

Kawerak, Inc.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

"Traditional Knowledge (TK) is a living body of knowledge which pertains to explaining and understanding the universe, and living and acting within it. It is acquired and utilized by indigenous communities and individuals in and through long-term sociocultural, spiritual and environmental engagement. TK is an integral part of the broader knowledge system of indigenous communities, is transmitted intergenerationally, is practically and widely applicable, and integrates personal experience with oral traditions. It provides perspectives applicable to an array of human and non-human phenomena. It is deeply rooted in history, time, and place, while also being rich, adaptable, and dynamic, all of which keep it relevant and useful in contemporary life. This knowledge is part of, and used in, everyday life, and is inextricably intertwined with peoples' identity, cosmology, values, and way of life. Tradition – and TK – does not preclude change, nor does it equal only 'the past'; in fact, it inherently entails change."

Citation for this definition:

Raymond-Yakoubian, Julie, Brenden Raymond-Yakoubian and Catherine Moncrief. 2017. The incorporation of traditional knowledge into Alaska federal fisheries management. Marine Policy 78: 132-142.