



Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association

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APICDA Starts Ferry Service Between Pribilof Islands

Fishing tender route optimized to offer cargo and passenger service between St. George and St. Paul islands.

St. George, Alaska – The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) has initiated twice weekly ferry service between the Pribilof Islands of St. George and St. Paul, in an isolated area of the central Bering Sea. The F/V Atka Pride, owned by APICDA Vessels, Inc., will serve as a halibut tender and ferry between the two islands that are separated by 40 miles of water. The ferry will transport passengers and cargo at a reduced rate, providing another critically needed safe transportation option in the Pribilof's from June through August.

The F/V Atka Pride, skippered by Ralph Pelkey, is a 53 foot vessel equipped to transport six passengers and over 30,000 pounds of cargo. The vessel is equipped with proper safety and survival equipment that adheres to all United States Coast Guard regulations. The ferry will depart from the Inner Breakwater Dock in St. George and the Small Boat Harbor in St. Paul. The City of St. George will be scheduling passengers, arranging for cargo shipments and processing payments (\$100 per one-way trip for St. George and St. Paul residents, \$300 for nonresidents). Naomi Philemonof, with the City of St. George, is the ferry coordinator and can be contacted at (907) 859-2263.

“St. Paul has a larger population and a deep water port allowing cargo ships to dock. Along with passenger service, this ferry allows the St. George Traditional Council to order consumables for the St. George store. The products will be barged to St. Paul, which then can be ferried to St. George — a huge reduction in costs since everything is currently being flown to the island,” explained Larry Cotter, APICDA CEO. “The ferry service is an economic infrastructure initiative requested by the residents of St. George. Additional community development plans for the island include a large scale harbor improvement project with APICDA, the City of St. George and the State of Alaska to facilitate growth in the local fishing industry and substantial improvement in harbor capabilities,” Cotter added.

“An inter-island ferry was identified as a significant need by our residents. This service allows for another transportation option and fresher inventory for our community grocery store — true quality of life improvements out here,” reported Victor Malavansky, Vice President of the St. George Traditional Council.

APICDA's purpose is to develop stable local economies based upon the fishing industry in each of our communities. Stable economies provide employment opportunities for local residents, tax revenue for local governments, economic growth in the community and region, a higher standard of living and a reduction in social problems.

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APICDA is one of six Western Alaska Community Development Quota (CDQ) Corporations established in 1992. The CDQ program allocates a percentage of all Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands quotas for

groundfish, halibut and crab to eligible CDQ Groups. APICDA and its subsidiary companies generate proceeds through the management of those quotas and uses proceeds to achieve its charitable purpose. APICDA's member communities are Akutan, Atka, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, Nikolski and St. George.