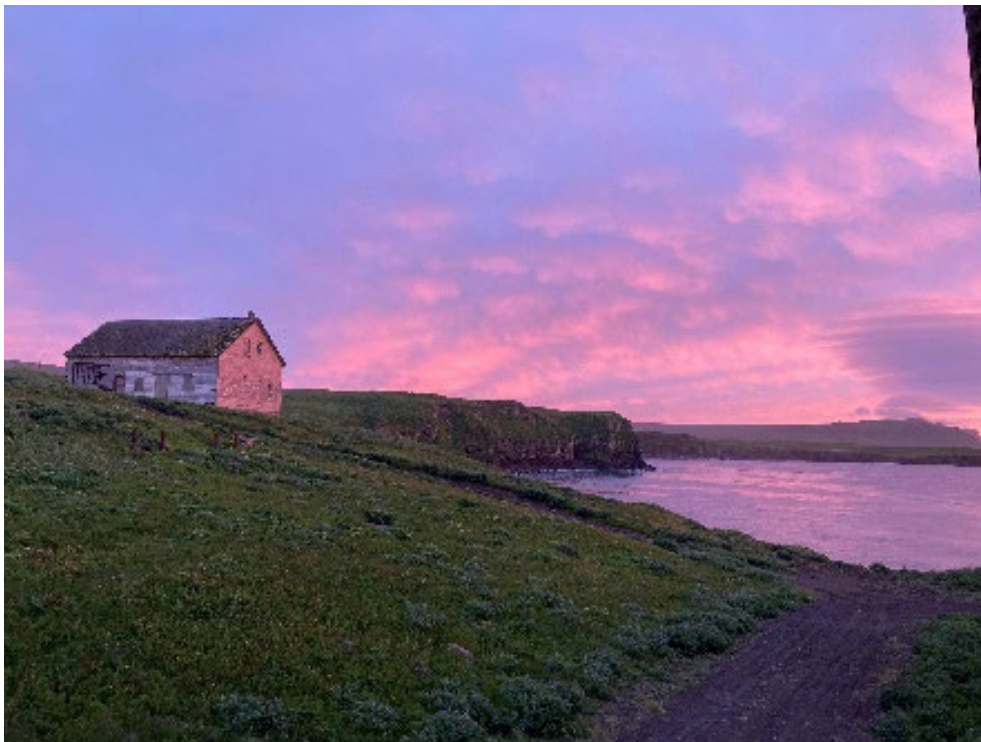




Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

September 2022 Report

For Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council



St. George Island, 2022/USFWS

Caribou count on Adak

We arranged for an Alaska Volcano Observatory helicopter to be made available to ADF&G biologists who plan to conduct an aerial population count for Adak Island. Results were not available in time for the RAC packet submissions. In late winter, refuge and ADF&G staff met with Adak residents in and others interested in Adak caribou. We provided briefings on caribou status and listened to concerns from residents.

Rat eradication planning – Great Sitkin

We continue to investigate the feasibility of rat eradication in the Aleutians. A team of USDA researchers and Island Conservation biologists spent two weeks on the island studying bait degradation and movement in freshwater, fish presence in streams and lakes, disposition of rat carcasses in upland areas, and rat habitats on the island, including around volcanic features.

Seabird monitoring

For the first time in three years, we were able to deploy biologists to all eight sites we monitor annually for seabird trends. Two of these eight sites are in the Aleutians and another is on Chowiet Island, southwest of Kodiak Island. Results were not available in time to include in the RAC packet.



Puffin banding, Aiktak Island 2022/USFWS

Culture and Science Camps

We are proud and pleased to be involved with culture and science camps in Unalaska, Sand Point, and the Pribilof Islands. This year, Izembek NWR staff assisted us at the Sand Point Camp, as they hope to have more involvement with that important camp in coming years.



Camp Qungaayux, Unalaska 2022/USFWS

Tiġlaġ midlife refurbishment

Our primary means of transportation around the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is our Research Vessel Tiġlaġ. This small sturdy ship is now 36 years old and has sailed the equivalent miles as going to the moon and back to Earth. After years of searching for funding and working with marine engineers to analyze the condition of every system on the ship, we have a contract in place for a major midlife refurbishment of the ship which should assure another 30 years of continued service. Propulsion, electrical systems, navigation, electronics, refrigeration, boilers, safety systems and more - everything on the ship that has met or exceeded its expected lifespan is being replaced or repaired. The major work will be done at a shipyard in Seattle in the winter of 2023/24.



R/V Tiglax/USFWS