Shellfish Toxin Advisory
Submitted By: Native Lands & Resources

As our Southeast Alaska waters warm during the spring and summer months, please remember to be cautious when harvesting shellfish to avoid Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP). For the latest data reports on phytoplankton activities and shellfish toxins, make sure to visit the Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research (SEATOR) website (www.SEATOR.org) or their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/seator.org).

SEATOR stems from the Southeast Alaska Tribal Toxins (SEATT) network which was formed in September 2013 to coordinate tribal responses to the threat of toxic shellfish and harmful algal blooms (HABs). SEATOR is a partnership effort between Southeast tribes, federal agencies, universities, and private industries. It focuses on increasing communication on findings related to shellfish toxins, HABs, and ocean acidification and understanding the changes to ocean conditions due to climate change while bringing a diverse wealth of local traditional knowledge, science, and culture to the table.

Continued on page 14
Congratulations to 4th Vice President Rob A. Sanderson Jr. who was recently seated as Chairman of the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission (SEITC).

SEITC is a consortium of 15 federally recognized tribes in Southeast Alaska. Established in March of 2014, SEITC seeks to protect ancestral tribal lands and waters in the Southeast Alaska, Bristol Bay, British Columbia and Yukon Territory regions.

“I look forward to working closely with the Commission’s Vice Chair Jennifer Hanlon, the Executive Committee and member tribes to bring transparency moving forward,” said Chairman Sanderson. “We are working hard to solidify ties with British Columbia and the Yukon Territory to ensure environmental security and stability for our traditional waterways.”

To read the full press release, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/press.

President Peterson discussed specific resolutions that were brought forth by Delegates during Tribal Assembly that addressed:

- Expanding the market sale for sea otter
- Requesting the federal government apply the Marine Mammal Protection Act in a manner consistent with tribal sovereignty
- Requesting greater flexibility in the use of NAHASDA funds to better serve all Tlingit & Haida citizens
- Supporting congressional legislation to extend federal match to urban Indian health programs
- Supporting reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- Increasing investigation of missing and murdered Indigenous women

Other important items discussed:

- Urging Congress to take action to halt Department of Interior (DOI) from making any further reassignments of key personnel or carrying out any restructuring without true and meaningful tribal consultation. Murkowski has indicated that participation from tribes will be instrumental in this process. DOI will be holding a tribal consultation in Juneau, Alaska on August 2, 2018 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska from 9 AM – 1 PM.
- Removing barriers to low cost and reliable energy and broadband services in our communities. The high cost of energy and unreliable existing energy services paired with the lack of broadband services in Southeast Alaska rural communities creates a lack of adequate infrastructure and is an impossible burden that prevents economies and social welfare from achieving minimally acceptable standards.

President Peterson used his time with Senator Murkowski to also express his gratitude for her support and work to help the Tribe secure funding to complete baseline water quality sampling on major transboundary rivers in Southeast Alaska. Transboundary mining remains a key issue for the Tribe and Senator Murkowski has been instrumental in ensuring the Canadian government hears our concerns on mining projects affecting our waters and the impacts that it will have on our communities and way of life.
Tribe Signs Funding Agreement to Expand Child Welfare Services

Submitted By: Tribal Family & Youth Services

Tlingit & Haida recently entered into a Support Services Funding Agreement with the State of Alaska’s Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), Office of Children’s Services (OCS) to conduct diligent relative and Indian Child Welfare Act preference searches. The funding agreement is the first of its kind and will allow Tlingit & Haida’s Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department to assume responsibility of conducting diligent relative searches on tribal citizen children that enter into the State’s child welfare system as a result of a child abuse, neglect or sexual abuse investigation. Under the agreement, searches will be completed for tribal citizen children that reside in the BIA Compact service area which includes the communities of Craig, Haines, Juneau, Kasaan, Klawock, Saxman and Wrangell.

“This funding agreement is truly a step in the direction of transforming Alaska’s child welfare system and for the State of Alaska to work with tribes in a government to government relationship,” stated Francine Eddy Jones, TFYS Director.

The historic Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact, which was signed in October 2017 between Tlingit & Haida and 17 other Alaska tribes and tribal organizations, laid the groundwork for the funding agreement and expands the Tribe’s ability to address the disproportionate number of Alaska Native children in foster care. To read the full press release, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/press.
The month of April was Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month and on April 6, 2018, members of the Alaska State Legislature held a “Go Blue Rally to End Child Abuse” on the steps of the Capitol Building in downtown Juneau. The Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) department, as well as other Tlingit & Haida staff, were on site for the event to show their support for the cause.

TFYS Family Services Administrator Barbara Dude spoke at the Juneau rally and shared powerful words from Tlingit & Haida’s Title IV Statute which read, “Our Children, viewed as the seeds of our future, are traditionally treated with care, shown their place in the world, and taught how they relate to the clan system and community.”

Representative Geran Tarr (D-Anchorage) who sponsored the rally, took an equally strong stance, expanding the idea of protection from abuse to all Alaskans and stated, “Everyone, at every stage of their life, has a right to live free of violence and abuse. Together we can end violence and abuse in our state.”

As noted in the name, the rally called for participants and supporters to wear the color blue and expands on the child abuse awareness ribbon which is blue. According to the Child Abuse Prevention Center, the blue ribbon has served as a reminder to end child abuse since 1989, when one grandmother made a personal commitment to wear a blue ribbon after her own grandson was killed at the hands of his mother’s abusive boyfriend. Out of her tragedy emerged the Blue Ribbon Campaign, a national and community-based effort that serves as a reminder and a national symbol of the need to protect our children.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’áa to all those who came out to the rally to show their support for this important cause and also to those who continue to raise awareness to fight child abuse year round.

### Tune into the Radio for Updates from President Peterson

Tlingit & Haida has signed on with Juneau Radio Center to produce a “Tlingit & Haida Update with President Richard Peterson.” The one-minute program will air across all five radio stations (KINY, Mix 106, KXJ, Taku 105 and KJNO) reaching Angoon, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Kake and Skagway.

The on-air message will be updated every two weeks from a recorded interview with President Peterson. The full interview is available to listen to on-demand or download as an MP3 audio file on KINY’s website: www.kinyradio.com/podcasts/tlingit-and-haida-update-with-president-richard-peterson.

Tune in for an update on Tlingit & Haida’s activities and current initiatives!
Emily Edenshaw Hired as Business & Economic Development Director

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to announce the hire of Emily Edenshaw as Business & Economic Development Director. As Director, Emily will lead efforts that promote business and economic opportunities for the Tribe, its tribal business enterprises and citizens, and Southeast Alaska communities.

“It has been my top priority to economically diversify the Tribe’s revenue streams so that we can serve our tribal citizens no matter where they live,” said President Peterson. “It’s only through our business development efforts that we will remove the barriers created by federal and state funding restrictions that limit our ability to support our tribal citizens. With Emily’s experience, I believe we can accomplish this and the Tribe’s long-term commitment to support commerce and our local economies, workforce development and job creation, and create opportunities for our people.”

Emily holds an Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) degree in Strategic Leadership from Alaska Pacific University and a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and Public Communications from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She comes to Tlingit & Haida from the First Alaskans Institute where she served as the Sustainability Director. Emily serves as President of Friends of ANCCS, a non-profit organization that supports the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School and previously served as the Academic Policy Committee Vice President of the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School.

“I’m so excited to start this new chapter of my life with my Tlingit & Haida family,” said Emily. “Aside from working alongside amazing people and being of service to all Southeast communities, I’m looking forward to applying my professional, personal and volunteer experiences towards important projects like Tlingit & Haida’s Cultural Immersion Park, a powerful vehicle that will promote economic development and cultural awareness.”

Originally from Emmonak, Alaska, Emily is the great-granddaughter of Axel and Pearlie Johnson, granddaughter of John and Cecilia Sipary, and daughter of John Neeley and Helen Miller. She and her husband Devin have three beautiful sons and one adventurous daughter. Emily’s Yup’ik name, Keneggnarkayaaggaq which means a person with a beautiful persona, spirit, aura and friend.

Annual Report Published

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to share with you the Tribe’s 2017 Annual Report! The report was dedicated to the memory of Edward K. (Sam) Thomas Jr. who passed away in 2017 while serving as the Tribe’s 6th Vice President.

To learn about the Tlingit & Haida’s recent accomplishments and future goals, please download the report at: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/overview/documents.

Annual Report Contents:
- President’s Message
- Our Leadership (Executive Council, 2017-2027 Strategic Plan & Delegates by Community)
- Department Reports
- Statistical Information by Community
- 2017 Milestones Photo Timeline
May 24-25, 2018, the Southeast Intertribal Court of Appeals (SICA) in conjunction with advisory team consultants, delivered the Evening Peace Circles and Intertribal Courts Roundtable. The roundtable was held on Prince of Wales Island in Craig, Alaska at the request of area tribes to explore development of local Peace Circles and Intertribal Courts. Funding for this event was provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Tribal Justice Support.

Participants attended the roundtables from six Southeast Alaska communities: Craig, Hydaburg, Kake, Klawock, Saxman, Sitka and Juneau. This diverse array of participants included tribal elders, tribal council leaders and administrators, Delegates, Judiciary committee members, behavioral health providers from SEARHC, Tlingit & Haida field staff, high school youth, a college student, and First Alaskans Institute leaders. President Peterson in his opening remarks expressed unequivocal support and a continuing commitment that Tlingit & Haida will share resources to assist tribes with court development.

A powerful and moving presentation was provided by noted scholar and tribal elder Dennis Demmert, President of Klawock Cooperative Association, on *Incorporating Native Custom Law & Traditional Values into Modern Tribal Courts*. Cheryl Demmert Fairbanks, peacemaking expert, deeply engaged the participants in her presentation, *Tribal Sovereignty and Peacemaking Courts*. Mike (Ka.oosh) Jackson, a retired magistrate judge and founder of the Kake Circle Peacemaking Court and a peacemaker practitioner for the last 20 years, provided a rich cultural context for implementing peacemaking in Southeast Alaska during his presentation, *Speaking from the Heart of the Tlingit and Haida Nations*. The roundtable also featured interactive exercises on options for developing intertribal courts and leveraging court assessments and funding from the BIA.

Participants offered several memorable and heartfelt responses during the session on *Envisioning Peace Circles in Your Community*. Written comments included statements that peace circles “allow space for youth while honoring elders.” Others commented, “the city and state will refer people to our tribal court because they know it works” and “circles put power back to our cultural way, provide a way to forgive and move on, and provide traditional healing as an alternative from prison.” The First Alaskans Institute authored a collective poem made up of all participants’ contributions titled, “Envisioning Peace Circles in Your Community.”

SICA is focused on assisting interested tribes with securing courts assessments and funding from the BIA by August 2018. In the fall and winter, SICA, at the request of and in conjunction with tribes, will facilitate local roundtables in the northern part of Southeast Alaska. Tlingit & Haida's Tribal Court remains committed to providing tribally-driven training and technical assistance services to advance court development in accordance with the aspirations of the tribes.
Tlingit & Haida was pleased to partner with Sealaska to host a youth basketball camp in Juneau with Damen Bell-Holter over spring break (March 17-19, 2018).

Damen is both Tlingit and Haida and was born and raised in the village of Hydaburg. Despite his humble and remote Alaskan beginnings, he has managed to rack up an impressive resume which includes playing in the Division One collegiate, NBA and European professional leagues. This improbable journey from village to pro ball is what inspired the youth of Juneau and the surrounding communities to spend their spring break on the court with him.

During the camp, over 100 youth ranging from 1st through 8th grade were challenged each day, learning the fundamentals to succeed on the court and in life. Youth learned important tribal values like discipline, holding each other up, and respect. Damen uses a blend of basketball, motivational speaking, culture and dance-offs to get the kids involved and to learn to be proud of who they are regardless of what arena they may enter.

“It’s not even about basketball, that’s what I’ve realized,” said Damen. “This is just a vehicle to get these kids in the door to listen to the story. A lot of these kids aren’t going to have the opportunities I had in the basketball realm, but everything they’re going to learn from my story, the adversity of making it out of a small community because I had a dream, that’s something any kid can apply.”

On the last day of the basketball camp, tribal citizen and actor Martin Sensmeier made a surprise appearance to support the youth and give a few words of encouragement.

“I asked my brother Martin if he could come by and say a few words to my campers and of course he came through,” said Damen. “He has reached success on some of the highest levels and he’s remained true to his roots.”
Tlingit & Haida Holds 83rd Annual Tribal Assembly

Tlingit & Haida’s 83rd Annual Tribal Assembly was called to order on April 18, 2018 at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in Juneau, Alaska. The theme for this year’s Constitutional Convention was “Indigenous Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow” and 105 of 110 Delegates attended. Each year Delegates, who are the governing body of Tlingit & Haida while in session, travel in from Southeast Alaska communities and as far away as Washington D.C., San Francisco, Anchorage and Seattle, to conduct the business of the Tribe.

Tribal Assembly commenced with the Posting of the Colors, a Grand Entrance led by the Has Du Eeteeex’ X’aukeidix Haa Sitee dance group and the introduction of Tribal Host Frederick Hamilton Sr. of Craig, Alaska and Tribal Hostess Bertha Karras of Sitka, Alaska. Special welcomes were provided by City and Borough of Juneau Mayor Ken Koelsch, Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council President Kenneth Southerland, Alaska Native Brotherhood/Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANB/ANS) Grand Camp President Sasha Soboleff and First Grand President Paulette Moreno.

Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott opened the assembly with a special address that reaffirmed the State of Alaska’s recognition of the inherent tribal sovereignty of Alaska tribes and the historical signing of a compacting agreement for child welfare services which has carved the path for further compacting opportunities in areas such as public safety and education.

During the State of the Tribe Address, President Peterson discussed the Tribe’s continued effort to attain economic sovereignty and explained why this has been a priority for him. Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation (THTBC) CEO Richard Rinehart’s report on the Tribe’s for-profit corporation and its subsidiaries’ activities reinforced President Peterson’s address. In just April alone, THTBC’s subsidiaries secured two new government contracts totaling $63 million. The priority to improve the economic condition of Tlingit & Haida was further supported by a Keynote Address from Jerry Danforth, who currently serves as Chairman of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma Business Development Authority, who encouraged Tlingit & Haida’s delegation to stay on the path of pursuing economic sovereignty through business and economic development by sharing the story of the Oneida Nation’s rise to economic sovereignty despite many hardships and governmental obstacles.

Reports were also heard from Holland & Knight attorney Phil Baker-Shenk (Washington DC Update), and Tlingit & Haida’s 2nd VP Jacqueline Pata (NCAI Update), Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Tribal Court, Emerging Leader and standing committees (Audit, Judiciary and Enrollment).

“One of the things I ran on four years ago was economic development. I know some people may not like this, but I’ve always said that we are only as sovereign as we can afford to be. We need economic sovereignty, we need to be able to manage ourselves sustainably and not be so dependent on the federal government so that we can exercise true self-determination and do what we see fit for our tribal citizens. One of my goals is that one day we never say the word ‘service area’ again and that’s only going to come from economic sovereignty.

We are looking for those alternative sources of revenue and I’m very proud of our Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation’s work.”

- President Richard ‘Chalyee Éesh’ Peterson
On the second day of Tribal Assembly, elections were held for President, Vice Presidents (VP), Trial Court Judge, Emerging Leader, and Delegate/Citizen of the Year. President Peterson ran unopposed and was unanimously re-elected to another two-year term. Jacqueline L. Pata (2nd VP), Will Micklin (3rd VP), Rob Sanderson Jr. (4th VP), Ralph Wolfe (5th VP) were all re-elected to the Executive Council while Yodean Armour (1st VP) and Catherine Edwards (6th VP) were newly elected. Other election results included:

- Lisa Lang (Trial Court Judge)
- Stephanie Masterman (2018-2019 Emerging Leader)
- Michelle Demmert (Delegate/Citizen of the Year)

Delegates and guests gathered at the Centennial Hall for the 3rd Annual President’s Award Banquet which included a dance performance by Ldakít Naax satí’ Yátx’í (All Nations Children) dance group and special fundraiser which raised approximately $38,000 to support the Tribe’s language initiatives. Award recipients included:

- Dr. Gil Truitt (President’s Lifetime Achievement Award), DonnaRae James (Culture Bearer), Eva Rowan (Emerging Leader), Barbara Franks (Hold Each Other Up), Ronnie Fairbanks (Inspiring Educator), Ben Young (Language Warrior), Nancy Barnes (Tribal Ally) and Barbara Dude (Youth Mentor).

As one of the final actions of the day, Delegates reviewed the proposed amendments to the Tribe’s Constitution, Standing Rules of Order, Rules for the Election of Delegates, and Statute Title 1 – General Provisions. All amendments were adopted. They also reviewed a total of 48 resolutions that were brought forth by Delegates and Tlingit & Haida community councils. A full listing of resolutions is available on Tlingit & Haida’s website.

“Our governance is vital to and the foundation upon which we protect and exercise our inherent sovereignty,” said President Peterson. “Like any other foundational document, our governing documents should hold true to the Tribe’s founding principles while still having the fluidity to evolve and adapt to the needs and times of our citizens. I think we have done our due diligence to ensure our governing documents remain current and improve tribal governance and efficiency in assembly procedures.”

The 83rd Annual Tribal Assembly and President’s Award Banquet were video recorded and webcast live and can be viewed on LiveStream at https://livestream.com/accounts/507620.
On the second day of Tlingit & Haida’s 83rd Annual Tribal Assembly, Delegates recessed early to attend the Senate State Affairs Committee hearing in support of House Concurrent Resolution No. 19 (HCR 19). The public testimony drew in an overwhelming level of support. Delegates and Tlingit & Haida staff joined other tribal citizens who spilled into the hallway to hear the public testimonies being provided.

HCR 19 urged the Governor to issue an administrative order recognizing a linguistic emergency and for the Governor, Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council (ANLPAC), and other state agencies to work actively with the legislature and Alaska Native organizations to ensure the survival and continued use of all 20 of the State’s Alaska Native languages.

Declaring a linguistic emergency allows for necessary measures and initiatives to preserve, revitalize and give equal status to our indigenous languages.

HCR 19 passed both the House and Senate and is awaiting transmittal to Governor Walker. Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to Representative Dan Ortiz for sponsoring the resolution!

To read the full press release, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/press.

When We Know Our Languages, We Know Who We Are
Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa, Toyaxsut nüüsm (Thank You!) to all of our sponsors and donors who supported the Language Fundraiser held during Tlingit & Haida’s President’s Award Banquet this year! Your generosity helped raise approximately $38,000 to support Tlingit & Haida’s Language program and community-based revitalization efforts for all of Southeast Alaska’s indigenous languages!

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Alumni Scholarship Application Period Opens
July 1, 2018

Submitted By: Higher Education

The Higher Education program’s Alumni Scholarship application period opens July 1, 2018!

The Alumni Scholarship is an annual supplementary scholarship available to all tribally-enrolled citizens who apply regardless of service area, community affiliation, origination, residence, tribal compact or signatory status. Award levels are based on annual fundraising activities.

The application period runs July 1 – September 15, 2018.

For eligibility requirements or to download an application, please visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/education/higher/.

Tlingit & Haida also offers financial aid to tribally enrolled citizens within the compact service area who are attending, or plan to attend college through the College Student Assistance (CSA) program.

For more information on the Alumni or CSA scholarships, contact:

Christina Vasquez
Higher Education Technician
3239 Hospital Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801
highereducation@ccthita-nsn.gov
800.344.1432 ext. 7329
907.463.7329

Mark Your Calendars

June Events
5/30-5: One People Canoe Society Journey to Celebration
2-6: Tléix’ Yaakw - One Canoe Conference – Juneau, AK
3-6: NCAI Mid Year Conference – Kansas City, MO
4-6: Tribal Enrollment Committee Meeting – Juneau, AK
5: Strengthening Ties Community Gathering – Juneau, AK
5-7: EPA ROTC Meeting with EPA Region 10 – Juneau, AK
6: Yanyeidi Gooch Totem Pole Raising – Douglas, AK
6-9: 2018 Celebration – Juneau, AK
10-14: 18th Annual National Tribal Child Support Association’s Training Conference – Prior Lake, MN
16: Tlingit & Haida Washington Chapter Picnic – Edmonds, WA
17: Father’s Day
19: Tlingit & Haida Day (Observed June 18th - Offices Closed)
28: Executive Council Teleconference

July Events
1: Alumni Scholarship Application Period Opens
4: Independence Day (Offices Closed)
5-8: National UNITY Conference – Orlando, FL
9: Teen Speak Workshop (Session 1) – Juneau, AK
23: Teen Speak Workshop (Session 2) – Juneau, AK
28: Back to School Backpack Fair – Juneau, AK
28: Kake Dog Salmon Festival – Kake, AK

August Events
1: 2019 Annual Funding Agreement Negotiations – Juneau, AK
2: DOI Tribal Consultation on Reorganization – Juneau, AK
1-3: Our Cultural Landscape - Culturally Responsive Education Conference – Juneau, AK
18: POW Island Veterans Totem Pole Raising – Klawock, AK
20-24: Tlingit & Haida Head Start Pre-service – Juneau, AK

September Events
3: Labor Day (Offices Closed)
4: Tlingit & Haida Head Start’s First Day of School
15: Alumni Scholarship Application Period Closes
18-20: National Tribal Preservation Conference – Suquamish, WA
18-20: NICWA Training Institute – Oklahoma City, OK
Tlingit & Haida’s Tribal Child Support Unit (TCSU) is pleased to announce the implementation of an electronic funds transfer (EFT) process to receive child support funds electronically from Alaska Child Support Services Division (CSSD). This exciting news means that mutual clients of TCSU and CSSD will receive their child support payments much more quickly.

Prior to EFTs, when TCSU referred cases to CSSD to collect payments for TCSU to disburse to clients, CSSD sent payments through the U.S. postal service. This resulted in significant delays for parents receiving payments when mail was delayed due to weather or other adverse conditions affecting the U.S. Postal service. EFT is the electronic transfer of money from one bank account to another and typically takes 2-3 days.

TCSU and CSSD had been in discussions over EFTs for several years, and due to technical issues with data systems, it was not possible. Then in July of 2017, TCSU Manager-Attorney Jessie Archibald contacted the Tribe’s Chief Financial Officer Theresa Belton to re-start discussions with CSSD to set up EFTs. Jessie stressed the importance of working to get this process set up because more and more custodial parents were becoming frustrated with long delays in receiving their child support checks.

After reopening discussions between CSSD and TCSU, it was determined that EFT processing was possible but would require programming changes on CSSD’s side. CSSD agreed to make the required changes and a target date was set for October 2018. Things moved more quickly than expected and three successful test payments were completed on May 23.

“I appreciate everyone’s hard work in getting this important goal completed,” said Jessie. “Without the cooperation and hard work of both tribal and state staff, this goal could not have been attained. This is a huge accomplishment because TCSU’s and CSSD’s mutual clients will be receiving their child support payments in a more timely manner. Sending child support payments electronically saves both agencies time and money because it eliminates printing and mailing costs.”

As part of SEATOR’s effort to monitor and communicate findings on shellfish toxins, HABs and ocean acidification, Tlingit & Haida’s Native Lands & Resources (NLR) department monitors phytoplankton activity at designated sites in Juneau by collecting and filtering water samples that are analyzed for cellular toxins. These results, along with shellfish toxin testing results are posted to the SoundToxins database along with shellfish data on SEATOR’s shellfish advisory page.

During the spring, summer and fall, NLR staff collect shellfish (cockles, butter clams and blue mussels) by Point Louisa on a weekly basis and send to SEATOR for testing to see if they are safe to eat. For a shellfish to be safe to eat the levels of PSP have to be under 80 micrograms per 100 grams of shellfish meat. If the levels are higher than 80 micrograms then it is NOT recommended that you eat those shellfish no matter the situation. Freezing and cooking shellfish does not kill off PSP. You cannot see PSP in the water or physically see if your shellfish are contaminated. Each beach is different so just because shellfish at Point Louisa are good does not mean that the shellfish at Echo Cove are good too.

For more information on PSP testing, contact NLR’s Environmental program toll free at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7188 or 907.463.7188.
On April 20, 2018, with the help of grass roots organizers and the Alaska Native Women’s Resource Center, Tlingit & Haida co-sponsored a rally to raise awareness of the violence against women in Alaska Native communities.

The event began with a march through the Willoughby District during which marchers held signs featuring the faces of victims of violence and sang a Tlingit song to honor the missing and murdered women in the state.

Following the march, the crowd filed into the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall where they heard from a panel of speakers who shared powerful testimonials and calls to action to stop the violence against women in Alaska Native communities.

President Peterson shared remarks of hope for a future of accountability and compassion, stating, “It’s time that we drag some of the things that have long been in the darkness into the light. It’s time that when we see wrongs, we call them out. Not in hate, not in harshness, but with love.”

Other speakers at the event included 2nd Vice President Jackie Pata, Chief Justice Michelle Demmert, Emerging Leader Stephanie Masterman, tribal citizen Damen Bell-Holter, ANB Grand Camp President Sasha Soboleff, ANS Grand Camp President Cecilia Tavoliero, Seattle Delegate Pamela Dalton Stearns, 6th Vice President Catherine Edwards, Trial Court Judge and Hydaburg Delegate Lisa Lang, Benjamin Young, David R. Boxley, Lyle & Kolene James, and People of Keex’ Kwaan.

Prior to the rally, Tlingit & Haida Delegates adopted Resolution TA 18-05 which amends Statute Title 4—Child and Family to address termination of parental rights when a heinous crime has been committed against his or her child, or has caused the death of the other parent. The Tribe has also implemented a Violence Against Women and Men Task Force to track national issues and inform tribal citizens how they can engage to help end violence on a local level.

For information on the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women, visit the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center’s website: www.niwrc.org/resource-topic/missing-and-murdered-native-women.
Another school year has come and gone for Tlingit & Haida Head Start! Graduation ceremonies were held in each community to celebrate the great leap forward Head Start children will make from pre-school to kindergarten next year.

Research (Barr & Gibbs, 2017) has shown that Head Start children are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college and less likely to engage in crime or teenage parenting. Head Start is proud to have worked with 288 amazing children in 10 communities (Angoon, Craig, Hoonah, Juneau, Klawock, Petersburg, Saxman, Sitka, Wrangell and Yakutat)! Throughout the school year, Head Start has seen children grow into independent learners and gain confidence.

Head Start emphasizes creating a fun, learning environment where teachers create experiences that speak to children’s cognitive, social/emotional, and physical development to foster students toward becoming enthusiastic learners. Teachers strive to meet the individual needs of each child and to provide resources and support for the family as a whole.

Head Start children learn many new skills through daily activities:
- Developing healthy friendships.
- Learning life lessons through play and activities.
- Developing fine motor skills using table toys like puzzles, Legos, button sorting, play dough and self-serving at meal time.
- Learning to soothe and calm themselves learning self-help skills and by using the sand and water tables.
- Learning to appreciate art, musical and movement as they try new skills in groups and individually.
- Experiencing and learning new skills through cooking projects, outdoor play and field trips.
- Learning the value of conversation and connection while eating a family-style meal with teachers and friends twice a day.

Gunalchéesh, Háw’aa to the wonderful work of our teachers, administrative staff, parents and volunteers for another successful school year! Congratulations also to all Head Start students…may you all continue to grow, learn and stay on the path to success!

If you have a child that will be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2018, please consider applying to enroll them in Head Start! Apply online by visiting: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/services/family/headstart.

For more information, please call Head Start at 1.800.344.1432 ext. 7127 or 907.463.7127.

"Respectfully nurturing families and their children to grow, participate in life with confidence and awareness, and use their strengths to reach their full potential."

Happy Retirement to Pastor Bob in Petersburg

Head Start would like to wish Pastor Bob, who will be retiring this summer, a happy retirement!

He has served the community of Petersburg as pastor of the Presbyterian church for the past 15 years, which is the home of the Petersburg Head Start program. During his time, Pastor Bob welcomed six different Head Start lead teachers and numerous children, families and community volunteers. Head Start teachers, families and friends will truly miss his gentle spirit, listening ear, and handyman expertise.

Karin McCullough, a former long-time Head Start employee from Petersburg stated, “Pastor Bob Carter spent time in the Head Start classroom greeting children, teachers and parents and was a quiet welcomed presence.

As the pastor of the church, Pastor Bob was the “go to” for building needs and repairs, along with being a five minute counselor when issues arose. The children loved to greet him…he will be missed.
On April 20, 2018, Tlingit & Haida received possession of the Kéet Gooshí (Killer Whale Fin), also known as a Xhoots Woodzakaa Shi S’aati Woodzakaa (translation: Brown Bear Song Leader Staff). Kéet Gooshí is the proper name for these type of staffs in Tlingit no matter which clan has them because they are shaped like the dorsal fin of a killer whale.

Said to be 100 years old when collected by Bureau of Indian Affairs School Superintendent Axel Rasmussen in 1932, it originates from the Teikhweidí clan of Angoon and was initiated under then clan leader Frank (Úxsneekw) Jack Sr. and then continued through Peter (Yeilwun.aaxh) McCluskey who passed away in January 2018.

Working with Dan Brown Sr., who is Peter McCluskey’s designated successor, Tlingit & Haida showed the song leader staff at the Strengthening Ties community gathering.

Pursuant to Dan Brown’s request, the box containing the staff was opened by two children of the Teikhweidi clan, Dennis Jack (Yeilk’) of the Deisheetaan clan and Peter (Gastáa) McCluskey Jr. of the L’eeneidi clan, and then the song “The Cub That Washed Away” was sung, referring to the story of a mother bear and her cubs crossing a swollen river in the spring when one of the cubs was swept away in the current. The mother bear searched up and down the river for her cub but never found it. This time, however, the ‘cub that washed away’ was the song leader staff and was found so a short time after the box was opened a “happy song” was sung saying “the lost cub was found.”

Dan Brown Sr. stated that it will not be used until a memorial party is held this fall and it can be brought out in a cultural setting as has been done with their other repatriated objects. These types of public displays have been done in the past in conjunction with the clan.

Tlingit & Haida looks forward to continuing to bring our ancestral objects home.
Kake VPSO Hired

Tlingit & Haida is pleased to announce its Public Safety department has hired Dean Cavanaugh as the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) for the community of Kake. Dean reported for his first day on duty on April 13, 2018 and will be attending a 16-week VPSO training course through the Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka, Alaska.

The community of Kake has also been approved for a second VPSO position that is in the process of being filled. The additional VPSO position will provide more on-duty coverage, back-up in necessary situations, as well as provide coverage in other communities in times of need.

“We are really excited to have Dean on board and have someone from the community step up to take on the responsibility of providing public safety in Kake,” said Public Safety Manager Jason Wilson. “Recruitment and retention have been a great challenge not only for Tlingit & Haida, but for the VPSO program as a whole. The Kake VPSO position has been vacant for almost two years and we are happy to have it finally filled, especially by a tribal citizen.”

Dean is the son of Lolanda (Tlingit) and the late Willis Cavanaugh (Tlingit and Haida). He is of the Eagle moiety and Was’ineidi clan. His Tlingit name is Shakéutgee, and his family comes from Kake and Hydaburg, Alaska.

To read the full press release, visit: www.ccthita-nsn.gov/info/press.

Return of Chilkat Blanket

Tlingit & Haida was honored to welcome home a Chilkat blanket from the late Frances Lambert Allen and her family (husband Andrew Louden Dunn III and children Dawn-Marie and Allen Seth Dunn) during the Strengthening Ties community gathering on June 5, 2018.

“Mom was a lifelong music lover and always curious about other cultures, and I think she would have been very interested to hear and see the dances for which the blanket was designed,” said Dawn-Marie.

The blanket was passed down to Frances’ dad, Rex Whitaker Allen, when his parents died. In the early-mid 1960s he gifted it to Frances after discovering it in a chest among items from is dad’s estate. Several discussions were held over the years regarding Frances’ wishes when she died, as she wanted to avoid confusion and family disagreements about valuable objects. In the summer of 2017, Frances and Dawn-Marie agreed that the blanket should be returned to its original owners upon Frances’ death. Thanks to Google Image Search, Dawn-Marie discovered it was a Chilkat dancing blanket (probably from the turn of the 20th century) and reached out to Tlingit & Haida to bring the blanket home.
Southeast Alaska Forest Inventory 2018  
Submitted By: Native Lands & Resources

Tlingit & Haida’s Native Lands & Resources (NLR) department has received funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to complete a Southeast forest management plan and inventory analysis on Native allotments in the Sealaska region.

NLR provides forestry services to Native allotment owners in Tlingit & Haida’s Compact service area and has the trust responsibility to conduct a forest inventory analysis necessary to create a forest management plan. This forest management plan will provide guidance and identify opportunities for forest resource management for all Southeast Native allotment owners.

In 2017, NLR completed the inventory analysis on Native Allotments in the Haines, Klukwan and Skagway areas. This year, the remaining allotments in the Sealaska region will be completed and a forest management plan will be submitted to the BIA and made available to Native allotment owners.

For more information, contact NLR at 800.344.1432 ext. 7186 or 907.463.7186.