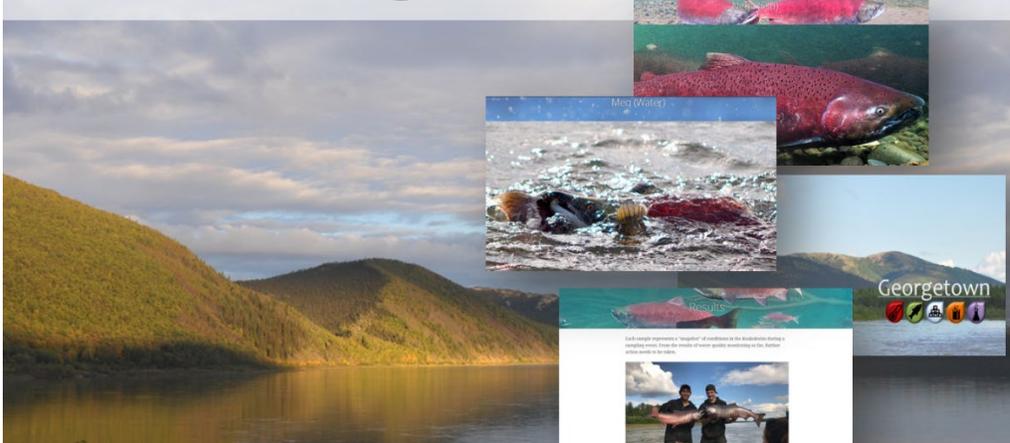


# Life along the Kuskokwim



## The Native Village of Georgetown

### Project Description

The Native Village of Georgetown is located in southwest Alaska on the Kuskokwim River. Since 2008, Georgetown Tribal Council (GTC), the governing body of the Tribe, has been working with Tribes in the Middle and Upper Kuskokwim to collect and house water quality data with funding from EPA's IGAP. The goal of the project is to develop a set of water quality characteristics for the Kuskokwim. The tribes contributing to this project include: Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Napaimute, Chuathbaluk, Sleetmute, and Telida.

The water quality data is publicly shared through an online web map and annual reports published in accordance with IGAP's capacity indicator D.3.12. In an effort to make the water quality data more user friendly and share results of the project so far, GTC's Environmental Coordinator (EC) and Environmental Committee were tasked with creating a story map, a relatively new application that uses interactive maps, stories, and information to share data.

### Project Details

Planning for the story map began in 2017 and initial development started in early 2018. The story map, "Life along the Kuskokwim," includes data collected over the course of nine years by eight villages at 38 sampling locations. In total, data from over 350 unique sampling events is included in the map. With this large amount of information, one of the challenges the Environmental Department faced was processing and aggregating the data to provide accurate and clear

information. Hours of quality control and analysis went into the data before incorporating it into the story map to ensure a high-quality product. GTC's EC completed extra training with Arc GIS' online software to better understand how to fully utilize and showcase all of the data available.

"Life along the Kuskokwim" not only provides valuable information about water quality, but integrates history, culture, and information about traditional lifestyles of Middle and Upper Kuskokwim Tribes. The project was truly a communal effort by the tribes and agencies involved with water quality and salmon management, which was key for the story map's success. Tribal leadership, elders, and affiliated agencies contributed wisdom, stories, and photographs of the region to make this project truly unique. GTC's work on this project was recognized when it was awarded a Grand Prize in Esri's Tribal Story Map Contest and put the Kuskokwim and Georgetown onto the international stage.

### Community Response

"Life along the Kuskokwim" received a lot of positive feedback from the community. Tribal members expressed how proud they were and how well it exhibited the villages in the Middle and Upper Kuskokwim region. On social media, there have been over 880 interactions with the story map and the story map itself has had almost 1,000 views since it was released to the public in May. Receiving a Grand Prize in Esri's Tribal Story Map Contest showed how small tribes and tribal organizations can be effective at creating awareness and future change.

### Project Time Period

(FY2017– FY2018)

- **Tribal Contact:** Meredith Witte
- **GAP Project Officer:** Mahri Lowinger
- **Media:** Water
- **GAP Funded Results:**

Consultation & Coordination	
ETEP Development/Implementation	
Outreach and Education	X
Program Development (Core Competencies)	X
TAS (or similar) application process	
Training	X

## Georgetown, Alaska

### Innovation

"Life along the Kuskokwim" was the first story map developed by GTC. The story map provided an opportunity for GTC staff to learn new tools for working with ArcGIS. Esri's platform for the story map application allowed for behind the scenes editing with basic coding skills to personalize the application. The EC also took a novel approach and created two versions of the story map, one for computers and one for mobile access to provide the best experience for users.

### Next Steps

GTC views this project as a stepping stone towards developing the baseline water quality model for the Kuskokwim. GTC will be using this success to create an Operations Dashboard to provide a new way to view the water quality web map data and incorporate traditional ecological knowledge (TEK).

For additional info:

[www.georgetowntc.com/environmental/Life along the Kuskokwim Story Map](http://www.georgetowntc.com/environmental/Life%20along%20the%20Kuskokwim%20Story%20Map)

### Map of Tribal Boundaries



The Native Village of Georgetown sits in the Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mountains at the confluence of the George and Kuskokwim Rivers. Georgetown has 119 tribal members and is currently in the process of reestablishing the community on their ancestral land.