

# Foundation aids beach clean-up projects

## Partners haul tons of waste from sites

By the Fisherman staff

The Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have partnered to fund clean up of beach areas from St. Paul and St. George Islands in the Aleutians to Unalakleet on Norton Sound this past summer.

In addition, the partnership has cleaned beaches at Knight Island in Prince William Sound and Sitka Sound.

Tons of marine debris, including discarded gillnets, abandoned skiffs and other coastal litter, was recently removed from the Unalakleet shoreline by the Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.

The projects were sponsored by the Juneau-based Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation with funding from NOAA.

There's growing awareness of the problem of marine debris to the environment and we were pleased to work with groups like MCAF and NOAA to address it at a local level, said Eugene A. Sicksik, development corporation president.

With their support and funding, our crews have made Unalakleet beaches cleaner and that's a good thing for both local residents and Norton Sound as a whole, he said.

The result is improved habitat and a reduced threat of entanglement of marine mammals and seabirds, said David Benton, foundation executive director.

This is our first project in the Norton Sound region but given its success we hope to continue and expand this work throughout the Norton Sound region and elsewhere in Alaska.

Initially delayed by a record coho salmon run to the region, the Unalakleet cleanup started Sept. 25 and wrapped up Oct. 4, when freezing temperatures put the remaining work on ice.

A crew of six workers spent eight days cleaning up debris from nearby beaches and the coastal flood plain where storm surges had carried it.

The crew hauled 30 truck loads of debris to the dump, including over 100 gillnets and 15 abandoned skiffs, said Wes Jones, coordinator of the project for the Norton Sound organization.



Crew member Edward Saul Blatchford stands on a truck load of debris removed from the Unalakleet Slough.

We cleaned seven miles of the ocean beach from Unalakleet River to Blueberry Point, two miles of the Unalakleet Slough and over a square mile of the flood plain, Jones said.

The cleanup crews worked through moderate to heavy rain and found much more debris than expected but the crew maintained a positive attitude that was also reflected in the community, Jones said.

The area took about twice as long to clean as expected and generated three to four times the amount of debris than first thought but the crew never complained and actually enjoyed the work that they were doing, Jones said.

I've also received many positive comments about the cleanup project from the local community, he said. People in Unalakleet are very happy about it.

The Unalakleet cleanup, budgeted at about \$12,000, was the fifth such project sponsored by MCAF this year using funding from NOAA.

In all, an estimated 90 tons of debris were removed from the environment for disposal.

MCAF has established a statewide marine debris program that is one of the biggest in the nation,

that's the way it should be for a state with so much coastline and dependence on healthy oceans. We're thankful to have strong partners like NSEDC to help address this problem at the local level and hope it encourages others to join in the effort.

The Juneau-based foundation promotes the conservation and sus-



Boats removed from the flood plain are staged to be hauled to the Unalakleet dump. Boats were moved to the water's edge, filled with debris, then towed to a landing to be hauled to the dump.



Unalakleet cleanup crew members Edward Blatchford, Edward Katchatag and Dean Foca unload a truck load of debris removed from the Unalakleet flood plain.

tainable use of Alaska fishery resources through the support of marine debris cleanup projects, cooperative scientific research and public education.

Established as a non-profit in

2003, MCAF members include most of the seafood processors that operate in Alaska, the owners of most Bering Sea groundfish and crab vessels, fishing communities and the support industry.



### CDQ Administrative Panel Western Alaska Community Development Association Executive Director Job Description

**Background:** The Western Alaska Community Development Association (WACDA), a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation in Alaska, is seeking a qualified individual to serve as its executive director. WACDA has six member entities, each of which represents villages along the coast of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and participates in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. WACDA serves as the CDQ Administrative Panel created by section 416 of Public Law 109-241. In this capacity, it is responsible for administering aspects of the Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Program. The terms "CDQ Panel" and "Panel" are used to mean both WACDA and the CDQ Administrative Panel.

**Responsibilities:** WACDA's executive director will serve at the pleasure of the six-member CDQ Panel board of directors. The executive director's chief responsibilities will include:

1. Organizing meetings of the CDQ Panel
2. Acting as the CDQ Panel's spokesperson and advocate
3. Developing annual budgets, dues structures, and schedules
4. Developing accounting procedures and internal controls
5. Maintaining the CDQ Panel Code
6. Regularly interacting with the Panel's six directors
7. Assisting the Panel's Committees
8. Traveling on behalf of the Panel, including to western Alaska
9. Establishing a WACDA office and managing WACDA employee(s)
10. Other duties assigned by the Panel

**Other Matters:** The WACDA executive director is a full time position that will be based in Anchorage, Alaska. Salary will be commensurate with experience, and will include room for growth. The position includes health insurance and retirement program benefits. The executive director will work exclusively for WACDA and have no other employment.

Closing date: November 15, 2006, 5:00 p.m.

Please turn in resumes to: Patty Murphy 711 H Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501 patty\_m@coastalvillages.org



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Appointments are recommended, as it will help us to better serve you.  
Board Meetings Held Every Second Wednesday of the Month  
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:30AM TO 6:00PM  
SATURDAY 8:30 AM TO 5:00 PM