

AEWC NEWS

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission



AEWC Financial Update

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New Website



The AEWC recently launched a new, updated and interactive website. www.aewc-alaska.com

Social Media

AEWC is now on Facebook and Twitter. Stay up-to-date on AEWC information by following our feed. As a reminder, anything you post to social media sites can be seen throughout the world.

Please be aware of the potential consequences of your posts and be mindful of posting materials which will poorly reflect on our whaling traditions. Quyanak!

Arigaa! Successful 2016 Spring Hunt

By Harry Brower, Jr. | Chairman

We were blessed with plentiful and healthy whales to feed our families and communities. We have much to be thankful for.

As most of you know, the spring 2016 whaling season was very successful for our hunters. Arigaa! We were blessed with plentiful and healthy whales to feed our families and communities. We have much to be thankful for.

As we celebrate and give thanks, we must also remember we are one year away from again fighting for our whaling quota at the International Whaling Commission. We must be diligent in our work to prepare for this meeting.

We are working with our U.S. Delegation, the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Caucus, and

Jeannine Compton, Chair of the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling Subcommittee, to finalize our strategy for 2018.

As we prepare for this crucial quota year, I ask that each whaling captain work with the AEWC to provide prompt and honest reporting on your whaling and to cooperate if penalties are necessary.

We are fortunate to have an effective and respected co-management body protecting our harvest and shielding us from criminal sanctions. Your cooperation with the AEWC will preserve the integrity of and respect for our Co-Management Agreement. Quyanak!



COMMISSIONERS

Barrow
Harry Brower, Jr.
Chairman

Wainwright
John Hopson, Jr.
Vice-Chair

Point Hope
Herbert Kinneveauk
Secretary

Savoonga
George Noongwook
Treasurer

Nuiqsut
Thomas Napageak

Kivalina
Enoch Adams, Jr.

Gambell
Edmond Apassingok

Kaktovik
Joseph Kaleak

Wales
Raymond Seetook

Point Lay
Julius Rexford

Little Diomed
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Little Kupaaq and Nageak Nalukataq 2016, Barrow, AK

Legal & Policy Update



By Jessica Lefevre

Preserving the legal right to continue subsistence whaling and other marine mammal hunting in a world that is hostile to these activities is an ongoing challenge.

Over the past year, we have worked on a number of critical legal and policy issues affecting whaling. With quota renewal on the agenda of the 2018 International Whaling Commission, our team has focused on developing and implementing strategies to allow whaling to go forward even in times when research data is not available to meet the IWC Scientific Committee’s standard requirements. Our goal is to have new rules in place before the quota negotiations begin.

We are working with Stephen Braund to revise the Needs Study to better convey how bowhead is shared among whaling communities and beyond. This is part of our effort to expand the idea of “need” at the IWC beyond the number of whales landed, and to help the IWC understand that “need” is also about the cultural

importance of the opportunity to hunt the whale. To support this work, we traveled to Greenland in September 2015 to argue that the IWC should view subsistence and local control of subsistence and other economic activities as basic human rights.

Despite the current reduction in OCS activity, the importance of the AEWc’s Open Water Season Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) is not diminished. This ongoing collaboration between whaling captains and offshore operators provides a positive foundation for federal regulatory decisions affecting the OCS and for federal lease sale planning. With two arctic lease sales tentatively proposed in the coming years, this foundation is key to ensuring federal action requiring participation in the CAA process.

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GRANT / FUNDING UPDATE by Jenny Evans

The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission continues to seek funding from a variety of sources to meet the needs of the organization. Currently, primary operations are funded through the North Slope

Borough, NOAA, and the Oak Foundation. To supplement this funding, the AEWc has been successful in securing grants through sources such as BIA, the Arctic Slope Community Foundation,

ASRC, UIC, and Eskimos, Inc. These grants are integral to completing work toward the mission of AEWc.



Chairman Harry Brower speaking on the Panel entitled "Local Voices and Traditional Knowledge for a Sustainable Arctic Economy" during the 2016 Capitol Hill Oceans Week meetings.

AEWC Weapons Improvement Program

By Arnold Brower, Jr.

The Weapons Improvement Program ensures AEW's compliance with International mandates regarding the human killing of the bowhead whale.

In our ongoing efforts to preserve the IWC quota and the legal right to harvest bowhead whales, the AEW Weapons Improvement Program (WIP) Committee, including Harry Brower, Chair, George Noongwook, and Billy Adams, along with Executive Director, Arnold Brower, Jr., AEW staff, Lesley Hopson, AEW legal counsel, Jessica Lefevre, and AEW consultant, Jenny Evans have been working to help ensure that the AEW is in compliance with increased federal regulations on the use of explosives. To preserve opportunities for whaling captains who wish to use the projectiles from Norway, this team has identified and purchased federally-approved storage magazines, along with locked conexas for housing the magazines. We also are developing a tracking system to ensure

that the projectiles are accounted for up until the time they are used in the harvest. Cooperation from all whaling captains using the projectiles is key to preserving this opportunity.

In addition to this initiative, the AEW has been successful in updating the AEW WIP Training Manual on the use of the Penthrite Projectile, as well as a supplementary training video to be used in conjunction with the manual and in-person training provided by the WIP Committee. Harry Brower, Jr., Arnold Brower, Jr., and Billy Adams provided training to whaling captains in Point Hope, Nuiqsut, Barrow, and Wales. Training will continue into the new year and is vital to hunter safety and proper use of the penthrite projectiles.

(continued below)



Weapons Training, Kaktovik, AK

(continued from above)

With a historic efficiency rate of 50 percent in the landing of the bowhead whale, the AEW has effectively increased efficiency to approximately 75 - 80%. This is in large part due to the continued modification and improvement of the penthrite and darting gun and education on the proper use and benefits of the penthrite projectile. The AEW has ordered 20 new barrels, with an expected delivery date of mid-July.

STAFF

Arnold Brower, Jr.
Executive Director

Lesley Hopson
Administrative Manager

Martha Koonaloak
Secretary

Evelyn Aamodt
Accounting Specialist

Lucy Benson
Administrative Assistant

Pamela Solomon
Gaming Manager

Jessica Lefevre
Legal Counsel

Sarah D. Espelin
Finance Director

Jenny Evans
Grants /
Communications

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Whaling Commission Meeting
October 2016
Slovenia

3rd/4th Quarterly Meeting
December 8, 9 & 10, 2016
Anchorage, AK

2017 Mini-Convention
TBD



Oliver Leavitt Crew, Barrow, AK

Financial Update

By Sarah D. Espelin, C.P.A.

The AEWK receives sixth consecutive clean audit; removed from high-risk status by NOAA.



The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission continues its commitment to good internal controls over its financial processes and financial reporting. This commitment is demonstrated by receipt of its sixth consecutive clean audit opinion with the 2015 Audited Financial Statements as well as adoption of and compliance with additional procedures developed in an updated Accounting Policy Manual. In 2015 the Commission changed auditors to Altman Rogers & Company, to bring the services back to an Alaska firm who better understands our operational environment, goals and challenges. We look forward to another clean audit opinion for 2016.

Additionally, the AEWK achieved its goal of being removed from “high risk” status with NOAA. This milestone demonstrates that the improvements the Commission has made in the last few years have provided a solid foundation for good accounting policies and practices. Espelin & Associates, LLC is pleased to be a part of this process and we continue to enjoy serving the Commission.

(Legal & Policy Update continued from Page 2)

While offshore development is in a quiet phase, offshore research is on the rise, along with marine tourism and other commercial activities. As a result, we have worked to develop a hunter-lead, collaborative organization to create a management structure for overseeing non-oil and gas vessel traffic. The Arctic Waterways Safety Committee (AWSC) brings together whaling captains, other marine mammal hunting organizations, the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs, Tribal entities, the U.S. Coast Guard, oil and gas, tug and barge, and the Alaska Marine Pilots and will provide the forum for this work. The vessel traffic guidelines will be published in the Arctic Waterways Safety Plan.

With Shell's decision to leave the Arctic, the Bering Strait and Chukchi Sea ComCenters have been decommissioned. Shell donated the equipment to Arctic Slope Energy Services. However, without financial support, the ComCenters cannot be reactivated and staffed. The AEWK is working with the AWSC, the Alaska Delegation, and the Department of Transportation to identify funds to support a coastal communications infrastructure that is not 100 percent dependent on the oil and gas sector. The AEWK hosted a workshop on coastal communications in Anchorage on July 20, to begin to map out a configuration for communications in coming years that will provide effective coverage for all arctic coastal villages, along with a long-term funding plan to support equipment and operations.

Recently, we have strongly opposed an initiative by the Office of Law Revision Counsel in the U.S. House of Representatives to rewrite all federal wildlife statutes, with the intent of creating one statute containing all federal wildlife laws. The initiative could potentially reduce protections for subsistence, here in the U.S. and at the IWC. With the support of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, we have worked with the Commissioners and the AWSC to lead a broad campaign to stop this initiative.

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