

## “Always taught not to waste”: Traditional Knowledge and Norton Sound/Bering Strait Salmon Populations



by:

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### Traditional Knowledge definition from pages 8-9:

“Because of their reliance on subsistence hunting and fishing, Norton Sound/Bering Strait residents must adapt to an ever-changing environment, and as they adapt to changes, their experiences are shared among generations within families and communities. This shared history and knowledge details long-term changes in the factors that affect resources and therefore harvest. This project focused on documenting and analyzing the traditional knowledge (TK) of region residents which pertain to the salmon resources and ecology of the region over time. The definition of TK which this project developed and utilizes is as follows:

Traditional knowledge (TK) is a living body of knowledge that is acquired and utilized by indigenous communities and individuals in and through long-term resource use and environmental observation. It is transmitted intergenerationally. TK is a practically applicable body of knowledge, one that integrates personal experience with oral traditions. It provides perspectives applicable to an array of human and non-human phenomena. It is deeply rooted in history, time, and place, but is adaptable and dynamic in ways that keep it relevant and useful in contemporary life. This knowledge is part of, and used in, everyday life, and is inextricably intertwined with peoples' identity and cosmology. Tradition – and TK – does not preclude change, nor does it equal 'the past.' In fact, it inherently entails change (e.g. in adaptation processes).

TK has aspects which change, grow, and even disappear over time, and like all bodies of knowledge, these processes are a topic of discussion inside the communities they exist within (e.g. the relationship of this body of knowledge to whatever the contemporary times are).”

### *Citation for this report:*

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