



# APICDA

## 2022 Annual Report



Serving the Communities of: Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, St. George, and Unalaska (ex officio)



# Purpose

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) is a non-profit Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) organization with the primary purpose of supporting local economies by facilitating fisheries involvement in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) region. We accomplish this by implementing programs that drive the advancement of priority initiatives in the communities we serve, creating employment opportunities, and establishing essential support infrastructure.

APICDA generates revenue from the management of CDQ quota, strategic fisheries investments in the BSAI, and the operation of tourism activities. Collaborating closely with our board and community members, we reinvest proceeds back into our communities. Through an extensive portfolio of regional education and training initiatives, public infrastructure development, economic growth projects, job creation endeavors, cultural awareness initiatives, and community engagement activities, APICDA strives to foster sustainable community-led progress in Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski, and St. George.

*Cover: Southside opener, F/V Aleut Kid, submitted by Lena Hoblet; F/V Sea Pride docked in Nelson Lagoon, APICDA Archive by Laura Delgado; Subsistence fishing in Open Bite with Richard Stepetin and Carmen Bereskin, submitted by Nikita Bereskin.*

*Top: A good day in Nelson Lagoon, submitted by Angela Johnson; Fishing in Atka, submitted by Marii Swetzof; Jacob Mark Stepetin and his catch of the day, Akutan, submitted by Richard Stepetin.*

*Right: Anthony Shangin and Emma Shangin performing with the Akutan dance group, submitted by David Ravenscroft.*

# Table of Contents

2 Purpose

4 Letters from Leadership

6 Governance

7 2022 Highlights

## Programs

- 8 Community Development Grant Program
- 10 APICDA Infrastructure Grant
- 12 In-Region Employment
- 13 Tourism
- 14 Fisheries
- 15 Gear Reimbursement Grant
- 16 Aleutian Marketplace
- 17 Regional Activity Support

## Training & Education

- 18 College Scholarships
- 19 Vocational Training Scholarships
- 20 Internships
- 21 School Grants

22 Decennial Review

24 Subsidiaries



# Leadership

Aang!

The APICDA Board and I are pleased to share our 2022 Annual Report. The efforts described in this report represent APICDA's commitment to managing our Bering Sea fisheries investments soundly so that we are able to help support economic development in our region. I'm very proud of the level of benefits that we are able to offer our communities today and how our programs have grown and evolved with guidance from local leaders. In 2022, I had the privilege of witnessing APICDA's work not only in my home community of Atka, but during visits to Akutan and Nikolski.

On a trip with board members and executive staff during the spring of 2022, I had the opportunity to hear about some regional projects funded by APICDA's Community Development Grant Program (CDGP) that have helped tackle some fundamental immediate needs. In Nikolski, we were able to provide financial assistance to the tribe to address upgrades to the power distribution, ensuring stable access to electricity for residents in the village. Additionally, we took a tour of the recently renovated CDGP-funded Salmonberry Inn in Akutan, which now offers four additional housing units in the village, where there is a significant shortage of residential homes. In both communities, we participated in meetings to share information and receive feedback on APICDA's work, which is critical in ensuring that our programs remain relevant to the ever changing needs in our communities.

During our trip, we also toured one of our vessels, the F/L U.S. Liberator, docked in Dutch Harbor. This impressive vessel is one of the four cod freezer longliners that harvest Pacific cod and sablefish in the Aleutian Longline Company (ALC) fleet, of which APICDA owns 50 percent. It was great to see the vessel up close, as the board has been very pleased with APICDA's investment in the ALC. The dedication of its hard-working crews, and the strong pricing for Pacific cod in recent years have led to important revenue flows to fund our growing program offerings.

I would be remiss not to mention how significant of a milestone the introduction of Starlink was for our region in 2022. This technology has been a game changer, benefiting our residents by providing affordable and reliable connectivity for the region. I am particularly excited to see some barriers lifted for young people wishing to raise their families in the Aleutians while working a job that requires stable internet access.

Looking ahead, the APICDA Board remains focused on ensuring financial stability amidst the fluctuations in the seafood industry and global markets while maintaining and growing our community investments.

I would like to offer a special thank you to my home village of Atka, our member communities, my dedicated colleagues who serve with me on the Board of Directors, and the staff at APICDA for diligently working to implement the CDQ mission.

The APICDA Board and I extend our best to you.

Mark Snigaroff, APICDA Board Chair



Mark Snigaroff (standing) at the Atka igilaax launch. The Native Village of Atka used a portion of APICDA's 2022 Community Development Grant to build an igilaax (a large traditional Unanga open-skin boat). This community project provided an opportunity for participants to learn the traditional building craft and earn wages. Photo by Oleana Matamata.

# Letters

As I introduce APICDA's 2022 Annual Report, I would like to express my gratitude to our community members, staff, board, harvest partners, and fishermen. Their work and dedication is not only a reflection of our achievements and progress throughout the year, but also of our resilience.

Our core fishing operations remained strong last year, despite a trend of weakening seafood prices toward the end of the year. This allowed us to sustain a meaningful level of community programs and benefits and end the year with net income of \$1.2 million. Almost everyone felt the effects of spiking costs, high inflation, and volatile financial markets in 2022. While our fishing-related businesses remained profitable, our overall performance was weighed down by unrealized losses in our long-term reserve account. Much like Alaska's permanent fund, this account was set up decades ago to support our communities through the ups and downs in the fishing industry, and to help prepare us for strategic fishing investment opportunities, as required under the CDQ program. While the financial markets were challenging in 2022, we have already seen a significant increase in the value of our long-term reserve account, which continues to serve its core purpose and strengthen our communities.

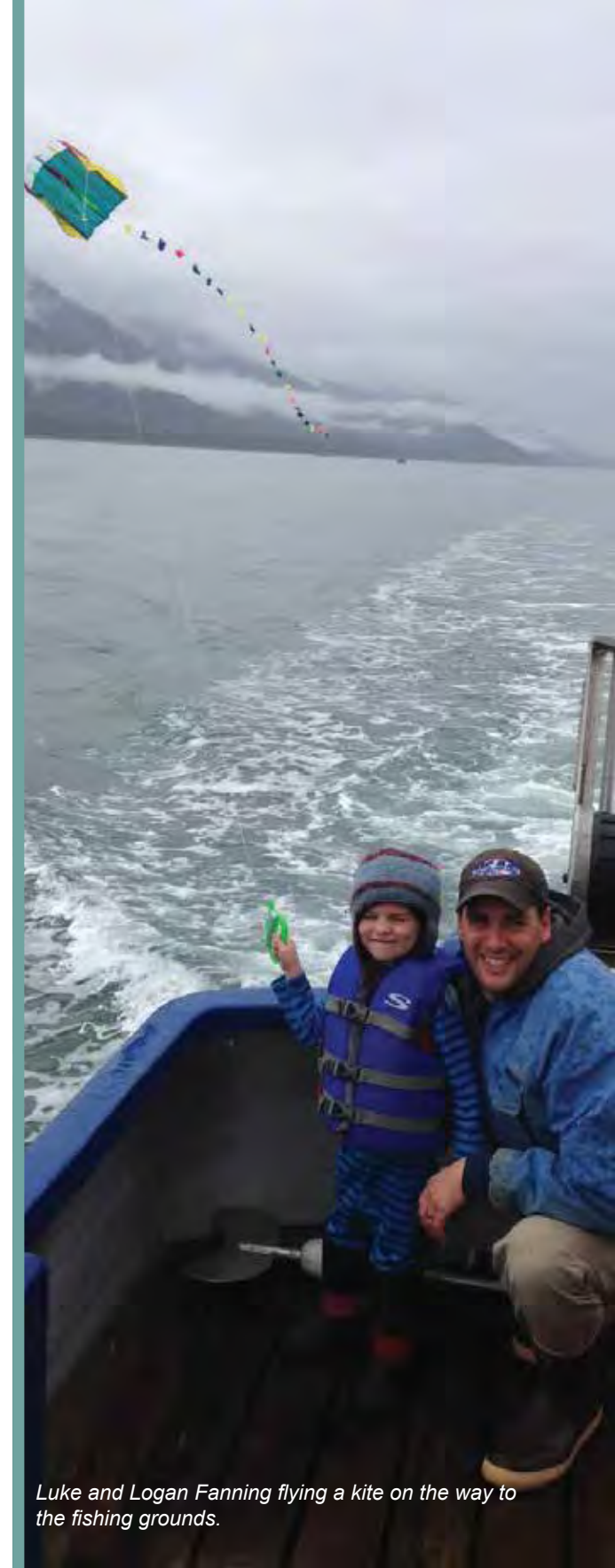
In 2022, some of our most important fisheries in Alaska continued to face drastic declines due to warming ocean and changing ecosystem conditions. Resulting chum and Chinook salmon closures in the Yukon and Kuskokwim created tremendous hardships, food security and cultural impacts in Western Alaska. Two of our major crab fisheries were also closed in 2022, affecting harvesters and crew, processors, and crab dependent communities. While there were plenty of bright spots in our fisheries, like ongoing record-breaking Bristol Bay sockeye runs and healthy sablefish stocks, other challenges will require significant resources and collaboration to effectively address. APICDA remains committed to working with the CDQ sector, industry, and communities to help grow our collective resiliency and prepare for future periods of increased variability and uncertainty that we will all undoubtedly face with climate change.

A notable accomplishment in 2022 for all CDQ groups, including APICDA, included the completion of an extensive Decennial Review process as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As part of the process, groups were required to evaluate their performance for the years 2011- 2020. As I look back on that decade, which was a period of tremendous growth and change for APICDA as an organization and our communities, it is remarkable how much was accomplished in terms of economic and program development. We are pleased to share highlights of APICDA's review in the body of this report. The successful determination that all groups received reflects the strong stewardship of our quota and fishing operations, which have been used to provide wide reaching benefits across western Alaskan communities through supporting local fisheries, creating jobs, building infrastructure, and funding education.

While 2022 brought some challenges for financial markets, APICDA was fortunate to sustain and even grow our program offerings due to our strong financial position. We remain steadfast in our mission, and we are determined to navigate an ever-changing fisheries and market landscape with a focus on our communities.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to create a positive impact in the communities we serve.

Luke Fanning, APICDA CEO



Luke and Logan Fanning flying a kite on the way to the fishing grounds.

# Governance

APICDA's business and community investment decisions are guided by the APICDA and AJV board of directors, which comprises ten members. The board is structured to ensure comprehensive representation and expertise. Seven directors represent APICDA's communities, while the remaining three seats are designated for individuals with expertise in fisheries, finance, and corporate law.

The APICDA and AJV boards exercise oversight, providing invaluable guidance to the management team through regular board and committee meetings. These boards convene no less than four times annually, diligently reviewing the financial well-being of APICDA, receiving comprehensive reports on ongoing operations, and reviewing plans for future program enhancements. To further optimize effectiveness, the APICDA board appoints dedicated committees to oversee specific corporate functions, ensuring focused attention and review.



**Board Committee Memberships**

- e - Executive Committee
- i - Investment Committee
- t - Programs Committee
- p - Policy & Procedures Committee
- b - Budget & Audit Committee

## APICDA & APICDA Joint Ventures Board Members



Mark Snigaroff, Atka  
Board Chair 2020-22, e/i/t/b  
AJV Board Vice Chair



Nikki Hoblet, False Pass  
Vice Chair 2021-23, e/t



Justine Gundersen, Nelson Lagoon  
Secretary/Treasurer 2021-23  
e/p/b - AJV Board Chair



Tanya Lestenkof, Nikolski  
Director 2021-23



Hugh Pelkey, Akutan  
Director 2021-23, b



Mark Merculief, St. George  
Director 2020-22, t/p/i



Left to Right:  
Nicholai Tutiakoff, Unalaska, Director, Ex-Officio 2022



Robert Nickinovich, Fishing Industry  
Director 2021-23, e/i/p



Leslie Longenbaugh, Corporate Community  
Director, Ex-Officio 2021-23, e/t/p



Pete Crandall, Financial Industry  
Director, Ex-Officio 2020-22, e/i/b

# 2022 Highlights

## Community Support

- **Awarded \$1,799,840** in Community Development Grant Program (CDGP) funding, with \$300,000 available per APICDA community, to support projects identified as high priorities through an annual strategic planning process. Numerous projects were funded to meet critical local needs, from essential housing repairs to road maintenance.
- **Committed \$475,000** in funding for two large scale infrastructure grants. The City of St. George was awarded \$100,000 to repair a waste heat recovery system in its school building, and the City of Akutan received \$375,000 for its ongoing harbor road construction project.
- Generated revenue and employment opportunities that resulted in **\$1,566,689 in compensation** for 152 individuals through direct jobs and paid internships, community programs that provide funding to local entities and small businesses, and partnerships with seafood industry companies.
- **Disbursed \$600,000** in Community Dividends to bolster municipal and tribal functions in APICDA's six communities that provide community-wide benefits and help address the high cost of living, such as offsetting utility expenses.
- Supported Community Liaison Officers (CLO) in each member community with **stipends totaling \$81,267** to facilitate enrichment activities and support APICDA's program efforts.
- **Provided \$10,503** to support travel and funeral expenses for grieving families in our member communities.
- **Contributed \$30,000** in miscellaneous grants to communities for special events and group activities.
- **Invested \$37,857** to seed small businesses in the region through the Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant

program, and hosted entrepreneurial-focused webinars. This program is a long standing partnership between APICDA, the Aleut Corporation, Wells Fargo, and Fastwyre Broadband.

## Growth And Progress

- Achieved a strong financial performance ending the year with a **net income of \$1.2 million**, increasing the organization's consolidated equity to \$161,181,794, despite the volatility of markets in 2022.
- **Contributed \$10 million** to APICDA's long-term reserve account to ensure future funding of APICDA's programs.
- **Successfully completed the State of Alaska's CDQ Decennial Review Report** for the years 2011-2020, as required under statute, receiving a positive determination of performance.

## Regional Fisheries Support

- **Allocated \$161,920** in relief funds to St. George fishermen to mitigate the financial impact of the processing plant suspension in St. Paul during the summer halibut fishery.
- **Provided \$120,000** in grants to local Fishermen's Associations to support the goals of long-term sustainable management of fisheries resources, reducing harvesting barriers, and increasing fisheries access at the local level.
- **Invested \$32,500** to extend the fall coho fishery for Nelson Lagoon fishermen. This initiative, a collaboration between the Fishermen's Association, Peter Pan Port Moller, and ADF&G, aimed to support market access for the coho fishery by providing additional time for fall fishing opportunities for local small boat fishermen.
- **Awarded \$98,593** in grants through a program designed to promote and increase commercial and subsistence fisheries participation for APICDA residents by reimbursing a portion of incurred eligible gear expenses.



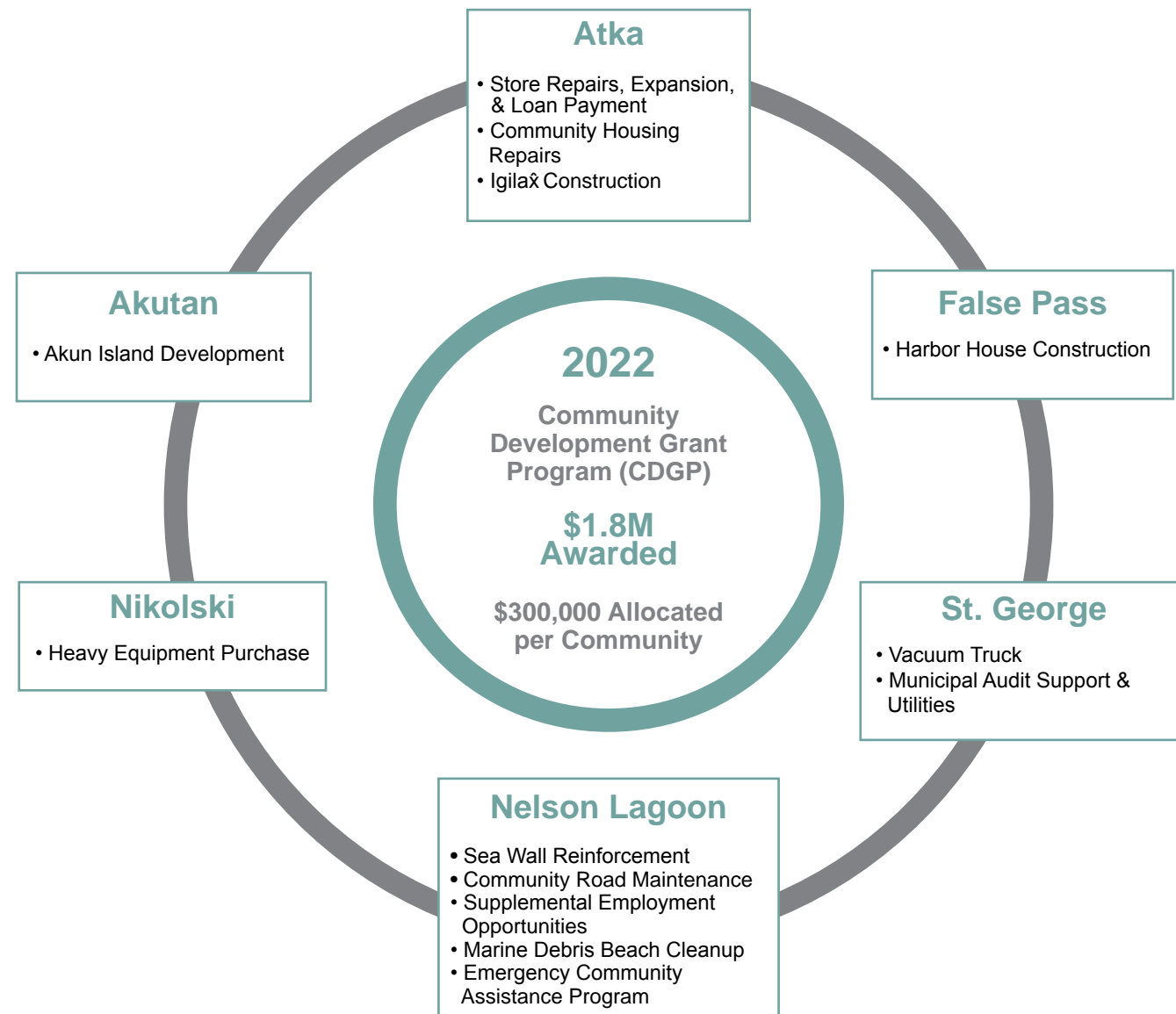
## Student Success

- **Supported students** with care packages, back to school backpacks and supplies, and a student newsletter with tutoring resources, student stories from the region, and writing improvement tips.
- **Awarded \$180,155** in college and vocational education training scholarships to support college-bound students and professional development career opportunities.
- **Managed an internship program** with **10 positions** in the APICDA region and Anchorage, **representing \$56,538** in wage compensation.
- **Invested \$64,136** in grants to regional schools to support hands-on educational activities to enhance students' knowledge of our oceans and fisheries.

Top Right: A young Sosi Swetsof in Atka gathering grass. Submitted by Marii Swetsof.

# Community Development Grant Program

In 2022, APICDA awarded \$300,000 per community under its Community Development Grant Program (CDGP), resulting in \$1.8 million in grant awards for high-priority local initiatives. CDGP-funded projects are identified through an inclusive community-wide strategic planning process that is undertaken annually by leadership from the local tribal government, Alaska Native Corporation, and municipal government, with additional engagement from board members, youth, and APICDA Community Liaison Officers. Projects and initiatives funded under the CDGP are selected through a consensus-based approach, requiring the full endorsement of all three governing entities in the community. This collaboration helps guarantee that APICDA resources are channeled towards initiatives that serve the most wide-reaching interests of the community. The CDGP has funded 39 grants for community development projects in the Aleutian-Pribilof region since its inception in 2019. CDGP projects can be multi-year, and entities are allowed to apply for consecutive years of funding to support larger initiatives.



## CDGP-funded Home Repairs



*Sarah and Arnold Golodoff (pictured), residents of Atka, received essential safety repairs for their home, as part of the Native Village of Atka's Community Housing Repairs project. By leveraging CDGP-funding, the tribe successfully remodeled the Golodoff's residence, enabling them to continue living in their community while comfortably aging in place. The renovations focused on ensuring accessibility and safety, with significant enhancements made to their bathroom, flooring, porch, and arctic entry roof. Moreover, the replacement of their boiler, combined with the newly improved flooring and roof, has significantly increased the overall energy efficiency of their home. The beneficial project not only addressed the Golodoff's immediate housing needs, it employed local tradesmen to accomplish the renovations. Photo by Oleana Matamata.*

**Akutan** - The Akutan Corporation used CDGP funds to continue its Akun Island Development project with the long term goal of making more land available for community growth. A portion of the funds have been directed toward heavy equipment purchases, generators, fuel tanks, and associated freight.

**Atka** - The Native Village of Atka hired an experienced kayak builder to travel to Atka to help the community build an igilaᖅ (a large traditional Unangaᖅ open-skin boat) to be used in future culture camps and community events. This project reflected the craft of igilaᖅ building in Atka and provided an opportunity for participants to earn wages. In addition, the Tribe replaced aging equipment at the community store and paid off a loan to Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association, which will allow them to carry out store expansion plans. The community only has one store and this project will help increase the availability of fresh and nutritional produce in the remote village. CDGP funds were also directed towards local housing repairs to address essential maintenance and safety issues, ranging from wood rot, insulation, flooring repairs, and boiler replacements for unsafe or inoperable units. All homes in the village were eligible for repairs once a safety inspection was completed.

**False Pass** - The City of False Pass plans to build a harbor house to help ensure greater safety and convenience for the commercial fishing fleet and to make the community's marine facilities more functional and profitable. CDGP funds have been applied over the past two years to fund this large scale project and used as a match to secure additional federal funding.

**Nelson Lagoon (NLG)** - The NLG Tribal Council will use its CDGP funding for village priorities that will employ 10 residents. The Tribe plans to hire a grant writer/manager and an assistant to write grant proposals and manage awards, and local laborers during the fishing off-season to clean beaches of trash and marine debris. Other CDGP 2022 projects include safety-related road maintenance, reinforcing the sea wall erosion barrier, and the creation of an emergency community assistance program offering energy and food security assistance for local families who have been negatively impacted by a steady increase in fuel, transportation, and food costs in recent years.

**Nikolski** - The Nikolski IRA is using their CDGP funding to purchase three pieces of heavy equipment which includes an excavator, a small dump truck, and a landing craft with a trailer to replace old and aging equipment. Having access to functional equipment is critical for maintaining the villages' water and electrical utilities, and addressing emergency needs in the community.

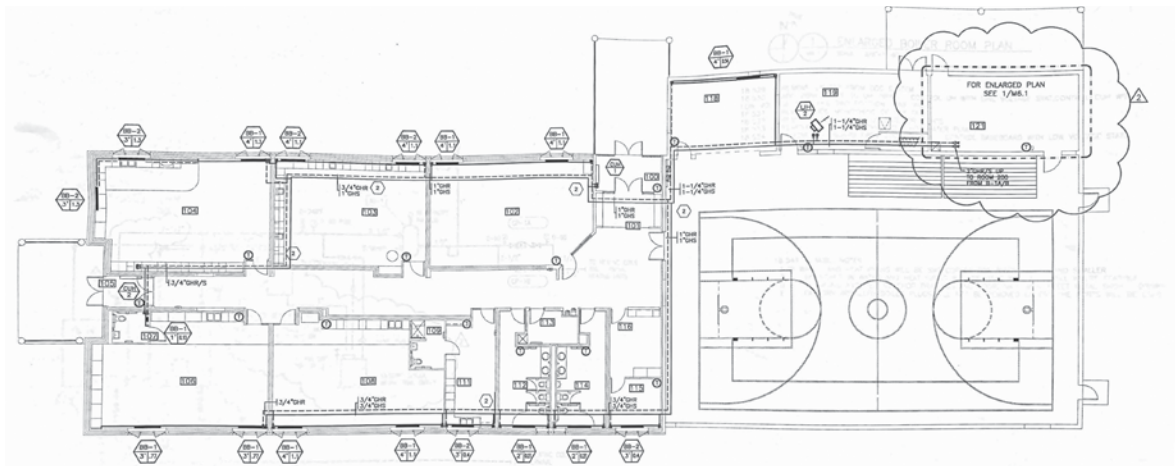
**St. George** - CDGP funds supplemented a grant received from Volkswagen to purchase a vacuum truck to be used for solid waste services. In addition, fuel was purchased to offset local utility costs, and support was provided for local entity audits which are required to access state and federal resources.

➔ **Funded \$1.8 Million in high priority infrastructure projects and local initiatives.**

# Infrastructure Grant

APICDA has funded essential infrastructure projects within its member communities since its inception. In 2020, APICDA revamped its grant program to better assist the APICDA board in prioritizing and directing financing towards larger-scale infrastructure initiatives. This competitive grant program has proven to be a vital resource, helping communities to leverage funds from state, federal, and private sources for their development projects. In 2022, APICDA funded 100% of the proposals submitted by communities to support local infrastructure initiatives.

The City of St. George's waste heat recovery system (WHRS) repair in its school building was one noteworthy project that received funding from APICDA's Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program. St. George was able to combine a \$100,000 AIG award with an Alaska Energy Authority Village Energy Efficiency Program (VEEP) grant to fund this important repair project. A fully functioning WHRS from the diesel plant to the school building will provide nearly all the heat required to maintain a comfortable temperature throughout the school building, saving the community a significant amount in annual heating costs, and minimize impacts of future fuel price fluctuations and supply disruptions. Importantly, this project is aligned with APICDA's strategic vision to increase energy resiliency and affordability throughout the region, which is fundamental to healthy local economies.



Top: First floor heating plan for the St. George School.

Bottom: St. George School Building

Waste heat recovery system projects help to optimize energy use, decrease reliance on heating oil, and increase energy efficiency. The burden of fuel expenses is a priority concern for APICDA member communities.

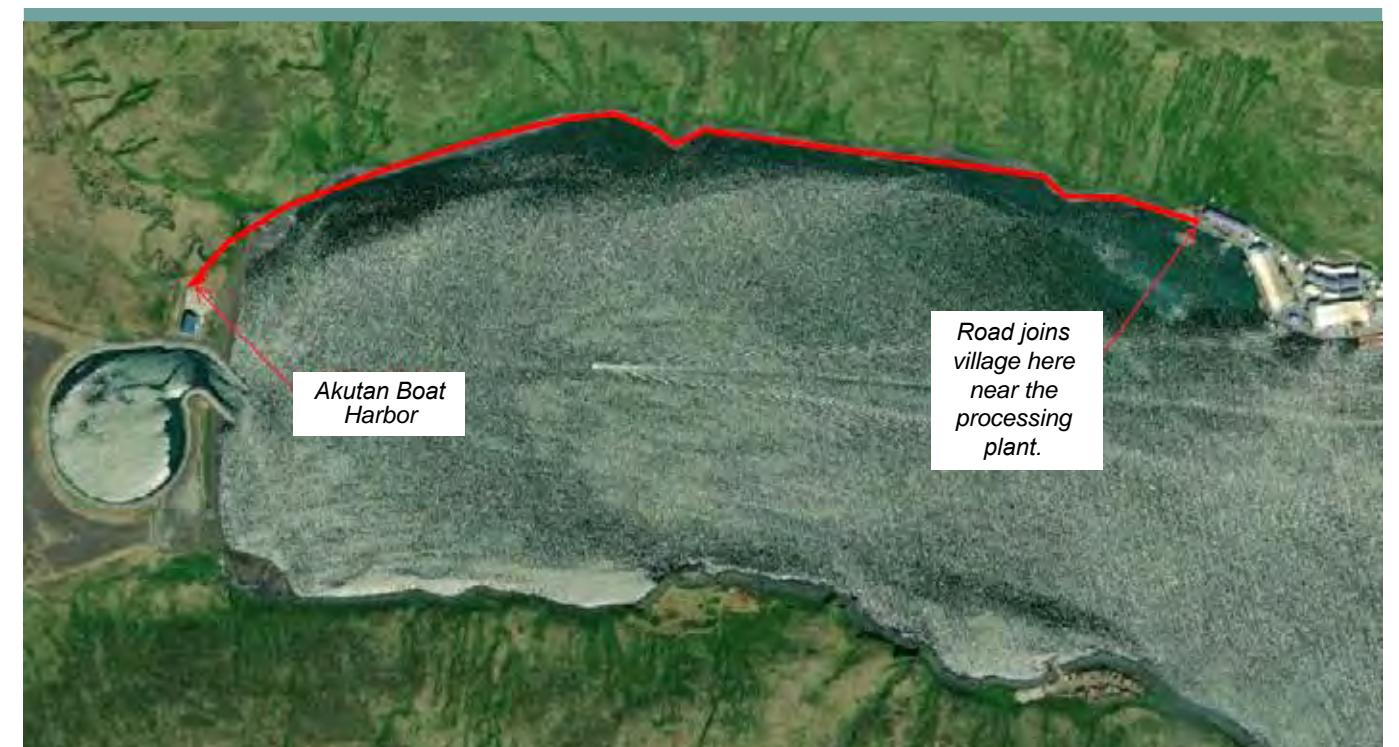
➔ Funded \$475,000 in large-scale infrastructure projects.



Importantly, during the WHRS repair process, the St. George Public Works department will receive valuable training in preventive maintenance. This ensures the longevity and efficient functioning of the system for years to come, benefiting both the community members who access the gym in the building and the local correspondence school students who use the classrooms. Moreover, relocating the city office staff to this building, with its internet connectivity and cost-effective heating, will result in increased usage and reduced operational costs for the city.

Another achievement resulting from APICDA's Infrastructure Grant program is the progress made in Akutan's harbor road construction project. Construction of the west harbor access road will provide land-based accessibility between the community and its boat harbor.

The boat harbor was a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project constructed with federal stimulus funding, and local, state, and private investments of nearly \$5 million. With the help of APICDA's AIG of \$375,000, and other funders, Akutan is addressing this crucial transportation gap. Upon completion, the road will support economic expansion, reduce transportation costs, and enhance public safety.



Akutan's West Harbor Road Project is outlined in red on the image above. The road will provide land-based accessibility between the community and its boat harbor. The road design is at 95% complete and 30,000 tons of rip rap material have been procured and shipped to Akutan Harbor from Unalaska for construction purposes. The project is funded by APICDA, the Denali Commission, and the City of Akutan to improve public safety, foster economic expansion, and reduce transportation costs. An image of the village of Akutan is below, submitted by Nikita Shangin.



# In-Region Employment

APICDA provides both direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region by providing jobs and internships, supporting the subsistence-based economy, collaborating with harvest partners, and fostering small businesses. Additionally, APICDA provides employment through its community grant programs, where the local municipality, tribe, or village corporation can apply for funds to support the hiring of personnel and increase their capacity to implement local initiatives.

A key aspect of our employment program is APICDA's dedicated team of Community Liaison Officers (CLOs). CLOs are integral to the success of APICDA's initiatives by facilitating two-way information sharing to assure that APICDA is continually identifying ways to better serve our region. The CLO perspective is greatly valued and helps to keep APICDA informed of leadership changes, community news, and important community-led initiatives. In addition, they share information about APICDA's scholarship offerings, promote our wide range of programs, host educational activities and community events, and provide general ground support.

Katie Johnson, of Nelson Lagoon, exemplifies the positive impact that CLOs can have on communities, as she has wholeheartedly dedicated herself to serving as a CLO since 2011. For Katie, the most rewarding aspect of being a CLO lies in her ability to make a positive difference in the lives of community residents. Notably, Katie played a significant role in the successful rollout of the Gear Reimbursement Grant (GRG) in her community when it was still in its infancy. Her dedication extended beyond its introduction and promotion, as she actively assisted community members with their GRG applications, ensuring that they could benefit from the program. Katie is passionate about fostering community cohesion, she takes the lead in organizing various events throughout the year that bring the community together, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie.

APICDA is proud of our long-standing CLO program, with exemplary CLOs like Katie Johnson actively engaging their communities and encouraging residents to take advantage of our wide section of program offerings.

## In-Region Jobs & Compensation

	<i>Individuals</i>	<i>Compensation</i>
Community Liaison Officers (CLO)	8	81,267
Tourism Operations	9	92,485
APICDA Programs*	68	185,703
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Development Grant</li> <li>• Photo Contest</li> <li>• Culture Camp Instructor Stipends</li> <li>• Gear Reimbursement Subsistence</li> <li>• Nelson Lagoon Fall Coho</li> </ul>		
Fishing	19	388,248
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. George Relief</li> <li>• Atka Walk-on</li> <li>• Test Fishery</li> <li>• Operations Support</li> <li>• Partner Jobs</li> </ul>		
Small Business Support	24	101,419
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aleutian Marketplace</li> <li>• Gear Reimbursement Commercial Fishing</li> </ul>		
Management/Administration	5	499,677
Board Members	9	161,350
Internships	10	56,540

**➔ TOTAL 152 \$ 1,566,689**

*\* APICDA Programs support community-identified priorities that both directly and indirectly create compensation opportunities in the region.*



*Katie Johnson and Teresa Smith at Nelson Lagoon's Culture Camp.*

# Tourism

In 2022, APICDA's Tourism division employed nine residents of Nikolski and Nelson Lagoon to help host fly-fishing enthusiasts and reindeer hunters. By creating job opportunities and sourcing goods and services from locally owned businesses, such as fuel, lodging, and transportation, our tourism program serves as a catalyst for economic activity in the region.

For many years, the tourism program has included a unique reindeer hunting partnership between APICDA, Chaluka Corporation, TDX Corporation, and St. George Tanaq Corporation on Umnak Island. In addition to supporting important local job opportunities for Nikolski residents and economic activity for the community, the operations facilitate a world-class trophy hunting experience that has achieved every method class record for reindeer hunting.

As part of our Tourism program, APICDA also operates three fly-fishing destinations in the region. Our lodge and camps offer comfortable accommodations and unmatched angling for steelhead and salmon. With spectacular scenery, peaceful solitude, expert guides, and world-class fishing, our clients return year after year.



*Right: Long-time reindeer hunting guide Vinny Lestenkof of Nikolski, photo by Dusan Smetana.*

*Left: Steelhead catch at APICDA's Steelhead Creek Camp.*

*Right: Nikolski resident guides David Dushkin and Vinny Lestenkof with clients, photo by Dusan Smetana.*



**➔ 9 Community Residents worked for APICDA's Tourism Department in 2022.**



# Fisheries

APICDA is dedicated to strengthening local economies by increasing direct fisheries opportunities in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands. The programs we offer are designed to reflect the unique and specific needs of APICDA's six communities, and often need to be assessed on an annual basis to reflect changing resource, market, and other conditions facing the local fishing fleets. APICDA works closely with its fishermen's associations prior to the start of the season to identify how best to provide support through our program offerings. In 2022, APICDA supported small boat fisheries access through the targeted efforts noted below.

## Fishermen's Association Grant

Each of APICDA's communities has an organized fishermen's association with the purpose of providing guidance to our organization, and helping identify ways to maintain and increase access for resident fishermen through local initiatives and advocacy work. APICDA provides an annual dedicated Fishermen's Association Grant. In 2022, APICDA awarded \$120,000 dollars to support these efforts.

## Nelson Lagoon Coho Fishery

The Nelson Lagoon Coho Fishery is a cooperative project between APICDA and Peter Pan Seafoods designed to extend the fall coho fishing season and market access for resident fishermen in Nelson Lagoon. In 2022, the program extended fishing opportunities for five days, allowing fishermen to earn additional income before the end of the season.

## Gear Reimbursement Grant (GRG)

The GRG helps commercial fishermen maximize their harvesting efforts by reimbursing for new gear and equipment to enhance product quality, productivity, and income potential. In addition, the program offers valuable assistance to subsistence harvesters, enabling them to optimize their fishing season to the fullest extent.

## Atka Walk-on

APICDA provided logistical support to ensure Atka fishermen could fully harvest their individual quota shares. Through these efforts, 100% of Atka resident's IFQ holdings in area 4B were harvested.

## Atka Test Fishery

Logistical support, funding, and gear were provided for an experimental shrimp and crab pot fishery initiative in Atka in partnership with the Atka Fishermen's Association and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. Three resident fishermen collected important catch and environmental data and earned compensation through the program.

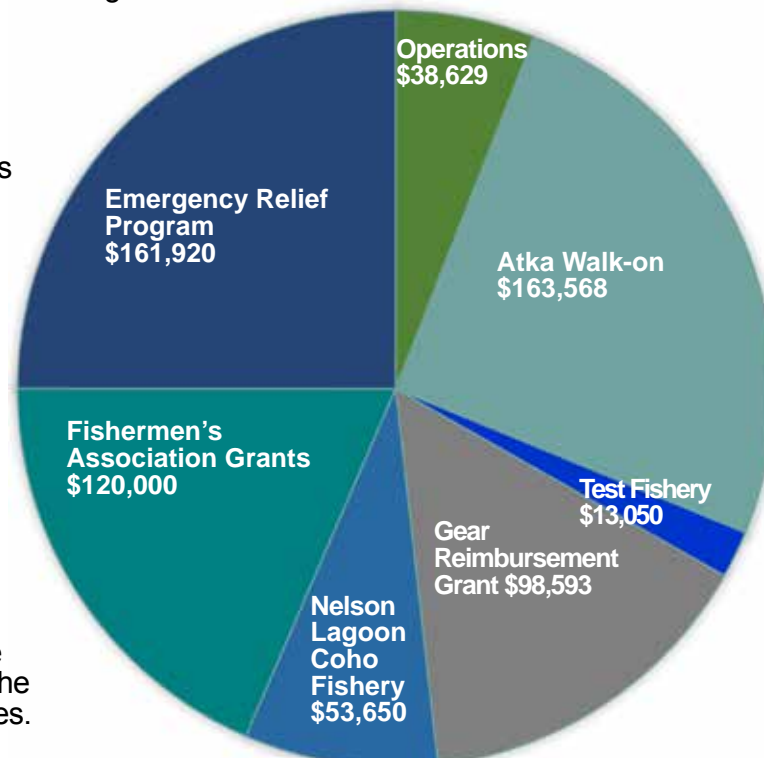
## Emergency Relief Program

This program was offered to mitigate the financial impact of a temporary plant closure and the loss of a halibut market in the region for St. George captains and deckhands. This effort was designed to help alleviate the economic hardship on affected fishermen and maintain the stability of the local fleet until local market access resumes.



Gary Mercurief, pictured above, the owner and captain of the F/V Cornelia Marie, was an outstanding St. George highliner. In addition to being a skilled and hardworking fisherman, Gary's compassionate nature shone bright in his community. As a beloved son, devoted father, cherished krusnax, supportive brother, steadfast friend, and dedicated halibut fisherman, Gary's legacy endures. Gary passed away in 2022, and is deeply missed by those who were fortunate enough to know and love him.

➔ **\$649,410 invested to support small boat fisheries.**



# Gear Reimbursement Grant (GRG)

The Gear Reimbursement Grant (GRG) provided benefits to APICDA resident commercial fishermen and subsistence harvesters in 2022, totaling \$98,593. These funds were distributed among 13 resident commercial fishermen and 23 subsistence harvesters, and represented a 128% increase in the amount of reimbursements compared to the previous year. Through the GRG program, residents can receive 50% reimbursement on eligible expenses, with up to \$10,000 for commercial gear and \$2,500 for subsistence gear, to enhance harvesting efforts. The GRG has been a very popular offering with residents, and as a result of positive feedback and increasing interest, the board anticipates expanding the program in the future.

The McNeley family, based in Nelson Lagoon, operates a commercial fishing business aboard their vessel, the F/V Ellen Lori. In 2022, they utilized the GRG program to offset the cost of fuel and purchase a new spray nozzle for a resin mixer and sprayer for their fiberglass boat repair projects. In addition, with assistance from the program, they were able to purchase an ATV to provide essential ground transportation for the family's fishing operations.

The GRG helped Agrafina Kerr purchase a skiff and outboard motor to maximize the fishing season in Nikolski. Agrafina smokes, dries, and vacuum-packs the fish she catches from her new skiff to support her subsistence diet.

➔ **In 2022, the Gear Reimbursement Grant program distributed \$98,593 among 13 resident commercial fishermen and 23 subsistence harvesters, representing a 128% increase in the amount of reimbursements over the previous year.**



Agrafina and Scott Kerr, pictured above, with their GRG-funded skiff and outboard motor. Agrafina believes that the GRG has been a helpful resource for residents in Nikolski who live a subsistence lifestyle.



# Aleutian Marketplace

In 2022, the Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant (AMMG) provided funding to eleven regional businesses, supporting a diverse range of business needs with a \$3,000 grant allocation. The grant recipients represented a wide array of industries, including fishing industry support, food service, transportation, construction, optical services, art, and photography. Alongside micro grants, the Aleutian Marketplace offered a range of entrepreneurial-focused webinars, supported by program partners APICDA, The Aleut Corporation (TAC), Wells Fargo, and Fastwyre Broadband.

- **The Shop, Sand Point** – Funds were used for retail space rent and equipment upgrades for the restaurant.
- **Artemie Kalmakoff, Jr., Commercial Fishing, Sand Point** – The grant helped to purchase vessel electronic upgrades to include GPS and radar to improve operational safety.
- **Precision Air Inc., Nelson Lagoon** – The company purchased fuel to mitigate the drastic rise in fuel prices and avoid a customer price increase.
- **CCFM Filters, King Cove** – Funds were used to purchase and retrofit a connex to move its marine filter shop near the harbor for greater fleet accessibility.
- **R+C Ice Cream & Bakery, King Cove** – R+C purchased an ice cream dipping cabinet, commercial blender, and additional equipment to expand its operation in the city's rec center.
- **Aleutian Notary, Unalaska** – Funds were used to purchase electronic equipment to support 24-hour Remote Online Notary (RON) services for the fishing fleet and community.
- **Optical Aleutians, Unalaska** – The grant was used to purchase a lensometer and a selection of frames to verify prescriptions and provide quality eyewear.

➔ **Invested in 11 Regional Businesses.**



*Skoey Vergen, CEO of The Aleut Corporation, visiting with young business owner Carter Uttecht of King Cove. Mother and son, Rita and Carter Uttecht, received funding from the Aleutian Marketplace Micro Grant (AMMG) program for their ice cream shop.*

- **Dave Rave Photography, Akutan** – The AMMG funds were used for a photo editing subscription and equipment upgrades to jump-start their photography business.
- **Done Rite Contracting, Sand Point** – Essential tools were acquired with grant funding for a home remodeling business to ensure quality service.
- **Scan Dawgs Gear Work, Unalaska** – Scan Dawgs used the AMMG to buy an electro-hydraulic mobile rebar bender to repair crab pots on the vessels for greater efficiency.
- **Aleutian Beats Drums, Akutan** – AMMG funds were used to rent a woodworking shop and purchase supplies to enable the business to create and sell Indigenous drums, contributing to the preservation and celebration of the Unangan culture.

The Aleutian Marketplace has not only provided financial support to these businesses but has also fostered a sense of entrepreneurship through its webinars and collaboration with program partners. By supporting a diverse range of industries, the Aleutian Marketplace has played an important role in strengthening the regional economy and promoting local businesses.

# Regional Activity Support

APICDA actively contributes philanthropic donations to a diverse array of organizations that undertake meaningful work to bolster the region's well-being and foster growth and development. The donations committee at APICDA diligently evaluates the many requests it receives annually, assessing their mission relevance and potential positive impact on the region.

In 2022, APICDA proudly supported the Atka dancers' participation in Celebration 2022: Celebrating 10,000 Years of Cultural Survival. This momentous event marked the 40th anniversary of Celebration, which was first held in 1982. The Celebration event serves as one of the largest gatherings of Alaska Native peoples, attracting thousands of individuals, including over 2,000 dancers to Juneau.

In addition to donations, APICDA also provides an annual Miscellaneous Grant to each of its communities, aimed at supporting cultural and enrichment activities at the community-wide level. This discretionary grant of \$5,000 can be requested in full or in installments throughout the year. It is designed to fund smaller-scale projects that may not fall within the traditional scope of APICDA's established programs but still have far-reaching benefits.

➔ **\$89,896 was awarded to support community-led social benefit initiatives.**



*The UnangaꝻ people share a profound connection with southeast Alaska, albeit a painful history. During World War II, nearly 1,000 UnangaꝻ individuals were forcibly displaced from their homes and ancestral villages by the U.S. government, leaving with very little notice and only the clothes on their backs. They were relocated to internment camps in southeast Alaska, where they endured two years of destitution and appalling conditions.*

*According to participants, their engagement in Celebration helped to play a role in the healing process, as the Atka dancers joined forces with the Anchorage UnangaꝻ dancers to form a powerful ensemble of 35 individuals (photographed above). Their energetic performances echoed the love, pride, and resilience of their ancestors, representing 13 tribal and ancestral villages in the APICDA region.*

*APICDA's Juneau staff was pleased to provide additional support to the Atka dancers by providing transportation during their stay. Additionally, APIA's Cultural Heritage Department's dedication and assistance were instrumental in ensuring the success of this experience.*

# College Scholarships

APICDA's Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship (EBMS) program provides essential support to community residents pursuing undergraduate educational opportunities. This scholarship program offers financial assistance for tuition, supplies, and living expenses, allowing recipients like Julieanne Berikoff to achieve their academic goals.

Julieanne Berikoff, pictured to the right, a resident of Unalaska, has received both the Haginaa Kidul (regional competitive scholarship), and the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship. The latter scholarship is particularly meaningful as it is named in honor of her late grandfather, Emil Berikoff Sr. Emil served on the APICDA board for 15 years, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and service before his passing in 2011.

Julieanne, a student at Northwest Nazarene University, is majoring in nursing, which is a testament to her compassionate and nurturing spirit. Her dedication and academic excellence have earned her additional scholarships from APICDA, including the GPA scholarship and the WIN (Work Invest Now) internship scholarship. The impact of the Emil Berikoff Sr. Memorial Scholarship program is evident in Julieanne's achievements, and it is safe to say that her grandfather would be immensely proud of her accomplishments. His legacy lives on through the opportunities and positive changes this scholarship program creates for students and the region alike.

In addition to its robust scholarship programs, APICDA strives to go above and beyond to support enrolled students, including a student loan repayment program, student care packages, and a student-centered newsletter, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring students have the resources they need to thrive academically and personally.

In 2022, APICDA awarded a total of \$180,155 in college and vocational scholarships, further illustrating their dedication to empowering individuals in their pursuit of higher education and career advancement.



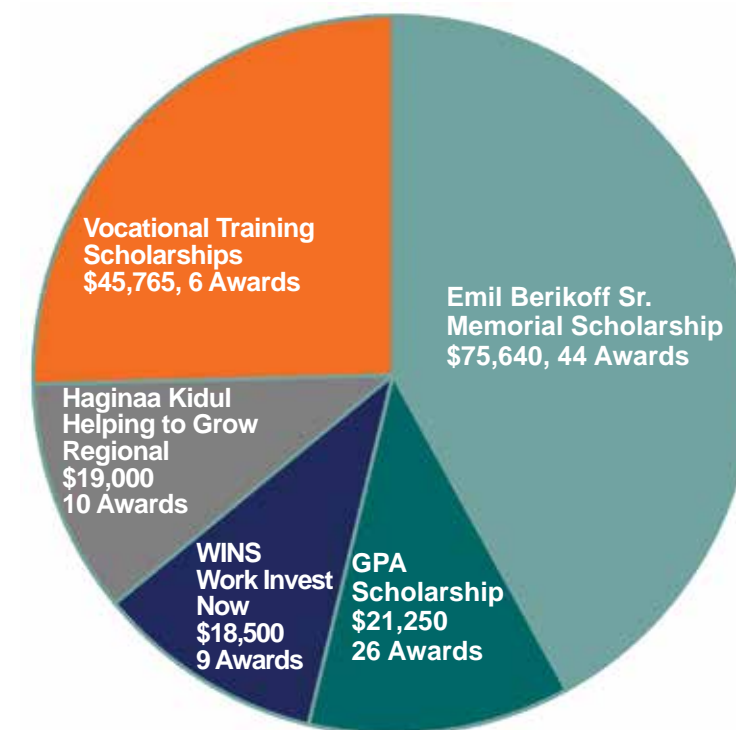
# Vocational Training Scholarships

The Supplemental Education Scholarship and the Haginaa Kidul (Helping to Grow) Vocational Scholarship are designed to help residents attend vocational schools or training programs related to workforce development. Vocational training programs deliver practical, hands-on skills for students to use on the job and are valuable for those interested in a specific field of work. Another advantage of vocational training is that instructors are often industry professionals who can provide valuable insight into what it takes to be successful on the job.

In 2022, APICDA sponsored residents of False Pass to participate in heavy equipment training led by Northern Industrial Training, LLC (NIT). In collaboration with the False Pass Tribe, the Supplemental Education Scholarship Program funded the training that took place on site in False Pass, eliminating the logistical and time burden of travel for participants. Residents were trained to operate and maintain a loader, a grader, a forklift, and two types of excavators. Each participant received a 48-hour Heavy Equipment Awareness Program Certificate of Training. This training will be essential for the community when construction begins on the new False Pass Harbor House, an ongoing Community Development Grant Program project.

Shane Hoblet, pictured below, appreciated the opportunity to become a certified operator of heavy equipment without having to leave his home community. He commercially fishes in the summer but is happy to have additional employment options during the off season with the City of False Pass and the False Pass Tribe. The training provided an opportunity to diversify his skills and contribute to his community in a different capacity. In addition, Shane's newly acquired certification positioned him as a reliable on-site alternate in situations where other operators faced travel constraints or are otherwise unable to work.

➔ *95 Scholarships were awarded to 40 students totaling \$180,155*



# Internships

APICDA is committed to fostering workforce development opportunities through its many internship and educational offerings. Designed to benefit recipients of the Emil Berikoff, Sr. Memorial Scholarship, community members seeking to explore new professional avenues, and local youth interested in getting employment experience, APICDA's internship program serves as a bridge towards education, employment, and community involvement. Several internships have resulted in full-time employment opportunities at APICDA and with other organizations.

APICDA offers a wide variety of employment opportunities, both in-house and in partnership with regional organizations, which are geared towards fostering career and educational goals through exposure to hands-on work experience. One collaboration that stands out is our partnership with the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, spanning over two decades. Throughout this time, APICDA has funded intern placements, notably in the field of environmental stewardship, guided by the Tribe's approach to community growth that incorporates clean energy resources, green building, recycling, environmental cleanup, and land management.

APICDA's collaborative efforts have resulted in the placement of 24 interns over the years within the Qawalangin Tribe, a testament to the enduring impact of this partnership. Moreover, APICDA has invested close to \$90,000 in wages and payroll taxes while supporting the tribe's interns, reflecting our shared commitment to fostering individual growth while ensuring economic benefits for the community of Unalaska.

➔ **APICDA supported 10 interns in 2022 with \$56,540 in wages.**

*Shayla Shaishnikoff, Qawalangin Tribe's Resilience Project Manager and former APICDA intern, collecting mussels in Unalaska. The Tribe is examining the relationship between algae in the water and PST levels in mussels. Mussel samples are collected weekly, along with water samples for ocean acidification, phytoplankton tows, and other water quality parameters such as temperature, salinity, and pH. By sampling all of these things at the same time and in the same location each week, they can look for trends and correlations among samples, and correlations with other environmental observations being made in the community. Photo by Anfesia Tutiaakoff.*



# School Grants

In 2022, the APICDA School Grant was awarded to six communities to support educational activities that actively engage students and cultivate their interest in the field of fisheries and other career opportunities in marine-related fields. APICDA's board has invested in this grant program out of the belief that exposing students to information about marine habitats and ecosystems early on helps instill a life-long sense of responsibility for and sustainable practices with our oceans.

**Akutan School** used APICDA's school grant monies to take students on a fisheries science trip to Homer, Seward, and the Kenai Peninsula to learn about the natural history of the marine aquatic environment and the relationships between land and water in a coastal ecosystem.

In **Atka**, students participated in a fisheries science and art program and studied various marine ecosystems and species in detail. Participants combined their new knowledge with creative expression to make an art piece showcasing their understanding of the subject matter.

**False Pass** students took a fisheries science trip and traveled to Anchorage and Seward, where they visited the local Fish and Game office, the Anchorage Museum and Zoo, and the SeaLife Center. Their trip provided tangible hands-on experiences for the students, fostering a deeper appreciation for Alaska's natural resources.

The **Nikolski** IRA supported the community's school correspondence program with grant funds in 2022. They purchased underwater exploration gear for the students to observe and learn about the marine ecosystem surrounding their community.

In **St. George**, students participated in a variety of different projects, including lessons and art activities from the Seabird Youth Network. They completed a week-long mural painting project, creating a beautiful depiction of their community's bird, fisheries, and marine life from the perspective of St. George youth entitled "St. George Through Our Eyes."

➔ **Awarded \$64,136 in school grants.**



In **Unalaska**, grant funds were used to provide ongoing support to the school district's Salmon Hatchery and Fisheries Science program. This sustained investment ensures that students continue to receive valuable hands-on experiences and education related to salmon hatchery operations and fisheries science.

The APICDA School Grant program has fostered a deeper understanding of fisheries science and marine ecosystems among students. Through these diverse educational initiatives, the grant has successfully nurtured students' curiosity, appreciation, and responsibility for our marine environments.

*Top: Mural painters Emma, Tristan, and Maurice hard at work in St. George. APICDA's School Grant funded the "St. George Through Our Eyes" mural painted on the rec center facility. Photo by Ram Papish.*

# Decennial Review

APICDA's Decennial Review Report, covering the years 2011-2020, was submitted to the state in the fall of 2022 as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, every ten years. All CDQ groups conduct this detailed self-evaluation using specific data to measure performance across four criteria encompassing socioeconomic characteristics; financial performance; education, employment and workforce development; and the implementation of annual harvest plans. The state's Decennial Review Evaluation Team (composed of four officials from the Departments of Fish and Game, Labor and Workforce Development, and Commerce, Community, and Economic Development) agreed with APICDA's assessment that the organization's performance had maintained or improved during the review period.

APICDA's report described our strategic evolution from a shoreside seafood processing focus to a community-driven program model to better meet the growing needs in all six of our communities. In addition, the report included information on APICDA's strong financial performance, which is critical for our ability to support our economic development mission. Our board and staff will be building off of this assessment process to increase the effectiveness of our established program model that has evolved over time, outlined below.



Akutan Fireweed, submitted by Kaylyn Pelkey

## Decennial Review Key Findings 2011-2020

### Employment

- APICDA provided \$106,449,688 in wages and compensation to 1,499 individuals.
- Of the employment numbers highlighted above, \$40,546,722 includes wages to fishermen. During the ten year period, APICDA maintained essential fisheries support services for its resident halibut fishermen in Atka and St. George.

### Scholarships

- APICDA awarded \$1,660,476 in scholarship funding for college and vocational training, totaling 571 awards to 203 individuals during the review period.
- From the first to the second half of the review, the amount of vocational funding and the number of awards increased by 115% and 130%, reflecting a growing interest in certifications and workforce development training in the region.

### Socioeconomic Indicators

- The number of people living in households with annual income below the poverty line declined by 26% between 2010-2020, reflecting higher per-capita income and sustaining in-region earning opportunities.\*
- The total population in the APICDA region expanded by 891 (+69%), outpacing Alaska's statewide growth (+3%) and the overall Southwest Alaska region (+5%) over the same period. This population increase was mostly driven by population increases in Akutan and False Pass, which were attributed to sustained or expanded seafood processing activities in these communities.

### Annual Harvest Plan

- During the review period, APICDA's total groundfish harvest increased from 86% to 95%, with Crab and Halibut CDQ harvested at near full utilization at 98% and 96%, respectively.

- APICDA's use of prohibited species catch (PSC) over the ten-year period was far less than its cap levels for all species. Halibut rates decreased during the second half of the review, while direct target of flatfish increased. Crab PSC remained far below cap levels, with an average low of 4% to a high of only 17% of the cap. APICDA's BSAI trawl groundfish harvest partners are required to have full observer coverage on their vessels.

### Financials

- APICDA's net assets, considered the best measure of overall financial performance, more than doubled during the review. The organization began the period with over \$57 million and ended with \$117 million in net assets.

\* This data has a high margin of error due to the small sample size our communities represent and challenges with data collection.

2010

APICDA invests a significant amount of funding to build a processing plant and support infrastructure in the False Pass plant with the goal of providing market access for local harvesters, job opportunities, and a meaningful tax base for the community.

2012

APICDA increases production capacity at Bering Pacific Seafoods in False Pass.

2013

The F/V Arctic Prowler joins the Prowler partnership which consists of five vessels including, the F/V Prowler, F/V Ocean Prowler, F/V Bering Prowler, and F/V Gulf Prowler. The F/V Arctic Prowler was constructed in Ketchikan, the first longline vessel to be built in Alaska.

2014

The local fuel supplier closes its facility in False Pass. APICDA constructs and begins operations of the False Pass Fuel Company to ensure a secure energy supply for the community, and to service the plant and fleet.

2016

Bering Pacific Seafoods completes the containerization system in partnership with the City of False Pass, American President Lines, and Samson Tug and Barge, resulting in significant operational improvements and increased tax revenue for the community.

2017

APICDA "Reboot" Conference was held, and Community Development Plans were drafted by representatives from each of APICDA's member communities. Attendees provided feedback about the continued challenges with access to affordable energy, aging infrastructure, school funding, and job opportunities. In response, a committee of local representatives was formed and designed the Community Development Grant Program (CDGP) to help direct financial support towards these needs.

2018

Creation of APICDA's Programs department to support priority initiatives in our communities and expand program options for residents.

The success of Bering Pacific Seafoods attracts commercial interest, and 75% of Bering Pacific Seafoods is sold.

2019

APICDA's subsidiary Cannon Fish Company was sold to strengthen financial position and build new programs.

The acquisition of 100% of Prowler Fisheries was a watershed moment in our organization's history, having had an ownership interest in Prowler since 1997 and serving as the managing partner since 2013.

Community Development Grant Program is launched with over \$1.5 million awarded for 11 projects to support critical infrastructure, job creation, housing, and health and safety needs.

2020

APICDA merged its active cod assets with Aleutian Spray Fisheries (ASF) to form the Aleutian Longline Company (ALC). This merger ultimately resulted in a 50/50 partnership between Prowler and ASF. The freezer longline fleet is known for its low impact sustainable harvesting practices, low bycatch rates, and exceptional quality product that captures high market value. Our strategic subsidiary partner investments, like ALC, have helped APICDA achieve our mission under the CDQ program, allowing us to significantly increase contributions to our communities and expand our program offerings.

APICDA evolved over the 10-year review period from a shoreside seafood processing focus to a community-driven program model.



# Subsidiaries

**APICDA Joint Ventures, Inc.**  
 A wholly-owned for-profit subsidiary of APICDA formed in 1994. The majority of companies are consolidated under APICDA Joint Ventures.

**Aleutian Longline, LLC**  
 Prowler Fisheries, LLC owns 50 percent of Aleutian Longline LLC, which consists of four cod freezer longliners that harvest and process Pacific cod and sablefish in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

**Aleutian Adventures, LLC**  
 A wholly-owned subsidiary of APICDA Joint Ventures. This company controls and operates assets that support sport hunting and fishing activities in the communities of Nikolski, Nelson Lagoon, and other remote areas of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutians.

**APICDA Vessels, Inc.**  
 A wholly-owned subsidiary of APICDA Joint Ventures. This company manages and operates fishing and support vessels. Through Dec. 31, 2022, the company operated two vessels: AP1 and AP2.

**Atka Pride Seafoods, Inc.**  
 A 50/50 partnership between APICDA Joint Ventures and the Atka Fishermen's Association, organized as a subchapter C corporation.

**Kayux Development, LLC**  
 A 50/50 partnership between APICDA Joint Ventures and the St. George Tanaq Corporation. This company is dedicated to upland development associated with commercial activities in Tract I, Zapadni Bay on St. George Island.

**Nelson Lagoon Storage Company, LLC**  
 A 50/50 partnership between APICDA Joint Ventures and the Nelson Lagoon Tribal Council. The company operates a gear and vessel storage business in Nelson Lagoon to support the local salmon fisheries.

**Prowler Fisheries, LLC**  
 A wholly-owned subsidiary of APICDA Joint Ventures and 50% owner of Aleutian Longline, LLC.

**Ugludaġ Lodge, LLC**  
 Owned by APICDA Joint Ventures and operated by Aleutian Adventures. AJV operates the Ugludaġ Lodge in Nikolski on Umnak Island as a world class reindeer trophy hunting destination and holds every current method class record for reindeer hunting.

*Top: F/V AP2 docked in St. George; Ugludaġ Lodge's interior; F/L US Liberator from the Aleutian Longline Fleet.*



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*A young Leah Hoblet with her little fish, False Pass, submitted by Lena Hoblet.*