

# TTCD Newsletter—Spring 2017

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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**Subsistence is Our Agriculture.**

## Habitat Monitoring & Restoration Program

Since 2015, TTCD-coordinated pike derbies in Tyonek and Beluga have removed 266 pike from local systems. In 2017, TTCD will hold a pike derby in May to continue these control efforts. This year TTCD will also partner with Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association for focused pike netting efforts in June. For more details on how to participate in the pike derby, contact John Hagan at TTCD or visit TTCD's Facebook page in April.

In addition to pike, TTCD is continuing to address invasive plants. In 2016, TTCD worked with multiple partners to address infestations of orange hawkweed and other invasive plants in Beluga. This summer, TTCD will continue these efforts with the goal of eradicating these invasive plants before they spread.

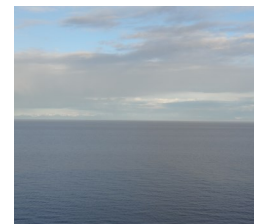
This summer, TTCD plans to complete two culvert replacements in the Tyonek area to improve habitat access for salmon. Please visit TTCD's Facebook page throughout the summer to learn about progress on these projects.



This upper Indian Creek culvert blocks salmon from reaching upstream spawning and rearing habitat, and is scheduled for replacement in 2017.

### In this issue:

Habitat Monitoring & Restoration Program	1
Technical Assistance Program	1
Tyonek Grown	2
TYCS Program	2



### Board Members

Sharon Williford  
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### Staff

Christy Cincotta  
Nicole Swenson  
Tonya Kaloa  
John Hagan  
Erin Hoffman

## Technical Assistance Program

This year, TTCD continues to partner with the Native Village of Tyonek Environmental Department to address energy efficiency and waste issues in Tyonek.

In the last few months, NVT and TTCD have worked together to install insulation film and high efficiency lighting in the Tyonek Tribal Center. In addition, NVT and TTCD have jointly removed over 500 lbs of electronic waste from Tyonek. TTCD and NVT will continue to work together in 2017 to address these issues.

Through joint efforts by TTCD, NVT, TNC and Alaska Forum, Tyonek was awarded the Green-

Star Community Award in February, 2017. This award reflects on Tyonek's well-run landfill, recycling efforts, backhaul activities, and energy efficiency upgrades.



Christy Cincotta, Tonya Kaloa and Justin Trenton (R to L) accept the GreenStar Community Award.

## Tyonek Grown Program

Spring is here, and that means that it's almost gardening time! TTCD and NVT will start the 6th annual growing season at the Tyonek Garden this spring. Vegetable starts are already growing in the TTCD office. TTCD and the Tebughna School will plant more vegetable starts in the school in mid-April, 2017.

In April, TTCD will begin accepting application for the 2017 Youth Internship at the Tyonek Garden. Tyonek youth interns will have the opportunity to learn about many aspects of gardening, including caring for plants, composting, nutrient management, ir-

rigation, harvesting, and vegetable sales. For more info on how to apply, visit [www.ttcd.org](http://www.ttcd.org) after April 12.

The Tyonek Garden Blessing Ceremony and Planting Day is scheduled for May 19. Please join TTCD and the Tebughna School students as we kick off the growing season by planting the first vegetable starts for 2017.

This summer, TTCD will host its 3rd annual Tyonek Grown Workshop in Tyonek. This four day workshop is geared towards individuals interested in starting a garden in a rural Alaskan community. The class will take place June 6-9.

Tyonek Grown veggie sales will be held in Tyonek throughout the summer. To learn about market dates and produce availability, please check the TTCD Facebook page.



Veggie starts in the TTCD office (March).

### Would you like to help? There are multiple ways that you can support TTCD:

1. Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program: Earn donations for TTCD by shopping at Fred Meyer! Link your Fred Meyer Rewards card to 90037 at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).

2. Online donations: Donate to TTCD through our website: [www.ttcd.org](http://www.ttcd.org)

**Thank you for your support! It makes a difference!**

**Your donation will support local, meaningful conservation work in the District.**



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## Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program

This winter, TTCD worked with the Tebughna School, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and Vertical Harvest to develop a hydroponics system for education and vegetable production in the school. The system is partially installed at the Tebughna School, and will be ready for use during the 2017-2018 school year. This system will allow for vegetable production in Tyonek during the winter months. For updates on this project, please check TTCD's Facebook page.

### Staff Announcements:

Two TTCD employees are expecting summer babies in 2017. Executive Director Christy Cincotta and Conservation Technician John Hagan each anticipate additions to their families in July. Congratulations to each of you!