheries Service an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to all of the Councils. The three-day meeting was open to the public and hosted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Among the issues discussed were proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the need to more fully address environmental justice for underserved fishing communities. Please view the full press release and a comprehensive summary of the meeting by visiting the U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils website at: <http://www.fisherycouncils.org/ccm-meetings/october-2021>."

<sup>2</sup> Inuit Circumpolar Council – Alaska: <https://iccalaska.org/our-work/alaskan-inuit-fsi/>

Working group members also mentioned:

The Navigating the New Arctic Community Office (NNA-CO), which builds capacity in early career researchers (<https://nna-co.org/>).

Study of Environmental Arctic Change (SEARCH), which is looking for people to participate on advisory committees (<https://searcharcticsscience.org/>).

UAF Fisheries Management Program (<https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/academics/departments/fisheries/>)

Tamamta is another UAF program working on this (<https://www.tamamta.org/>).

UAF Tribal Governance program (<https://www.uaf.edu/tribal/>).

Action Plan Task	Lead and Partners	Funding Sources	Next Steps
<p><b>Task H.</b> Develop an apprenticeship program to guide younger people into high-level positions in resource management. Create a path to guide local people into those positions and a “Mapping Alaska’s Partnerships” website that identifies federal, state, university, non-profit, tribal, and corporation groups that are working in similar fields and regions and putting the list in one place to help students and newcomers to the field find opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> TBD</p> <p><b>Partners:</b> Calista, ANSEP, Bering Sea Fishermen’s Association</p>	<p>USFWS offers a grant to pay for an intern that is available every 2 years.</p>	<p><b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, review task (exact language may need to be revised; maybe this is happening/has happened now?) and identify a lead or platform to share information on these resources.</p> <p><b>Communities:</b> Talk to USFWS people early and often about opportunities for youth, subsistence, how to overcome trust issues.</p>
<p><b>Task H. Progress Update:</b> USFWS is hiring youth within the Fisheries Resource Management Program to bridge this gap and distrust between local and other entities.</p> <p>ANSEP is doing this successfully. ANSEP has is also partnering with the Lower Kuskokwim Schools (LKSD) and the UAF Kuskokwim Campus to open an accelerated high school in Bethel for LKSD students. Students are taking dual credit classes and are on track to get their bachelor’s degrees a year after they graduate from high school. LKSD and ANSEP are funding it.</p> <p>The Native Youth Climate Adaptation Leadership Congress is an annual national mentorship program for youth that is a collaboration among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and U.S. Forest Service. (<a href="https://www.nycalc.org/">https://www.nycalc.org/</a>).</p> <p>Tisha Kuhns shared that Calista awarded 362 CECI natural resource scholarships over the last five years (<a href="http://www.calistaeducation.org/about-us.html">http://www.calistaeducation.org/about-us.html</a>).</p>			

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<b>Task I.</b> Establish a Collective Impact Initiative: Set a goal to develop a certain number of resource managers or scientists from the YK region to work in the region. Name that number and pull all entities together to align their efforts to achieve the goal by linking and leveraging educational opportunities, internships, employment opportunities, etc.	<b>Lead:</b> TBD (a coordinator and communications person would be needed)  <b>Partners:</b> School districts should be involved from the beginning to encourage youth to pursue fisheries/ wildlife careers by knowing what is available.		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, identify a lead or platform to share information on these resources.
<p><b>Task I. Progress Update:</b> A concept paper has been drafted to explore this idea, connecting learners and students in the University of Alaska system to build capacity among upcoming youth leaders, state programs, and regional tribal programs. This concept paper could continue to be developed into a program.</p> <p>Pursuing climate change careers could also better incorporate indigenous knowledge into western science (Climate Adaptation Working Group Task D).</p>			

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<b>Task J.</b> Establish a small cohort of youth who can be mentored and introduced to educational and career pathways in natural resources. Aligning opportunities can be along the Traditional Knowledge, advocacy (Bering Sea Management issues) and what a young person would need to know from an Indigenous perspective/livelihood along with the management issues.	<b>Lead:</b> TBD  <b>Partners:</b> ANSEP, First Alaskans Institute, ICC, ANTHC		<b>Working Group:</b> At a future meeting, identify a lead or platform to share information on these resources. Include the many programs that allow for mentorship and internships.
<p><b>Task J. Progress Update:</b> Working group members clarified that Youth includes people in high school through early 20s who are eager to get involved. They also discussed:</p> <p>The Kuskokwim Corporation hasn't been able to host its normal internship program recently (due to COVID-19), but we are working an overview of/learning about subsistence advocacy into our internship program. This could also be built into the internships that other organizations have already.</p> <p>Four of the current Tamamta cohort members have ties to the Y-K.</p>			

## D. Indicators of Success

<b>Indicator of Success/Positive Change</b>	<b>2-Year Target</b>	<b>Priority Indicator?</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<p><b>Tasks D, G, H, I, J.</b> Number of local part-time and full-time positions in the subsistence/natural resource fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which jobs to track.</li> </ul>	In 2 years, # of local (based completely in the Kuskokwim or Yukon) part-time and # of local full-time positions are in the subsistence/natural resource fields.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>
<p><b>Tasks D, G, H, I, J.</b> Number of subsistence/natural resource internships available in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which internships to track.</li> </ul>	In 2 years, there are # internships in the subsistence/natural resource fields.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>
<p><b>Tasks A-B.</b> Number of leadership or membership positions on natural resource boards/commissions held by YK Delta residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which positions and natural resource boards/commissions to track.</li> </ul>	In 2 years, # leadership or membership positions on natural resource boards/commissions are held by people from the YK Delta.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>
<p><b>Tasks A-B.</b> Number of YK Delta youth who attend natural resource management meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which resource management meetings to track and how to track youth attendance.</li> </ul>	In 2 years, # YK Delta youth attend natural resource management meetings.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>
<p><b>Tasks D, G, H, I, J.</b> Number of YK Delta students enrolled in college, technical school and training for natural resource subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which institutions and programs to track (e.g., UAF, APU, online degrees). Tisha Kuhns can check with CECI to get our baseline numbers and suggested asking Title VI Indian Education if they have a survey</li> </ul>	In 2 years, # YK Delta students are enrolled in college, technical school and training for natural resources subjects.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>

<b>Indicator of Success/Positive Change</b>	<b>2-Year Target</b>	<b>Priority Indicator?</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
from ASD. Maybe ANSEP tracks this for their students?			
<p><b>Tasks D, G, H, I, J.</b> Number of YK Delta graduates with degrees in natural resource subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a meaningful target for this indicator requires baseline information that is not readily available. Identify which institutions and programs to track (e.g., UAF, APU, online degrees). Tisha Kuhns can check with CECI to get our baseline numbers and suggested asking Title VI Indian Education if they have a survey from ASD. Maybe ANSEP tracks this for their students?</li> </ul>	In 2 years, # YK Delta graduates have degrees in natural resources subjects.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>
Future indicator: If we could determine the number of salmon leaving our rivers, we would have the data to develop targets like 95% survival rate, etc. Then impose these targets on bycatch. We would need to have the error terms calculated.	In 2 years, KRITFC and YRITFC have at least one year of data estimating the number of salmon leaving the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers.	<p>(yes/no)</p> <p>Confirm at future Working Group meeting.</p>	<p><b>Where to find the data:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p> <p><b>Who will collect it:</b> TBD at future Working Group meeting.</p>

## E. Summarize, Closing Comments and Adjourn

### **What final comments, questions or concerns do we have as individuals/as a group?**

- Chums were hit hard this year, and Area M commercial fishermen are taking nearly 2.2 million chums. Chum is a big part of elders' diet because it is easier on their bodies and stomach compared to other salmon. We were fortunate to have gathered enough reds this year, despite a low chum return. Yukon people are hurting this year and need conservation efforts to ensure escapement for rebuilding fish populations. The Tribes need to work together, beyond the Y-K region.
- In Bristol Bay, we reached out to regional organizations to address run failures and food security. We chose to not fish to help rebuild stocks and increase escapement, although the State still allowed fishing. Regional organizations donated sockeye so that people could process the fish the way they wanted. The fish was dispersed to communities in Bristol Bay and at the BBNC parking lot in Anchorage.
- We should consider different ways to think about harvest targets than the previous year returns or population numbers alone. The resources (e.g., birds, fish) are reproduced here. If we can harness data to calculate what our region is producing, we can tie what we produce with other effects to determine the mass of what is being produced here, then impose stricter targets outside the region. There has been a disconnect between data monitoring and subsistence, and local observation data versus outside monitoring efforts.
- Kuskokwim communities are not meeting their needs but are involving youth yearly at the local level. Climate change and other factors are affecting runs on the Kuskokwim River.
- There should be advocating strategies for zero bycatch in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. It is necessary to do it because we are experiencing lack of food security.
- Yukon Fisheries Disaster Declaration efforts: There are two pending disaster declaration requests on the NOAA website, signed by a number of regional entities. Miranda Strong (Calista) can assist; she has been talking with the State



### ***What final comments, questions or concerns do we have as individuals/as a group?***

and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to try to get support for declaration and funding to include subsistence users, not just commercial fishers.

- AFN should pass a resolution to help all Alaska tribes with the process of requesting disaster declarations. More areas of Alaska will face this process with climate change and other things going on. The process is slow. AFN wrote a letter with AVCP. There's a bill pending in the House right now to improve the process.
- Documents from 1990s, when previous leaders have dealt with fish intercepted by Area M commercial fishermen, advise to allow at least 500,000 fish to pass before opening to commercial fishing.
- Tribes can work directly with FEMA and not go through the State for disaster declaration (government to government). The FEMA Tribal Liaison for Alaska is Ramona Van Cleve 907.271.4302 or [ramona.vancleve@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:ramona.vancleve@fema.dhs.gov)
- We have a Yup'ik climate worker in the White House.
- Rebecca Wilmarth sits on the RAC, which is open to communication about subsistence and food security. We are also putting together a Subsistence Advisory Committee for Donlin Gold with TKC and Calista.  
<https://letstalkdonlin.com/donlin-project-community-advisory-committees/>

### ***When should we meet again?***

- Use Survey monkey to ask Committee members when they would meet next. Maybe December/January?
- Next meeting focus on indicators and identifying leads for strategies that don't have leads.