

# Georgetown Tribal Council E-newsletter



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## GTC Expands Environmental Department, Welcomes TEK Project Intern Rebecca Wilmarth

The Georgetown environmental department is working with the environmental committee with funding from the EPA to complete a project that aims to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) as it relates to the Native Village of Georgetown.

As we have moved along in our work toward completion of this project, we have expanded our range a bit but our goals remain the same:

1- To preserve information related to the Middle & Upper Kuskokwim Region including the Native Village of Georgetown about topics including but not limited to hunting grounds, harvesting areas, seasonal moves, language, medicinal uses for items found in nature, rituals & diets.

2- To record how things have changed in the environment surrounding Georgetown; and  
3- To establish and offer a sense of place for Georgetown members. In addition to expanding a little further beyond just Georgetown, we've also experienced an expansion of our project team. Our project team began with Environmen-

tal Coordinator, Kate Schaberg and the GTC Environmental Committee members Debby Hartman, Renee Fredericks, & Jonathan Samuelson. Since then, we have expanded to include tribal members Jonathan Samuelson as TEK Project Assistant and more recently, Rebecca Wilmarth as TEK Project Intern. Our project team will travel with Tribal Administrator, Will Hartman to both Georgetown & Sleetmute this month to complete Traditional Ecological Knowledge interviews. If you are interested in contributing to this project, and have not been contacted, please let us know. You can contact us by phone at (907) 717-5292 or e-mail our Project Assistant at [jonathan@georgetowntc.com](mailto:jonathan@georgetowntc.com). We plan to be in the area beginning July 7 and staying most of the month. We will be at the Calista Annual Shareholder meeting with information for those interested in participating. Already, we have benefited from this project, with the discovery of several photos of Georgetown taken between 1910-1920, provided by the State Library in Juneau (image below).

## GEORGETOWN CONTACT INFORMATION

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*Sense of place is a critical component to the cultural survival of people of a community. In cases where communities are no longer inhabited a documented history and lifestyle play a vital role in providing knowledge necessary to strengthen one's sense of place. - Jonathan Samuelson, 2016*



## Food For Thought:

## Curat: Blueberries

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance, Family Nutrition Programs has just released a new cooking series called *Tundra-to-Table* and a collection of culturally-relevant mini-magazines for Yup'ik audiences. *Tundra-to-Table* is a series of five cooking videos hosted by Jessica Lewis-Nicori, a Yup'ik mother of three from Chefnak, Alaska. Lewis-Nicori and her kids demonstrate quick, tasty recipes that combine tundra plants with foods commonly found in the Women, Infants, and Childrens (WIC) food package. In addition to the videos, a series of seven mini-magazines feature edible plants and berries that can be found in the YK Delta and in other regions of Alaska: wild rhubarb, salmonberries, blueberries, sourdock, cranberries, fiddlehead, and fireweed. The Yup'ik-focused educational materials are the first in a series that Johnson and Wayne hope will expand to include a variety of traditional foods and traditional food knowledge from all throughout the state.

-Information Taken from a Delta Discovery Article published in April 2017

### Eating Curat

#### Some Serving Suggestions

Mix with seal oil and a little sugar for a nutritious treat.

Eat with yogurt for a quick snack.

Add to a smoothie for an antioxidant-packed beverage.

Add to oatmeal for a fiber-filled breakfast



### Overnight Oats

#### Ingredients:

1 clean jar with lid  
½ cup of oatmeal  
½ cup milk (or yogurt or other liquid)  
½ cup curat  
honey (optional)  
For a variation add nuts, peanut butter, spices, or any other ingredient that sounds good.

#### Instructions:

1. Combine ingredients in a jar, screw the lid on tight, shake, and put into the fridge.
2. The next morning add a dash of milk and honey (if you want) and enjoy.

Overnight oats can last for a couple days in the fridge, so make a big batch at the beginning of the week!

### "Traditional Knowledge Corner"

You can harvest curat from taller bushes by beating them into a basket using a qalutaq, or large wooden spoon. But be gentle -unbruised berries keep longer!

Curat can be used to pickle other traditional foods. They help preserve the food and add flavor.

Recipe, Traditional Knowledge Corner & tips for eating Curat come from the mini-magazine for blueberries, found here.

Photo credit (top down, clockwise): Curat in Georgetown, Will Hartman, Jonathan Samuelson & Kate Schaberg

# YOUTH CENTER

## SNEAK PEAK: NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS IN THE MIDDLE KUSKOWIM REGION

The Georgetown Tribal Council Environmental Department has been hard at work creating an online resource for new and existing teachers of the Middle Kuskokwim Region.

After surveying current teachers in the region in 2016, it was found that there is a real need for more education on environmental issues specific to the area teachers are located. Of those surveyed, only 13% indicated they were very familiar and could actively discuss and teach about environmental issues such as brownfields, invasive species, watershed issues, resource development and fisheries topics. The survey found that for the remainder of teachers surveyed: 47% were somewhat familiar and 40% were not familiar at all.

The draft website is currently under review by teachers & environmental professionals volunteering their time to ensure an outstanding deliverable that will meet the goals as outlined on the main webpage, and listed here.

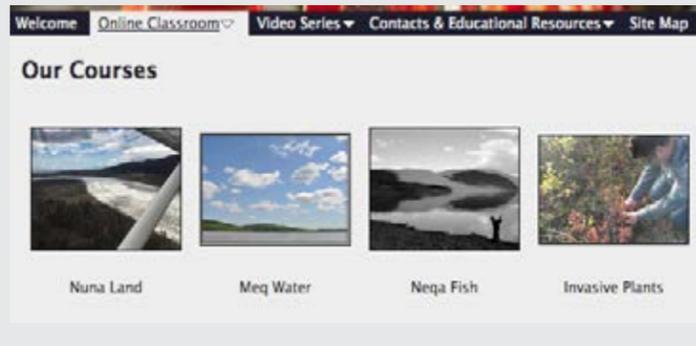
We anticipate publishing this resource sometime before the start of the 2017/18 School Year, with the intention of continuing to add new information, and better incorporate traditional ecological knowledge.



### GOALS

- 1- To give teachers some basic information about the Environmental issues that are unique to the middle Kuskokwim Region;
- 2- To introduce teachers and others to some of the many people who work to help protect natural resources vital to the region and its people; and
- 3- to give teachers some good educational resources to help them connect the information learned to their classrooms.

All in one place!



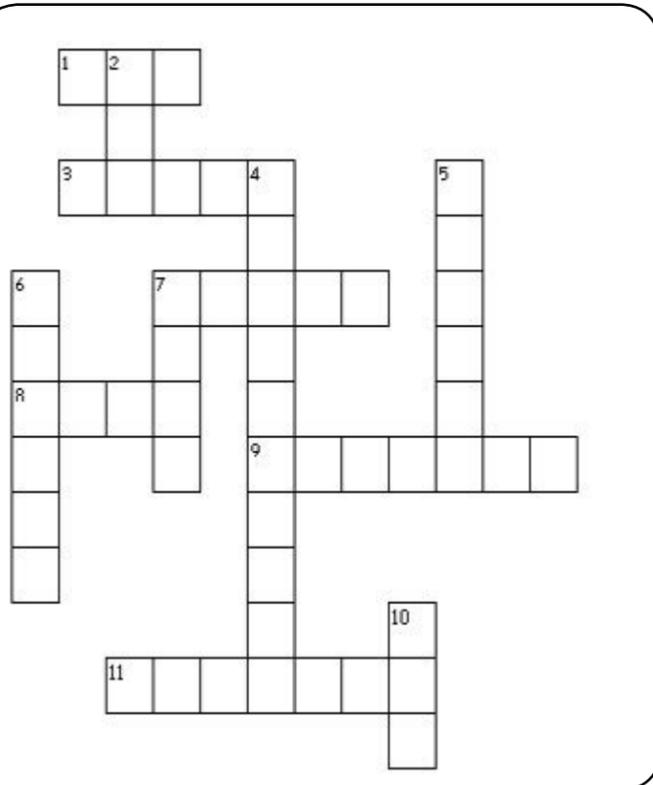
## SALMON CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

1. What stage comes after alevin?
3. What is the last stage in the salmon life cycle?
7. An anadromous fish such as salmon spawn in \_\_\_\_\_ water.
8. Salmon lay twenty-five thousand to seven thousand sand.
9. What is an alevin's packed lunch?
11. How do salmon get to rivers?

### Down

2. A parr has a \_\_\_\_\_ dot on his back.
4. Adult salmon are \_\_\_\_\_ inches long.
5. Where do salmon lay their eggs?
6. What is the third stage of the salmon lifecycle?
7. What are salmon?
10. A salmon egg is \_\_\_\_\_ size.



# FISHERIES INFO

## The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: An Update

By: Kate Schaberg

### List of KRITFC Commissioners (2015):

Akiachak: Phillip K Peter, Sr.

Akiak: Ivan Ivan

Aniak: Wayne Morgan

Atmaultluak: Melvin Egoak

Bethel: Tim Andrew

Chefornak: Charlene Erik

Chuathbaluk: Lucy Simeon

Crooked Creek: Tim Zauker

Eek: Nick Carter

Georgetown: Jonathan Samuelson

Kasigluk: Charlie Tommy

Lower Kalskag: Walter Morgan, Sr.

Upper Kalskag: Gerald Kameroff

Kipnuk: Jimmy Paul

Kongiganak: Edward K David

Kwigillingok: Arthur J. Lake

Lime Village: Evan Bobby, Jr

McGrath: Betty Magnuson

Napaimute: Mark Leary

Napakiak: Ralph Nelson

Napaskiak: Timothy Jacob

Nikolai:

Nunapitchuk: Golga Frederick

Oscarville: Nicholai Steven

Quinhagak: Willard D. Church Jr

Red Devil: John Zeller

Sleetmute: Gladys Fredericks

Stony River: Thomas Willis

Telida: none listed

Tuluksak: Peter J Andrew

Tuntutuliak: Johnny Evan

**Mary Peltola, KRITFC Interim Executive Director**

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(907) 545-6206

The Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (KRITFC) was established in 2015 as part of the long-standing desire of Kuskokwim River tribes and rural residents of the Kuskokwim River drainage to engage as co-managers of the fisheries resources. In May 2016, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was adopted between the KRITFC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service as one part of the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project, an effort to meaningfully integrate Kuskokwim River tribes and rural residents into federal fisheries management on the Kuskokwim River.

Georgetown Tribal Council Environmental Coordinator talked with the current KRITFC Interim Director, Mary (Sattler) Peltola, to find out the answers to some questions floating around the river. Who's involved? What are the plans moving forward? How can folks on the river get involved? Some answers to these questions are provided below.

### Who is the KRITFC?

The KRITFC is an organization made up of 1 staff member, 2 contractors, an Executive Committee, 3 in-season managers & commissioners from the 32 Tribes on the Kuskokwim River.

Mary Peltola took over the KRITFC Interim Director role from LaMont Albertson this spring. All commissioners are chosen by the Tribal Councils for the communities they represent (listed in box, by community, to the left).

Each commissioner is a voting member of the KRITFC and elects the Executive Committee. The current members on the Executive Committee are Nick Kameroff of Aniak (Chair), Mike Williams of Akiak (Vice-Chair), Charlene Erik of Chefornak, (Secretary Treasurer), Gerald Kameroff of Upper Kalskag, Gulga Frederick of Nunapitchuk & James Charles of Tuntutuliak.

One of the Executive Committee's

responsibilities is to vote on 3 in-season managers, who meet in season on at least a weekly basis with Federal managers and State managers by invitation. The current in-season managers are Nick Kameroff (Aniak), James Nikori (Kwethluk) & James Charles (Tuntutuliak).

Currently, Bill Bechtel & Jim Simon serve as contractors for the KRITFC.

### What are the KRITFC Plans Moving Forward?

According to Peltola, some of the major tasks at hand include securing funding to ensure the continuation of KRITFC into the future, acquiring resolutions from all Tribal Councils to identify their commissioner with current and accurate contact information provided, & lastly but perhaps most importantly - to improve the line of communication between people living on the Kuskokwim to the KRITFC inseason managers and staff. Peltola says, "One tool the Fish Commission needs to develop is a telephonic public meeting to provide updates on available data, harvest survey information, etc., management considerations and hear feedback from local fisherman".

### How can you get involved?

Reading the list of commissioners to the left, if you know of any updates for your area, let the KRITFC director know. If you have ways to help support the KRITFC needs and plans to move forward as indicated above, reach out to your local commissioner or Mary directly. If you have concerns about the operations of KRITFC, reach out to them.

# FISHERIES INFO

## Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: Behind the Scenes

By: KRITFC

Fisheries management involves understanding social, cultural, and food security needs, as well as understanding technical aspects such as fish population dynamics and management strategies. To be meaningfully involved in the management process, having Bill Bechtol (retired Alaska Department of Fish and Game [ADF&G] biologist with a Ph.D. in fisheries focused on biometrics) has been critical. Bill's work has ensured that the KRITFC maintain an expertise capable of engaging in the technical aspects of management. The goal is that any actions will involve the best available data and will improve the conservation and sustainability of Kuskokwim River salmon for the benefit of harvesters. Recognizing the technical component of fisheries management, the MOU also specified the establishment of a Technical Advisory Body (TAB). This loosely-organized body includes Bill Bechtol, representing the KRITFC.

While evaluating and developing technical analyses of existing or potential management actions, as well as stock assessments, the KRITFC has been involved through the TAB. The KRITFC also provides independent review of assessment and management decisions and actions outside of those falling directly under the MOU. For instance, ADF&G stock assessment approaches have often had limited independent review. Following are some of the technical aspects that the KRITFC has been involved with under current biometric support.

Participation in meetings of Kuskokwim River stakeholders to review and provide technical input into existing assessments and proposed management actions to ensure such actions involve the best available data and will improve the conservation and sustainability of Kuskokwim River salmon. Meetings have included the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, the KRITFC, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the Federal Subsistence Board, etc. Presentations at meetings have involved data on stock assessments, harvest estimates, escapements, salmon bycatch, etc.

Developed primers on biological reference points, uncertainty, and risk.

Participated in Capacity Building workshops to inform stakeholders of stock assessments, the

management process, and simulations of alternate management strategies (management strategy evaluation).

Participated in a workshop sponsored by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis with the intent of developing participatory modeling to promote community engagement in salmon monitoring and management in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region.

Explored implications of including the 2014-2016 mark-recapture data in the existing run reconstruction model for Kuskokwim River Chinook.

Evaluated the implications of including the 2014-16 mark-recapture data on the 3-System Index used for setting Chinook bycatch limits in the Bering Sea pollock fishery.

Developed tables and graphics of Kuskokwim 2016 Chinook escapements compared to different historical averages; followed up with similar analyses for Kuskokwim chum escapements.

Participated in the Kuskokwim River Interagency Model Development Team assembled by ADF&G to revise the run reconstruction model used to hindcast total returns of Chinook salmon to the Kuskokwim River. Model development involves computer code in R, AD Model Builder, and Excel.

Worked with other entities to implement a community-based monitoring program for subsistence harvests in the middle-to-lower Kuskokwim. Historically, ADF&G has collected no in-season data to monitor subsistence harvests. This new project has provided data directly applicable to in-season management. Community monitors also sample for age, sex, and length (ASL) data from Chinook in the subsistence catches.

Jim Simon, formerly of the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, has recently joined the KRITFC as a technical advisor, and will specifically assist the KRITFC in the development of a Comprehensive Salmon (Production) Plan under AS 16.10.375 and 5 AAC 40.300-370. Dr. Simon will also be assisting the KRITFC with capacity building, organizational sustainability, social science research design, and internal and external communications.

# FROM AROUND THE KUSKOKWIM

## In Memory of a Lifelong Advocate for of the People and their Relationship to Natural Resources of the Kuskokwim River

Greg Roczicka passed away in Bethel on May 21, 2017. Originally from Park Rapids, MN, he moved to Bethel in 1974. He attended college at UAF-Kuskokwim Campus, studying land resource management while holding down various jobs.

His obituary reads, *Whether commercial fishing, driving a cab, working with the city or school district, Greg always had a passion for people of the YK Delta and their relationship to the land...He was an effective liaison for the people with local, state and federal authorities, championing sustainable use and protection of their resources. Greg always had the best interests of the people of the YK Delta in his heart. He embraced the native Alaskan life style in the way that he lived: gathering wood, hunting, fishing, and berry picking to provide for his family. He always showed respect for the land and the things around it.*

Beverly Hoffman was a witness to this work as she served alongside Roczicka on various tribal, state, and federal bodies. She says that building the bridges of understanding (between cultures) is what Roczicka dedicated his life to. Hoffman says what many were thinking when they heard this sad news, "He's going to be missed, and it's going to take two or three people to fill his shoes."

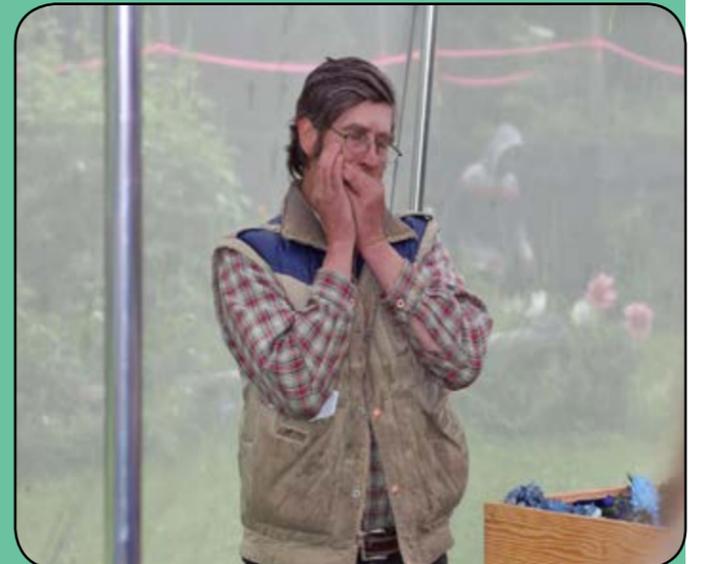


Photo credit, top to bottom: Mary Peltola, Dave Cannon & Charles Enoch (KYUK)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## JULY

7

Calista Shareholder Meeting  
Sleetmute

7-11

GTC TEK Project Team conducts  
Interview in Georgetown &  
Sleetmute

13

EPA IGAP Regional Teleconference  
10AM, contact Mahri Lowinger for  
more information

July 31-Aug 4

Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning  
and Backhaul Training

<http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html>

## AUGUST

15-17

7G Climate Change Adaptation  
Planning  
Anchorage, AK  
For more information, go to  
<http://bit.ly/2p7ZdAO>

19

Georgetown Tribal Council  
Annual Meeting  
Bethel, AK

23-25

Qualifier Sampler Training (Wa-  
ter Quality and Soil Sampling)  
Anchorage, AK  
For more information, go to  
[http://www.zendergroup.org/  
sw.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html)

## SEPTEMBER

11-15

Composting Solid Waste Training  
and Waste Utility  
Training (Combined Training)  
[http://www.zendergroup.org/  
sw.html](http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html)

Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration  
Online Training:

ITEP is offering a free online training course for tribal environmental professionals in rural Alaska with an introduction to landfills, administration, and operations in rural AK, solid waste administration, planning and budgeting basics, and resources for minimizing waste in landfills. To access the online Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration training, go to <http://bit.ly/2liZRHA>

[www.georgetowntc.com/Environmental.html](http://www.georgetowntc.com/Environmental.html)  
<https://georgetowntc.wordpress.com/>



Front Cover Photo: Canning Salmon in Aniak, Kate Schaberg

Back Cover Photo: Breakup in Red Devil Looking Toward Sleetmute, Rebecca Wilmarth



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