U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge

Newsletter *Spring 2017*

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A Time Without Caribou

Tuttu, as caribou are known in Iñupiaq, have been a vital element of Iñupiaq life for thousands of years. However, caribou have not always been as plentiful as they are now. Even within the lifetime of our region's elders there have been times when caribou were scarce in our region and hunters traveled far to find them.

Over the years, many elders have shared stories of living without caribou. At a 2010 caribou working group meeting, Mildred Black of Shungnak stated that she didn't remember seeing a caribou before she was 6. When the caribou started to come back in the 1940s "we hadn't had meat in so long, we ate until we were really full."

At the 2013 meeting Josephine Woods talked about Shungnak hunters traveling far north into the Noatak to get caribou when she was young. Hunters were often gone for weeks at a time. This scarcity of caribou was part of the reason reindeer were brought to this region around the 1920s, she said.

What did people do without caribou as a mainstay of their diet? In the upper Kobuk, Minnie Gray (who spoke at a 2014 caribou meeting) remembers eating mostly porcupine, ducks, geese, fish and once in a while caribou. Ruby Foster of Selawik said in a 2003 interview, "We just ate fish, ptarmigan, and rabbit." Similarly, Eva Henry's early memories of life in Selawik were that "our life centered on fishing."

We shouldn't assume caribou will always be as available as they have been in recent decades. History has shown that caribou numbers have cycles of abundance and scarcity. Beulah Ballot of Buckland, who grew up when caribou were scarce, said in 2009, "after skinning the caribou and butchering it, nothing was wasted not even the hide. All [parts] had their uses: food, clothing, tools, everything." Minnie Gray said, "When I was growing up, caribou was not abundant so using everything was important. Our elders always advised us not to be wasteful. You take everything home and you dry it."

How to Contact Us

Phone: 907/442 3799 or 800/492 8848 toll-free

Email: selawik@fws.gov

Mail: PO Box 270
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Our Office:
160 2nd Avenue in Kotzebue (around the corner from the Borough office)

On the web:
www.fws.gov/refuge/selawik

Facebook:
http://on.fb.me/vQ3cf9

Training Our Future Replacements

We consider it vital to work not only with wildlife and habitat, but also with people who have connections to Selawik Refuge, especially young people. For that reason, in 2016 we brought the "Youth Conservation Corps" to Selawik and brought Selawik students to the annual caribou collaring project on the Kobuk River. These were new additions to our already successful youth programs that aim to engage and teach young people in our region about nature, the outdoors, and careers in conservation.

Selawik's 2016 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew was Jia Ballot, Chuckie Foxglove, Cora Jones and Stephen Kaiser, working with local crew leader Joe Foxglove. YCC is a work training program for youth ages 14-18. In their one month of work, the crew worked on maintenance projects at the Refuge's Kuugruaq field cabin, river cleanup and other community projects in their home village of Selawik. We're looking forward to continuing this popular program in 2017.

M. Whiting/USFWS

One of many maintenance jobs the YCC crew accomplished at our Kuugruaq cabin was to scrape and re-paint this shop building.

N. Hanshaw/USFWS

Selawik's 2016 Youth Conservation Corps enjoying outdoor dinner near First Forks on the Selawik River. Pictured L-R: Chuckie Foxglove, Joe Foxglove (crew leader), Jia Ballot, Cora Jones and Stephen Kaiser.

M. Whiting/USFWS

Jia, Stephen and Cora working on one of several Selawik-style grave markers they constructed to help with community cemetery restoration efforts.

B. Sweeney/USFWS

Charlie Riley III helps to hold a caribou cow. Charlie & other 10th grade biology students were selected for the Onion Portage trip.

In September, five Selawik students participated in caribou collaring at Onion Portage on the Kobuk River. Alaska Department of Fish & Game annually invites students to this project, with schools taking turns from across the range of the herd. Selawik Refuge assisted Selawik school with funding, equipment and staff support for their students to participate in 2016.

Outreach Specialist Brittany Sweeney traveled with the Selawik group and said the students did a

B. Sweeney/USFWS

Kali Howarth attaches a tracking collar to a caribou calf while biologists observe. Calf collars are built to expand and later fall off as the calves grow.

B. Sweeney/USFWS

Selawik school group at Onion Portage, L-R: Brad Johnson (science teacher), Frank Greist, Kali Howarth, Charlie Riley III, Miya Henry, parent Aqpik Howarth, and Kevin Ballot.

wonderful job, successfully putting collars on bull, cow, and calf caribou and also helping with nasal swabs and weighing of calves. Aqpik Howarth of Selawik traveled with the group as well, adding the knowledge and perspective of a local hunter and parent.

As a follow-up, students from Selawik High School's biology class attended the December meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group in Anchorage to present about their experience.

Selawik Refuge also continued several long-running youth projects in 2016. We co-hosted youth/community outings last summer in Selawik, teaming with Selawik Wellness Coalition and the Native Village of Selawik. Activities included fishing, berry picking, and cooking out. Special kudos to Refuge Information Technician Nichole Hanshaw for her hard work on coordinating these outings.

S. Georgette/USFWS

Kids enjoy picking berries along the Selawik River in September.

S. Georgette/USFWS

Cameron Sheldon and Esther Skin work on fish at Selawik Science-Culture Camp while Payton Foster looks on.

The annual Selawik Science-Culture Camp celebrated its 14th year in September! Students from grades 1-12 spent time at camp learning hands-on subsistence and outdoor skills from elders and community members. The camp is an enduring partnership between the Native Village of Selawik, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Selawik school, Maniilaq Association, NANA and others.

Forging new partnerships with UAF Chukchi Campus and Kotzebue Boys & Girls' Club, Education Specialist Siikauraq Whiting helped host "Native Flower Power" activities for Kotzebue youth last summer. Participants learned to identify, collect and process edible and medicinal plants.

Spending time in the outdoors is healthy for kids and adults alike, and an important part of our way of life in northwest Alaska. These youth programs are our investment in the young people of the region as future subsistence users, search and rescue members, decision makers and possibly Selawik Refuge staff. Thank you to all the partners who contribute!

M. Whiting/USFWS

Learning to identify local native plants using a photo guide at "flower power" activities in August.

What's New With Caribou Management

As most people know by now, the number of caribou in our region's herd, the Western Arctic Herd, is dropping. It's down to 201,000 in the most recent count (as of summer 2016); when the decline started in 2003, there were 490,000 caribou in the herd. Alaska Department of Fish & Game plans to do another population count in 2017.

Recent surveys show improved survival for cows and calves. While this might mean better times are coming for caribou, hunters and managers are preparing in case the decline continues. Discussions on reducing caribou harvest and improving harvest reporting are taking place now.

Getting Close to Further Harvest Reductions

Now that the herd has dropped by over 50%, human harvest has the potential to keep caribou numbers low or even drive numbers down further. This is the reason caribou hunting regulations have changed in recent years, and why more changes may be coming.

Total caribou harvests by communities in the range of the Western Arctic herd have averaged about 13,000 caribou per year. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's management plan states that if the herd drops below 200,000 animals, harvest should be reduced to 8,000-12,000 animals. Harvesting fewer animals is one way to help the herd recover.

At the December 2016 Working Group meeting, a main topic was how to reduce harvest, if this becomes necessary, in the most reasonable way. Reduce daily bag limits? Shorten seasons? Create an annual bag limit? Working Group members felt that caribou hunting regulation changes that went into place in 2015 might already have helped to reduce harvests. But without more up-to-date harvest information it's hard to know what difference those changes have made.

Harvest Reporting Changes For 2017

Knowing how many animals are killed by hunters is important information when the herd is declining. Without up-to-date numbers on caribou harvest, it's hard for managers to know the impact of regulation changes, or exactly when further changes may be needed. Not having this information means managers might have to be more conservative in their actions and regulations to make sure harvest isn't too high. Good harvest information can help hunters and managers alike.

Currently, the most detailed harvest data come from ADFG Subsistence Division community surveys. These surveys are expensive and time consuming, with only a few communities surveyed each year.

After much discussion, including the challenges of instituting a paper-based system in remote villages, the Working Group voted in December to support increased harvest reporting by all hunters.

At their January 2017 meeting, the Alaska Board of Game restructured the caribou hunt in Unit 23 to a registration permit hunt, starting in July 2017. This change from the current registration system will provide managers additional information on harvest levels, timing and sex of harvest.

Hunters will be required to register for a caribou permit with Alaska Department of Fish & Game or license vendors, and to have the registration permit in their possession when hunting caribou. At the end of the season, hunters will be required to submit hunt reports. Expect to hear more details from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in coming months. The board did not change any season dates or bag limits for caribou hunting in Unit 23.

A group of caribou crossing the Kobuk River during their fall migration, September 2016

B. Sweeney/USFWS

Caribou Bits: Ideas and Info

Lost Caribou?

We've heard people ask "What happened to all the caribou we used to have? Why don't we see carcasses?" Each year the total number of caribou in the herd changes with births and deaths. When more caribou die (due to weather, predation, and harvest) than are born, the population goes down. The number of caribou lost in the past 13 years of decline is not just made up of caribou that died, but also caribou that were never born in the first place. During the steepest decline, there was a high death rate for females (cows) and a low number of calves surviving. There were also some die-off events due to icing. Bodies of any dead caribou are spread across a huge area and are eaten by other wildlife.

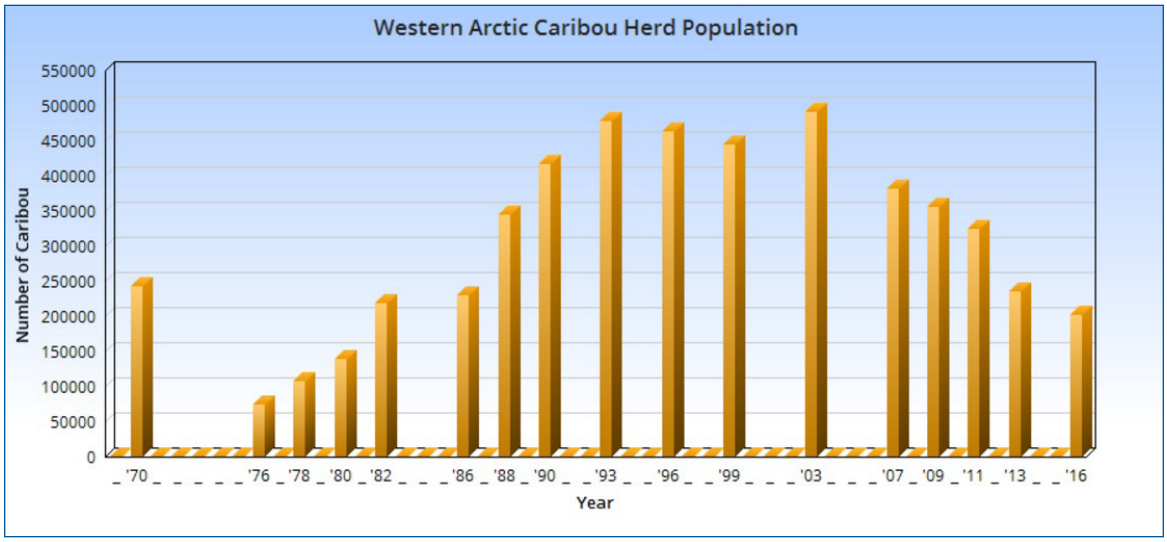
Caribou Count: How is it done?

Alaska Department of Fish & Game biologists count the caribou in the Western Arctic herd through aerial surveys and photography. Counts are done in July, after calving, when caribou are tightly grouped together to avoid mosquitoes.

Biologists track caribou that have satellite and radio collars to know when the herd is grouped together and to find all groups. They fly over the groups in small planes equipped with cameras and take many photos. Then the caribou in each photo are carefully counted by ADFG staff. The next count (or "photocensus") is planned for summer 2017.

Respecting the Caribou Spirit: Iñupiat elders have taught hunters to give thanks to the tuttu after a successful hunt by releasing the spirit while butchering the throat or the back of the neck. It is believed that the tuttu gave itself to the hunter and their family because they have shown respect to the spirit of the animal.

This traditional practice has been used for generations as a way to respect the resource so that the resource will always be available for the people.



Buckland Beluga Project

The Kotzebue Sound has been home to *sisuaq* (beluga) for generations. In the past, hunts were community driven and led by experienced Elder hunt leaders. Communities came together to prepare for, hunt and share this bounty. Hunters had safety rules to abide by. People, children and even dogs had to stay quiet and keep away from the beach during beluga hunting season. *Sisuaq* has been a very important way of life for this region. Times have changed, with relatively few belugas now coming into Kotzebue Sound. In Buckland, committed people like Ernie Barger are working to preserve this heritage.

Through research funding from the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs' Shell baseline studies program, the Native Village of Buckland has interviewed hunters and families to document traditional beluga hunting knowledge. With further support from a USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant, gatherings have taken place in Buckland and Kotzebue with other beluga hunting villages to discuss what can be done to develop a Tribal Beluga Management Plan authored by local hunters. The Native Village of Noatak has also received funding from Teck Red Dog to begin documenting traditional knowledge of Noatak *sisuaq* hunting.

For more information, please contact the Native Village of Buckland at 907/494 2171.

Biologists Team With Local Hires for Sheefish Success

Every September, a hard-working group of locals load boats full of gear and head out camping. While this could describe the many hunters pursuing caribou and moose across our region, it also describes the dedicated crew of the Selawik River sheefish project.

Sheefish are an important subsistence resource in our region, and conservation of these mighty fish was one reason the Selawik Refuge was created more than 30 years ago. There are only two spawning areas for sheefish in the Northwest Arctic region: the upper Selawik River and the upper Kobuk River.

Close monitoring of Selawik sheefish is important at this time to help us understand how these long-lived fish were impacted by a large "thaw slump" (mudslide) that poured mud and sediment into the river above their spawning grounds in the upper Selawik beginning in 2004.

Each fall, Selawik Refuge fishery biologist Bill Carter, maintenance worker Frank "Sonny" Berry Jr., and tribal partner hires such as Patrick Foster and Ingram Clark join forces with Fairbanks-based project lead Ray Hander to monitor sheefish on their upper Selawik spawning grounds.

The crew first harvests 200 male sheefish using rods and reels. Small ear bones are taken from each fish to determine its age. The harvested fish are dried and brought back to Selawik village to distribute to households. A smaller crew stays on at camp until freeze-up, using sonar to count sheefish heading downriver after spawning.

D. Zabriskie/USFWS

Sheefish project crew taking samples. Harvested sheefish are weighed and measured before the otoliths (ear bones) are collected from the head for aging. The harvested fish are cut and hung for drying, and later distributed in Selawik village.

This fall, high water levels delayed installation of the sonar equipment but allowed for travel to the Selawik thaw slump site (see photo on pg 10). Freeze-up in 2016 came late, making this the crew's longest number of days spent in the field since the project started in 2011.

The age samples collected from Selawik River sheefish are compared to samples from the Kobuk River collected by Alaska Department of Fish & Game. This age information helps determine if sheefish population changes are taking place in both the Selawik and Kobuk rivers, or are localized to one spawning population or the other.

Sheefish are about 9 years old before they may spawn for the first time. Comparing the age information between the two rivers, differences are starting to appear: while young

H. Gittlein/USFWS

Above: Patrick Foster Sr. fills out a data sheet as the crew processes sheefish. Below: Ingram Clark gathers sheefish from the drying rack.

H. Gittlein/USFWS

fish (ages 9-10) are showing up in the samples from the Kobuk River, similar-aged fish are not being detected in the Selawik. Age information from 2016 is still being analyzed, and should shed more light on this possible trend.

Two possible explanations for what we're seeing in the Selawik data: a) younger fish, although present, weren't captured in the sample because they naturally make up a small proportion of the overall spawners, or b) younger fish are absent, which could indicate that the mud and sediment from the thaw slump did impact sheefish egg survival for some years on the Selawik.

Either way, more data are needed to know for sure. The good news is that sheefish are long-lived and resilient enough to overcome these types of short-term challenges. This project will continue each fall through 2018.

Sheefish Stats

Scientific name: *Stendous leucichthys nelma*
Other names: sii, inconnu

Weight: up to 60 pounds
Age: up to 40 years

Eats: smaller fish of any kind (including other sheefish)

Cool facts: a big female sheefish preparing to spawn may have almost 400,000 eggs

Sheefish live only in arctic and sub-arctic parts of North America and Asia

B. Carter/USFWS

Scenery of the upper Selawik River in September. Approximately six hours by boat upriver from the village of Selawik, the sheefish spawning area where this field research takes place is remote and uncommonly visited.

Frank "Sonny" Berry Jr., Selawik Refuge maintenance worker and long-time member of the sheefish research crew, preparing to head out with a load of gear. Sonny, now a year-round employee of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, first started off as a seasonal hire on fish research projects.

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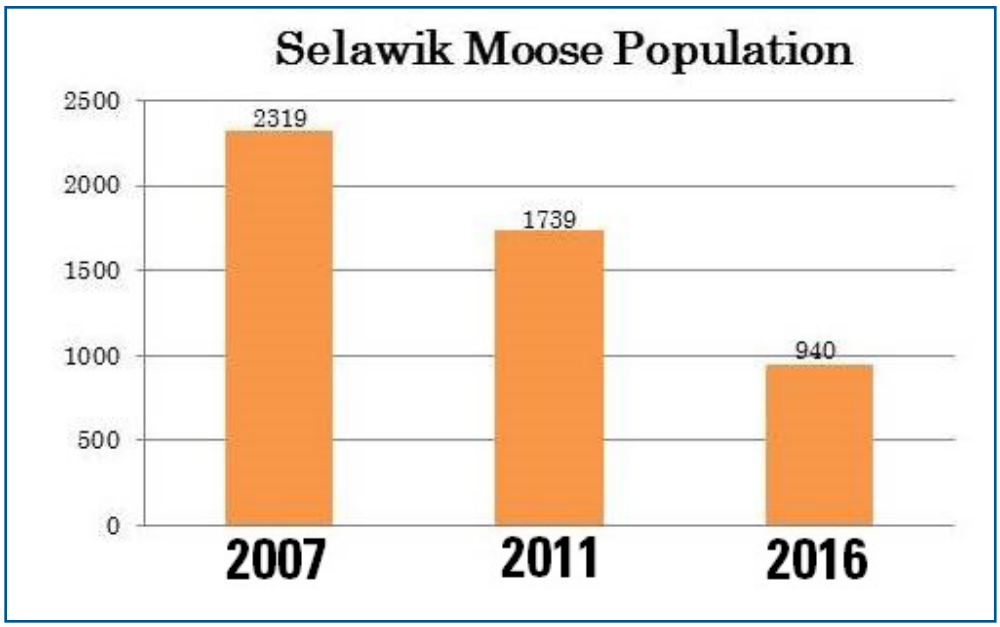
Having a Harder Time Finding Moose? This Could Be Why

Moose populations are declining across Northwest Alaska, according to aerial counts by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. While the downward trend is occurring throughout the region, the Selawik River area has been among the hardest hit so far.



This graph shows the moose population estimates for the Selawik/Tagragvik river area and how the number of moose has declined from 2007 to 2016.

In spring 2011 the population of moose in the Selawik/Tagagawik River area was estimated to be 1,739 moose. In spring 2016 when the same area was re-surveyed, the population estimate was 940 moose. This is a 46% decline over that time period – the number of moose now is about half what it was 5 years ago – or a 12% annual decline each year. When the Selawik area was surveyed in 2007, the population was 2,319 moose. The moose numbers have been dropping at least since 2007, although at first not as quickly as in recent years.

Over the same time period, the bull-to-cow ratio and the calf-to-cow ratio stayed fairly stable, indicating that the decline was widespread across the moose population and not a loss among one particular age or sex. This is a sign that the decline was not a result of over-hunting, which would show up mainly as a loss of bull moose.

Moose populations are estimated based on intensive aerial survey efforts by multiple pilots and observers. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) leads a multi-agency team to conduct surveys, focusing on a different part of Unit 23 (such as lower Kobuk River or northern Seward Peninsula) each year. Moose composition surveys take place in the fall to figure out the relative numbers of bulls, cows and calves in an area, followed in the spring by population surveys which look at total moose numbers. Each part of the region gets surveyed roughly every five years.

This decline, part of a broader trend of decreasing moose numbers across the region, is bringing changes in moose management. Moose hunting regulations will change beginning in July 2017. One of the most significant changes is that there will no longer be a state "antlerless" moose hunt which allows harvest of cow moose on state and private lands. In addition, ADFG will further restrict the number of non-resident moose permits issued in 2018.

The Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council has asked the Federal Subsistence Board to close moose hunting for non-Federally qualified users (non-locals) on federal public lands in Unit 23. Concern over "the continued viability of the region's moose population and the continued subsistence use of this important wildlife resource" prompted the council to ask for a closure. Their special action request, if passed, would go into effect July 1, 2017. No date has been set yet for a decision on this request. Stay tuned for further updates. If moose numbers stay low or drop further, additional regulatory changes to (both state and federal) hunting regulations could be seen in coming years.

When moose populations are low or declining, harvesting cow moose can prevent a population from growing or even cause further decline. This is because cows are needed to produce calves for the population to recover.

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Centennial a Time for Honesty, Dialogue & Trust Building

2016 marked the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), an international treaty for protection of migratory birds. The 1916 treaty came about due to widespread commercial overuse which had hit bird populations very hard. This law stopped commercial hunting and closed all migratory bird hunting from Mar. 10 – Sept. 1, allowing birds to nest and rear their young. However, the treaty did not take into account the situation in Alaska, where Alaska Natives rely on migratory birds for food, medicine, tools and even clothing, and where birds are traditionally harvested during spring and summer months.

Steller's Eider by Stefani Schindler of Selawik, from the 2017 Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar.

Federal wildlife management employees were responsible for enforcement of the bird hunting rules. In parts of rural Alaska, rifles were seized and waterfowl hunters were fined. People were labeled as 'breaking the law' to feed their families. "They made criminals of us, you know, by changing rules and regulations which our people never knew existed. We were not criminals," stated the late Sadie Brower Neakok of Barrow. This situation led to resentment and resistance, such as the "Barrow Duck-In" of 1961 when protestors stated "hunger knows no law."

In 1997, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was amended, allowing for a legal spring/summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds and eggs in Alaska. Unfortunately, by that time mistrust between federal agencies like USFWS and Alaska Natives was imbedded over several generations. The legal situation has changed, but there is still work to be done to rebuild relationships.

In an effort to increase communication, acknowledge, forgive and build trust, one of the goals of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Alaska region during the 2016 centennial year has been to increase understanding on a statewide and national level of the impacts the Migratory Bird Treaty had on Alaska Native people and of the importance of birds to cultural traditions.

USFWS Alaska hopes to continue to create awareness of the importance of migratory birds and expand partnerships between tribal, local, state, federal and international organizations. One example of an existing partnership is the Alaska Migratory Bird Co- Management Council, where tribal representatives from throughout Alaska come together with agency staff to set regulations and guidelines for the subsistence bird harvest. Cyrus Harris of Kotzebue represents Maniilaq Association on the council, and has a regional migratory bird council of village representatives to advise him in this role. We'd like to thank those who contribute their knowledge and time to migratory bird issues.

Migratory birds bring families together to mark the changing seasons and inspire beauty, sustenance and hope. Each year, student artwork and poetry showcase young people's connections to birds during the annual USFWS Alaska Migratory Bird Calendar Contest. The contest theme this year is "Migratory Birds Bring Me…" Students complete the phrase, describing what they value about birds. We're looking forward to sharing these works with you through our Facebook page and 2018 printed calendar.

As migratory birds inspire and excite us, they have the power to bring Alaska Native people and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service together to celebrate and conserve our migratory birds.

USFWS

Northwest Regional Migratory Bird Advisory Council meeting, Aug. 2016. Pictured, L-R: Ralph Ramoth Jr., Brittany Sweeney, Raymond Lee Jr., Joshua Melton, Raymond Stoney, Cyrus Harris, Lili Naves(ADFG), Patty Schwalenburg (AMBCC), & Lew Pagel.

Monitoring Selawik River's Food Web from the Bottom Up

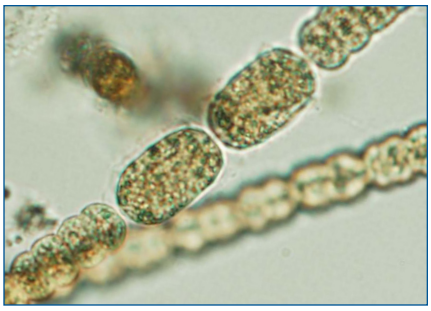
As temperatures rise across the arctic, permafrost soils are thawing. This leads to changes in nearby waterways as the timing and amount of nutrients flowing into the rivers and lakes shift. Selawik Refuge, with a rich aquatic environment located in a "discontinuous" (patchy) permafrost zone, could be especially impacted by these changes.

Selawik Refuge is partnering with Michigan Tech University and Dr. Bob Stottlemyer to further our understanding of these changes and how they affect the base of the aquatic food web.

A multi-year study, building on previous work, got underway in the summer of 2016 with three main objectives:

- to monitor changes in water chemistry (oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorus) happening with increases in thawing soil;
- to measure how those chemical changes influence the productivity of microbes (single-celled life forms); and
- to examine how the production of phytoplankton (tiny aquatic plants at the base of the food chain) is changing as a result.

This study has five water sample collection sites at different areas in the Selawik River, from downriver below Selawik village to upriver near the refuge cabin on the Kuugruaq River. The study also includes land-based sites to monitor snow depth, soil temperature, and vegetation. The Refuge hires two seasonal technicians to collect and analyze the water samples. They travel to the sampling sites by boat, piloted by Frank Berry Jr. or another Selawik resident.



courtesy Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission/Flickr CC

Close-up of a cyanobacteria, one type of phytoplankton

Monitoring changes at this basic level gives us an "early warning" signal of environmental change and a more detailed understanding of the processes driving it.

Thaw Slump Site More Stable

The large "thaw slump" (mudslide) on the upper Selawik River has become much less active. Plants are growing inside & less sediment is getting into the river.

B. Carter/USFWS photo taken September 2016

Who We Are

Selawik Refuge Staff

- Susan Georgette
  Refuge Manager
- David Zabriskie
  Assistant Refuge Manager
- Bill Carter
  Fish Biologist
- Brittany Sweeney
  Outreach Specialist
- Siikauraq Martha Whiting
  Environmental Education Specialist
- Nichole Hanshaw
  Refuge Information Technician
- Chester Ballot
  Administrative Technician
- Shawn Nelson
  Maintenance Worker
- Frank "Sonny" Berry, Jr.
  Maintenance Worker

What is the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge?

National Wildlife Refuges are federal public lands managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to conserve fish, wildlife and plants for present and future generations. The Selawik Refuge, created in 1980, includes the Kobuk River delta and Selawik River valley.

There are about two million acres of land within Selawik Refuge where people can enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, berry picking, wildlife viewing and being in the outdoors.

Thinking Ahead to a Different Arctic

Here are a few highlights from a Coastal Resiliency workshop held in Kotzebue in December 2016. The focus of the workshop was to share information about changes in our local environment in order to think about and plan for the future. The following data are from the Alaska Climate Science Center.

- Weather observations show that from 1970-2015 northwest Alaska has warmed more than two times times faster (+7.3° F per century) than the whole Earth (about +3° F per century).
- Future average temperature in the region is likely to increase by +7° F by the 2040s and +13° F by the 2080s.
- By the 2080s, most of the daily high temperatures from April-September will be above freezing, extending the warm season by roughly two months.
- By the 2090s, March sea ice concentration will decrease by about 50%, if not more.

These changes will bring challenges, but there are many ways the Northwest Arctic and its residents are strong and resilient:

- We have large amounts of open space for wildlife to find what they need as habitats shift or ranges expand.
- We have a strong sense of community and culture, with resilient people who have adapted to many things in the past and who continue to learn from old ways and new.
- We can use up-to-date information to better plan and prepare to invest resources, build infrastructure, and focus research.

Also discussed was a need for on-the ground measurements. Being able to put a number on observed changes, like riverbank erosion, can be useful to better understand and describe what's happening. Selawik Refuge is looking into what information we (and partners or students) can collect and share that may be useful to researchers.

S. Georgette/USFWS

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 270
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Phone: 907/442 3799
800/492 8848
Fax: 907/442 3124
Web: http://selawik.fws.gov/

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Know the Land

The Iñupiat have long inhabited the Selawik River valley, an area that Congress designated a national wildlife refuge in 1980. Many places throughout northwest Alaska hold deep meaning and tradition for local residents. Standard maps bear few of the Iñupiaq names for these places. Here are two important sites on our winter trails.

Photos this page by Susan Georgette/USFWS

Siŋigraitchiaq

Located on the eastern side of Baldwin Peninsula, between Nimiuk (Ninŋuk) Point and Pipe Spit. In summer, a small creek flows into Kobuk Lake here. A recently built shelter cabin here provides protection for travelers where the overland winter trail from Kotzebue meets Kobuk Lake.

Paniqsiġvik

A crossing point on the Kugurak River along the winter trail northeast of Selawik. Paniqsiġvik means "place where things are hung to dry," as in clothing. Today there is a shelter cabin here; in past times it had a reindeer camp with a corral. House pits nearby indicate the spot has been used by local people for many years.