

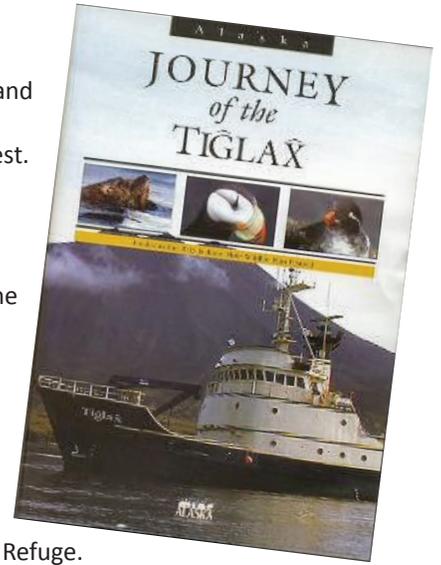


Adak Office: Open for Summer

The Refuge's Adak office (146B Sandy Cove) is open from May through September. Stop by and see what's new! Please call before visiting, as we may be out mowing, cleaning, caulking, or working in the lab, but will happily open the visitor center and answer questions upon request. Best numbers to call: 592-2406 (rings at both the office and lab) or 299-4709 (Lisa's cell).

Return of the Tiglax

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge's 120' ship R/V *Tiglax* is currently working in the Gulf of Alaska on a Scripps Institution of Oceanography charter recovering whale recording buoys, followed by a UAF/GLOBEC charter conducting Seward Line oceanographic surveys and plankton sampling. The ship will return to Homer for a few days in the middle of May to take on supplies for the field camps, then head west, dropping off camps and gear along the way. Her first visit to Adak is scheduled for 24 May, and she'll be in and out a number of times throughout the summer. To learn more about the *Tiglax* and the projects she supports, stop by to pick up a summary sheet or watch *The Journey of the Tiglax*, 30 minutes of dramatic scenery offering an inside look at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.



Field Projects in 2015

There will be lots of interesting things happening this summer on the Refuge. We'll be conducting nearshore surveys in the eastern Aleutians and Pribilofs from the *Tiglax*; monitoring seabirds at field camps in the southeast at St. Lazaria Island (near Sitka), way out west to Buldir (just a stone's throw from Attu), and all the way up to Cape Thompson (Chukchi Sea); restoring habitat by removing introduced foxes at Chirikof Island (southwest of Kodiak); surveying ptarmigan at Attu; checking for contaminants at Amchitka; and investigating myriad other things along the way. The Refuge will also support partners' projects, including post-eruption work at Kasatochi, seismic equipment maintenance at Amchitka, auklet research at Gareloi and Buldir, murrelet studies at Adak, aerial and ship-based sea lion monitoring throughout the Aleutians, and sea otter surveys in the Near and Rat islands. Additional projects will take place on the Refuge but independent of our support; check out the *Prehistoric Resilience in the Islands of the Four Mountains*' Facebook page to learn more about their ongoing multidisciplinary work.

Once the Refuge field camps are deployed, each checks in with the Adak office at least once a day, from mid-May to mid-September. Some camps are able to call by phone, but *Tiglax* and all the Aleutian and Alaska Peninsula camps check in twice a day via HF radio, at 9 am and 9 pm. These remote camps also have emergency satellite pagers, allowing us to warn them of impending volcanic eruptions or tsunamis and relay urgent messages at any time of day. If you've ever had an urge to be the Voice of the Aleutians, stop by the office someday at 9 am or pm and take a turn broadcasting the weather for the camps!

Let's Go for a Walk!

With the snow retreating and the grasses just beginning to grow, spring offers some of the nicest conditions for exploring Adak's lower elevations. Later in the summer coastal areas turn into a maze of tussocks, and you have to choose between weaving your way through putchki groves taller than you, or trying to balance on top of it all, hopping from wobbly clump to clump, lurching and falling into hidden holes and crevices. But right now last year's grasses are dead and flattened, all the holes and other perils laid bare and easy to navigate. You can see where you are stepping, stay relatively dry, and cover ground effortlessly and quickly. It's a great time to go out adventuring, so come join us for a...

WEDNESDAY WALKABOUT !

Where: Meet at the Refuge office (146B Sandy Cove)
When: Wednesday 13th May, 1:45 - about 3:45 pm (weather permitting)
Who: Everyone is welcome - we'll choose a walk to suit participants
Call Lisa at 592-2406 for details

