



# THE ORGANIZED VILLAGE OF KASAAN NEWSLETTER

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025

## Community Beach Cleanup in Kasaan a Great Success

Recently, the IGAP Environmental Department organized a successful community beach cleanup in Kasaan. The event aimed to foster environmental awareness and community involvement, especially among local residents and schoolkids.

A total of 24 community members participated, with the majority being children. Participants were provided with bags and grabbers to safely collect debris along Kasaan Bay Beach and Long House Beach. Thanks to their efforts, a total of 100 pounds of garbage was removed from these beautiful beaches, helping to preserve the natural beauty of the area.

While this interaction might seem like just a fun outing or a chance for kids to get out of school and run around, it will also leave a lasting impression. This experience will work its way into core memories, teaching children the importance of participating in environmental work and taking responsibility for keeping their community healthy with their own hands.

To keep everyone energized, snacks and drinks were offered, creating a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The high level of participation and enthusiasm made it a memorable and impactful day for the community.

A big thank you to all the community members who participated and contributed their hard work. We look forward to the next cleanup during the warmer season!



# European Green Crab Trapping Event



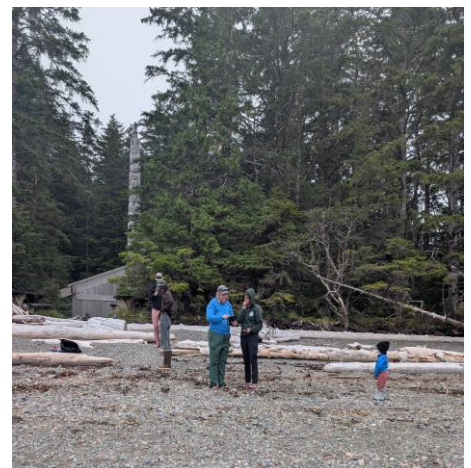
The invasive European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*), listed among the world's most impactful species, continues to expand its presence in Southeast Alaska. First detected in 2022 at Tamgas Harbor on Annette Island, this species has prompted ongoing monitoring efforts. A "bio-blitz" in June 2025 on Prince of Wales Island led to the discovery of a crab carapace in Kasaan, triggering a rapid response trapping event held from September 2 to 4 at Longhouse Beach. Collaborators included the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Hydaburg Cooperative Association, the Organized Village of Kasaan, and the U.S. Forest Service. The event successfully captured 29 live green crabs, confirming their presence and indicating recent recruitment, likely during 2024.

Analysis of the size of the crabs suggests that the Kasaan population is part of the same recruitment wave impacting Annette Island, where over 36,000 green crabs have already been collected in 2025. This rapid expansion demonstrates the invasive species' capacity for widespread establishment. Habitat surveys showed that green crabs favor sandy or small-pebble substrates, especially in freshwater channels rich with structural features like logs and rocks. These areas proved to be hotspots, with the traps—weighted with rocks—providing shelter that attracted many crabs.



Comparisons with other crab species revealed habitat distinctions: red rock crabs preferred larger boulder substrates and were not found in areas abundant with green crabs. Meanwhile, Dungeness crabs share similar habitat preferences with green crabs, overlapping in some areas. These habitat preferences provide important clues for targeted management and ongoing monitoring to contain and understand the spread of the invasive green crab. The discovery of live green crabs in Kasaan underscores

the importance of early detection and rapid response in managing invasive species. The combined efforts of local tribes, agencies, and federal partners highlight a strong community commitment to protecting the region's ecosystems and cultural sites. Continued surveillance and research are essential to stay ahead of this growing threat and to implement effective control measures.





George Nix

## Moose Hunting Success!

After three years, countless hours, smiles, miles, soggy and exhausting conditions, as well as friends made along the way, we were finally successful in harvesting a legal bull moose.

This year it was Robert Miller and I in Kake hunting together. I arrived in Sitka by plane. We loaded up Robert's boat with supplies and started our voyage to Kake, 130 miles. It was so foggy on departure day that it took 8 hours to get to Kake. We arrived safely and settled in. We were able to borrow a truck and camp out on Robert's boat for the duration of the trip.

Robert got his moose on September 15th, opening day. It took 6 days for us to find another legal bull moose for me to harvest.

On Sunday, September 21st, Robert spotted the moose that would become my first harvest and success. The moose seemingly appeared out of thin air after we had been watching a non-legal bull for a couple hours. I lined up my gun and took the shot. He went down about 150 yards away in a downhill, overgrown clear cut. We all know how clear cuts are, careful stepping and hardly maneuverable. As I descended into the clear cut, I had Robert on the radio guiding me to the spot where the moose had laid down. I gave a deep belly shout of success! The moose was given its last drink of water and many Hawaa's! Then the work began. We cleaned, quartered, and made a phone call for some packing help. Our friend Kelly rounded up some youth from Kake and they arrived shortly to help pack this massive harvest. Hawaa for this opportunity OVK! Hawaa Creator!

## Food Security Program



# SALMON!



Before I had left for moose hunting, the village was Blessed with around 200 salmon from OVK's natural resources department, thanks to Dennis Nickerson and Mike George! The salmon were fresh from the net, transferred to the truck, and brought to the boat launch in Kasaan where many joined us to process. The salmon were gutted right there on the beach by many helpers. It was a beautiful sight to see, elders and kids involved. There were many smiles coming from people who grew up processing fish on the beach with their relatives. Reliving memories, joyfully. Alongside them, the youth were creating new memories, learning how to process salmon.

After all the salmon was distributed, my wife and i had the task of smoking the left-over salmon. We took our share and extras, cut it into strips, smoked for 8 hours, and then began the process of jarring. 70 jars later, we were done. If you don't know, the jarring process takes 110 minutes (or 1 hour 40 minutes) per batch. In a large canner you can do 16-pint jars at a time. We had two large canners going at one time. I believe we did three rounds of jarring. A lot of work but well worth it!

*Among all these successes, there was one more. Our daughter Nova Nix harvested a buck and was able to distribute the prized cuts to our elders here in the village. Hawaa Creator!*



## GAP Glass to Sand Project 2025

The GAP department is in the final stages of getting the Glass to Sand project completed. Rose Ruel did an amazing job of getting the equipment through Customs and delivery of equipment to Kasaan. She is working on getting the equipment connected to the electricity in the recycle center and start making sand out of the glass collected around Kasaan. We are hoping this will help households and businesses in Kasaan reduce the waste that is taken to the landfill each week. One of our goals is to produce sand to use for winter driving. The machinery/equipment turns glass bottles into sand that can be handled without getting cut or injured. This will reduce glass waste that would usually go to the landfill and sit there for hundreds of years. Our goal with this project is to reduce household and landfill space being filled by recyclable glass and recycle it into a useful item with many uses. Our other piece of equipment will divide the sand into five different grain sizes from coarse to very fine.

### Sand Usage (a few examples):

- \*Construction - Roads, concrete, mortar, asphalt, patios, pathways, bricks, plaster, stucco, sandbags, oil spills, etc.

- \* Landscaping - Using sand in soil to help create pockets of air for roots in compacted soils (roots don't grow well in compacted soil). Drainage for plants to help prevent root rot and promote root growth and water retention. Laying pavers as filler, Zen gardens, slug deterrent, filtration systems, etc.

*Although this is not the sand you would get from a beach, which is formed over millions of years comprised of various life forms and rocks, it can be used and helps deter it from the landfill and household garbage bins.*



## BIA Climate Adaptation Grant

Our GAP department finally got word that we got our \$249,000 BIA Climate Adaptation grant!

As we move forward Rose Ruel will be taking over this project as the Environmental Coordinator and working with the Food Security department on this project to help Kasaan adapt to climate changes that are affecting the ocean and land.

This is a two-year project that will affect everyone living in Kasaan as surveys will be taken and used to help create a plan for adaptation and future goals of Kasaan. Every voice matters here as it is imperative that everyone helps Rose and her team to develop this plan to keep Kasaan healthy and vibrant. Kasaan beaches are one of the healthiest beaches on Prince of Wales island that harbor many diverse species that feed and proliferate there. Working together is the key to keeping it that way for now and future generations.

There may be times when the GAP department may need your assistance in this project to keep moving forward and make this project a success for Kasaan residents, and it is my hope that many will volunteer and learn along the way about the environment they live in and depend on for their cultural foods and needs for the future. The work we do today is for future generations to come and that they may know that we worked to keep Kasaan the beautiful and cultural gem that it is for them and future generations.

Our final goal is to build clam beds, due to ocean tides changing and rising we want to assure that future generations of clams will be available to the next 7 generations.



## Tulsi: The Sacred Herb for Health and Balance

Known as *Holy Basil*, Tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*) is a cherished herb in traditional Ayurvedic medicine and has earned the title “Queen of Herbs” for good reason. Native to India and Southeast Asia, Tulsi has long been valued for its ability to promote balance in the body, mind, and spirit.

### Health Benefits

Tulsi is considered an *adaptogen*—a natural substance that helps the body adapt to stress and restore balance. Regular use can support the immune system, improve energy levels, and help the body recover from illness. Tulsi is also known for its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and antimicrobial properties, which may help protect against infections and reduce inflammation in the body.



Many people drink Tulsi tea to ease anxiety, boost mood, and support respiratory health. The herb’s natural compounds, including eugenol and rosmarinic acid, help open the lungs and sinuses, making it a soothing ally during cold and flu season.

### Everyday Use

Tulsi can be enjoyed fresh, dried, or brewed as a tea. Add a few leaves to hot water for a fragrant, calming drink, or mix it into herbal blends with ginger and lemon for an energizing twist. It also grows easily in pots or gardens, preferring warm sunlight and regular watering—making it a perfect addition to a home herb garden.



### A Plant with Purpose

Beyond its physical benefits, Tulsi has deep spiritual roots. In many cultures, it’s planted near homes and temples as a symbol of protection and peace. Whether used as a daily tea or a garden companion, Tulsi offers both healing and harmony—reminding us that nature provides powerful tools for wellness.



## Contact Us

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## GARDEN HARVEST

The garden for the community grew big and beautiful this year. In the garden we have cherry trees, apricot trees, witch hazel trees, hummingbird flowers, gooseberries, honeyberries, raspberries, blueberries, kale, snap peas, lettuce, cabbage, carrots, radishes, parsnips, zucchini, and strawberries. The only real struggle we have for the garden is SLUGS! If anyone has advice on killing slugs, please reach out! Participation is always welcome. Also, if anyone would like to see something else growing in the garden, we will do our best to grow it! ISO: rhubarb starts.



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