

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Port Graham Site Visit - Trip Report

NAME OF TRAVELER – Lorraine Cordova, Emily Toenes, Nathan Epps, Tina McMaster-Goering, Patrick Fitzgerald

DATE OF TRAVEL – 17 March 2009

PURPOSE OF TRIP – Meeting with community members and leaders to discuss marine-related problems and opportunities at Port Graham.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – The study team spoke with several community members and provided a study briefing to the Village Council. Patrick Norman, Chief, Port Graham Village Council led a tour of the potential harbor and dock area and discuss the problems and opportunities of the Village. Findings from the trip are presented below:

Small Boat Harbor:

- 20 to 30 skiffs owned by residents
- 9 to 10 residents have obtained a six-pack license. Only one resident owns a boat for chartering
- Harbor could allow the skiff owners to purchase large boats. 42-foot boat probably the biggest boat that would be purchased
- Tanner crab personal use fishery is expanding due to return of crab to Kachemak Bay area
- Boat owners and helpers haul boats up the beach during periods of high wind and waves and icing.
- Boat damages occur from being dragged up the beach and impacts with the floating dock during wave conditions
- Potential harbor sites – the small cove in front of the community and adjacent to the existing dock offers partial natural protection from wind and waves and access to deep water. Predominant waves smaller, shorter period waves from the east and north.

Dock and Facilities:

- Landing crafts land adjacent to log transfer facility
- Cannery Dock – built in late 1960's/early 70's time frame. Dock is in poor condition and its use is limited due to decreased integrity.
- Hatchery – expecting return of red salmon this year. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association asked to come and take over Port Graham hatchery.
- Port Graham and Nanwalek have trained labor for cannery and hatchery
- A new dock may be more important than a harbor. Dock could open the door for processing (frozen and canned) and fresh fish market. Choke point is getting product out of the village/region.

- Fuel barges generally deliver product twice per year
- Fuel currently owned and operated by Village Council
- Some boats out of Homer can only go as far as Port Graham area of Cook Inlet due to limited fuel carrying capacity. Fuel dock at Port Graham could allow these boats to travel farther and provide income to Village.

Wood Biomass Power Plant

- Study completed. Applied for year 2010 funding.
- Could provide power to cannery and eventually to Nanwalek

Action Items

- Develop several harbor concepts and evaluate benefits (recon level) from a harbor and a dock
- Develop draft Corps recon report for small boat harbor
- Develop scope and budget for Denali Commission dock study

CF: Borash/EN-CW, Hemphill/EN-CW-PF, McConnell/EN-CW-ER, Eisses/EN-CW-HH,
Harrop/RD

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Nanwalek Site Visit - Trip Report

NAME OF TRAVELER – Lorraine Cordova, Emily Toenes, Nathan Epps, Tina McMaster-Goering, Patrick Fitzgerald

DATE OF TRAVEL – 18 March 2009

PURPOSE OF TRIP – Meeting with community members and leaders to discuss marine-related problems and opportunities at Nanwalek.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – The study team met with Jerry Demus, , Chief Port Graham Village Council led a tour of the potential harbor and dock area and discuss the problems and opportunities of the Village. Findings from the trip are presented below:

Small Boat Harbor:

- Approximately 12 skiffs owned by residents. Skiffs are generally pulled up the beach or lagoon.
- Harbor would allow the skiff owners to purchase large boats.
- Tourism and charter fishing are potential industries if there was a harbor and residents purchased larger boats. Also, recreational boaters could visit Nanwalek.
- Tanner crab personal use fishery is expanding due to return of crab to Kachemak Bay area
- Boat damages occur from being dragged up the beach
- Potential harbor sites – in front of the airstrip or around the point towards Port Graham in a small cove referred to as ‘the ladders’, also referred to as Russian Point. The Russian Point would be somewhat less exposed to Cook Inlet wind and waves but access from town would be more of an issue. The area in front of the airstrip would be directly exposed to Cook Inlet wind and waves. Flat Island area was proposed by the Village. A harbor would be beneficial to the Village’s intention to develop a rock quarry at that site. It was reported that the shoreline is subject to strong current. Also, Flat Island serves as a haul out for sea lions.
- Fuel barges generally deliver product twice per year
- Barges land on the beach then use heavy equipment to offload fuel truck. Equipment works on the airstrip during offloading and requires a spotter to watch for aircraft.

Rock Quarry and Road Project:

- The Village of Nanwalek is pursuing development of a rock quarry along the coastline near Flat Island, which is about two miles south of Nanwalek. Through the Denali Commission, the Corps will evaluate harbor development at this site.
- Road Project – going to Port Chatham, Dogfish Bay
- A harbor at this site would accommodate the export of quarried material

Action Items

- Develop several harbor concepts and evaluate benefits (recon level) from a harbor
- Develop draft Corps recon report for small boat harbor
- Develop scope and budget for Denali Commission harbor study

CF: Borash/EN-CW, Hemphill/EN-CW-PF, McConnell/EN-CW-ER, Eisses/EN-CW-HH,
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