

# SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL



2025 ANNUAL  
WHALING CAPTAINS' CONVENTION  
FEBRUARY 10 - 14, 2025 | UTQIAGVIK, ALASKA



## Our history

As the original inhabitants (the Iñupiaq and Yupik) of the villages along the Arctic coast of Alaska, we have been hunting the bowhead whale for thousands of years. Since time immemorial, whaling has been at the center of our culture and traditions. We are spiritually bound to the bowhead whale and it to us. We are the People of the Ice Whale.

The traditions of our ancestors remain at the center of all we do. Our whaling captains are the providers for our communities. They ensure our food security, care for our elders, teach our children, and lead our people. Our whaling captains and wives are equal members of a team, each having specific responsibilities during preparation, harvest, and sharing. Portions of each whale are saved for celebration at Nalukataq (the blanket toss or whaling feast), Thanksgiving, Christmas, and potlucks held during the year.

For thousands of years and myriad changes, they have carried our story, nurtured our traditions, and preserved our sacred connection to the bowhead whale.

Today, as our world changes with lightning speed, the whale, the harvest, and the sharing are the constants that bind our families and communities together, that define our social and leadership roles, that keep our children in school, that allow our elders to pass their knowledge to our youth, that teach us patience, perseverance, interdependence, and generosity. The Spirit of the Whale provides now, as it has throughout history, for our people; it lives within each of us.





## About the AEWCC

The AEWCC was formed in 1977 in response to an international ban on the bowhead whale subsistence harvest, imposed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) based on an inaccurate population estimate provided to the IWC by western scientists without consultation with whaling captains. The members of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission are the registered whaling captains and their crew members of the eleven whaling communities of the Arctic Alaska coast, including: Gambell, Savoonga, Wales, Little Diomedede, Kivalina, Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik. Currently there are 167 registered whaling captains.

The AEWCC operates as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 with a mission of protecting the bowhead whale and its habitat, as well as the aboriginal subsistence hunting rights of Alaska's indigenous people. The whaling communities rely on the AEWCC to protect the bowhead whale and successfully manage the bowhead whale subsistence hunt through tribal delegation of authority and U.S. federal delegation, co-management, and oversight. The AEWCC's management practices are a blend of long-standing tradition and modern regulation. The AEWCC works closely with NOAA throughout the year to manage the hunt and meet the mandates of the IWC, which are required for quota renewal.



## Event Summary

Every six years, following the renewal of its bowhead whale subsistence quota by the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the AEWC hosts a full Whaling Captains' Convention, attended by all registered Whaling Captains from its eleven (11) villages, as well as their wives, who play an equal role in the bowhead harvest.

The Annual Meeting, and especially the full Whaling Captains' Convention are important facets of the AEWC's continued effort to protect and preserve the traditions and food security of its whaling communities. It provides whaling captains an opportunity to learn from each other, share information on hunting techniques, and exchange ideas on meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing Arctic. Additionally, when a new quota is set by the IWC, the division of the quota among the whaling villages is determined at the full Convention. Participation of whaling captains is required to ensure an understanding of what is required under the new catch limits.

The Convention also provides an opportunity for organizations to present their Arctic research or exploration plans to subsistence hunters whose communities may be impacted by their work. This opportunity has proven effective in helping create more meaningful projects with less impact on local communities.

Further, this rich venue allows researchers to present their findings to an audience that lives in the Arctic and obtains the majority of their nutritional needs from the resources it provides.

As a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, the AEWC is primarily funded through grants and private donations. Current grant funding does not fully cover the operational costs associated with the work required to meet federal and international mandates, nor does it cover the cost of the Convention.

All financial support will be utilized to offset the cost of this event.





## Event Schedule

Event schedule updates can be found on the AEWc website @ [aewc-alaska.com](http://aewc-alaska.com). The following items are examples of items which will be included in the schedule.

### WHALING CAPTAINS' MEETING

This meeting brings together the 165 registered whaling captains of the AEWc to: meet with federal agency representatives on co-management matters; receive reports on the outcome of harvest and management deliberations at the IWC; agree to village quota allocations; conduct business and provide guidance to the Board of Commissioners; and receive training and share individual results related to the Weapons Improvement Program.

### TRIENNIAL MEETING

The AEWc Board of Commissioners meets three times per year. This will be the first triennial meeting of the year and is open to the public with exception of Executive Session breakout sessions, which will be noted on the final agenda.

### OPEN WATER SEASON CONFLICT AVOIDANCE AGREEMENT (CAA)

During the Convention, the AEWc spends between a half day and a full day meeting with oil and gas industry representatives, listening to their plans for the coming open water season, as well as negotiating the coming season's CAA.

### SCIENCE / RESEARCH DAY

The AEWc has expanded its convention to include an entire day dedicated to science and research. This provides researchers the opportunity to share their research project plans and outcomes with the community and participants from AEWc's whaling villages, as well as to get feedback to improve their projects. Additionally, space will be provided for researchers to display their projects in a poster session during the convention, allowing participants and researchers to connect directly.

This opportunity is provided through sponsorship from UIC Science and the National Science Foundation. For information on how to submit presentation requests, please visit the AEWc website.

### POTLUCK & ESKIMO DANCE

The AEWc will host a community potluck and Eskimo Dance during the convention. This is a great opportunity to connect with the community and participate in the celebration of the bowhead whale.

### SINGSPIRATION

In collaboration with a local church, the AEWc will host a Singspiration during the convention. At the 2025 convention, the AEWc is pleased to host the gospel singing group, "Guided Lights."

# Sponsorship Levels

The AEWC invites you to be a part of our whaling community through sponsorship of the 2025 Whaling Captains' Convention & Exposition. Each sponsorship level represents marine mammals that have sustained our Inupiaq and Yupik villages since time immemorial.

Sponsorship Level	Amount
Agvik (Bowhead whale)	\$50,000+
Nanuk (Polar bear)	\$25,000+
Ugruk (Bearded Seal)	\$10,000+
Sisuak (Beluga Whale)	\$5,000+
Aivik (Walrus)	\$500+



# Sponsorship Recognition & Benefits

In return for your sponsorship of AEWC's 2025 Annual Whaling Captains' Convention, a summary of recognition and benefits associated with each level of commitment is provided below. Each is designed to provide a high degree of visibility to ensure your support is recognized.

Sponsorship Level	Agvik \$50k +	Nanuk \$25k +	Ugruk \$10k +	Sisuak \$5k +	Aivik \$500 +
Right to use designation of "Official Sponsor" at specified level of sponsorship	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Banner display at event	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recognition in all event related advertising	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recognition on AEWC website	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Advertising in event program	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunity to provide promotional merchandise to attendees	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recognition at opening and closing ceremony	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special recognition plaque	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Certificate of appreciation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

# In-Kind Sponsorship Opportunities

Organizations are not limited to cash donations and sponsorships. You can also support AEWC with any of the items listed below, whether by paying the vendor directly or providing an in-kind donation for a service. Organizations will be credited with the appropriate sponsorship level of their purchase or in-kind services.

## **Airline Travel**

Donate or utilize airline miles to assist with travel costs for whaling captains and wives who live outside Utqiagvik.

## **Lodging**

Assistance with lodging costs for our participating whaling captains at the Top of the World.

## **Food & Beverages**

Donations to cover catering costs, beverages, bottled water, paper dinnerware and drinkware, plastic utensils, napkins, fresh fruit, and other items.

## **Event Logo Wear**

Provide funding for the purchase of event logo wear to provide to AEWC whaling captains and participants.

## **Freight**

Freight coordination or expenses for the numerous items and equipment needed for the celebration.

## **Local Transportation / Shuttle Service**

Provide vehicles and drivers to help with transportation of whaling captains between event activities and the Top of the World hotel.

## **Community Potluck**

Donations of food, beverages, and paper/plastic dinnerware are needed. Please also consider volunteering for set-up, serving, and cleaning.

## **Labor**

Volunteer or sponsored labor will be needed throughout the event for security, set-up, and clean-up.

## **Door Prizes**

Door prizes will be given away each day. This is a great way to give away company promotional items or provide items such as fuel cards, fishing nets, generators, portable stoves, etc.



# Budget Summary

## 2025 Annual Whaling Captains' Convention

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST
Whaling Captains Travel	Travel to Utqiagvik for registered whaling captains	\$96,900
Whaling Captains' Wives	Travel to Utqiagvik for whaling captains' wives	\$47,500
Lodging	Lodging for whaling captains'/wives	\$115,500
Honorarium	Commissioners, Alt. Comm., Assoc. Presidents	\$33,000
LOP/Sub. Pay	Loss of pay, Subsistence Pay for Whaling Captains	\$142,800
Per Diem	Whaling captains	\$59,500
Food/Beverage	Refreshments, continental breakfast, catered lunch	\$50,000
Meeting Materials	Reproduction costs for mtg. materials	\$10,500
Venue	Venue rental	\$3,500
Freight	Freight costs	\$5,000
Logo wear	AEWC logo wear for whaling captains and guests	\$35,000
Plaques/gifts	Plaques, memorial, honorary guests	\$2,500
Meeting coordination	Labor costs for AEWC staff and laborers	\$55,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$655,200</b>

The budget summary above reflects anticipated costs for the 2025 Annual Whaling Captains' Convention. All costs are based on both current estimates and historical costs to host a full convention in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

All donations will be applied directly to the cost of this event.

## 2025 Annual Whaling Captains' Convention



## QUYANAQPAK

We appreciate the continued support of our community, industry, corporate, and federal partners. With your support, all things are possible.

## Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission 2025 Annual Whaling Captains' Convention & Exposition Sponsorship, Exposition & Donation Application

This application is not a request to present during the 2025 Whaling Captains' Convention. Requests to present are available on the AEWC website. Please send completed forms to:

Isabell Elavgak @ [isabell.elavgak@aecw-alaska.com](mailto:isabell.elavgak@aecw-alaska.com) AND Jenny Evans @ [jennykevans@gmail.com](mailto:jennykevans@gmail.com).

For questions, please call 907.727.2585.

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level	Amount
Agvik (Bowhead whale)	\$50,000+
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### Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

My organization would like to provide assistance for the following item(s). If your organization chooses to provide an in-kind donation, a member of the AEWC staff will be in contact to provide you to discuss the value and/or cost associated with your donation.

Item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ OR IN-KIND DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

### If paying by check, please make checks payable to:

**Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission**  
**Attn:** 2025 Annual Whaling Captains' Convention Sponsorship  
P.O. Box 570, Barrow, AK 99723

\*\*Payments may also be made via bank transfer or ACH. Please contact the AEWC office for more information.