

ECONOMIC NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS

Covering COVID-19 and Chignik Fishery Disasters

FALL 2021



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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected businesses, subsistence practices, commercial fishing, and personal lives across the Bristol Bay region. Additionally, fishery disasters in the Chignik Watershed continue to impact commercial fishers and subsistence harvesters.

Commercial fishing has been a major source of income for the region for more than 100 years. COVID-19 impacted businesses that support or result from commercial and sport fisheries, including hospitality-based businesses such as restaurants and lodging. Lower fish prices in 2020 resulted in an almost 50% reduction in commercial fishing income.¹ The Bristol Bay commercial salmon industry relies on the national restaurant industry to support its high price per pound. With business closures and dining restrictions across the country and world, the restaurant industry has not been fully operational, resulting in less demand for Bristol Bay salmon on national and global markets.

Financially, the pandemic and fishery disasters have affected people's ability to support themselves, with rising costs and reduced income due to low fish prices and closed businesses. In addition, survey respondents mentioned delaying fishing vessels repairs and other business-related needs because of the pandemic, fishery disasters, and uncertainty about the future.

COVID restrictions, including social distancing, masking requirements, working from home, and homeschooling, created stress for Bristol Bay residents and impacted overall health. For instance, healthcare providers were forced to travel less to remote communities. The inability to gather with friends, family, and community negatively affected many people's mental health. In addition, caring for children at home due to school closures was noted as a challenge for survey respondents, affecting work-life balance and home life.

The pandemic and run failures in 2016, 2018, and 2020 impacted the Chignik Management Area (CMA). Commercial fishers were affected by the rising costs of goods during pre-season preparations and restricted travel for incoming workers. On top of that, subsistence fishers harvested no fish due to run failures and COVID-19.

¹ Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2019 and 2020 Alaska Commercial Salmon Harvests.

Recommendations

Respondents indicated the biggest household needs were utilities support, both in infrastructure improvements and financial support; mental health care; food; financial support for housing; and employment and training opportunities (*see Table 18 and Appendix A for more on respondent needs*). Based on the survey findings, the following actions and supports may be appropriate in the Bristol Bay Native Association's service area:

- Encouraging broadband development to help people connect to friends and family and support people working from home- or homeschooling kids. In addition to schooling, the pandemic drove many businesses, government, and agency functions online. Internet access is important for accessing programs, education, and social supports.
- Families that include small or school-aged children may face additional challenges, as they have had to take on child care and homeschooling. Attention to and flexibility for families with children can provide important benefits.
- Implementing more virtual health and behavioral health care options in the region. Internet infrastructure improvements would help make telehealth options more viable. More access to virtual care could help people better manage chronic health conditions and cut down on wait times between health aide, doctor, and specialist visits to remote communities.
- Mental health supports are important in the region. More public forums on mental health safety can help address individual and family needs. Wellness checks may also be valuable.
- Programs that help residents pay for utilities, internet, child care, rent/mortgages, and food can be valuable. These direct cash supports can help offset the lack of fishing income and the impact of closed businesses and/or reduced employment hours.
- Promoting safe social gatherings, such as zoom hangouts, outdoor activities, or activities where people are masked and socially distanced, can help people struggling with social isolation. Ensuring people stay connected to one another is important in offsetting the stress and depression brought on by the pandemic.
- Regional organizations should ensure PPE is well-stocked and available in all 31 communities as part of their emergency preparedness measures.
- Regional residents rely on good communication to ease the uncertainty around the pandemic. Positive, hopeful messaging through public announcements can help alleviate uncertainty and support health and mental health. Social media use by BBNA and villages can help with outreach and connect people to services and events.
- Resume routine medical practices and travel to villages for health care and related services with safety measures in place.

- The pandemic and its effects are likely to continue for a long time. Programs and supports should be designed to understand long-term impacts and needs and with future flexibility in mind.

For Fishers in Fishery Disaster Impacted Areas:

Of all survey respondents, 88% said they rely on the Chignik and Bristol Bay Watersheds for subsistence harvest, which makes up 60% of their household food supply on average. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted more than half of survey respondents' water-based subsistence harvests in some way. Potential steps to mitigate these disasters could include:

- Having a Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO)² in place to ensure local hiring for government contracts and other businesses in the region.
- Helping safeguard the customary and traditional harvest of Chinook and sockeye salmon stocks in the CMA. These stocks are a key tribal subsistence resource, and harvesting, processing, and sharing them are essential to traditional culture. Working with regulators and scientists can help ensure both stocks and tradition endure.
- Providing technical assistance for business diversification and promoting it in the region. Fishers indicated in this survey interest in developing alternative income sources (*See Figure 9*).
- Sourcing research funding and promptly allocating and using the funding to help the region recover and plan for the future. Requests can be made to NOAA, FRI, UAF, and others.
- Swifter, more aggressive action by leadership to advocate for fishery protection and river rehab.
- Working with state and federal agencies to help streamline their approach for disaster declarations, disaster applications, and fund disbursement processes to help affected communities recover as quickly as possible.

² TERO Ordinances require that all employers who are engaged in operating a business on reservations/Native lands give preference to qualified Indians in all aspects of employment, contracting and other business activities. Council for Tribal Employment Rights, cter-tero.org/tero-faq

Overview

Bristol Bay Area Native Association surveyed residents to determine impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Chignik watershed fishery disasters, and better understand how to help residents recover from these challenges.

Questions for the survey were created in collaboration with the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program in Dillingham and the Chignik Intertribal Coalition. The questions were designed to gather information on how the pandemic has impacted residents in various professional capacities and personal lives. Bristol Bay Native Association administered the survey in September and October of 2020.

The survey included basic demographic questions, including age, community, and other regional ties. In addition, questions were asked about work and employment, subsistence, commercial fishing in the Bristol Bay and Chignik areas, and respondents' general needs.

For people impacted by the multiple fisheries disasters in the Chigniks, the survey had a subseries of questions to identify disaster impacts on their fishing businesses and business diversification interests.



Photo credit: Rose Fisher

Methodology

This survey was conducted online using Survey Monkey software. People were informed of the survey through email and postcards mailed to all regional post office box holders. A total of 91 people answered at least two questions in the survey; survey respondents otherwise only answered questions that applied to themselves. Survey-takers were screened for residency or tribal citizenship in the region served by Bristol Bay Native Association.

Throughout the survey, the number of responses for each topic is noted in figure and table titles. Note that, due to rounding, category totals may not equal exactly 100%.

Appendix A at the end of the report displays the responses provided by survey-takers to all open-ended questions.

Favorite Native Alaskan Foods

Survey respondents were asked about their favorite Native Alaskan traditional foods as a warm-up question. About one-third of respondents indicated that salmon strips are their favorite Native food; 14% said *aqutuk* is their favorite, and 6% said *puquq* bones are their favorite. More than one-third (36%) said all the listed foods are their favorites.

Table 1. Favorite Foods (n=94)

Food	% of Responses
Salmon Strips	31%
Aqutuk	14%
Puquq Bones	6%
Seal Oil	1%
Frozen White Fish	1%
Dried Pike	1%
Not Listed Above	10%
All of the Above	36%

Resident Overview

Communities

One-third of survey respondents (34%) live in Curyung, also called Dillingham. Chignik Bay (9% of respondents), Perryville (8%), Chignik Lagoon (6%), and Chignik Lake (4%) make up the Chignik area and are home to more than one-quarter of survey respondents (27%).

Table 2. Residency by Community, All Communities (n=89)

Community	Count	Percent
Curyung/Dillingham	30	34%
Chignik Bay	8	9%
Perryville	7	8%
Naknek	6	7%
Chignik Lagoon	5	6%
Port Heiden	5	6%
Chignik Lake	4	4%
King Salmon	4	4%
Twin Hills	3	3%
Egegik	2	2%
Togiak	2	2%
Aleknagik	1	1%
Clarks Point	1	1%
Ekwok	1	1%
Iliamna	1	1%
Koliganek	1	1%
Newhalen	1	1%
New Stuyahok	1	1%
Nondalton	1	1%
Pedro Bay	1	1%
South Naknek	1	1%
Another Alaskan Community	3	3%
Total	89	100%
Chignik Area Residents	24	27%

The three residents of other Alaska communities were grouped with Bristol Bay watershed residents for the purpose of survey analysis.

Age

Just more than one-third of respondents were aged 35-44 (36%). Respondents aged 55 and older were the largest age group, at 42%, and respondents under the age of 35 made up 21% of respondents. The mean age of survey respondents was 49 years old.



Photo credit: Cara Shanigan

Subsistence

Subsistence harvests are an important part of household food supply throughout the Bristol Bay and Chignik watersheds. Out of all respondents, 88% said they rely on these watersheds for subsistence food sources. Nearly all Chignik area residents who responded to the survey indicated their reliance on the watershed areas (96%).

Table 3. Do you rely on the Bristol Bay or Chignik Watershed for subsistence seafood/marine mammals/seaweed?

Responses	All Respondents (n=89)	Chignik Area (n=24)	Bristol Bay Watershed (n=65)
Yes	88%	96%	85%
No	8%	0%	11%
Does not apply/Don't know	4%	4%	5%

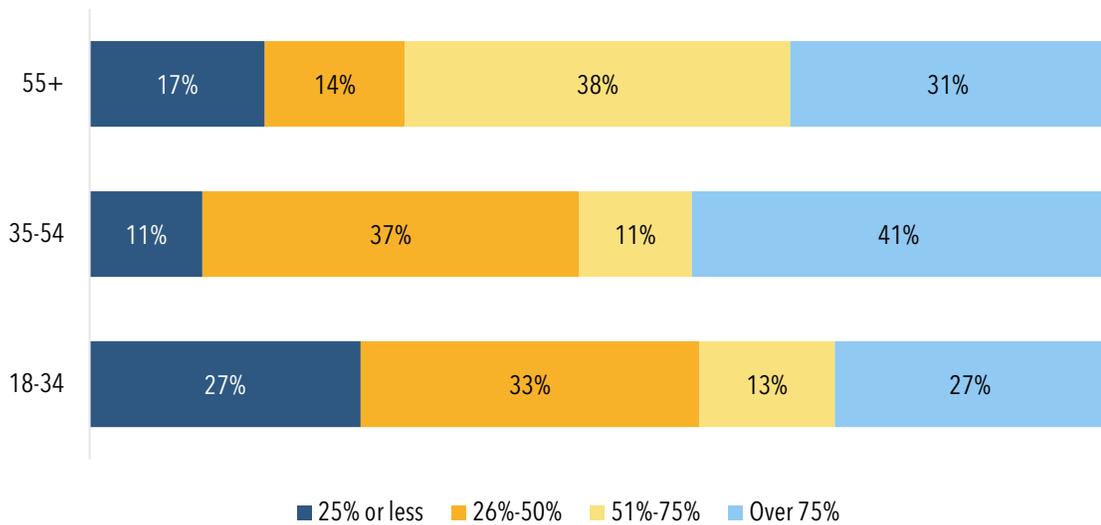
On average, water-based subsistence harvest accounted for 60% of all respondents' household food supply. Of Chignik area residents, 55% said that more than half of their food supply comes from water-based subsistence sources, comprising an average of 63% of their household food supply. This is a greater portion of household food supply than the 58% for Bristol Bay Watershed residents.

Table 4. Percentage of Household Food Supply that comes from Water-Based Subsistence Harvest

Portion of Household Food Supply	All Respondents (n=72)	Chignik Area (n=22)	Bristol Bay Watershed (n=50)
25% or less	17%	18%	16%
26%-50%	26%	27%	26%
51%-75%	24%	14%	28%
Over 75%	33%	41%	30%
Average	60%	63%	58%

Among respondents ages 18-34, 60% said that water-based subsistence foods made up half or less of their household food supply; the average response was just over half, at 53% of the household food supply. For respondents ages 35-54, 52% said that water-based subsistence foods made up more than half of their household food supply, with an average of 63% of their food supply. About 70% of respondents over age 55 said that water-based subsistence foods made up more than half of their household food supply, with an average response of 59% of their food supply.

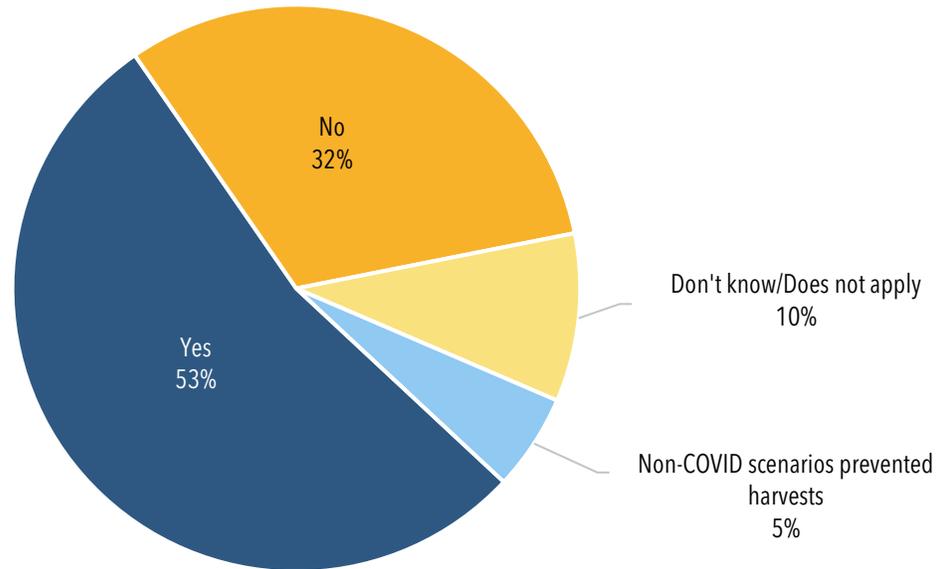
Figure 1. Household Food Supply from Water-Based Subsistence Harvest by Age Group (n=71)



COVID-19 Impacts on Subsistence Harvest

More than half of all respondents (53%) said that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted their ability to harvest subsistence foods. One-third of all respondents (32%) said they had not seen any harvest impacts because of the pandemic.

Figure 2. COVID-19 Impacted Ability to Harvest Subsistence Foods, All Responses (n=73)



In the Bristol Bay watershed, 43% of residents reported COVID-19-related impacts on their ability to harvest subsistence foods. Over three-quarters of respondents from the Chignik area (77%) reported pandemic-related impacts to subsistence harvests.

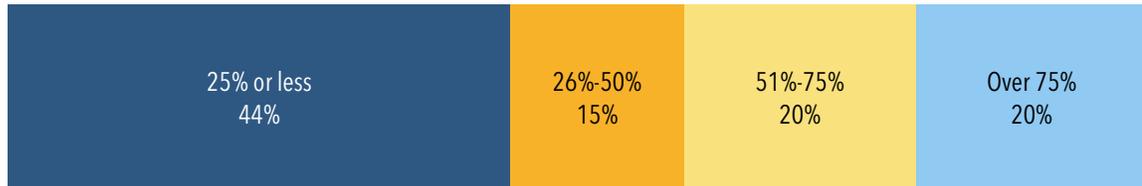
Table 5. COVID-19 Impacts on Ability to Harvest Subsistence Foods

Responses	Chignik Area (n=22)	Bristol Bay Watershed (n=51)
Yes	77%	43%
No	9%	41%
Don't Know/Does Not Apply	5%	12%
Other Scenarios Prevented Harvest (not COVID-19)	9%	4%

Water-Based Subsistence Harvest Impact

The figure below shows the percentage of respondents' total subsistence harvest impacted by COVID-19. Of all who answered, 59% said half or less of their water-based harvest was impacted; the average response was 43% of their water-based subsistence harvest.

Figure 3. Percent of Water-Based Subsistence Food Harvest Impacted by COVID-19 (n=59)



More than one-third of Bristol Bay watershed respondents (36%) and half of Chignik area respondents (50%) said that more than half of their water-based subsistence harvest was impacted by COVID-19. The average impact for Chignik residents was 54% of their harvest, higher than the 36% for Bristol Bay watershed respondents.

Table 6. Percent of Water-Based Subsistence Food Harvest Impacted by COVID-19

Portion of Harvest	Chignik Area (n=22)	Bristol Bay Watershed (n=37)
25% or less	32%	51%
26%-50%	18%	14%
51%-75%	18%	22%
Over 75%	32%	14%
Average	54%	36%

Employment

This section examines the ways COVID-19 has impacted residents in the Bristol Bay Native Association’s service region, including employment, operations during the pandemic, work changes, challenges, and outlook.

Employment Overview

More than half of all respondents said they were employed full-time (52%). Respondents said that 19% worked part time, and 12% were seasonally employed. Nearly all respondents (94%) said they do not work outside of the Bristol Bay region for long periods of time.

Table 7. Employment in the Bristol Bay Region (n=67)

Employment Category	Percent of Responses
Full time	52%
Part time	19%
Seasonal/Temporary	12%
Retired	7%
Full time employed by a larger organization and own additional business(es)	3%
Unemployed and can work	3%
Full time business owner	1%
Student	1%
Do you work outside the Bristol Bay Region for extended periods of time? (n=65)	
No – Do not work outside the region for long periods of time	94%
Yes – Work outside the region for long periods of time	6%

One-quarter of respondents indicated they work in the nonprofit sector (24%). Education (including workforce development) was the next biggest industry identified, at 14% of respondents, followed by health care (9%).

Table 8. Primary Work Industry (n=66)

Industry	Percent of Responses
Nonprofit	24%
Education (includes childcare, head start, and workforce development)	14%
Health Care	9%
Fishery Support	5%
Retired	5%
Infrastructure Support (both commercial and home)	3%
Carpentry	<2%
Hospitality	<2%
Private Contractor	<2%
Student	<2%
Other	15%
None of the above	20%



Photo credit: Cara Shanigan

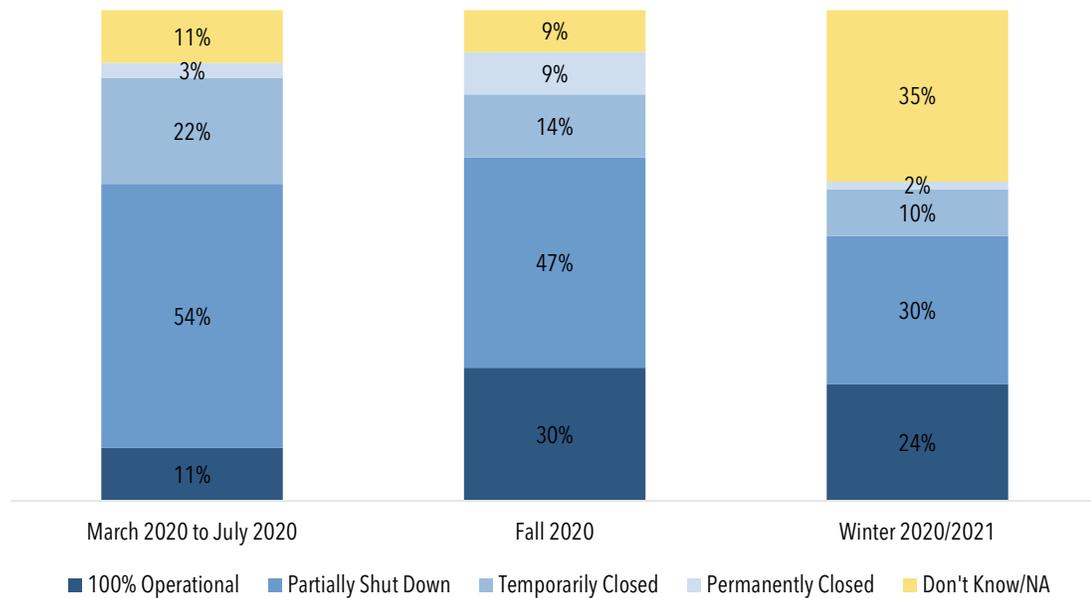
Changes, Challenges, and Outlook

This section details impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic on respondents' primary place of work or business.

Respondents were asked to assess their primary organization's operations at three different points during the pandemic. In the first months of the pandemic, from March of 2020 through July of 2020, 3% of respondents' primary employment organizations closed. In the fall of 2020, 9% of respondents' primary businesses were closed, and in the winter of 2020, looking ahead to 2021, 2% of primary employment organizations were permanently closed.

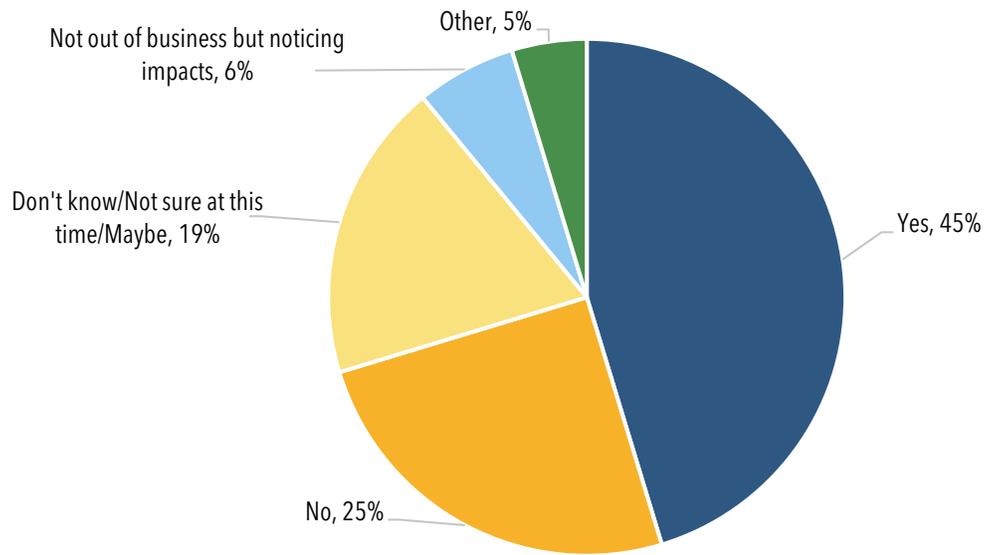
More than half of respondents indicated their primary work organizations partially shut down at the beginning of the pandemic (54%); just under half were partially shut down in the fall of 2020 (47%); 30% of respondents reported their primary businesses remained temporarily shut down in winter of 2020 and looking ahead to 2021.

Figure 4. Primary Business or Organization Operation Level During the COVID-19 Pandemic (n=65)



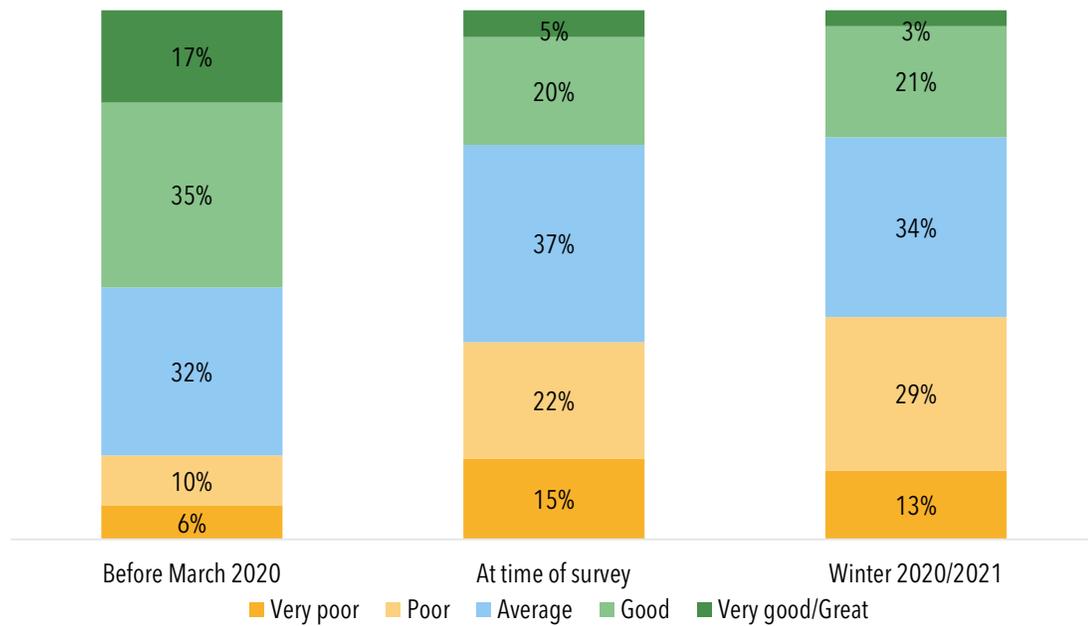
Respondents were asked if their primary business or organization's economic outlook was tied to the pandemic. At the time of the survey, one-quarter of respondents said no (25%), and 45% said yes. Others indicated they saw business impacts but were not out of business (6%), while 19% were unsure or did not know.

Figure 5. Primary Business or Organization Economic Outlook Ties to COVID-19 Pandemic (n=64)



Respondents were asked to assess the relative condition of the business climate at three periods - before the pandemic, at the time the survey was administered, and looking ahead towards the winter of 2020/2021. More than half of respondents reported that the business climate was favorable (good or very good/great) prior to March 2020, but only 25% of respondents indicated that their business climate remained favorable at the time of the survey. Instead, 37% of respondents thought that the business climate at the time of the survey was poor or very poor.

Figure 6. Overall Climate of Primary Business or Organization During Pandemic (n=63)



Respondents assessed the job outlook for their primary business at three periods of time across the pandemic (before the pandemic, at the time of the survey, and in the future). At the beginning of the pandemic - from March of 2020 through July of 2020 - survey respondents indicated their primary business or organization mostly maintained jobs (36%), as they were doing at the time of the survey (40%). More than one-quarter of respondents said their primary business or organization reduced jobs at the beginning of the pandemic (28%); these percentages decreased to 21% at the time of the survey and is anticipated to be lower in the future (14%).

Table 9. Primary Business or Organization COVID-19-Related Job Outlook (n=64)

Time Period	Add Jobs	Maintain Jobs	Reduce Jobs	Not sure	Does not apply to me
March 2020-July 2020	8%	36%	28%	19%	9%
At time of survey	6%	40%	21%	27%	5%
In the future	14%	19%	14%	47%	6%

Economic Relief and the Future

More than half of respondents said their primary workplace has been able to access pandemic-related economic relief programs (58%). One respondent noted they thought their business would qualify but had not applied for help.

Table 10. Primary Business or Organization Access to COVID-19 Economic Relief Programs (n=64)

Response	Percent of Responses
Yes	58%
No	12%
Maybe	3%
Working on it	8%
Not relevant to my work	5%
I don't know what COVID-19 Economic Relief programs are	1%

Survey-takers were asked about resources needed in their business or line of work to respond to COVID-19. Nearly half of respondents said their business needed funding to start projects and stimulate the local economy (48%); 40% said they needed funding to help individuals deal with the pandemic on a personal level. Cleaning supplies (39%), personal protective equipment (PPE) (32%), and funding to purchase supplies (24%) were also large areas of need.

Other open-ended responses included:

- Local community needs quarantine housing (Iliamna).
- Funding for operations and infrastructure beyond what pandemic relief allowed.
- Funding for boat insurance.
- As far as we know, we're one of the most prepared tribes for the pandemic.

Table 11. Resources Primary Line of Work or Business Needs Right Now Related to COVID-19 (n=62)

Need	Percent of Responses
Funding to start projects/stimulate the local economy	48%
Funding to help individuals deal with COVID-19 on a personal level	40%
Cleaning supplies	39%
Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)	32%
Funding to help acquire supplies	24%
Resource references	23%
Funding to hire employees to deal with COVID-19	19%
Other	6%

PANDEMIC SUPPORT

Asked about the frequency of pandemic planning conference calls, the average response on a scale of 1-100 was 47, with 50 meaning “keep it about the same.” This suggests that the current approach to pandemic calls is working for respondents.

This view was somewhat different in the Chignik region. While on average, Chignik area residents were similarly close to the “keep it about the same” scoring (mean response of 53); at the same time, one-third of Chignik respondents (33%) would greatly prefer more conference calls (score of 75 or higher).

Table 12. More Conference Calls or Fewer Related to Pandemic Planning

Score	All Responses (n=62)	Chignik Area (n=18)	Bristol Bay Watershed (n=44)
0-25	21%	22%	20%
26-50	39%	22%	45%
51-75	24%	22%	25%
76-100	16%	33%	9%
Average Score	47	53	45

Scale: 0 - For the love of fish NO!; 50 - Keep it About the Same; 100 - Yes Please, we need all the help we can get.

Additional Businesses

One-third of respondents indicated they own or operate an additional business alongside their main employment (34%). Of those who own or operate additional businesses, 70% said these businesses were commercial fishing operations.

The survey structure does not allow for subgroup analysis of commercial fishers. Information specific to Chignik Management Area fishers is included separately below. Other Secondary Business tables are in Appendix B.

Table 13. Additional Businesses

Do you own or operate an additional business(es)? (n=68)	Percent of Responses
Yes	34%
No	66%
Is your additional business a commercial fishing operation? (n=23, from "Yes" responses above)	Percent of Responses
Yes	70%
No	30%



Photo credit: Eric Marxmiller

Chignik Management Area Fishery Disasters

A series of fishery disasters have affected harvesters in the Chignik Management Area. These challenges have been compounded by COVID-19 but exist independent of the pandemic. The survey sought additional insight into impacts on Chignik fishermen.

A small number of respondents (n=9) indicated participation in Chignik area fisheries. Insights below should be treated as the opinions of those nine respondents, rather than as representative of Chignik area fishers as a whole.

Chignik Area Permit Holders

Out of those nine respondents who are permit holders or harvest fish in the Chignik Management Area, seven said their participation in the 2020 fishing season changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eight permit holders answered the majority of questions in this section.

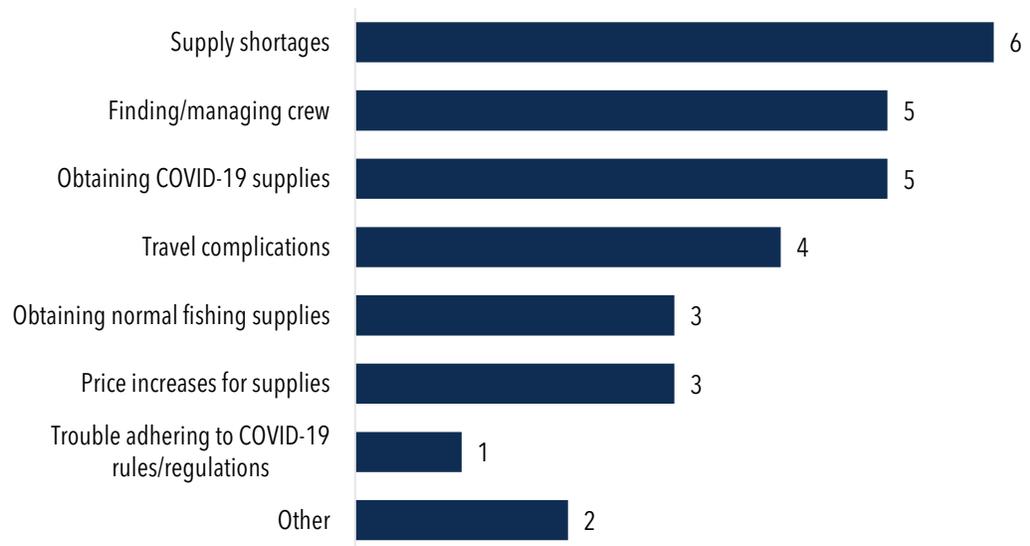
Five permit holders indicated they had access to COVID-19 relief programs, such as PPP, EIDL, AK CARES, or others; two had no access, and one said they did not qualify for these programs.

Table 14. Fishing Business Access to COVID-19 Economic Relief (n=8)

Response	Number of Responses
Yes	5
No	2
No – Do not qualify	1

Six Chignik area permit holders indicated that supply shortages were challenging for their business due to the pandemic. Five of these respondents indicated that finding and managing crew and obtaining supplies were COVID-19 induced challenges. Four indicated COVID-related travel has caused complications for their business.

Figure 7. COVID-19 Related Challenges for Fishing Business (number of respondents, n=8)



Of those who indicated “other,” responses included:

- Methamphetamine and other drug use.
- Problems with subsistence harvest.

Fishery Disaster

This section details the impacts specific to the fishery disasters in the Chignik watershed. For the eight commercial permit holders in the Chignik Management Area who responded to these questions, the biggest impediments identified were the desire to expand their business or create additional revenue to offset expenses and that another bad season could break them and their business (three respondents each).

Respondents were able to select multiple responses to describe their situation. Two of these respondents said they could weather a few more seasons. Two said they were about to lose their business because of the fishery disasters. Two also indicated their day jobs were keeping their fishing business afloat, and two respondents did not want to sell but feared conditions would force their hands.

The single “other” commenter indicated that they thought the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) demonstrates little or no concern for the Chignik region and its resources and that they needed federal guidance on management.

Figure 8. Fishing Disaster Impacts on Ability to Maintain Fishing Business (number of respondents, n=8)



When asked what would help maintain their commercial fishing business, respondents said the following:

- \$100,000.
- A better price from canneries and not being put on limits or shut down.
- Being able to buy gear to participate in other fisheries in the area (Dungeness crab, cod).
- Being able to fish the outside districts of the CMA management area with fewer restrictions due to escapement in Chignik Lagoon.
- Federal subsidies to lend financial aid during the downtimes, just as farmers are helped. Deferred loan payment options from the State.
- More fish to harvest. Our fish are intercepted before we get them, and fish and game don't care about our area.
- Stable and sober crew, better prices, and peace of mind.
- Upgrade the boat.



Photo credit: Rose Fisher

No respondents indicated a high likelihood of not participating in the 2020-2021 fishing season. The average score of 69 indicates that respondents are likely to fish during the upcoming fishing season.

Table 15. Likelihood of Participation in the Upcoming Fishing Season (n=8)

Rating	Number of Responses
0-25	0
26-50	3
51-75	2
76-100	3
Average Rating	69

Scale: 0 - Not at all likely to 100 - Very likely

Asked about their concerns for the upcoming winter season, Chignik permit holders provided the following comments:

- 2018 disaster funds will be pushed back until spring or summer 2021, lending little help to the stakeholders affected. ADF&G will receive 2018 disaster funds and get their hand out for the 2020 Economic disaster funds also.
- Food and rent.
- Keeping my family healthy & keeping from going bankrupt.
- Social impacts of the cure are more devastating than the cause.
- Unable to make boat payments due to slow disaster relief response.
- We have high utilities to deal with.

Accessing Fishery Disaster Relief Funds

Half of Chignik Management Area permit holders received 2016 pink salmon relief funds (4 respondents); of the four that did not receive relief funds, two did not qualify.

Table 16. Fishing Business Access to Relief Funds from 2016 Pink Salmon Disaster (n=8)

Response	Number of Responses
Yes - got it	4
No	2
No - Did/do not qualify	2

Two of the permit holders did not receive relief funds from the 2018 fishery disaster. Four respondents were still waiting for their relief funds, and two said they did not qualify.

Table 17. Fishing Business Access to Relief Funds from 2018 Disaster (n=8)

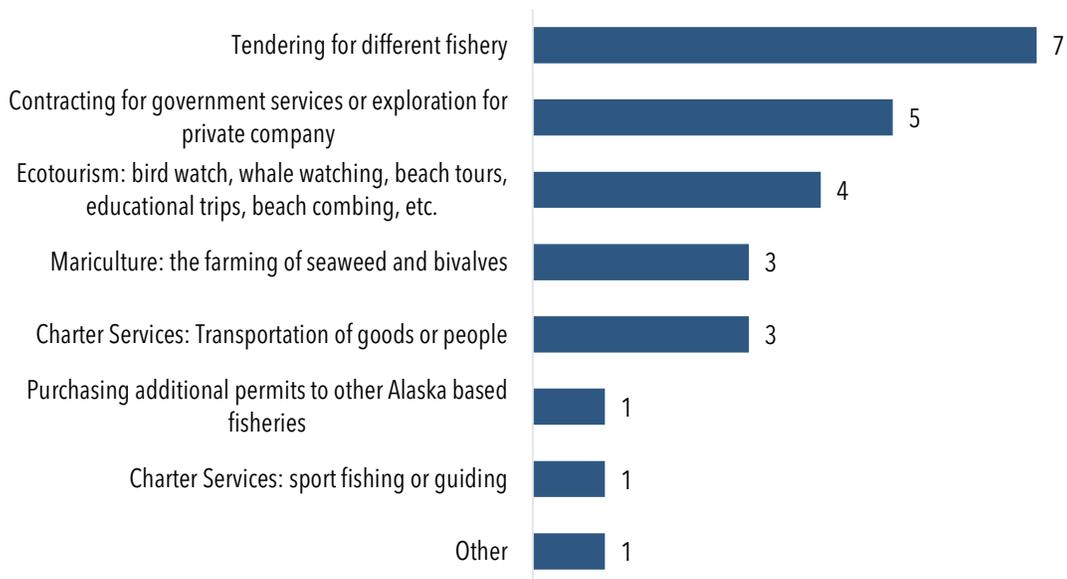
Response	Number of Responses
No	2
No-still waiting	4
No - Did/do not qualify	2

Other Income sources

Seven Chignik Management Area permit holders (all who answered this question) said they were interested in exploring additional types of income for their fishing business.

Seven permit holders expressed interest in tendering for a different fishery as a potential source of additional income. Contracting for private or government exploration was the second-most common area of interest (5 respondents), followed by ecotourism (4 respondents).

Figure 9. Interest in Potential Additional Types of Revenue for Fishing Businesses (n=7)



Household Needs

The highest needs for all respondents were utility assistance, indicated by half of all respondents, followed by mental health supports (30%) and food assistance (29%). Higher needs were generally expressed by Chignik area residents relative to those residents in the Bristol Bay watershed.

Table 18. Highest Priority Needs for Assistance for Household Due to COVID-19 or Chignik Disasters

Need	All Responses (n=56)	Chignik Area Residents (n=17)	Bristol Bay Watershed (n=39)
Utility (internet, electricity, heating oil)	50%	76%	38%
Mental Health (addiction treatment, depression, stress)	30%	12%	38%
Food (WIC, Foodbank, SNAP, Food Stamps)	29%	47%	21%
Housing (rent or mortgage)	27%	35%	23%
Employment opportunities	23%	29%	21%
Employment training/post-secondary education	16%	12%	18%
General Assistance or TANF	14%	29%	8%
Financial counseling	2%	-	3%

Other needs identified included help for local fishers to keep the market going all season and transportation.

Appendix A: Comments

The section includes comments from across the survey, reported by survey question. They have been lightly edited for clarity.

As it relates to COVID-19, are there issues or concerns for your primary line of work or business that were not addressed? Please explain.

- Alcohol and drug use have skyrocketed in and during this pandemic. One day, one hour, one minute, peoples' mental well-being suffers. I don't cause it; I can't control it; I can't cure it.
- How do we deal with the COVID depression that many feel right now?
- Concerned about residents on a personal level, with coping of catching the virus... the uncertainty of the future... almost breaking point of mental issues of quarantining... something new in their lifestyle like change in everyday life...
- Traveling with more positive COVID cases.
- Travel to and from the village needs to be re-visited.
- Have a problem trying to explain the virus and the tests; people think that just because they have a negative test that it is ok to go out in public and don't need to quarantine. That is the biggest thing here in Chignik Bay.
- People don't quarantine the right way when returning to the village.
- We fish for a company, and the set net operation was shut down due to the cannery. The drift fleet kept fishing with no limit, but the set netters who fished for the company were shut down during the peak. We only fish for this company, so our family was affected by losing out on thousands of pounds. We are year-round residents and have no way to recapture this income. Our cannery claims it was affected by COVID.
- Price of salmon.
- Price of salmon is too low.
- A sustainable way of working from home.
- There is expensive internet access, lack of work phone, limited access to tribes and regional communities, and no travel ordinance/mandate.
- Face-to-face training stopped during Gov. shutdown. Transitioning from face-to-face training to eLearning.
- How does public safety/EMS/marine safety-related training continue during this period of COVID-19 restrictions/precautions?
- Utilities cannot close, we need to understand that we also need to protect ourselves. So, the need to follow mandates set for our safety is important.
- Emergency Response.

- Future funding impacts (FY22+).
- I'm retired but serve on several boards and committees. The COVID restrictions have severely hampered our ability to meet and conduct business. In some cases, the interference was unjustified - meetings were unnecessarily canceled as some were unwilling to find safe, in-person ways to meet.

If there is an issue or concern about the fishery disasters that was not addressed, please comment here.

- Access to technology, receive information in a timely manner, assistance to complete said documents.
- Financial resources for season start-up.
- Higher price for salmon. Be allowed to have the same access to funds/resources as year-round residents.
- Prepaying for season start-up costs without normal cannery purchase orders difficult was a financial burden.
- Slow process.
- The cure is more devastating than the cause... mental, physical, spiritual add Good Orderly Direction changes everything; the joy of knowing is priceless
- Where will the unclaimed disaster funds be spent?

Is there an issue or concern about COVID-19 and your fishing business that was not addressed? If yes, please explain.

- Being denied access to BBEDC.
- I had a crew member get sick at the beginning of the season, so I didn't replace him. Due to the disaster in Chignik, I couldn't afford to fly someone else.
- Peace of mind is priceless; no drama.
- Reduction in fish prices due to COVID-19
- The price for sockeye salmon should be known before we fish. Knowing the price would be so much lower would have impacted how much we spent on start-up.

What changes or challenges do you anticipate this winter because of COVID-19?

- A cold one.
- A dreary, cold, sad winter. No regular traveling, not able to freely travel anywhere. Being cooped up inside more. Or not even a real winter due to climate change.
- A lot of quarantining; closed to the public; telecommuting from home.
- Being sick with a common cold, going thru all sick leave at work since we must be completely symptom-free of any sickness before going back to work.
- COVID rules in our village.

- Dealing with reduced personal contact. Dealing with the growing impatience of neighbors, friends, and acquaintances who then put me at risk. Maybe financial impacts later in the year.
- Economic point of view, people are borrowing more money than normal. Pantries are empty that are normally stocked. More deaths.
- Financial difficulties.
- Food and rent. Boat payment.
- Food and supplying for my family.
- Gatherings/get-togethers for holidays. The hardship on myself and others. Staying safe in a small village.
- Getting through the winter with half the price of salmon as last year. Paying bills.
- Hopeful that COVID gets under control with a possible vaccine.
- I think the pandemic isn't over. We might hit the spike this winter. COVID could thrive in the cold since it is vulnerable to heat. This could affect us by affecting how the outside world works. They slow down, and we can't access things we normally would. Mail could be disrupted, or stores could be shut down. We can provide for our families from our land, but for other things such as diapers, dry goods, or even fuel, we might be impacted.
- Inability to travel or socialize.
- Increase mental health concerns with depression, anxiety, and panic attacks. Suicidal tenement.
- Lack of subsistence foods due to no travel restrictions, no PFD in October because we stupidly got it in July of all months.
- Fewer funds.
- Less mail service, which will affect the flow of food being delivered. With less employment, people will have less to pay for utility needs.
- Less networking and convention-style training.
- Fewer services and slower services high price in airfare.
- Less travel, less work, less money, and more bills.
- Less travel, restricted activities/opportunities locally, stress from community response/restrictions to COVID.
- Less travel, staying home-being careful being around others.
- Losing my job due to shut down. As Chignik did not have a fishery this year. How am I going to support my family during this time?
- Loss of income.
- Mail-order shopping for staple needs and personal shopping for basic grocery needs.
- No one is spending any extra money or driving as much and putting off repairs.
- Not steam bathing to keep friends and talk about personal things with close friends. Getting relaxed and other perspectives.

- Not wanting to leave the community personally for health care.
- On-going unreasonable restrictions instead of finding rational, safe ways to operate. On-going onerous travel restrictions. Community strife and polarization, social stresses.
- Reduced business travel. Reduced/No in-person meetings.
- School closures. Village lockdown due to COVID outbreak. Not being able to get specialty health care outside of Dillingham. Loss of money due to quarantine. More expensive food and supplies.
- Schools will close due to COVID 19. All major businesses will close due to COVID-19.
- Shut down the school.
- Staying healthy.
- The persistent lockdowns/quarantine requirements in the communities I need to conduct training classes in. Also, since I am a single parent, schooling is a major issue for me and my 9 y/o.
- The virus spreading more, and school or work is shut down.
- Travel for healthcare.
- Travel restrictions.
- Unable to travel to see family due to positive cases continually showing up and seems to be worse than ever.
- Unsure of ever reopening.

Concerns

What concerns do you have about COVID-19 that you want community and regional leadership to know about?

Health & Wellness

- Emergency Response 911 - How do we connect?
- I don't want to get COVID; it could kill me for no reason. I would like to see a vaccine required to attend school, just like measles, mumps, rubella, etc. Staph too.
- We have no health aide in my community, and there is no health help here in emergencies.
- Lack of rapid COVID test results. 3-8 days before confirmed positive is too long.
- Mental Health needs to be normalized; we need real tangible services. Historical Trauma of the Spanish Flu is real. Our people need to start talking.
- We need mental health support for those affected by increased duties because of layoffs and general stresses.
- Need health care providers to come to the village and not have any skips or any or delays.

- Please keep testing going.
- We need to continue fast-tracking a COVID-19 vaccine. We need to encourage people to take the vaccine when it comes out. We need to keep the vaccine free or low-cost to the public.

Outreach

- BBNA is not on social media. This is the easiest way to educate, inform, and help our communities. I believe it's time that BBNA is on social media, and it begins being used for all programs available or services provided.
- Leaders should lead by example and educate our tribal members, and everyone should take this seriously.
- No one is assisting communities with outreach and public information.
- Physical effects of the virus have been low in BB, but local response has been extreme, confusing, and divisive. Leadership needs to realize they are overemphasizing protection from the virus to the detriment of mental health, delayed medical treatment, and economic and social impacts to the region.
- Please keep people aware that COVID-19 is a concern which we need to understand the risks.
- Resources available. 211 assistances. Referring individuals to available services
- That businesses will shut down or close, and needed resources will be unavailable. Would like leaders to make sure that in the event of closure, to have the essential services available and to be able to find information on what is available.
- The actual number of COVID deaths/survivors. The impact of the shutdown & the real reason to extend it.
- There needs to be clarity on which funding opportunities for the villages and to the tribal enrollees.
- We have extremists over-reacting (especially of protectionist bent) to virus concerns, seeking to dominate and discouraging rational discussion and decision making. It is hard to know if we have accurate data and information on which to base actions. There is such a blizzard of community response regulations resulting in confusion and distrust.
- We need to ensure that everyone is taking this seriously. It will not go away until we all can understand that we are in a pandemic. It is the world, not just our country.
- What are the entities doing to help?

Community

- That we are all still in this together.
- Must continuously remind travelers outside of our region to quarantine, keep up with social distancing, and forever wash your hands.

- The fact that some local people don't abide by COVID rules.
- Stay distance from people/no crowds/keep masks on and wash hands continually. Protect self.

Travel

- Airlines could be doing more on prevention.
- Enforcing quarantine rules.
- Fear of leaving the community because of COVID-19.
- Mandate to wear masks and require no travel to red zones/hot spots because our people are getting infected while traveling to the cities.
- More information on who tests positive and better communication with airlines and sanitizing aircraft in and out.
- Quarantine place for people that are traveling for appointments. As it affects the whole household, and overcrowding is always in place.
- Restrict travel, and put mandates, such as quarantine, into effect. Tighten this. Enforce these.

Personal Needs

- Financial assistance.
- More assistance financially due to the high cost of freight charges to get items here.
- More support funding for keeping homes heated and electrified, increase for those on such things as food stamps.
- Providing food for elders and people who don't have the income to provide.

School/Kids

- School should be virtual. We are taking a big risk.
- We need to open up our communities and keep schools in-person or support private, including Christian schools through school vouchers.

Other

- Due to social distancing, our communities relying on current technology have been severely disadvantaged, especially during the summer months when we could not contact anyone to ask for assistance. The current phone and internet available have slowed commerce, communications, and trade. Upgrading to an affordable, reliable system should be the highest priority if our rural communities are to be part of the post-pandemic rebuilding.

- I want people in my community to realize that there was funding given to the tribal council, and in my opinion, I have seen something with their application I do not agree with. It seems as if I see an administrator put some restrictions on getting this funding. I think it is hard for people to ask for help. The village council should have been more welcoming to All tribal members and how they will determine how people get this money. Looking at other tribes and their application program didn't seem as complicated as my tribal council.
- It's never going away.

Other Areas

What part of your life was impacted by COVID-19 that we haven't asked about?

Friends, Family & Community

- All of it... the discomfort of being around others and not knowing whether the companies are really doing what needs to be done for the safety of the people.
- Being treated badly by village people.
- Dating.
- Every aspect. Couldn't meet our new grandson after birth. My husband wasn't allowed in the ER when I had an allergic reaction. Can't visit lifelong friends out of their fear of COVID. Almost couldn't go fishing in my own hometown! Being forced to wear a mask that doesn't keep you from getting COVID. I know someone personally that wore a mask at all times & still got the virus. Thankfully she's going to be okay.
- Family life impacted due to avoiding contact. My financial assistance to other family members has depleted my savings. Growing frustration in the community.
- Fear and education and preparation for my family's new way of life.
- How to assist others during this pandemic.
- I didn't have help working on stuff like normal. Everyone was afraid to come around. It makes stuff a lot harder to fix when you're working by yourself.
- I miss hugs and visiting my friends and family.
- Once a proven vaccine is readily available, how can I be sure my neighbor, classmates, coworkers, and fellow churchgoers will participate so we can return to some normalcy?
- Personal relations.
- Significantly limited my ability to travel to another community to assist a family member with housing issues.
- Socializing and normal daily activities are greatly disrupted.
- Socializing.
- That I need to keep being concerned about COVID-19 in our village. Staying home, being careful not to be around those who might be a carrier.

- Travel restrictions interfered with family members' medical care, as well as care for family members living elsewhere.

School/Kids

- Children being stuck home and learning new ways to cope as a parent and be present for children.
- Internet Zoom for meetings Zoom for school kids.
- Parenting.
- School and Childcare?
- School. Childcare.
- The children.

Work, Employment & Travel

- My partner's income and job.
- Work-related Travel.
- Not being at work.
- Travel for work has been 100% decimated.
- Travel restrictions.
- Fewer travel opportunities since there is a quarantine in place in hub communities.
- Out of employment for 4 months due to COVID-19. Thankful I have not come in contact with COVID-19.

Health & Wellness

- I was forced to postpone significant medical treatment for 6 months - partly due to the provider's rules in another community but also due to virus restrictions and confusion in my home community.
- Mental Health had one question. This is something that needs to be addressed and talked about openly.
- Stress due to the demand of cares act funds from ALL tribal members.
- Health care specialists need to come to the villages: eye doctor, dentist, doctor, health aide.
- Health.
- Mental and physical health.
- Medical needs, treatment, appointments, and access to specialists.
- Stress & self-care.

Other

- Financial.
- Keep the supplies coming.
- Church closures, bans on funerals, and the wearing of masks. A wide array of PPE is used for my volunteers and work-related duties. Much more planning/paperwork for travel. Greater reliance on the internet for many things. The closure or alterations to many businesses, including restaurants/Dental and Hospital facilities, has caused my family and me to delay needed services. These things have greatly increased my desire to move from the area.



Photo credit: Peter Andrew

Appendix B: Secondary Businesses

Table 19. What industry does your secondary business fall under?

n=10	Total %
Private contractor	20
Artist (beading, painting, jewelry, carving, etc.)	10
Auto services	10
Fishery support (net hanging, diesel mechanics, RSW, etc.)	10
Hospitality (B&B, hotel, lodge, etc.)	10
Retail sales/grocery	10
Transportation/Literate/Vehicle rental	10
Workforce development/Job training/Higher education	10
Other	10

Table 20. Has your secondary business operated during the COVID-19 pandemic? -

n=10	100% operational (%)	Partially Shut Down (%)	Temporarily Closed (%)	Permanently Closed (%)	Don't know or N/A (%)
March 2020 to July 2020	10	30	40	10	10
Fall 2020	20	30	40	10	0
Winter 2020/2021	20	30	30	10	10

Table 21. At this time, do you feel your secondary business or organization's economic outlook is directly tied to the COVID-19 Pandemic?

n=10	Total %
Yes	60
No	10
Maybe	10
Other	10
I don't know/Not sure at this time	10

Table 22. Please rate the overall climate for your secondary business or organization.

n=10	Very good/Great (%)	Good (%)	Average (%)	Poor (%)	Very poor (%)
Before March 2020	22	22	22	33	0
Today	0	10	30	40	20
Winter 2020/2021	0	20	20	50	10

Table 23. Has your secondary business had to, or do you expect to add, maintain, or reduce jobs because of COVID-19?

n=10	Add Jobs (%)	Maintain Jobs (%)	Reduce Jobs (%)	Not sure (%)	Does not apply to me (%)
March 2020-July 2020	-	20	40	10	30
Today	-	20	40	10	30
In the future	-	20	20	30	30

Table 24. Has your secondary business been able to access COVID-19 Economic Relief programs?

n=10	Total %
Yes	20
No	20
Maybe	10
Working on it	20
Not relevant to my work	10
I don't know what COVID-19 Economic Relief programs are	20

Table 25. As it relates to COVID-19, What resources does your secondary line of work or business need to access right now?

n=8	Total %
Funding to start projects/stimulate the local economy	25
Funding to help individuals deal with COVID-19 on a personal level	13
Cleaning Supplies	38
Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)	25
Funding to help acquire supplies	63
Resource References	25
Funding to hire employees to deal with COVID-19	0
Other	0

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