



# Hooper Bay

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

### Local Contacts:

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### Location:

Hooper Bay is located on the coast of Southwestern Alaska, in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge consists of approximately 19 million acres of extensive wetland and tidal ecosystems. Vegetation in the region is predominately tundra, near sea level and often inundated by massive floods from Bering Sea tides. Hooper Bay is situated 25 miles from Scammon Bay, another coastal village in the Refuge, and 550 air miles from Anchorage.

### Cultural Identity:

The people of Hooper Bay call themselves Yupik. The traditional language spoken in the region is unique to Hooper Bay and neighboring village Chevak. Village life is mainly comprised of subsistence living. This includes fishing, hunting, gathering wild berries for winter and searching for wild bird eggs. The Yup'ik people depend on this way of life, seasonally working to maintain the natural populations of animals and plants that exist in their area.

### Agricultural History:

Hooper Bay, Alaska is not a place associated with traditional agriculture. Hooper Bay has been rooted to the land and the natural materials that have been growing in the region for hundreds of years, however. The Yup'ik Eskimos that have called Hooper Bay home for generations use the grass species *Leymus Mollis* (Beach Wild Rye) to weave baskets for everyday purposes. The community is known worldwide for their traditional weaving patterns and use of their their natural resources for functional art.

### RVSP Initiative:

The Rural Village Seed Production Project (RVSP) is excited to be working with the people of Hooper Bay. Hooper Bay hopes to wild harvest Beach Wildrye seed for use in revegetation projects in coastal areas. Beach wildrye is unique in that the expansive fibrous root system is able to stabilize shifting and blowing sand in areas along sandy coasts and roadsides. The Hooper Bay area also has an abundance of native sedges that would be ideal for wetland revegetation projects. A challenge facing Hooper Bay is that the village is entirely surrounded by one of the largest designated wetland refuges in the United States.



*Leymus mollis*

### Further Information:

For more details about the Rural Village Seed Production Project in Hooper Bay, and in communities across Alaska, please visit the R.V.S.P.P. website, at: [plants.alaska.gov/rvspp](http://plants.alaska.gov/rvspp).