

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

P.O. BOX 72100

SHISHMAREF, ALASKA 99772

Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson

NEWSLETTER

**Support to the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition and Shishmaref IRA
August 2006**

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition's newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed about our efforts regarding the community relocation and shoreline protection.

The Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition is comprised of 21 members of the Shishmaref IRA Council, Shishmaref City Council and Shishmaref Native Board of Directors. The members are as follows:

Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson
Stanley Tocktoo, Co-Chairperson

**NATIVE VILLAGE OF
SHISHMAREF/IRA COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Luci Eningowuk, President
Darlene Turner, Vice President
Karla Nayokpuk, Secretary
Stanley Tocktoo, Treasurer
Reuben Weyiouanna, Member
Howard Weyiouanna Sr., Member
Edwin Weyiouanna, Member

**CITY OF SHISHMAREF/CITY
COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Stanley Tocktoo, Mayor
Eleanor Taft Vice Mayor
Tommy Obruk, Secretary
Edwin J Weyiouanna, Treasurer
Johnny Weyiouanna Sr., Member
Howard Weyiouanna Sr., Member
Edward S Olanna, Member

**SHISHMAREF NATIVE
CORPORATION BOARD
MEMBERS**

Percy Nayokpuk, President
Darlene Turner, Vice President
Curtis Nayokpuk, Secretary
Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., Treasurer
Reuben P Weyiouanna, Member
Fred Goodhope Jr., Member
Johnson P Eningowuk Member

ELDERS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Davis Sockpick

YOUTH ADVISORY MEMBER

None selected at this time

**COALITION SUPPORT
PERSONNEL**

Vacant, Kawerak Transportation Program (KTP) Director
Tony A Weyiouanna Sr., KTP Shishmaref Village Transportation Planner-email tony@kawerak.org , phone 907-649-2289 fax 907-649-4461 Links- Kawerak Inc. <http://www.kawerak.org/> Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition- <http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/shiscoal/index.html>
Photos by Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr. unless noted

The Coalition was formed in April 2001 to provide a combined community effort to address Shishmarefs’ continual beach erosion problem and the proposed relocation of the community to a suitable site on the mainland.



“Frieda Sinnok working on Bearded Seal”



“Fish on the drying racks at Serpentine Camp”

We hope that everyone will have a successful hunting/subsistence gathering season and look forward to the berry harvest!



“Senator Stevens and local friends”

The Coalition gratefully acknowledges the efforts put forth by Senator Ted Stevens, Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Don Young and their staff for their tireless efforts in advising and providing assistance to our relocation efforts of our community. We also would like to extend our gratitude to the State and federal agencies and representatives providing assistance to our community, and thank you to Senator Donny Olson and Representative Reggie Joule.

**COALITION AND KAWERAK
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
ACTIVITY UPDATE:**



“Tin Creek”

- KTP has been working with Donna Gardino Northwest Area Planner- Alaska State Department of Transportation on the Relocation gravel source road. This project will be a Reconnaissance Study for the Preliminary engineering, design and construction of an 18 mile road from Nunataq to Ear Mountain. The City of Shishmaref is the listed sponsor of the project, \$4.25m was provided in SAFE-TEA-LU in the State 2006-08 STIP for the road with a required match of 10% which is being provided by the State through Kawerak in the amount of \$500,000.00. We are also working on getting the Serpentine Hot Springs trail staked this coming winter with permanent trial stakes, which will be maintain yearly.



“City rip rap project”

- The City of Shishmaref and the Army Corps of Engineers are preparing for the upcoming construction of the Shishmaref, Alaska, Section 117 Rock Revetment at Shishmaref. This project is to be constructed this coming summer and is planned for 140’ in length starting below

the Nayokpuk General store and going east. The City of Shishmaref has signed the agreement to move forward with the project and construction is scheduled for early fall 2006.

- The City of Shishmaref is moving forward with their HUD project to construct a HESCO-basket seawall here this summer connecting onto the proposed Army Corps project. The City has approximately \$340,000.00 left over from the Legislative grant for seawall construction, the HUD grant is in the amount of \$496,000.00. City of Shishmaref has decided to combine the two grants together to make a bigger project for the HESCO basket project. The project is in the final design phase and construction to get started in August if. This project will be approximately 150’ long.



“Japanese TV crew in Shishmaref”

- We are continuing to provide information to the press around various parts of the world on the situation in Shishmaref. Since October of 2002 we have had 64 different news crews who have come to get information for

their newscasts. This does not include others who have either called or emailed our office for a story on Shishmaref. The Coalition is continuing to provide information on our relocation and erosion protection progress of our community.



**“Delbert Eningowuk picking salmon berries-
photo by Kelly Eningowuk”**

- Provided information and assistance to the National Park Service office in Nome about the Serpentine Hot Springs cabin and the Kividlo cabin east of Shishmaref which blew down this past winter and was demolished. NPS will be replacing the Kividlo cabin this coming spring. Construction will be in cooperation with the Shishmaref Emergency Services for a 12' x 16' shelter cabin. Mr. Tom Heinlein, BELA Superintendent was able to secure funding for the replacement shelter cabin.



“Coalition public meeting attendees”

- The Coalition has tentatively set a public meeting for September 11, 2006 to give an update to the community of our progress. We will be posting an agenda shortly within the next week or two.
- James W. Jordan, Ph.D., Antioch University New England, Univ. of Colorado, and NPS are coming to continue work on the coastal erosion assessment project that was started in the 1980's. The project spans most of the northwest coast of the Seward Peninsula. They'll be chartering and shuttling to camp will on Sunday July 30th from here in Shishmaref. This project will be able to give us an idea how much erosion has occurred along our coastline during this time period.



“Family preparing dried seal for winter use”

“Commentary- Who are we and what are we asking for?”

We are Shishmaref, we are Inupiaq Natives. Subsistence is our way of life, we are hunters and we are gatherers. Prior to this, Tribal members moved within our traditional lands for the subsistence harvest using Shishmaref as a winter camp for the past 4,000 years. Our ancestors followed the seasons, moving from the rivers and streams, to the coast, and then on to the coastal islands. This tradition is still followed today. Our subsistence lifestyle takes us to our camps in numerous locations along the mainland and coastal islands. Today, we travel by snow machine over the ice and by boat when the ice is no longer safe. Our primary subsistence foods include: bearded seal, walrus, fish (salmon, white fish, trout, and herring) moose, musk-oxen, caribou, ducks, geese, ptarmigan, berries (salmon berries, blackberries, blueberries, and cranberries), and assorted greens just to name a few. Who and what we are is based on where we live and the way we live. We have been here for countless generations. We value our way of life, we value the environment as it sustains us; it provides for our very existence. The no action option for Shishmaref is the annihilation of our community. We are a community tied together by family, common goals, values, and

traditions. We are different from our neighbors. The community of Shishmaref has a long and proud history. We are unique, and need to be valued as a national treasure by the people of the United States. We deserve the attention and help of the American people and the federal government. Since the decision of our community to relocate onto the mainland our community has been deprived of improvements to our basic infrastructure service needs and we must be allowed the improvements to these services as other communities have in other parts of Alaska. The State and federal government must not disregard our cries for assistance to improve our everyday needs.