



ACF Ted Smith Conservation Internship

Host Organization

Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government

Internship Title

Skipper Science Partnership Science Communication & Data Intern

Location

Anchorage, Alaska (with opportunities for virtual or in-person engagement with statewide partners, depending on timing)

Description & Goals of Assignment

The Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government (ACSPI) seeks a motivated intern to support the Skipper Science Partnership (<https://www.skipperscience.com>). This collaborative program enables fishermen to share real-time observations from Alaska's waters, informing citizen science efforts, fisheries research, and management discussions while providing a tool to support sharing local experience and knowledge from the fishing grounds more broadly.

This internship focuses on science communication, data exploration, and outreach, with additional opportunities to observe and learn from related Tribal-led programs such as the Indigenous Sentinels Network (ISN), the Bering Sea Research Center, and other ACSPI departments involved in community-driven monitoring, data collection training, education, and environmental stewardship.

The goal is to provide the intern with both meaningful work and real-world exposure to what it looks like to work in Tribal-led research and community-driven fisheries monitoring, data ethics, and community research. The intern will gain insight into how environmental data is collected, managed, interpreted, and used to support decision-making in Alaska.

Intern Responsibilities

- Primary Focus: Skipper Science (Core Work, ~70–80%)
- Communications & Outreach
 - Create 10–15 social media assets highlighting fishermen, observations, and program activities
 - Draft short stories, interviews, or summer highlights to support outreach
 - Update content for the Skipper Science website or partner materials
 - Help produce an end-of-season outreach summary or impact narrative
- Data Support & Visualization



- Assist with data cleaning and organizing observations associated with Skipper Science datasets
 - Produce small exploratory data summaries or one data visualization (“data story” or storymap)
 - Help prepare internal documentation or workflow diagrams related to data flow and program operations
- Program Support
 - Support updates to onboarding or training materials
 - Participate in internal meetings, communications planning, and team coordination
- Secondary Focus: Shadowing & Exposure Opportunities (~20–30%)
 - The intern will have structured opportunities to learn about the broader work of ACSPI, including:
 - Indigenous Sentinels Network (ISN)
 - How community-driven ecological observations are collected and used
 - CARE Principles and ethical Indigenous data governance
 - Technology platforms for Tribal-led monitoring programs
 - Bering Sea Research Center
 - Overview of northern fur seal research, subsistence resource monitoring, and long-term datasets
 - How Tribal governments lead scientific stewardship and research-to-action pathways
 - Other ACSPI Departments
 - Observing cross-departmental collaboration
 - Attending internal planning or partner meetings
 - Exposure to Tribal governance, environmental policy discussions, program development, and funding/grant writing processes.

These shadowing opportunities are meant to provide an honest, grounded view of how Tribal stewardship and governance work happens: the relationships, decision-making processes, administrative realities, and conceptual frameworks behind the scenes.

Intern Qualifications

We welcome applicants with backgrounds or interests in: media and storytelling, communications, journalism, marine science, fisheries: policy, science, or working on fishing boats, environmental science, social science, Indigenous studies, policy, or data science.

Strong candidates will have:



- Curiosity about fisheries, collaborative research, and Indigenous-led monitoring
- Strong writing and communication skills
- Interest in learning about data visualization or exploratory data management work
- Ability to synthesize information across disciplines
- Willingness to engage respectfully with fishermen, Tribal staff, and federal/state agency partners
- Ability to manage tasks and work independently with support

Supervision & Mentorship

The intern will be primarily supervised by Kelly Drummond, Skipper Science Program Manager.

Additional mentorship will come from:

- Chris Turner: Data/documentation guidance
- Hannah-Marie Ladd: Administrative support and supervision; ISN mentorship, shadowing & professional development
- Veronica Padula: Anchorage logistics and administrative support; Bering Sea Research Center shadowing and research development

This collaborative model ensures the intern receives structured support while gaining exposure to fisheries, citizen science efforts, data management, communications, Tribal governance, and environmental stewardship.

Professional Development & Orientation

The intern will receive a comprehensive orientation to:

- ACSPI's mission, Tribal Government structure, and stewardship programs
- Skipper Science goals, partners, targeted research programs, and data pathways
- CARE Principles & Indigenous data sovereignty
- The Bering Sea ecosystem and community monitoring context

We will provide:

- Weekly check-ins
- Clear expectations and work plans
- Shadowing opportunities
- Space for reflection and career conversations
- Opportunities to attend a workshop or travel (pending funding and schedules)
- An honest understanding of what real stewardship work looks like in Alaska