KAWERAK, INC.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program

Bering Strait Wellness Initiative:
Regional Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Meeting Consultant

11/4/2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Instructions to Responders

I. Solicitation …….. 2
II. Proposals …….. 2
III. Project Information …… 3
IV. Evaluation Process …… 4
V. Additional Information ……..... 5
VI. Other…….. 6

Addenda

A. Draft Professional Services Contract
B. Village Food Network
C. Kawerak Research Protocols

I. Solicitation:

Kawerak, Inc., (Kawerak) a tribal consortium and non-profit corporation in Nome, Alaska, is soliciting proposals to perform all duties for conducting a Regional Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Meeting as part of a Bering Strait Wellness Initiative. The selected responder will be available to perform the scope of work as provided in the attached draft contract provided herein.

II. Proposals:

To be considered, Responders must deliver proposals to the address below, on or before the deadline.

Deadline: Proposals will be accepted until December 18th, at 5 pm Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT).

Address Responses Either:

By Email: (Preferred)
Email to Callen Christensen, Unaatuq Agriculture Manager, at cchristensen@kawerak.org
By Mail:
Kawerak Community Planning and Development Program, Attn: Pilgrim Hot Springs Proposals, P.O. Box 948, Nome, Alaska, 99762.

Hand Delivered:
Kawerak, Inc. Attn: CPD "Pilgrim Hot Springs Proposals," 500 Seppala Drive, Nome, Alaska 99762

Mark Proposals as Follows: **"Bering Strait Wellness Initiative: Regional Needs Assessment and Stakeholder Meeting Consultant**

Proposal Format: Proposals should only address the evaluation criteria listed herein. Proposals should adhere to the following criteria.

Cover Letter: 1 page maximum, that includes an acknowledgement of all addenda
Narrative: 10 pages maximum
Resumes: 2 pages maximum (each)

III. Project Information:

Kawerak, Inc. and its partners University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), and Village of Aŋuutaq , have been awarded a Year 1 Rural Health Transformation Program planning award in order to implement a "Bering Strait Wellness Initiative (BSWI)". The BSWI will implement preventative health measures by planning and developing culturally grounded food security trainings and food wellness workshops addressing limited access to healthy foods and nutrition education across Bering Strait communities in Northwest Alaska. The main goals of this program are to increase food security and increase wellness education for long-term prevention of illnesses and chronic disease; to improve the overall quality of life for our People.

The Contractor will assist staff and partners conducting a Regional Needs Assessment and a Stakeholder Meeting.

1. Regional Needs Assessment
    a. Develop a comprehensive assessment of the Bering Strait Region's food system including traditional and non-traditional production, food access, village food pantries, nutrition education, health, and preventative health.
    b. Base assessment on existing research, detailed data gathering, community interviews, community surveys, and in-person events.
    c. Determine regional interest in participating in Pilgrim Hot Springs' "Village Food Network" as both "Village Liaison" and "Produce Box Subscriber". See Addendum B.
    d. Identify knowledge holders, knowledge types, and future workshop teachers.
    e. Include community recommendations of desired workshops.
    f. Include an Initial Project Survey to serve as baseline for full 5-year project.
    g. Work closely with regional partners, researchers, and Kawerak staff to develop comprehensive assessment and recommendations.
    h. Conduct research in accordance with Kawerak-Region Tribal Research, Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations & Best Practices. See Addendum B.
    i. Develop a feasibility study, economic/operational analysis, and Standard Operating Procedures for the Bering Strait Food Hub, and incorporate into Regional Needs Assessment.
    j. Submit Draft Report by April 2027.
    k. Submit Final Regional Needs Assessment by June 2027.
2. Stakeholder Meeting
    a. Facilitation and planning of a 3-day regional stakeholder meeting in late January 2027.
    b. Coordinate closely with Kawerak staff and project partners for a successful, respectful information gathering session.
    c. Incorporate results into Regional Needs Assessment.

In your proposal, please provide how you will meet the requirements listed above.

In accordance with 25 U.S.C. 5307(b) (P.L. 93-638) and Kawerak's Accounting Manual Section 3.1.2(4) Kawerak Inc. shall, to the greatest extent feasible, provide a preference in the selection of a contractor to qualified, responsible and responsive Responders that are Alaska Native/American Indian owned and operated businesses (Kawerak Accounting Manual). Responders do not need to meet these criteria in order to submit a proposal. The extent of any preference shall be provided in the selection criteria process in Section IV. In accordance with applicable law, Kawerak, Inc. reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, whether application of AN/AI preference is feasible for this contract.

IV. Evaluation Process:

Responders will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria, with point values assigned as described:

1. Management Plan: Summarize how you will staff, organize, and manage the work to be performed. This is the approach to providing the services (who, what when, where, how, and in what sequence the work would be performed). 25 points

2. Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel: Provide professional qualifications and experience of project team in relation to particular services required. Provide an organizational chart of the proposed team. 25 Points

3. Experience: Provide a summary of relevant experience. Provide any Alaska experience and any previous experience with a Tribe or Tribal Consortium. 30 Points

4. Capacity: Provide a summary of your firm's current and anticipated workload from Dec 1st 2026 through June 30th, 2027. Include a brief description of projects for which your firm is responsible during this period. Identify all project responsibilities for the key personnel included in this proposal. 10 Points

5. Native Preference [if applicable]: Kawerak provides a preference for Native ownership of firm in accordance with P.L. 93-638, Section 7(b) and Kawerak Accounting Manual Section 3.1.2 (4). 10 Points.

Contractor Selection Criteria	Weight	Score	Max. Score
1. Management Plan	25	250	25%
2. Qualifications/Experience	25	250	25%
3. Experience Tribal Trans.	30	300	30%
4. Capacity	10	100	10%
5. Native Preference	10	100	10%
	Total	**1,000**	**100%**

Kawerak will assemble an evaluation team that will rank the firms, and make recommendations for award of the contract. Responders may request to make oral presentations to the full evaluation team. Interviewed firms will be re-scored using the same criteria listed above. Prior to selection, the selected firm will be interviewed by the evaluation team. Kawerak will then enter into negotiations with the successful responder it anticipates awarding the contract to. In the event Kawerak cannot successfully negotiate a contract with the highest ranked Responder, Kawerak will terminate negotiations with that Responder and initiate negotiations with the next highest ranked Responder. This process will be followed until Kawerak and a Responder have reached agreement and a contract is executed, if at all, unless circumstances warrant otherwise (see below).

V. Additional Information

Kawerak is not liable for any costs incurred by Responders prior to the issuance and execution of a contract to the Contractor selected as a result of the RFP process. All proposal preparation and other costs in responding to this RFP shall be the sole responsibility of the Responders.

c. Kawerak reserves the right to waive any informality, and to make a selection as deemed in its own best interest. This includes the right to cancel the solicitation at any time, reject any or all proposals and the right to proceed utilizing a different process based on their analysis of the overall project budget.

d. Kawerak also reserves the right to negotiate with the responsible Responder submitting the proposal with the highest overall score. Such negotiations, if Kawerak elects to negotiate rather than to reject all proposals, shall be directly between Kawerak and such Responder. Such Responder then may be invited by Kawerak to submit a revised price proposal. Responder may elect not to submit a revised price proposal, and Kawerak may reject any such revised price proposal.

e. Kawerak may require, seek, and utilize all information it deems appropriate in order to assess the qualifications of individual Responders. All information in proposals submitted in response to this RFP may, at Kawerak's discretion, be released to the public at the conclusion of the evaluation, selection, and award process, with the exception of any rate information submitted in response to the pricing criteria. Any other information related to pricing or capacity that Responders consider confidential and/or proprietary and wish to remain unavailable for public disclosure should be clearly identified.

f. Award of a contract pursuant to this RFP does not obligate Kawerak to the award of any future work to the selected Responder.

Questions:

Interested firms may submit questions by email to cchristensen@kawerak.org by **November 25, 2026**.

VI. Other

Travel

No additional travel funding can be requested. All travel costs for the contractor must be outlined within the proposal's budget.

Insurance

Kawerak's policy requires all construction contractors to purchase and maintain the following insurance: Workers Compensation and employer's liability insurance as required by State law and as will adequately protect Contractor from claims under worker's compensation laws, disability benefit laws or other similar employee benefit laws; General liability insurance with limits of not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000) per occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage and two million dollars ($2,000,000) aggregate; Auto liability insurance with limits of not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000) and physical damage limits of the stated value for all vehicles used by Contractor in performance of the Scope of Work; Professional liability (errors and omissions) insurance with limits of not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000).

Kawerak shall be named as an additional insured in each policy herein provided, except for worker's compensation, professional liability, and employer's Liability insurance. All insurance policies shall be written as primary policies and shall not be contributing with, or in excess of, any insurance coverage that Kawerak may otherwise carry. Contractor shall furnish Kawerak certificates showing the type, amount, class of operation, effective dates and dates of expiration of policies. All insurance certificates must be delivered to Kawerak before work begins and must confirm that each type of coverage extends to all services to be performed described in the Scope of Work in Section (3). All insurance certificates and policies shall not be cancelled or allowed to expire within the duration of this Agreement until at least thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given Kawerak. Such policies shall contain a clause pursuant to which the insurance carriers waive all rights of subrogation against Kawerak with respect to losses payable under such policies.

KAWERAK, INC.
CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

This agreement ("Agreement") is hereby made between Kawerak, Inc., P.O. Box 948, Nome Alaska 99762, (907) 443-5231, ("Kawerak"), and _____, [address] ("Contractor") (collectively, "the Parties") to provide professional services as provided herein.

1. TERM OF CONTRACT

This Agreement shall commence on _____ and shall terminate on or before June 30, 2027 ("Term"), or as provided by Section 14 of this Agreement. Kawerak will not be liable for any fees or expenses incurred by Contractor prior to the commencement date or after termination of this Agreement, unless specifically provided for herein.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The Contractor will assist staff and partners conducting a Regional Needs Assessment and a Stakeholder Meeting.

1. Regional Needs Assessment
    a. Develop a comprehensive assessment of the Bering Strait Region's food system including traditional and non-traditional production, food access, village food pantries, nutrition education, health, and preventative health.
    b. Base assessment on existing research, detailed data gathering, community interviews, community surveys, and in-person events.
    c. Determine regional interest in participating in Pilgrim Hot Springs' "Village Food Network" as both "Village Liaison" and "Produce Box Subscriber".
    d. Identify knowledge holders, knowledge types, and future workshop teachers.
    e. Include community recommendations of desired workshops.
    f. Include an Initial Project Survey to serve as baseline for full 5-year project.
    g. Work closely with regional partners, researchers, and Kawerak staff to develop comprehensive assessment and recommendations.
    h. Conduct research in accordance with Kawerak-Region Tribal Research, Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations & Best Practices.
    i. Develop a feasibility study, economic/operational analysis, and Standard Operating Procedures for the Bering Strait Food Hub, and incorporate into Regional Needs Assessment.
    j. Submit Draft Report by April 2027.
    k. Submit Final Regional Needs Assessment by June 2027.
2. Stakeholder Meeting
    a. Facilitation and planning of a 3-day regional stakeholder meeting in late-January.
    b. Coordinate closely with Kawerak staff and project partners for a successful, respectful information gathering session.
    c. Incorporate results into Regional Needs Assessment.

Contractor shall provide services in performance of the scope of work for this Agreement as follows :

Contractor shall provide all tools, equipment, supplies, etc. necessary to perform the Scope of Work, unless particular items to be supplied by Kawerak are noted in the Scope of Work.

3. COMPENSATION

[ ] Hourly rate: Contractor shall be compensated at the rate ____ for the performance of this Agreement. The total compensation shall not exceed _____.

[ ] Set fee: Contractor shall be paid a total fee of _____ dollars ($___), upon satisfactory completion of the Scope of Work.

[ ] Other: _____ dollars ($___) paid as follows or as provided through separate payment information or a fee schedule in an attached Addendum B which is hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement:

4. EXPENSES

Kawerak agrees to pay reasonable expenses, if any, as identified below, necessary for Contractor to perform the Scope of Work in this Agreement. No other expenses are authorized beyond those identified below.

[X] No expenses are authorized.

[ ] To be paid by Contractor and reimbursed by Kawerak (requires itemized receipts): The total amount authorized for payment of expenses shall not exceed the total value of the amount available for the contract as a whole, including the hourly rate.

[__] To be paid directly to vendor by Kawerak: The total amount authorized for payment of expenses shall not exceed_____ dollars ($___).

5. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

Whether payment is made at intervals as an hourly rate, as a set fee, or by other

arrangements such as pre-payment or defined payment schedule, Kawerak shall remit payment as agreed upon a determination by Kawerak that payment is due for work satisfactorily performed as required by the Scope of Work and upon submission of invoices or timesheets by Contractor. Contractor understands and agrees that, unless a different payment schedule has been agreed to herein, all work must be performed within the funding year for which it is contracted (unless extended by amendment) and that all payment requests for work performed during that period must be submitted no later than sixty (60) days following the end of the funding year. Failure to meet this deadline may result in non-payment due to Kawerak's grant and audit requirements.

Kawerak will provide no other compensation or benefits of any kind for the performance of this Agreement to Contractor, or Contractor's employees, officers, or agents, other than those amounts provided in Sections 3 and 4 of this Agreement.

6. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

Contractor is an independent contractor. The parties do not intend to create, nor shall this Agreement be deemed or construed to create, any relationship between the parties other than that of independent entities freely contracting with each other. Contractor is responsible at its own expense for obtaining any required licenses, for obtaining its own insurance, and for the payment of federal, state and local taxes necessary or attributable to Contractor's business. Contractor is not entitled to health insurance, life insurance, retirement insurance, or any other benefits from Kawerak or available to employees or officers of Kawerak. Kawerak will not pay social security, income tax, or unemployment benefits or provide workers compensation insurance for or on behalf of the Contractor or Contractor's employees.

7. CONTRACTOR'S STANDARDS AND ASSURANCES

Contractor represents and warrants that employees or agents of Contractor are experienced and skilled in their profession, and shall perform services in accordance with the standards for workmanship in their respective professions. Contractor's findings, recommendations, professional advice, and performance of work for Kawerak shall be based on practices and procedures customary to the profession. Contractor shall provide additional services needed to correct its deficiencies at no additional cost to Kawerak.

Contractor represents and warrants that Contractor is qualified to perform the Scope of Work, that it possesses or has obtained any professional licenses, business licenses, permits or governmental approvals necessary for performance of the Scope of Work, and that it carries any legally required insurance such as workers compensation insurance. Contractor further assures that it will comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations relating to the Scope of Work, including those pertaining to the use, operation and maintenance of any vehicles or equipment used in the performance of the Scope of Work.

8. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

8.1 Indemnification: Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Kawerak, its officers, employees and agents, against any all claims, damages, liability,

and court awards, including costs, expenses and attorneys fees, to the extent such claims are caused by negligent or wrongful acts, errors or omissions of Contractor, its employees, agents, subcontractors, or assignees arising out the performance of this Agreement, to the full extent permitted by law. Each party agrees to be responsible and assume liability for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officers, agents or employees. This indemnification section shall continue in full force and effect after the term of the Agreement.

8.2 Insurance: Contractor shall purchase and maintain the following insurance:

- Workers Compensation and employer's liability insurance as required by State law and as will adequately protect Contractor from claims under worker's compensation laws, disability benefit laws or other similar employee benefit laws.
- General liability insurance with limits of not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000) per occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage and two million dollars ($2,000,000) aggregate.
- Auto liability insurance with limits of not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000) and physical damage limits of the stated value for all vehicles used by Contractor in performance of the Scope of Work.
- Professional liability (errors and omissions) insurance with limits of not less than one million dollars ($1,000,000).

All insurance policies shall be written as primary policies and shall not be contributing with, or in excess of, any insurance coverage that Kawerak may otherwise carry. Contractor shall furnish Kawerak certificates showing the type, amount, class of operation, effective dates and dates of expiration of policies. All insurance certificates must be delivered to Kawerak before work begins, and must confirm that each type of coverage extends to all services to be performed described in the Scope of Work in Section (3). All insurance certificates and policies shall not be cancelled or allowed to expire within the duration of this Agreement until at least thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given Kawerak. Such policies shall contain a clause pursuant to which the insurance carriers waive all rights of subrogation against Kawerak with respect to losses payable under such policies.

If Contractor hires any subcontractors to perform work or furnish services, then Contractor shall require that any such subcontractors obtain insurance protection with coverage of the types and limits required by Kawerak, and in no event less than those set forth above.

9. OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCT

To the extent this Agreement requires Contractor to produce for Kawerak goods, tangible objects or original intellectual property of any kind, including but not limited to written reports, memoranda, documents, graphs, charts, or other documents, illustrations, artwork, photographs, video recordings or audio recordings of any kind, regardless of the medium in which such products are recorded (print or electronic), all ownership and copyright interests in such work product will belong to Kawerak unless expressly reserved to Contractor in the Scope of Work.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Contractor shall hold in strict confidence all information made available by Kawerak to Contractor in the performance of this Agreement. Such confidential disclosures that are made or become available to Contractor are made in reliance on this condition.

11. GOVERNING LAW; CONSTRUCTION

This Agreement shall be governed and construed according the laws of the State of Alaska. It shall be construed without consideration of which party drafted it. The rule that contracts are construed most strongly against the drafting party shall not apply.

12. ASSIGNMENT/SUBCONTRACT

Contractor shall not assign or subcontract this Agreement in whole or in part without the prior written consent of Kawerak.

13. AMENDMENTS

This Agreement may be amended or extended by mutual written consent of both parties.

14. EXPIRATION/TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

This Agreement will expire by its own terms in accordance with Section 1. Alternatively, Kawerak may terminate this Contract with or without cause, and without liability, upon 14 days' written notice to Contractor, and may terminate this Agreement immediately if Contractor fails to comply with Contractor's assurances in Section 8. At expiration, or in the event of termination, Contractor shall provide Kawerak with all completed work product performed by Contractor up to the date of expiration/termination; shall return any Kawerak property in its possession; and shall provide a detailed written report of the work performed. Kawerak shall pay Contractor for all work completed prior to expiration/termination.

15. POINTS OF CONTACT

The principle points of contact for communications regarding this Agreement are:

For Contractor:	For Kawerak:
Name:	Name: Melanie Bahnke
Phone:	Phone: 907-443-5231
Email:	Email: mbahnke@kawerak.org

16. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Agreement is held invalid, then that provision shall be interpreted to the fullest extent possible so as to be valid and effective, and the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

17. WAIVER

The waiver by either Party of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by the other Party shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach.

18. NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARY

The parties do not intend this Agreement, nor shall it be construed, to confer any benefit upon any person who is not a party.

19. NATIVE PREFERENCE

☐Applies ☐Does not Apply.

In the performance of the Scope of Work, Contractor will give preference in employment and training to Native Americans and preference in the award of any subcontracts or sub-grants to Native American – owned economic enterprises, pursuant to Section 7 of PL 93-638.

CONTRACTOR	**KAWERAK, INC.**
_____	_____
Authorized Signature	President
Dated:_____	Dated:_____

Addendum B

Village Food Network

The Village Food Network (VFN) is a grassroots produce distribution effort by Kawerak's Pilgrim Hot Springs Program.

The Problem:

Rural Bering Strait Region communities have poor access to fresh produce due to supply chain logistics, sheer distance from farms, and high prices due to store margins (AC Superstore and ANICA Village Stores).

The Idea:

Pilgrim Hot Springs, being the only farm in the region, is strategically located to fulfill fresh produce needs. Rather than wholesale to village stores, a consumer led produce box subscription model is proposed. This would be similar to CSA subscription models and would initially operate for 12 weeks during the Summer. Each community would have 1 Village Liaison tasked with receiving and delivering all the communities' weekly produce box subscriptions. In return for their service, the Village Liaison would receive a discount or free rate on their produce box.

The Research:

1. Are community members are even interested in such a program?
2. Identify interested individuals (both subscribers and Village Liaisons).
3. Village Store information including company name, primary contact individual, current produce supply chain process, current vegetable prices, and interest in purchasing PHS produce.
4. Community favorite/desired vegetables, consumption habits/frequency, and Willingness to Pay (WTP).
5. Determine prevalence of existing produce subscriptions like Full Circle subscriptions, their pricing, logistics, and customer satisfaction.

Kawerak-Region Tribal Research Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations & Best Practices



This document represents a Tribal vision for research in the Kawerak-Region.

KAWERAK. INC.



Tungwenuk Family Qupak Design, used with permission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	6
Acknowledgments	14
Kawerak-Region Tribal Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations & Best Practices Related to Research	18
Conceptualizing Research	18
Research Oversight	23
Planning Research	25
Conducting Research	28
Applying Research	30
Information Sharing and Control	31
References and Recommended Resources	33
Appendix: Acronyms and Further Information	37

KAWERAK, INC.

Our People &
Tribes are Thriving





This document may be cited as: Kawerak, Inc., Chinik Eskimo Community, King Island Native Community, Native Village of Brevig Mission, Native Village of Council, Native Village of Diomede, Native Village of Elim, Native Village of Gambell, Native Village of Koyuk, Native Village of Mary's Igloo, Native Village of Saint Michael, Native Village of Savoonga, Native Village of Shishmaref, Native Village of Teller, Native Village of Unalakleet, Native Village of Wales, Native Village of White Mountain, Native Village of Shaktoolik, Nome Eskimo Community, Stebbins Community Association, and Village of Solomon (2024) Kawerak-Region Tribal Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations & Best Practices Related to Research. Prepared by the Kawerak Social Science Program and Sandhill.Culture.Craft. Nome, Alaska. Available at: https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge

PREFACE

"This is important. For us to survive as Indigenous people to this land, we rely on what's provided naturally. We need to speak as one voice to these issues for things taking place on our land. We have the authority and the skill to preserve this for those who come behind us."

- Andy Miller
Kawerak Board Member

This document represents a Tribal vision from the Kawerak region about some key aspects of what Tribes want to see regarding the world of research. There are many words which could be used to describe what is contained herein, all of them being appropriate to some degree or another: research-related protocols, guidelines, rules, desires, requirements, best practices, and expectations. The ideas herein are applicable to research of all kinds and across disciplines; they also have relevance to research-adjacent fields such as journalism and education.

This work is Tribally-grounded and based on direct long-standing collaboration between Kawerak and the region's Tribes. Kawerak is the non-profit Tribal Consortium for, and formed by, the 20 Tribes of the Bering Strait region of Alaska. This document is the culmination of intensive work by Kawerak over a period of years with Tribal Councils and Tribal members explicitly about the topic of 'research.' It also builds on an even longer-standing umbrella of work at Kawerak on the broader topic of Tribal Knowledge Sovereignty and Indigenization (KSI). That evolving bank of work, resources, and tools is digitally housed here: https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge. The fundamental goal of the KSI work is to advance, through various means, the knowledge and research sovereignty of Indigenous people, the Indigenization of knowledge and research, and the promotion of positive relationships between Indigenous communities and research.

This document was developed, in part, because of a history of harmful and extractive research practices. Communities in the Kawerak region, and others around the Arctic, have experienced non-consensual research, uncollaborative and exclusionary research, duplicative research, research not relevant to local and regional priorities, research fatigue, and research activities that have been and continue to be harmful to Tribes and Indigenous Peoples. This document was produced using the diverse experiences with and knowledge about research held by region leaders and communities. This document is an assertion and expression of the sovereignty of the Tribes of the Kawerak region.

Leadership for this document comes primarily from Kawerak-Region Tribal Councils, the Kawerak Board, and the Kawerak Social Science Program (Social Science Program Director Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Natural Resources Division consultant Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian [Sandhill.Culture.Craft], Social Science Program Managers Lisa Ellanna and [formerly] Jaylene Wheeler, and Social Science Program Tribal Research Coordinator Stacey Lucason).

"When considering research and how it should be properly conducted from a Tribal perspective, you have to understand that the history of Western research in our region goes back to the time of early foreign explorers. Western contact came about because of research, when explorers from other places came to this region for the sake of discovering new parts of the world. Alaska Native people were subjected to a variety of experiences associated with research over time since then, some of which has been good and some of which has been bad. Research is going to continue and increase, especially with the growing interest in the Arctic, and in many ways this can be seen as a renewed form of colonization. This context is an integral part of why the work in this document is important. What is contained herein is a good initial step towards asserting and retaining the sovereignty of our region's Tribes regarding research. At a fundamental level, research should not happen in our region without Tribal consent, and any researchers who want to have their work considered valid should be following these guidelines."

- Melanie Bahnke
  Kawerak President

Kawerak's work on this issue has also included, among other things, multiple workshops with Tribal leaders and other members of the research community; development of internal Kawerak/Tribal protocols related to research; trainings and partnership work related to co-production, science policy, cultural awareness, and Tribal sovereignty; participant observation of a variety of research-related fora; publications, presentations, papers, and comment letters on these and related topics; and language work creating a compendium of science, policy, and environmental terms in four languages, including our region's three Alaska Native languages (Inupiaq, St. Lawrence Island Yupik and Yup'ik).

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE SOVEREIGNTY & INDIGENIZATION?

As noted in a report stemming from one of the above-mentioned workshops[1]:

Knowledge sovereignty entails Tribal communities having control over the documentation and production of knowledge (such as through research activities) which relate to Alaska Native people and the resources they steward and depend on.

Knowledge sovereignty and the indigenization of knowledge are, among other things, two key aspects of improving relationships between Tribal and research communities. Indigenization refers to both:

- Increasing and improving the involvement and engagement of Indigenous People, communities and perspectives in research and research processes. This could also be called Indigenization with a "capital-I."

- Understanding the ways in which all research is defined by communities of various, often cross-cutting, types – Tribal communities, research communities, communities of research users, etc. This could also be called indigenization with a "lower-case i."

[…] It is important to start thinking about research as a whole, including the very definition of research, as based inherently on a relationship of perspectives between all stakeholders involved. We must avoid falling into the trap of seeing Tribes as simply being impacted or affected by research. Indigenous perspectives on research are part of what research is, in and of itself [2].

This document represents a regional, synthesized Kawerak-Region Tribal vision of research-related protocols, guidelines, rules, desires, requirements, best practices, and expectations. The Tribes in this region have varied experiences with and regarding research. Most of the region's Tribes do not currently have their own formally-institutionalized and current protocols, guidelines, or processes developed related to research. However, some do; King Island's Tribal Council, Corporation, and Elders Committee have co-developed a protocol; in Gambell there is an established 'division of labor' between the Tribe and the Corporation as relates to research activities; the Native Village of Unalakleet requires ownership of data if it gives permission for research, as well as data review if the data will be used for other research; and the community of Diomede has a variety of restrictions which pertain to research and other activities (e.g. requests must be made to come to the island, there are restricted areas on

the island, and permission must be obtained for photography or filming). All of the region's Tribes, regardless, have expectations related to research. This document represents a Tribal vision based on Kawerak's work on knowledge sovereignty and indigenization, particularly a focused effort working directly with Tribal Councils between 2019 and 2023 explicitly regarding the content for this document.

A number of Tribes in the region have, as a result of this work, expressed interest in developing research-related policies, ordinances, and/or resolutions specific to their particular Tribe in the future, and Kawerak will assist in that work if requested. It is important to bear in mind that the regional guidelines in this document do not supersede any Tribe-specific protocols, ordinances, and resolutions which may exist. **It is recommended that researchers always place primary importance on direct contact regarding research with the relevant Tribes. Contact with Kawerak for work in this region is also recommended, and requested, as Kawerak provides support to Tribes related to research, tracks research activity in the region, and is also a major Tribal research institution itself.** That being said, Kawerak is not a 'gatekeeper' regarding research and Tribes, and does not make decisions on behalf of Tribes of the region related to research unless explicitly requested. Tribes always make the decision about whether or not, and how or how not, to participate in research, and Kawerak always directs interested researchers to first and foremost speak directly with the appropriate Tribes.

The vision encapsulated in this document is, we hope, of value to the whole landscape of research, including Tribes, Tribal organizations, researchers, research institutions, oversight bodies, research funders, educators, policymakers, resource managers, and the many other consumers, producers, and entities related to research. For Tribal entities in our region, there are both inward- and outward-facing functions of this work.

What is not found in this document is an exhaustive summary of the numerous and myriad other protocols, guidelines, best practices, codes (and so on) related to research. There are other more appropriate places for that information and syntheses of it. That body of work did, however, directly inform this work in meaningful ways, as the Kawerak team is immersed in and familiar with that work and it was relevant in orienting our various engagements with the world of research, including in crafting and framing conversations with Tribal leaders and others that led to this document. Additionally, it is important to bear in mind (as is noted further below) that the Tribes of the Kawerak region want those in the research world to be familiar with other existing protocols, guidelines, standards, codes, norms, and best practices related to research. In a sense, then, they are incorporated contextually, indirectly and by reference into this work where relevant and appropriate. Additionally, many of these resources are noted on the Kawerak KSI website (https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge).

When crafting their vision for the future of research, Tribal Councils were asked to not feel constrained by legal, land-owner, and other 'authorities.' That being said, it is important to recognize other sources of authority, ownership, and so on, and the expectation that researchers should also follow other relevant rules and regulations. Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations, regional and village, are major landowners in the region and for communities. Many have permit processes related to activities on their lands. In a number of cases in our conversations, Tribal Councils noted the need for researchers to engage corporations regarding work on their lands, as well as the possibility for Tribal Councils and corporations to work together with regard to research issues. We received information from a number of the region's corporations, which is summarized in the box below.

ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT (ANCSA) CORPORATION POLICIES

The service area of Kawerak, Inc. includes an area the size of Virginia, and is home to 16 communities and 20 Tribal Nations. The region is often referred to as either the Bering Strait region, the Norton Sound region, or the Kawerak region. As part of Kawerak's work on the topic of research-related protocols, rules, guidelines, and best practices, we contacted the region's ANCSA for-profit Corporations regarding any policies they may have regarding research on their lands. Kawerak received input from 8 corporations.

Native corporation land use permits range in cost from $75 to $500, not including research fees, ranging in time from single use to up to one year. All corporations who provided information maintain indemnification statements protecting the corporation against any property damage and any and all bodily injuries or death on corporate lands.

In each policy reviewed, permit holders are required to respect the persons, property, and traditional customs of local residents, and abide by all rules of the corporation as well as applicable local, state and national laws. In the policies reviewed, corporations hold a permittee responsible for any damages caused by or contributed to by the permittee, as determined by the corporation. No commercial use is allowed without specific permission from the corporate leadership, and subsurface use is generally not allowed. In rare instances, minor subsurface use may be permitted if approved by the respective corporate Board of Directors.

Each village corporation has policies that are unique to their community. Although corporations operate as State-chartered entities, each community maintains knowledge and traditions reflected in their policies and operations. For example, some corporate policies limit visitors' ability to photograph subsistence activities of the local Indigenous community. Others restrict access to areas where subsistence harvesting is common, to protect continued health of local berries or greens for human consumption.

Not all village corporations maintain policies specifically about research. Some have requirements for proposed research to be reviewed by leadership before a permit is considered. Whether or not a corporation policy contains provisions regarding research specifically, researchers must take into consideration the land owner in the community in which they are seeking to conduct their study. Formally requesting permission of Corporation leaders is the most respectful approach.

The Kawerak region is also home to a Tribally owned and operated regional health corporation, Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC). Regarding health-related research in the region, NSHC maintains a Research Ethics and Review Board (RERB). However, research applicants must obtain Alaska Area Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval before NSHC RERB review. The NSHC RERB has a strict policy that no genomic material be used beyond the approved research project, nor can genomic data be uploaded into any databases. The NSHC RERB meets three times a year (January, April and August). The current RERB Staff Liaison is Cameron Piscoya, and the RERB lead is Meegan McKiernan. Researchers can contact the NSHC Compliance Officer at (907) 443-3360 or at research@nshcorp.org.

The work reflected in this document is based on authorization from the Kawerak Board of Directors, which is composed of the Presidents of the 20 Kawerak-Region Tribes, two Elder representatives, and a representative of the Norton Sound Health Corporation. The work was initiated based on the desires expressed by Tribes in our region and years of collaborations between Kawerak and region Tribes. As noted above, information from a variety of activities played a direct or indirect role in the substance of this document, including multiple workshops, letters written by Kawerk or co-written with allies, engagements with research and the research landscape, and so on. A number of products related to these activities are noted further below in the References and Recommended Resources section of this document, and other information can be found on the Kawerak KSI website (https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge) and Social Science Program (SSP) website (https://www.kawerak.org/socialsci).

Most importantly, however, the work contained in this document is based primarily on direct collaborations between Kawerak and region Tribal Councils between 2019 and 2023. Kawerak met with every Tribal Council in the region to discuss topics including their experiences related to research; proposed protocols, guidelines, best practices and expectations related to research; and potential future work related to research and KSI-related topics. Tribal Councils were aware of and involved in other related work, as well (e.g. the Kawerak Knowledge and Research Sovereignty workshop held in May 2021, for which Tribal Councils had nominated representative attendees). For these Council meetings, preparatory materials (e.g. think-ahead questions) were sent in advance. Many of these meetings occurred during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic; as such, all meetings except one were held virtually. Meetings were facilitated by the Kawerak Natural Resources and Social Science team in a semi-structured fashion. Requests made during the meetings by Tribal Councils were followed up on afterwards by team members. A draft of this document as well as a number of other KSI materials were sent to all Tribal Councils for review, and were also sent out for Kawerak staff review. Three virtual review meetings open to Tribal Council and Tribal members were set up to provide an additional avenue for gathering feedback. Feedback was incorporated into the next version of the draft, which was then presented to the Kawerak Board of Directors for their feedback and approval, which was then also incorporated. The Kawerak team working on this document then worked with a graphics and layout designer to craft the final formatting of the document for written and digital presentation. This document will be posted on the Kawerak KSI website and also disseminated broadly within and outside the region.



The ideas contained within this document's Tribal vision for research-related protocols, guidelines, best practices, and expectations are interrelated, and it is important for readers to understand and appreciate that. Many more ideas and elements of ideas could have been included here; an effort was made to condense in order to communicate key points in an easy-to-understand way. Additionally, while this document may be somewhat static, it is important to bear in mind that Tribal visions related to these issues are anything but. Collaborative work with Tribes and Tribal organizations will help researchers glean any additional and important ideas, details and evolutions. Below you will find ideas broken up into different and sometimes overlapping themes (Conceptualizing Research, Research Oversight, Planning Research, Conducting Research, Applying Research, and Information Sharing and Control). Within each thematic section, many protocols, guidelines, expectations and best practices are described in detail. A synopsis statement which embodies the spirit of these is placed directly under each theme heading. Finally, at the end of the document are references and recommended resources, as well as an appendix with acronyms and 'endnotes' on numbered items in the document's text.

Please reach out to Kawerak's Tribal Research Coordinator in the Social Science Program (research@kawerak.org) and Kawerak-Region Tribal Councils for discussions related to this document.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are many people who need to be acknowledged, recognized, and thanked for their involvement - including indirect - in the creation of this document.

First and foremost, Kawerak would like to acknowledge the following Tribal Councils, Council members, and staff (current and former). Meetings were held with all Tribal Councils, and many of the Council members noted below were in attendance. Tribal Council invitees to these meetings are also noted below. The importance of this collaboration in the production of this document cannot be understated.:

- Chinik Eskimo Community: Eleanor Amaktoolik, Bernice Brown, Charlie Brown, Maria Dexter, Donna Katchatag, Norma Lewis, Irene Navarro, Carol Oliver, Dean Peterson

- King Island Native Community: Madelyn Alvanna-Stimpfle, Dale Ellanna, Janice Knowlton, Leona Mayac, Asaaluk Nichols, Megan Onders, Thomas Paniataaq, Benjamin Payenna, Heather Payenna

- Native Village of Brevig Mission: Marcus Barr, Stephanie Fahey, Rebecca Jones, Emma Olanna, Michael Olanna, Thomas Olanna, Sr., Elmer Seetot III, Sara Seetot, Gilbert Tocktoo

- Native Village of Council: Barb Gray, Chase Gray, Luisa Machuca, Chandre Szafran, Nina Hanebuth, Larry Pederson, Maureen Pederson, Flora Simon, Rhonda West

- Native Village of Diomede: Carla Ahkvaluk, Kristy Kunayak, Leticia Milligrock, Frances Ozenna, Rebecca Ozenna, Samantha Ozenna, Ann Soolook, Robert F. Soolook, Jr.

- Native Village of Elim: Darla W. Jemewouk, Eugenia Jemewouk, Robert Keith, Wayne Moses, Frederick B. Murray, Jeff Murray, Morris Nakarak, Sr., Paul Nakaruk, Sr., Joni R. Segock, Oscar F. Takak, Sr.

- Native Village of Gambell: Steffen Apangalook, Melvin Apassingok, Suzanne Apassingok, Erika Apatiki, Kayli Apatiki, Lucy Apatiki, Orlin Booshu, Sr., Jennifer Campbell, Jill Campbell, Melanie Campbell, Sara Campbell, Aaron Iworrigan, Marina Koonooka, Gary Koozaata, Cheryl Lowry, Rodney Ungwiluk

- Native Village of Koyuk: Leo Charlies, Darin Douglas, Archie Ervin, Lola Hannon, Myra Henry, Darrell Kimoktoak, Laverne N. Kimoktoak, Molly Nassuk, Maggie Otton, Rosemary Otton

- Native Village of Mary's Igloo: Carol Ablowaluk, Hazel Kakaruk, Janelle Menadelook, Angela Menadelook-Kakaruk, Albert Oquilluk, Freida Oquilluk, Lucy Oquilluk, Rebekah Oquilluk, Iris Topkok, Nathan "Nick" Topkok

- Native Village of Saint Michael: Jessica Acoman, Alice Fitka, Charlie Fitka, Jr., Charlene Kobuk, Theresa Kobuk, John Lockwood, Shirley Martin, Frankie Myomick, Paula Myomik, Pauline Richardson, Robin Steve

- Native Village of Savoonga: Derek Akeya, Sandra Gologergen, Theodore Kingeekuk, Samuel Mokiyuk, Adora Noongwook, Deion Noongwook, Jason Noongwook, Bengamin Pungowiyi, Kacy Pungowiyi, Preston Rookok, Roy Waghiyi

- Native Village of Shaktoolik: Rita Auliye, Simon Bekoalak, Shawn Evan, Matilda Hardy, Axel Jackson, Sophia Katchatag, Genevieve Rock, Edna Savetilik, Agnes Takak

- Native Village of Shishmaref: Fred D. Eningowuk, Johnson P. Eningowuk, Stella Havatone, Jeanette Iyatunguk, Dolly Kiyutelluk, Nancy Kokeok, Fanny Kuzugruk, Holly Nayokpuk, Alfred Ningeulook, Carol Ningeulook, Molly Ningeulook, Tommy Obruk, Darlene Olanna, Josie Weyiouanna

- Native Village of Teller: Jazzlyn Garnie, Charlene Isabell, Dolly Kugzruk, Jenny Lee, Janelle Menadelook, Janelle Okbaok, Jerry Okbaok, Kacey Okbaok, Sarah Okbaok, Kiara Okleasik, Jolene Okleasik, Marissa Okleasik, Carolyn Oquilluk, Rebekah Oquilluk

- Native Village of Unalakleet: Tracy Cooper, Amber Cunningham, Charles Degnan, Willa Eckenweiler, Kaare Erickson, Mary Freytag, John Henry, Jr., Anthony Haugen, Sr., Sherilee Ivanoff, Velma Johnson, Frank Katchatag, Sarah Katongan, Jolene Nanouk

- Native Village of Wales: Janelle Cothern, Alicia Crisci, Joanne Keyes, Shawna Keyes, Molly Mazonna, Colleen Olanna, Anna Oxereok, Frank Oxereok, Jr., Gerald Oxereok, Marissa Oxereok, Stanley Oxereok, Sherman Richard, Robert Tokienna, Jr.

- Native Village of White Mountain: Jack Jay Adams, Willa Ashenfelter, Dorothy Barr, Shawn Bergamaschi, Amos Brown, Philip Brown, Mary D. Charles, Yvonne Gregg, Louise Huffman, Davis A. Lincoln

- Nome Eskimo Community: Kevin Bahnke, Becka Baker, Loretta Bullard, Mary David, Rena Greene, Chugie Farley, Allison Johnson, Gloria Karmun, Jeanette Koelsch, Tiffany Martinson, Matthew Michels, Andy Miller, Jr., Naomi Minix, Amber Otton, Shelby Sinnok, Shane Smithhisler

- Stebbins Community Association: George Flynn, Agatha Foxie, Jacinta Martin, Thecla Matthias, Rudolph Mike, Ariel Odinzoff, Jared Raymond, Lydia Raymond-Snowball, Kesha Steve, Jolene Steve-Pete, Billyjean Thrasher, Nora Tom

- Village of Solomon: Wilma Amaktoolik, Deilah Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson, Cheryl Kalerak, Sherri Lewis, Annette Piscoya, Cameron Piscoya, Kirstin Timbers

Kawerak would like to thank the following individuals who participated in a number of key workshops and partnerships related to activities on knowledge sovereignty and indigenization, which helped inform - even indirectly - the work reflected in this document: Sarah Aarons, Cora Ablowaluk, Austin Ahmasuk, Brandon Ahmasuk, Cassandra Ahkvaluk, Minnie Aluska, Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Toby Anungazuk, Jr., Roy Ashenfelter, Willa Ashenfelter, Rebecca Atchak, Sylvester Ayek, Melanie Bahnke, Kristen Barnett, Carolina Behe, Esther Bourdon, Josephine Bourdon, Amos Brown Jr., Charlie Brown, Sarah Campbell, Gilbert Castellanos, Leo Charles, Raychelle Aluaq Daniel, Fred Daniels, Mary David, Charles Degnan, Frances Degnan, Danielle Dickson, Denise Dillard, Lauren Divine, Lisa Ellanna, Kaare Erickson, Diana Evans, Judy Fahnestock, Alice Fitka, Charlie Fitka, Jr., Rose Fosdick, Mary Freytag, Mary Furuness, John Goodwin, Barb Gray, Susan Gray, Rena Greene, Kuba Grzeda, Kate Haapala, Nina Hanebuth, Qaiyaan Harcharek, Matilda Hardy, Cyrus Harris, Donna Hauser, Myra Henry, Nicole Herman-Mercer, Larry Hinzman, Lisa Hiruki-Raring, Kirstin Holsman, Victoria Hykes-Steere, Jerry Ivanoff, Deilah Johnson, Hazel Kakaruk, Larry Kaplan, Gloria Karmun, Frank Katchatag, Robert Keith, Cordelia Kellie, David Kennedy, Jeanette Koelsch, Merlin Koonooka, Janice Knowlton, Dolly Kugzruk, Nettie La Belle-Hamer, Anna Rose MacArthur, Thecla Matthias-Walker, Chuck Menadelook, Janelle Menadelook, Dawn Miller, Frank Myomick, Paul Nagaruk, Dylanne Nassuk, Liliana Naves, Molly Ningeulook, Adora Noongwook, Deion Noongwook, George Noongwook, Joseph Odinzoff, Carol Oliver, Lucy Oquilluk, Rebecca Ozenna, Stanley Oxereok, Lynn Palensky, Carol Piscoya, Joed Polly, Terry Powell, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Debra Seetook, Elmer Seetot, Jr., Elmer Seetot, III, Lisa Sheffield Guy, Danielle Slingsby, Melissa Slwooko, Holly Smith, Robert Soolook, Jr., Frieda Southall, Timothy Stettinger, Stacey Stoudt, Leigh Takak, James Temte, Jim Thorson, Gilbert Tocktoo, Amanda Toerdal, Siġvanna (Meghan) Tapqaq, Mary Turnipseed, Arlene Waghiyi, John Waghiyi, Jr., Joseph Washington, Cindy Weiler, Troy Weyiouanna, Alex Whiting, Denali Whiting, Helen Wiggins, and Sheyna Wisdom.



Kawerak thanks and acknowledges the following Kawerak-Region ANCSA for-profit corporations for sharing information about their policies which may pertain to research activities: Inalik Native Corporation, Mary's Igloo Native Corporation, Shaktoolik Native Corporation, Sitnasuak Native Corporation, Sivuqaq, Incorporated, Solomon Native Corporation, Unalakleet Native Corporation, and White Mountain Native Corporation.

Kawerak thanks the following funders for their funding which supported either the creation of this document specifically, or other work related to Tribal knowledge sovereignty and indigenization: The Kawerak Marine Program, the Kawerak Social Science Program, The Moore Foundation, the National Park Service, the National Science Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Walton Family Foundation.

We thank the Kawerak Board of Directors and the following Kawerak staff and consultants for their work related to the production of this and related documents: Brandon Ahmasuk, Bernadette Yaayuk Alvanna-Stimpfle, Melanie Bahnke, John Bioff, Niviaaluk Brandt, Lisa Ellanna, Gloria Karmun, Kawerak Board of Directors, Stacey Lucason, Anna Rose MacArthur, Dawn Miller, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian (Sandhill.Culture.Craft), Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Danielle Slingsby, Sigvanna (Meghan) Tapqaq, Deb Trowbridge, Cindy Weiler, and Jaylene Wheeler.

Finally, we thank the following colleagues with whom we have worked, collaborations with whom have been particularly important as regards ideas contained within this document (and who have not been noted elsewhere above): Jessica Black, Medeia Csoba DeHass, Rachel Donkersloot, Erin Dougherty Lynch, Jennifer Hooper, Catherine Moncrieff, Max Neale, Janessa Newman, Richard Slats, Sarah Wise, and Brooke Woods. We would also like to acknowledge the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Association of Village Council Presidents, Bering Sea Elders Group, Bristol Bay Native Association, Native American Rights Fund, Saint George Tribal Council, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference for their collaborative work with Kawerak on science, knowledge and research issues.

CONCEPTUALIZING RESEARCH

Research of all kinds must become Indigenized and Tribal knowledge sovereignty respected.

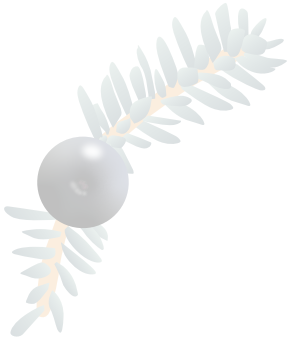
Meaningful Tribal involvement throughout the entire research process: Tribes should be meaningfully engaged and be able to be meaningfully involved in all aspects of research which impacts them and their resources or are of potential use or interest to them, from the very beginnings to the end and beyond. Tribes and Tribal entities should have the opportunity to maximally participate in every aspect of the research process, and their knowledge, abilities, and expertise should be respected, valued, and incorporated. Researchers and research entities should be aware that Tribes may want to be involved to varying degrees in a research project (including fully, somewhat, a little, or not at all), though they should always have the opportunity. Tribes and Tribal members should be seen as true and equal partners in research.

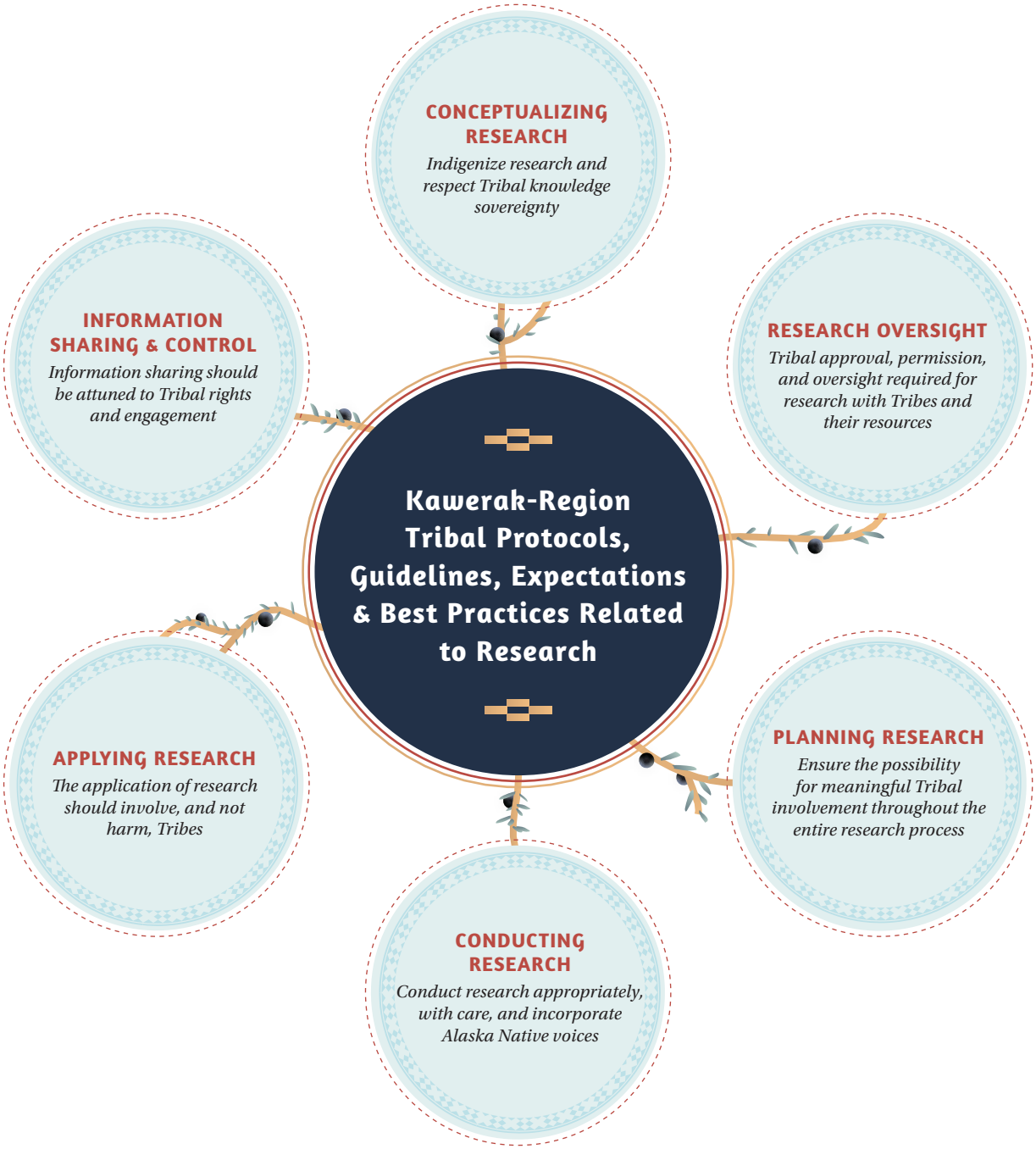
This includes, among other things, developing relationships beforehand; notification, communication, outreach, and engagement issues; Tribal Consultation (including outreach and engagement to enable it) regarding all stages of the research process; coming up with ideas for research; crafting the research proposals; thinking through and planning for all aspects of the research and its implications and uses; designing the research methodology and questions; conducting the research; analyzing the data; creating research-related materials and products (e.g. reports, publications, etc.); storing and sharing the information and results; applying the research; reinterpreting the data; continuing work and relationships; and constantly revisiting these various steps, elements, and approaches.

Meaningful participation means, among other things, not only the ways Tribes and individuals can participate (as just noted), but also the character of that participation, e.g., people should be able to craft and modify things, their inputs should be able to change things and/or be incorporated, their ability to understand and fully participate as equals should be respected, etc.

Increase participation and involvement: The participation and involvement of Alaska Native and Tribal people, entities, and their knowledge, perspectives, and voices in research should be increased across the board.

Included in this, funders, agencies, research entities and researchers should support and bolster Tribal leadership in research, including the means and ability to exercise that leadership. Among other things (some of which is noted elsewhere in this document), this includes promoting the development of collaborative, effective, beneficial, and equitable funding mechanisms for research. Funders should work directly with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and their experts (including expert staff) on developing funding, programs, etc. Mechanisms like Tribal set-asides, compacting, etc. for research should be explored.





Key Elements of the Kawerak-Region Tribal Protocols, Guidelines, Expectations & Best Practices Related to Research

Respect: Respecting Tribes is crucial. This includes, among other things, being honest with and considerate of communities; behaving appropriately; ensuring robust communication; being open and inclusive; respecting what Elders and TK-holders say; honoring Tribal requests; and seeking the Tribes' approval and permission for a research project. It also includes respecting the various forms of Indigenous Knowledge, such as Traditional Knowledge, which have great value. Respecting Tribal sovereignty is also imperative.

High quality of Traditional Knowledge: Traditional Knowledge is on par with western science, and can be an even better source of information.

Where western science is used, so can (and often should) TK be used.

Indigenous Knowledges, including TK, should be engaged and included in appropriate and equitable ways in research.

The expertise and contributions of TK-holders should also be recognized in equivalent terms to Western academic accomplishments.

It is important that researchers familiarize themselves with and educate themselves about Indigenous Knowledges (including TK), including for the reason of avoiding misconceptions and myths about them.

Research should be decolonized: Research should not be an extension and reinforcement of the dynamics of colonialism, racism, inequity, oppression, disenfranchisement, and power imbalances.

Do not assume: Researchers should not make assumptions about what Tribes are or are not interested in. Researchers should also not make assumptions about what Tribes do or do not have knowledge about. Additionally, researchers should not make assumptions about Tribal capacity (e.g. re staffing, funding, etc.).

Tribes are part of the research world: It is important to recognize that Tribes, Tribal members, and Tribal organizations are key parts of the research world.

Protect subsistence and the environment: Protecting subsistence activities, subsistence resources, and the environment are key to Tribes. Research should not negatively impact subsistence or the environment.

Appropriate grounding: Research should be conceptualized and effectuated as something which is equitable, decolonized, collaborative, reciprocal, communicative, inclusive, diverse, requiring trust, relationship-based, and respectful. Researchers should also be committed to protecting Tribes, their resources, their intellectual property rights, and their other interests. The status of the research relationship should be constantly revisited.

Awareness of research's negative history and potential for harm: Researchers should be aware of the ways research has negatively impacted Tribes and Indigenous people in the past, and currently. Researchers should be aware that research itself, as well as what it might be used for or lead to, can cause harm to Tribes. Research should not cause harm to Tribes, Tribal members, or Tribal resources.

Understanding and appreciating the inter-relationships of aspects of this Tribal vision regarding research: The ideas contained within this document's Tribal vision for research are interrelated, and it is important for those in the research landscape to understand and appreciate that.

Improvements from funders: Funders should do a better job in general of involving Tribes and Indigenous people in the funding process. Funders also need to recognize and support Tribal desires to do their own research.

Support Tribally-led and Alaska Native-led research: The research world needs to do more to support Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Alaska Native people playing a larger and equitable role in research, including increased capacity to lead and conduct research ourselves.

Appreciate the value of Tribal visions, expectations and guidelines for research: Tribal visions, expectations, and guidelines for research should be respected not only for Tribes, but also for their value to researchers and research itself (e.g. it leads to better research).

Empowering Tribal research activities, and bolstering capacity: Tribal research activities should be empowered and recognized at all levels (e.g. regarding capacity, certification, etc.). The idea of entities with funding paying into Tribal research funds should also be explored. Researchers, institutions, and funders should strive to support and improve Tribal capacity related to research. Funders should strive to assist in the development of more means and capacity related to research in the region and its communities, including training and education, research-related offices and staffing, one or more Tribal IRBs, a Tribal research coordinators network, and a research center. Researchers and funders must also realize that involving Tribes and Tribal organizations in research often requires support such that finite resources are not drawn down and that people are not expected to work for free. Additionally, the education world needs to continue to create more home-grown educators and researchers to teach Alaska Native history and knowledge more widely.

Support co-production of knowledge (CPK): Multiple knowledge systems should be brought into research projects when at all possible. When this is done, a rigorous CPK framework should be used, such as the one outlined in Ellam Yua et al. (2022).

Tribal expectations should be met regardless of legal lands and waters 'ownership' and 'management': It is important to understand which communities and Tribes are the traditional and contemporary stewards of the lands and waters where research is proposed. Because of the colonial history of this region, Tribes may not currently be the legally-recognized 'owners' or 'managers' of their traditional lands and waters. Regardless of who currently technically/legally 'owns' and 'manages' lands and waters in and around Tribal communities, Tribal expectations regarding research in those areas should be met.

Defining from a Tribal perspective: Tribal research and knowledge sovereignty and indigenization must be defined from a Tribal perspective. Locally-accepted terminologies and concepts should be understood, respected and used for research.

Humility: Researchers should have humility towards the knowledge, practices, histories, and cultures of Tribes.

Agencies should have the appropriate capacity: Agencies should have sufficient and appropriate capacity to engage Tribal issues as relates to research. This includes Tribal Liaisons, experts in Tribal Consultation and engagement, non-economic social scientists, and expertise working with Tribes and Tribal knowledge and perspectives.

Relevance to all kinds of research: The protocols, guidelines, best practices, and expectations outlined in this document pertain to research of all kinds, across all disciplines. Researchers working in fields conducting what is not traditionally considered to be 'human subjects research' or research that has human impacts need to become aware of this and similar documents and understand that the potential impacts of research of all kinds on Tribes must be determined by Tribes, and might be different than what you expect (or what western science has historically identified).

Foreground contacting Tribes and Kawerak: If research is being considered which might involve or impact Tribes, Tribal members, or their resources, early and direct contact should be made with the relevant Tribes and also Kawerak (which provides support to Tribes regarding research, tracks research, and also conducts research.)

RESEARCH OVERSIGHT

Research with Tribal members, in Tribal communities, with resources Tribes depend on, and in traditional Tribal lands and waters should require the approval, permission and oversight of relevant Tribes.

Tribes determine impacts: It is important for there to be an identification of what the impacts of research might be. Tribes determine what may impact them, and how.

Relatedly, this means oversight bodies and oversight-related rules should be expanded to consider things as having impacts and which need review beyond what is conceived from a western perspective as 'human subjects research.' This includes, e.g., physical science research, biological research (e.g. studies of fisheries and marine mammals), modeling, remote sensing, etc.

Tribal permission and oversight: Research impacting Tribes and their resources (including traditional resources which Tribes may not technically have current legal ownership of) should involve notifying the Tribe(s), obtaining Tribal permission, and ensuring Tribal oversight. Decisions by Tribal Councils should be accepted and respected. Tribes should have the right to grant or deny permission for research.

Need for familiarity with rules: Researchers should be familiar with and follow Tribal, regional (e.g. Kawerak, Norton Sound Health Corporation), landowner (e.g. Corporation, other private property), private (e.g. individual, family, Native allotment,), and other relevant entity (e.g. City, Commissions, co-management bodies, University, Agency, State, Federal, funder, disciplinary) rules, guidelines, protocols, principles, orders, memoranda, codes and best practices related to research. Researchers should also be aware that there may be rules and guidelines in neighboring areas and communities which should be respected as well, including outside the Kawerak region. Researchers should also be cognizant of relationships between entities; for example, a number of communities strongly prioritize the importance of the tri-org relationship between the Tribe, Corporation, and City.

Research requires Tribal Consultation: Research is an activity for which there should be government-to-government Tribal Consultation. Tribal Consultation activities should be conducted by Federal agencies with regard to all aspects of research. Information should be regularly provided to Tribes with regard to this, and meaningful engagement and relationships which may lead to Consultations should exist, such that Tribes can be aware of and make and have meaningful inputs and participation in(to) all aspects of research processes (including administration, planning, program development, prioritization, funding, conduct, and implementation, etc.), from beginning to end and beyond (including with regard to the application of research). Requests for Consultation should be honored in a timely manner and the results of Consultations should be able to meaningfully inform the research-related activities.

Ensuring adherence to Tribal rules: Funders, IRBs, and research institutions should require and ensure that researchers follow Tribal protocols and obtain Tribal permission to conduct research that impacts Tribes and their resources.

Ensure collaboration: Funders should require sufficient evidence that research claiming to be Tribally-led, Tribally-prioritized, co-productive, or collaborative in nature is actually so, and is conducted properly. Funders should ensure researchers are meaningfully and robustly engaging Tribal entities throughout the research process and are honoring their commitments.

Involve Tribes in research decisions: Tribes should be involved in research-related decisions (e.g. TK holders being peer reviewers for grant proposals and publications).

Beware 'one stop shops': The dangers of 'one stop shops' should be understood and avoided.

Involve Tribes in crafting guidelines: Tribes should be involved in the crafting of research guidelines, rules, protocols, codes, and best practices of other entities whose research activities may impact Tribes or their resources or may be of interest to Tribes.

Additional permission and oversight: In addition to Tribal oversight, researchers should obtain and follow other necessary forms of permission and oversight where applicable, e.g. landowner policies, IRBs, health corporation review, notifying Kawerak about research, etc.

Communicate and share information clearly: Researchers should communicate and share information in a clear and understandable manner with communities.

Awareness of and adherence to public health rules and guidance: Researchers should be aware of and follow any relevant Tribal and Tribal Consortium public health rules and guidance which may pertain to the potential conduct of research in and around their communities.

Follow best practices: Researchers engaging Tribes and their resources should follow best practices of their disciplines and/or professional organizations.

Fund Tribal entities directly: Funders should be working intensively and directly with Tribes and Tribal organizations to provide funding to them and not to/through intermediaries.

The roles of Federal and State governments: Federal and State governments should play their part in ensuring research is done properly.

Protect Tribal sovereignty: Engagement in research should not deteriorate Tribal sovereignty.

Responsiveness: Researchers and research entities should be responsive to Tribal requests.

Training: Funders and research entities should support training for researchers as well as their own key staff with regard to the issues noted in this document.



PLANNING RESEARCH

Research should be planned such that meaningful Tribal involvement throughout the entire process is possible, and the research will be conducted with care, consideration, and respect for Tribes.

Plan for Tribal involvement: Researchers should plan for the meaningful and robust involvement of Tribes in all aspects of research which impacts them or their resources.

Creating research: Researchers and institutions should work with Tribes to craft and create research projects.

Value Tribal priorities: Tribal research priorities should inform research. Tribes should also be engaged in research priority-setting for agencies, institutions, and funders.

Provide local benefit: Research should strive to have community benefit, give back to communities, and sustain Tribal livelihoods.

Avoid duplicative research: Duplicative research should be avoided. Researchers should be sure to be aware of previous research that has been done, and communicate with other researchers in appropriate ways to help avoid problems of duplicative research.

Avoid causing research fatigue and over-research, and also be aware of issues related to under-research: Researchers and funders should be aware of, and avoid, problems of research fatigue and over-research. Researchers and funders should also be aware of issues related to under-research[3].

Understand and consider differences: Not all Tribes and regions will have the same perspectives, experiences, and desires related to research.

Prioritize Tribal and collaborative work: Funders should prioritize Tribally-led, Tribally-prioritized, and co-productive and collaborative research.

Early communication: Researchers should present information to, and engage with, the community and the relevant local entities beforehand (e.g. Tribe, Corporation, City, landowners, etc.). This includes, among other things, discussing very specifically why the project is being proposed and what its purpose is, what it would entail, what the relevant timelines are, how it may benefit the community, potential risks, sharing all project-related materials and details (including budgets), collaborating with the community regarding the research, working to bring researchers and the community together on the same page before research begins, what the funding sources are for the research, what the research will be used for, any other who/what/where/when/why/how issues, etc. Researchers should also look to conduct a variety of outreach efforts (e.g. potentially providing information about the research in the Kawerak newsletter, providing outreach flyers, etc.). Researchers should be willing to provide information in both written and verbal formats, and in advance. Doing the 'bare minimum' is insufficient in terms of communication; for example, sending an email and not doing subsequent follow-up does not constitute adequate communication.

Obtaining consent and ensuring people are fully informed: Researchers should critically think through, provide information for, and obtain free, prior, and informed consent from Tribes as well as individual participants in research. Tribes and research participants should also be fully informed about research activities in all respects, and have the ability to ask questions, make inputs meaningfully, and grant or deny permission and consent.

Be aware of time issues: Researchers should be mindful of time in general and plan accordingly. This includes providing adequate time for Tribal review of proposed research, giving Tribes adequate time to engage in the research process, not rushing people, spending an appropriate amount of time with people to work together, taking into account when subsistence activities and other important community events are occurring, taking into account when challenging environmental conditions (e.g. storms) might occur, etc.

Be familiar with where one is working: Researchers should have familiarity with (and, following this, sensitivity regarding) the region; its environment; its communities; community and regional entities (e.g. Tribe, City, Corporations, Consortia, Associations, Commissions, Co-Management bodies, etc.); its cultures, languages and dialects, histories and values; its landowners and boundaries; local sources of authority, stewardship, and management; and the traditional and customary practices and areas of its peoples. Researchers should be aware, including with regard to the expectations laid out in this document, that communities and Tribes are unique and can be very different from each other.

Engaging appropriate local expertise appropriately: Researchers should work with the Tribal Council to identify which Tribal members are the most appropriate to co-lead work, advise, be project participants, act as points of contact with regard to a research project, or otherwise participate in research. Those individuals should be engaged in an appropriate manner (e.g. with respect, with a translator or other local assistance if necessary, addressing any special needs e.g. hearing issues, etc.).

Enable and plan for engagement, collaboration, and relationship-building: Funders should provide researchers sufficient resources to meaningfully engage, collaborate, and build relationships with Tribes throughout all aspects of research. Researchers should advocate for these resources and should avail themselves of opportunities, including funding, to have early and ongoing engagement, collaboration and relationship-building with Tribes. Engagement in-person is preferred when possible.

Have needed resources in place beforehand: Researchers should have resources in place in the event someone does not have a good experience with research, or if Tribes or individuals need assistance. Researchers should ensure they have sufficient safety-related information (e.g. regarding dangerous areas, winds, ocean currents, etc.), conduct their work safely, and have the capacity to deal with problems. Researchers should be aware that communities responding to emergencies drains local resources and puts people at risk.

Understand different types of work and needs: The differences between outreach, engagement, Consultation, social science, and permission should be understood.

Provide appropriate compensation for research participation: Researchers should compensate people appropriately for participating in research teams or projects and for any materials provided. The knowledge and work people provide to be involved in research is valuable. Additionally, one must be cognizant that participating in research can take people away from work, subsistence activities, and other commitments.

No audience-shopping: Researchers should not attempt to go around Tribal and Tribal organization experts or other potential 'obstacles' who/which they think will potentially stand in the way of their research plans (e.g. avoiding people or organizations who ask tough questions, hold researchers accountable to expectations, require delays in plans, or won't provide access, fora or letters of support that the researcher may desire). Researchers also need to make contact with the appropriate individuals and entities when discussing their research; for example, engaging local leaders (Tribal or not) is not necessarily the equivalent of engaging a Tribe, Tribal Council, Tribal organization, and its experts. Funders should also be aware of this problem and take steps to ensure appropriate engagement is done.

Have baseline data: Researchers should be aware of baseline information to the extent it is available before planning research (e.g. existing studies and research, baseline environmental data, etc.).

Care in planning for data collection, management, and sharing issues: Great care and collaboration should be taken with regard to planning data collection, management, and sharing issues so as to ensure Tribal confidentiality, control, and sovereignty are maintained and not eroded, particularly in light of any other mandates (e.g. any Federal mandates regarding public access to data). Researchers should be familiar with Indigenous data sovereignty concepts.

Increased exposure: Alaska Native children and students should receive more exposure to research, research-related issues, subsistence issues, Traditional Knowledge, and Tribal sovereignty, policy, and law in their educational curricula.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Research should be conducted in an appropriate manner and with care, and should ensure the incorporation of Alaska Native people, perspectives, values, and knowledge into the work.

Have respect, and avoid causing disturbance and harm: In the conduct of research, researchers should not harm or disturb Tribes, including Tribal resources; subsistence activities, locations and resources; quality of life; habitat; the environment; and special locations and items (e.g. gravesites, cultural objects/ artifacts). Researchers should respect what they are studying. The land and waters should be left as they were, and whatever is packed in should be packed out. Encounters with burials and archaeological materials should be reported. Researchers should be aware of and follow local rules which ensure proper and respectful treatment of fish, birds, other animals, and the environment. Researchers should behave as 'model citizens' when they are conducting their research.

Continued collaboration: As with all the other aspects of the research process, the conduct of research should be open to meaningful participation of Tribes. This includes data analysis.

Respect, value, and incorporate Alaska Native perspectives, knowledges, and ways of life: Alaska Native perspectives and knowledges need to be valued and centrally incorporated into research. Alaska Native ways of life, such as subsistence, should be respected.

Need for familiarity with Indigenous Knowledges (e.g. TK): Researchers should have familiarity with forms of Indigenous Knowledge (such as Traditional Knowledge) and how to engage it, so that they can respect and value it, meaningfully integrate it into their work, and avoid misunderstandings and misuse of it.

Appropriate expertise: Research should be conducted by individuals who possess the appropriate expertise and training. For instance, individuals who are not social scientists should seek community engagement in their work, but it is inappropriate for them to conduct social science research. Research teams should be composed of experts with the necessary skills to ensure the success of the research.

Local hire and involvement: When at all possible, local people should be hired to help in the conduct of research. Included in this, researchers should make sure to hire one or more local liaisons, coordinators, advisers, overseers, and/or documentarians (and plan for alternates) with the appropriate expertise to help with the research, and to oversee and take notes regarding research activities to report to the Tribal Council. Additionally, Tribal members should be involved in research when desired (e.g. as co-leads, team members, as participants, for oversight, for liaising, etc.).



Engaging youth: Researchers should continue the process of regular communication with the community which began prior to research starting (including but not only with the Tribal Council) once the research has commenced, and through and beyond its conclusion (including, e.g., regular updates, a report of activities and findings as well as a meeting/potluck at the end of the research, providing research materials in various formats, etc.). Fostering intergenerational interaction (e.g. Elders and youth) in research projects is also beneficial.

Continued communication: Researchers should continue the process of regular communication with the community which began prior to research starting (including but not only with the Tribal Council) once the research has commenced, and through and beyond its conclusion (including, e.g., regular updates, a report of activities and findings as well as meeting/potluck at the end of the research, providing research materials in various formats, etc.).

Use of Alaska Native languages: Researchers should strive to provide materials and engage Tribal members in both English and the relevant Alaska Native language where appropriate, relevant, or requested.

Respect Elders: Elders should be respected, and can be a good resource.

Do not take things without asking: Researchers should not take things from Tribal communities and traditional lands and waters without asking.

Care and safety: Researchers should behave safely. For example, ship-based researchers should know where not to go so as to avoid negatively impacting subsistence activities and resources (including ice), and ensure they do not create ship-related pollution (including noise pollution). Additionally, Tribes should not be considered liable for anything that happens during research being conducted by others.



APPLYING RESEARCH

Tribes should be involved and Consulted regarding the application of research results, and research should be applied in a manner which is not harmful to Tribes and their resources.

Avoid negative impacts: Research should not directly (e.g. during the conduct of research) or indirectly (e.g. in the application of research results) negatively impact subsistence resources, subsistence activities, Tribal members, Tribal well-being, Tribal interests, Tribal resources, or Tribal sovereignty.

Meaningful Tribal Consultation: Tribal Consultation regarding research should occur at a time and in a manner such that information from it can meaningfully impact all activities and decision-making related to research, including (but not only) the application of any research work. Tribal Consultation (and outreach and engagement which enables it) is a responsibility of Federal entities.

Interrogating the relationships of research to commerce and inequities: People should be very cautious regarding research in relationship to Tribes and their resources which could be used for commercial purposes. Additionally, researchers should be aware of the ways research can be connected to historical power imbalances and inequities, and should avoid furthering that in their work.

Data interpretation requires Tribes: Tribes should be involved in the interpretation and re-interpretation of data they generated or co-generated.

Data applications: Tribes are very interested in knowing how the results of research can be used, from a variety of perspectives (e.g. what positive impacts it can have, how to avoid harmful applications, etc.).

Continuation of collaboration: As with all the stages of research, the possibility for full collaboration with Tribes should extend to the research application and data storage elements of the research process.

INFORMATION SHARING AND CONTROL

Information sharing from research should be attuned to considerations of Tribal data sovereignty, intellectual and cultural property rights, and the importance of communication, review, and respect.

The need for awareness of research: Tribes should not be in the dark about any aspects of research.

Tribal data control and ownership: Tribes should be able to maintain control and ownership over data they have generated or co-generated for research. Data management policies should be designed in a way which allows for Tribal control over data. Space must be made for Tribal stewardship and care for data and research about Tribes.

Research transparency: There should be transparency about the motives for, drivers related to, and purpose, legitimacy, implications, and impacts of research, among other things.

The value of Tribal knowledge: Tribal knowledge is of utility to the entire world, not just with regard to Tribes and their resources.

Collaboration and clarity about data issues: Researchers should work closely with Tribes from the outset to collaboratively plan for addressing issues related to intellectual and cultural property rights; Indigenous data sovereignty; data limitations; data analysis; data use and applications; confidentiality and anonymity issues; data analysis, interpretation, re-interpretation, and reuse; data accuracy; framing and presentation; data storage; data control and ownership; and data sharing.

Recognizing and acknowledging contributions: When a community's information has been used, the community and its members who provided information should be appropriately recognized and acknowledged. This includes authorship where appropriate.

Communicate results: Researchers should work closely with Tribes from the outset to collaboratively plan for addressing issues related to intellectual and cultural property rights; Indigenous data sovereignty; data limitations; data accuracy; data analysis, interpretation, re-interpretation, and reuse; data use and applications; confidentiality and anonymity issues; framing and presentation; data storage; data control and ownership; and data sharing.

Present results clearly: Researchers should present research results to communities in a clear manner.

Confidentiality: Researchers should ensure that all information people want to be confidential is kept that way. Collaboration with the community at various levels (including the Tribal Council) is key to determining what those things might be. They can include, for example, old/historic, burial, sacred, and monument sites; things which are dangerous; resource locations; subsistence areas; Elders nutritional program information; issues related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); visual or other documentation of subsistence activities; and anything else the Tribal Council deems confidential. There should be review (including by the Tribal Council) of any draft materials before their release to ensure confidentiality is maintained. Additional, written consent should be required for taking and using photographs and filming.

Respect in characterizations: Researchers should strive to portray Tribes and their cultures in a positive light.

Tribal review: Tribal Councils should be able to review data, findings, and analysis prior to publication. Among other things, this is an extension of Tribal oversight and engagement throughout the research process, as well as a way to ensure necessary confidentialities and protections (e.g. related to Tribal resources and practices) are maintained, and inaccuracies avoided.

Carefulness in data sharing: Researchers should use great care, mindfulness, forethought, and collaboration with regard to issues of data sharing so as to avoid negative repercussions, misuse of data, and misinterpretation.

Sharing with youth: Researchers should share interesting information and results they find with youth and the school.

Data storage: Researchers should work with Tribes to establish how research data will be transferred and stored. For example, copies of materials from working with Tribal members such as recordings and transcripts should be provided to the Tribe. Tribes may also want materials to be stored with Kawerak.

Easy access to research: There should be central, easily-accessible places where Tribes can find out about all the research that is being done, including by private industry.

Use information appropriately: Researchers should use and engage information provided by Tribes in an appropriate manner. What the appropriate manner is should be determined through working collaboratively with Tribes.

REFERENCES AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Ellam Yua, J. Raymond-Yakoubian, R. Aluaq Daniel, and C. Behe (2022) A framework for co-production of knowledge in the context of Arctic research. In Ecology and Society 27(1):34. https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-12960-270134

Kawerak website: https://www.kawerak.org

Kawerak Knowledge Sovereignty and Indigenization (KSI) webpage: https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge

Kawerak Social Science Program (SSP) webpage: https://kawerak.org/natural-resources/social-science/

Kawerak, Inc. (2017) Knowledge and Subsistence-Related Terms. Internal White Paper, May 2017. Available at: https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge

Kawerak, Inc. (2018) Comments on Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic. Letter to the National Science Foundation, Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee. January 15, 2018. https://kawerak.org/download/jan2018-kawerak-iarpc-comments-2/

Kawerak, Inc. (2018) Comments on Principles for the Conduct of Research in the Arctic. Letter to the National Science Foundation, Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee. August 28, 2018. https://kawerak.org/download/aug2018-kawerak-comments-on-iarpc-draft-principles-2/

Kawerak, Inc. (2020) Statement regarding research and related activities in the Bering Strait region under COVID-19 conditions. Dear Colleagues letter from the Kawerak Board of Directors to the research community. May 18, 2020. https://kawerak.org/download/research-through-covid-19-in-the-bering-strait/

Kawerak, Inc. (2020) Response to IARPC request for comments on the development of the next Arctic Research Plan, 2022-2026. Letter to the National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs. July 24, 2020. https://kawerak.org/download/july-2020-iarpc-5-year-plan-comment-letter/

Kawerak, Inc. (2020) Follow up regarding research and related activities in the Bering Strait region under COVID-19 conditions. Dear Colleagues letter from the Kawerak Board of Directors to the research community. December 16, 2020. https://kawerak.org/download/dec-2020-letter-to-researchers-regarding-research-and-covid-19/

Kawerak, Inc. (2021) Four-Language Glossary: Inupiaq, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Yup'ik, and English Terms for Research, Science, and Policy. Nome, Alaska. https://kawerak.org/download/4-language-glossary-terms-for-research-science-and-policy/

Kawerak, Inc. (2021) Knowledge & Research Sovereignty Workshop May 18-21, 2021 Workshop Report. Prepared by Sandhill.Culture. Craft and Kawerak Inc. Social Science Program. Nome, Alaska. https://kawerak.org/download/kawerak-knowledge-and-research-sovereignty-ksi-workshop-report/

Kawerak, Inc. (2024) Position paper - Addressing Misconceptions about Indigenous Knowledges: Fallacies of limitations in scope and applicability. Available at: https://www.kawerak.org/knowledge

Kawerak, Inc., Association of Village Council Presidents, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and Bering Sea Elders Group (2020) Letter to the National Science Foundation regarding the Navigating the New Arctic Program. March 19, 2020. https://kawerak.org/download/navigating-the-new-arctic-program-comment-letter/

Kawerak, Inc., Association of Village Council Presidents, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Bering Sea Elders Group, and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (2020) Letter to NOAA, NPRB, AOOS, and USARC regarding the need for co-productive approaches to research planning in the Bering Sea. August 2, 2020. https://kawerak.org/download/august-2020-bering-sea-research-letter/

Kawerak, Inc., Association of Village Council Presidents, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and Bering Sea Elders Group (2021) Letter to the National Science Foundation regarding Executive Order 13985 and the Navigating the New Arctic Program. December 17, 2021. https://kawerak.org/download/dec-2021-nna-follow-up-letter/

Kawerak, Inc., Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Bering Sea Elders Group (2022) Letter to the Council on Environmental Quality and the Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making memorandum and Tribal Consultation and Public Input Opportunities on ITEK in Federal Policy. May 5, 2022. https://kawerak.org/download/tribal-coalition-tk-itek-letter/?tmstv=1686181354

Kawerak, Inc., Orutsararmiut Native Council, Association of Village Council Presidents, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Bering Sea Elders Group, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (2022) Letter to NOAA Fisheries Alaska Region and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. August 19, 2022.

Kawerak, Inc., Association of Village Council Presidents, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, and Bering Sea Elders Group (2023) Letter to the National Science Foundation regarding NSF PAPPG proposed changes comment request (88 FR 2248; document number 2023-07780). June 19, 2023.

Raymond-Yakoubian, B. (2017) Sounds and Discourses of Knowing: The Extents of Indigenous Knowledge and the Cross-Cultural Epistemic Assumptions of Alaskan Natural Resource Management. Paper presented at the University of Tartu Arctic Workshop, Tartu, Estonia, May 27, 2017.

Raymond-Yakoubian, B. and J. Raymond-Yakoubian (2015) “Always taught not to waste”: Traditional Knowledge and Norton Sound/Bering Strait Salmon Populations. 2015 Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative Project 1333 Final Product. Prepared by Kawerak, Incorporated. Nome, Alaska. https://kawerak.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TK-of-Salmon-Final-Report.pdf

Raymond-Yakoubian, B. and J. Raymond-Yakoubian (2015) At the Intersection of Bering Strait Inuit Subsistence Lifeways, Western Science and Management, and Environmental Change: Scientific and Regulatory Ideology, Human-Environmental Justice, and the Indigenization of Climate Change. Paper presented at the Climate Change in Culture Conference. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Raymond-Yakoubian, B. and J. Raymond-Yakoubian (2017) Research Processes and Indigenous Communities in Western Alaska: Workshop Report. Prepared by Sandhill.Culture.Craft and Kawerak Social Science Program. Kawerak, Inc.: Nome, AK. https://kawerak.org/download/research-processes-and-indigenous-communities-in-western-alaska-workshop-report-3/

Raymond-Yakoubian, B., L. Kaplan, M. Topkok, and J. Raymond-Yakoubian (2014; revised 2015) "The World has Changed": Iŋalit Traditional Knowledge of Walrus in the Bering Strait. Kawerak Inc. North Pacific Research Board Project 1013 Final Report. https://kawerak.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/The-world-has-changed_web.pdf

Raymond-Yakoubian, J. and B. Raymond-Yakoubian (2018) Knowledge, Sustainability, and the Indigenization of Research. Paper presented at the Arctic Council Social, Economic, and Cultural Expert Group Workshop, Inari, Finland, September 23, 2018.

Raymond-Yakoubian, J., B. Raymond-Yakoubian, and C. Moncrieff (2017) The incorporation of traditional knowledge into Alaska federal fisheries management. In Marine Policy 78: 132-142. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.12.024

Oquilluk, W. A. (1973) People of Kauwerak: Legends of the Northern Eskimo. With the assistance of L. L. Bland. Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Methodist University.

APPENDIX: ACRONYMS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Acronyms

ANCSA	=	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
CPK	=	Co-Production of Knowledge
ICWA	=	Indian Child Welfare Act
IK	=	Indigenous Knowledge(s)
IRB	=	Institutional Review Board
KSI	=	(Kawerak's) Knowledge Sovereignty & Indigenization (work)
NSHC	=	Norton Sound Health Corporation
RERB	=	Research and Ethics Review Board
SSP	=	(Kawerak) Social Science Program
TK	=	Traditional Knowledge

Endnotes: Further information (see corresponding numbering in text)

(1) Kawerak 2021

(2) From Raymond-Yakoubian and Raymond-Yakoubian 2017

(3) Research fatigue can occur when individuals and communities are engaged in research beyond their capacity. This must not, however, be used as an excuse to not always present the options for Tribes to fully participate in research. Research fatigue may occur particularly in relation to duplicative research, as well as through asking the same individuals over and over to participate in research. There should be an awareness that some people may continue to agree to participate in research beyond their capacity out of concern for their community. There should also be awareness that those who are asked to participate in research repeatedly are often asked to do this because they are experts, but that this simultaneously takes them away from the things they have expertise in, such as subsistence activities, knowledge-sharing, and leadership, which can have significant negative consequences for them, their families, and their communities who they provide for, often disproportionately. Another and sometimes related phenomenon is over-research. Sometimes this is related to duplicative research being done, though sometimes not. Some issues are simply, in the judgment of communities, over-researched, and this is a concern. An additional issue on the opposite end of this spectrum is that some issues are under-researched, and along with that, some communities are ignored in the research landscape - both of which are also concerns. Communication, collaboration, relationship-building, and respect with and for communities are crucial components of navigating all of these sometimes-related issues.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Brevig Mission

Council

Diomede

Elim

Gambell

Golovin

King Island

Koyuk

Mary's Igloo

Nome

Savoonga

Shaktoolik

Shishmaref

Solomon

St. Michael

Stebbins

Teller

Unalakleet

Wales

White Mountain

KAWERAK, INC.

KAWERAK.ORG/KNOWLEDGE