

UNANGAN TIDE

Summer Issue 2018

Inside this issue:

Modern Alaskan Tribes	2
Iqyax Project	3
UCSD Graduates!	3
PSP Toxin Results	4
Meet the Interns!	5
New Staff!	6
Morris Cove Project	6
Environmental Projects	7
Recycling Program	8

Fourth of July Activities!

By Nicole Whittern
Environmental Intern

The Qawalangin Tribe would like to invite you to the annual Fourth of July Celebration! It's open to everyone and admission is free. There will be games for the whole family, and prizes for the lucky winners! In addition to the games, there will be a silent auction to participate in. We hope to see you there! Meet at Tutiakoff Field, 1pm on the Fourth of July and join in on the fun!

Also, in collaboration with the Fourth of July Celebration, the Tribe will be collecting aluminum cans and plastics, as a part of our recycling project. So, bring your aluminum cans and #1 plastics! #1 plastics will be marked with a small recycling emblem with a number one in the middle. This can usually be found toward the bottom of the plastic container. If you are able to bring cans or plastics, make sure that they are rinsed and empty. We hope to gain your support!

Special Points of Interest

- Follow us on Instagram! @q.tribe
- New Staff and Interns Hired!
- May PSP Toxin Results ! (see pg. 4)
- Pilot Recycling Program Launched! (see pg. 8)
- Fourth of July Celebrations! Bring your recyclables!



Pictured (above): Horizon's Fourth of July Float in the 2014 Parade
(For more on the recycling program, see page 8)



An Overview of the Modern Alaskan Native Tribe



By Nicole Johnson
CEO & Tribal Administrator

Over the coming months, I will be working on compiling and sharing information about the roles and responsibilities of the modern Alaskan Native Tribe. For many of you, this information may seem common sense, but it is important that the Tribe is getting this information out there to all its members. Especially, your youth, as they are the future of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska.

The US Constitution recognizes that Tribes are sovereign nations, just like a foreign country or state, with the inherent right of self-governance. A tribe cannot be terminated except by an act of congress. Self-governance means that the tribe has the right to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tribal citizens. Alaskan Tribal governments can provide programs and services, including, but not limited to, social programs, first-responder services, education, workforce development, and energy and land management. They also build and maintain a variety of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public buildings.

Tribal governments maintain the power to determine their own governance structures, pass laws, and enforce laws through police departments and tribal courts. Tribes can also adopt their own membership criteria and it is the choice of the tribe to determine their means of

organization and membership requirements. Population or size is not a deciding factor. Even when separated from a land base, tribes in Alaska retain certain powers over their members.

In 1994, with the Federally Recognized Indian Tribal List Act, congress officially reviewed and endorsed the creation of a list of all Federally Recognized Tribes, which is published annually. The regulations of this act mandate that the US government maintain a government-to-government relationship with tribes that recognizes the sovereignty of these tribes. This means that on anything that can affect tribal lands, interests, or citizens the governmental agency must allow time for open, public consultations with Tribal Governments, such as the Qawalangin Tribe's Council and administration. This government-to-government consultation is what allows there to be Tribal Advisory Committee's to various governmental agencies, such as NTOC (EPA National Tribal Operations Committee) that our President Tom Robinson sits on, or the TAMS (Tribal Air Monitoring Support) Center Steering Committee, that I sit on. Additionally, there are numerous other federal, state, and regional Tribal Advisory Boards that also respect the tribe's right to self-determination and self-governance.

In future articles, I will talk more about the various programs that the tribe administers- how the Qawalangin Tribe had chosen to run its government and how you as Tribal members can become more involved in ensuring the future of your Tribe. Also, in consultation with the BIA, I will be sharing the anticipated future direction and goals for Alaskan Native Tribes.



*"The Iqyax was
dedicated to the
memory of Unalaska
Chieftan Alexei
Yatchmeneff."*

-Shayla Shaishnikoff-



Iqyax building Project with APIA and Marc Daniels

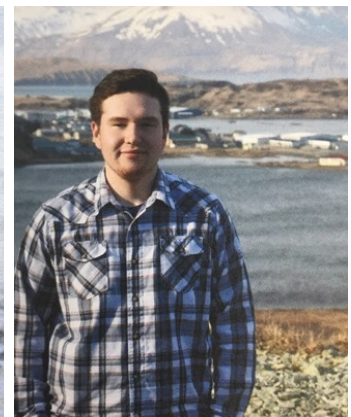


By Shayla Shaishnikoff
Newsletter Editor & Lead Intern

In the beginning of June, APIA hosted a week-long Youth Health and Wellness Summer Camp at the PCR. APIA worked with our youth in a variety of fun activities and also addressed substance abuse, suicide prevention and

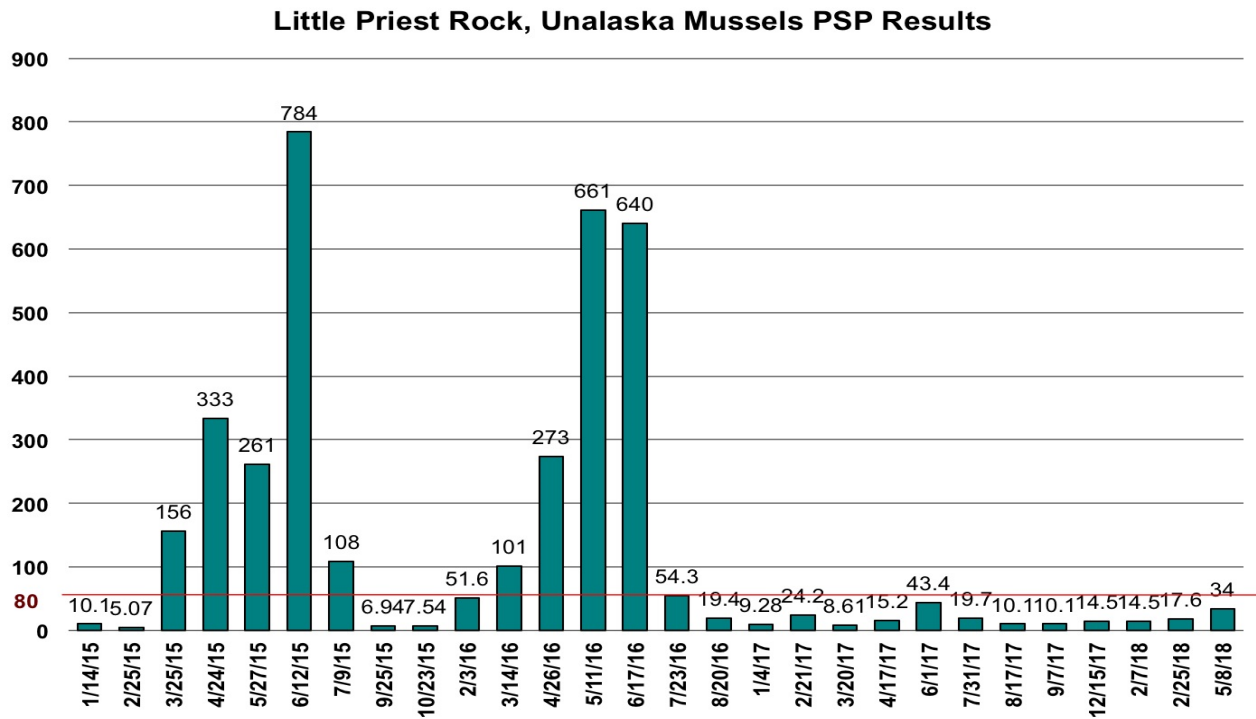
intervention. One project of the camp was learning how to build a traditional Unagnax Iqyax with Marc Daniels, Builder-Owner of True North Boats! Marc did a fantastic job mentoring some of our young tribal members, some of whom have now expressed an interest in apprenticing with him in the future! The Iqyax launch took place on Saturday, June 9- followed by a potluck at the Burma Road Chapel. Father Evon blessed the Iqyax before it's first launch into water- performed by Landen Shaishnikoff, who was heavily involved in the building process. The Iqyax, donated to the Qawalangin Tribe, was dedicated to the memory of Unalaska Chieftan Alexei Yatchmeneff. Memory Eternal!

Tribal Member High School Graduates at UCSD



Let's take a moment to congratulate our 2018 tribal member graduates at Unalaska High School! Colton Dirks, Talon Shaishnikoff and Trever Schliebe- Qagaasakung for your hard work!! We are very proud of you!

Unalaska Paralytic Shellfish Toxin Results May 2018



The most recent 2018 paralytic shellfish toxin (paralytic shellfish poisoning PSP) results for Little Priest Rock, Unalaska, Alaska (mussels collected 5/08/18) had PSP toxin levels of <34 micrograms/100 grams. These levels are below the FDA limit for PSP which is 80 micrograms/100 grams, the red line on the attached graph. March, April, and June samples are still pending analysis, but please be aware that we have seen increases in toxin levels starting in March the past couple of years.

Paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) is a serious illness caused by eating shellfish contaminated with dinoflagellate algae that produce harmful toxins. Shellfish harvesters should be advised that PSP is a serious health risk when consuming personally harvested shellfish. All bivalve molluscan shellfish including clams, mussels, oysters, geoducks, and scallops can contain PSP toxins. Crabs feeding on toxic mussels, clams or fish (sand lance) can accumulate PSP toxin in their digestive system, so it is recommend that before cooking, remove the back shell of the crab and clean out all the dark soft tissues that comprise the digestive system and crab butter. The same may be true for shrimp; clean them before cooking. Bivalves (clams, mussels, oysters, scallops) sold at wholesale and retail markets require PSP testing and are considered safe for human consumption. Forage fish, such as sand lance (AKA needlefish, candle fish, sand eels) can become toxic with PSP as well.

The samples for this project were analyzed by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Health Laboratory using approved analytical methods (mouse bioassay) and testing was funded by the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association.

This report is provided by Alaska Sea Grant Aleutian-Pribilof Marine Advisory Program.

Meet the Summer Interns!



Aang Aang! My name is Shayla Shaishnikoff. In addition to my regular newsletter editing duties, I have been brought on as the Lead Intern this summer. I earned my bachelor degree from UAA in 2016, and this fall I will be returning to school in Bellingham, Washington to earn my post-baccalaureate degree in Environmental Science & Marine Ecology- so I am thrilled to be home working with the Qawalangin Tribe's Environmental department! I plan on taking advantage of my opportunity to work with the Tribe by expanding my understanding of environmental issues facing Unalaska and the Aleutian Region. The other interns and I have already become involved in a number of fascinating projects, and I am very grateful for this opportunity! Qagaasakung to the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska and APICDA for making this internship program possible!

Hey! My name is Nicole Whittern, I'm Aleut and Caucasian. I grew up in Unalaska until the age of 6, then moved to Washington. I recently graduated from Nooksack Valley High School located in Everson, Washington on June 8th, 2018. After high school, I will be attending Seattle University to study Biology in addition to being on the track team. Each summer I return to Unalaska to visit family and work. I am very appreciative to be given the opportunity to work with the Qawalangin Tribe this summer. As the Environmental Intern I can further my knowledge of Unalaska, as well as the environment. I am very excited to learn more about what I can do to help the community and contribute a positive impact on Unalaska with the time that I have here.



My name is Kayla Nalam. I lived in Unalaska almost my whole life. I graduated in 2016 then moved to Washington for college. I finished my second year of college at Washington State University and recently declared my major in Business Management. I'm planning on minoring in international business or international studies. I will be graduating in 2 years. My college experience so far has been beyond amazing, go cougs! I came back home for the summer to work and save up for the following school year. I came upon an opportunity this summer to intern at the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska. I will be working in the office under the environmental department as an office assistant and will help with environmental projects for Unalaska. I am very thrilled and thankful to have this opportunity!

Meet the Staff: Kristine Sours!



Kristine began working at the Qawalangin Tribe as Secretary/Receptionist in April of 2018. Kristine lived in Bandon, Oregon for a year and moved back to Unalaska, graduating from the Unalaska City High School in 2013. Kristine's hobbies are drawing & painting, and she has recently gotten into BB target practice and knitting. Join us in welcoming Kristine to the Qawalangin Team!

Morris Cove Fisheries Enhancement Project

By Nicole Whittern
Environmental Intern

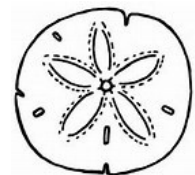
As the newest intern at the Qawalangin Tribe, the first project that I was put on was the Morris Cove Enhancement Project. This project is to monitor the fish count, type of fish, as well as determine how many fish are using the river and the lake (Mancil Lake also known as Morris Lake), near Morris Cove. Steven Gregory, UCSD Science and Hatchery teacher is collaborating with the Qawalangin Environmental Department to develop a fish counting protocol. We reached out to Gregory knowing that he has previously created a protocol for the Iliuliuk River. In the near future we will be using the new protocol and following up with the conditions of the lake.

The interns first assignment concerning the Morris Cove Project, was to trek around the Lake and note observations of the lake's current state. When walking around the lake we noticed a few abnormalities. We had noticed that the lake was flooding, in some areas it was very apparent. We came

across this noticing when we noted that plants that were not native to the water were submerged in the lake. In addition, what was once a walkable old roadway was now immersed in the lake, forcing our walking path onto the hillside. A major noticing that was drawn from our observations was the blockage near the mouth of the river. Near the mouth of the river there is a growing beach berm as well as drift materials that are suppressing the water flow. In result of the buildup, it's causing the lake to become backed up and retain the water causing the lake to overflow. This retention at the mouth is creating concern, because of the effect that it has on the fish in that area. With this disconnection between the lake and the cove, fish are not able to make it up the stream. And with this concern we have reported it to the fishery officials and made note for future reference. We have noticed this issue with the mouth closing, and it slowly reopening in previous years. We are working on what we can do to further enhance accessibility of the river and lake for the fish in the area.



*"Join us in
welcoming
Kristine to the
Qawalangin
Team!"*



Climate Change in the Aleutians & Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning



By Kayla Nalam & Melissa Good

Office Assistant Intern & Marine Advisory Agent

The Qawalangin Tribe Summer Interns have created a partnership with Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Agent, Melissa Good, in collaboration with two local environmental monitoring programs, *Archaeological and Paleoenvironmental Perspectives of Climate Change in the Aleutian Islands* lead by Catherine West of Boston University and Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning toxin monitoring lead by Bruce Wright of APIA.

The first project, *Archaeological and Paleoenvironmental Perspectives of Climate Change in the Aleutian Islands*, is taking a look back in time to a period of rapid climate change during the Late Holocene to look at the effects of rapid environmental change on animal biodiversity and human activity. By comparing the imprint of current ocean conditions in collected clamshells to clam shells found in Aleut middens, this project will give a glimpse into the past on what the ocean conditions were prior to them being harvested by ancient Aleuts. One hypothesis for the project is that past climate conditions in the eastern Bering Sea caused sea ice to accrue around Unalaska Island. The second hypothesis is that these changes in climate change no-

tably impacted the environment, which would be reveal in the middens where evidence remains of species available for harvest. To understand how the oceanographic conditions are recorded in clamshells, the interns will collect water samples every week up until September. Water samples will be analyzed for oxygen isotopes, which will be compared to clams shells that are grown over this same period. This relationship will be used to understand the ocean conditions of the past, and will provide clues to determine if climate change was substantial enough to modify the land and ecosystem in Unalaska Bay. Every week, samples are collected from South America, The Spit Dock, and the Carl E. Moses Boat Harbor.

The second project we are working on is Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) toxin monitoring. PSP is an illness caused by eating shellfish that is contaminated with dinoflagellate algae that generates injurious toxins. About 50 mussels are collected once a month at Little Priest Rock. These mussels are processed, frozen into two separate containers, and then sent to Bruce Wright with APIA in Anchorage. One of the samples is sent to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Health Laboratory for Mouse Bioassay or Receptor Binding Assay testing which gives a total toxicity value for the amount of saxitoxin accumulated in the mussels. This gives a quick turned around time and can be directly compared to the FDA regulatory limit of 80 micrograms of saxitoxin. The second sample is sent to Washington for high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) testing. This process has a much slower turnaround time for getting results back, but gives details on individual compounds of the toxins. Little Priest Rock is the site chosen for collection because in past testing it has yielded the highest toxin levels from around Unalaska Bay. We check the differences of the results each month and have seen an increase in toxin levels since March.



The Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, a federally recognized sovereign nation of the United States since 1989, vows to exercise its powers to further the economic and social well-being of all its members, and in doing so, will safeguard and support the Unangan language, culture, customs and traditions for those generations to come.

Catch us on the Web!

www.theqawalangintribe.com

Like us on Facebook!

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

Follow us on Instagram!

@q.tribe



2018 Pilot Recycling Program

Hours of Operation:

Mon-Fri: 9-5pm

(closed 12-1 for lunch)

Sun & Sat: Closed

Contact Information:

Phone: 907-581-2920

Fax: 907-581-3644

Email: qtuunga@gmail.com

Physical Address:

51 Driftwood Way

Dutch Harbor, Alaska

99692

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 334

Unalaska, Alaska 99685



By Leticia Holloway

Education Outreach Coordinator

The Qawalangin Tribe is initiating a pilot recycling program. The success of this small scale pilot could determine the future of recycling in the community of Unalaska. I invite all community members to collect

#1 plastic and aluminum cans. Drop off is currently free and it happens about every month. Last collection event was held at the Qawalangin Tribe's office on May 28th. The UCSD Alaska Youth for Environmental Action – AYEAs assisted with collection and preparation of materials that day (see article picture). After that event, we collected 10 bags (46 lb) of recyclables which was enough for a donation shipment to Anchorage through Ace Air Cargo. In Anchorage, the non-profit ALPAR collected the materials and forwarded them to be recycled. Next collection event will be July 4th at the Tutiakoff Field. Please spread the word and be in attendance. Your participation is essential for the success of this pilot recycling program. For questions and suggestion, email me at: leticia.qpureza@gmail.com or call the Tribe's office at 581-2920.

