Alan Boraas
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08/05/2011 01:56 PM

To Catherine Knott - Ex. 6 Tami Fordham, Judy Smith, Sheila Eckman, Phil North
cc
bcc
Subject Updated Boraas/Knott Intergovernment powerpoint

1 attachment

Cultural Assessment Intergovernmental Mtg. 8-9-2011.pdf

Folks,

Attached is an updated cultural assessment powerpoint for the August 9th intergovernmental meeting including requests for additional points requested by EPA. I'll bring the full color version on a jump drive.
Alan

Cultural Assessment

Alan Boraas, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology
Kenai Peninsula College

Catherine Knott, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor of Anthropology
Kenai Peninsula College

With subsistence data compiled by Dave Athons

KENAITZE
INDIAN
TRIBE

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March 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to formally introduce our friend and honorary Kenaitze Tribal member, Dr. Alan Boraas. Dr. Boraas has worked with and on behalf of our Tribe for over 30 years. We have found him to be ethical, fair, and responsive to our requests for confidentiality. He respects our Dena'ina culture, traditions, and values, and lives them.

Dr. Boraas asked for this letter of introduction in observance of tribal protocol and because he values and respects our rights to sovereignty and self determination. We have no doubt that you will find him to be a man of integrity who shares our love for our waters and lands.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

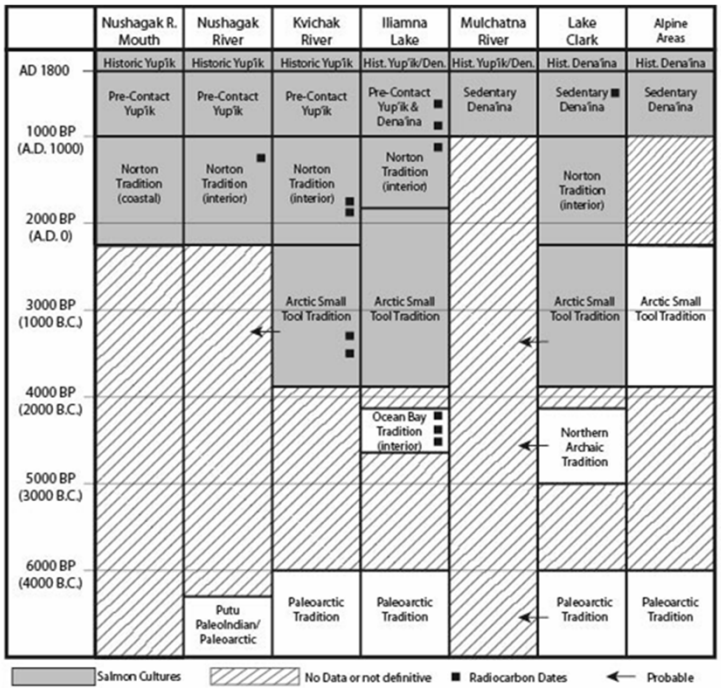
Jaylene Peterson Nyren
Executive Director
Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Basis of the Cultural Assessment

- "If initiated and finalized, a 404(c) action could restrict certain discharges of fill material into wetlands, streams and rivers in the Nushagak and/or Kvichak watersheds (such as discharges from large-scale metal sulfide mining) if those discharges would result in significant adverse impacts on the fishery, including the subsistence fishery."

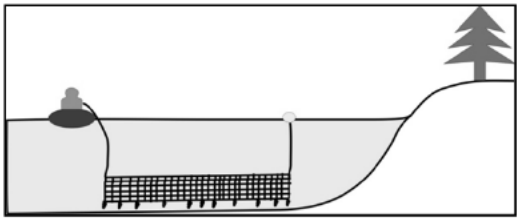
Three aspects of the cultural assessment

- Cultural and Historical Overview of the Indigenous People of the Bristol Bay drainage in relation to salmon.
- Elder and Culture-bearer interviews asking the question "how is salmon and subsistence important in the lives of the people of the Nushagak and Kvichak drainages.
- Case studies

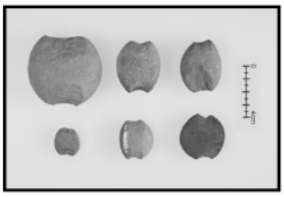


Salmon and Tradition

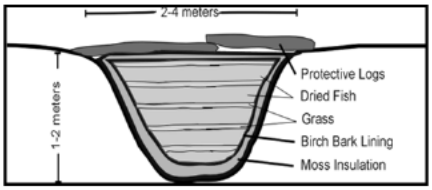
- **Archaeological evidence indicates there have been "salmon cultures" for 4000 years.**
- **As a keystone subsistence species, the taking and sharing of salmon permeated and shaped all aspects of Yupiit and Dena'ina culture**
  - **Economic**
  - **Health and Nutrition**
  - **Social**
  - **Spiritual**
- **The "broad" view of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)**



Yupiit Tradition



Dena'ina Tradition



Cultural Continuity

- **80% of Nushgak and Kvichak villages speak Yup'ik**
- **Last fluent Dena'ina speakers are from the Lake Clark (Kvichak drainage) area**
- **Traditional perspectives and values predominate**
  - **Assimilation theory vs.**
  - **Indigenization theory**

Elder Interviews

- **Question: "What is the importance of salmon in the lives of the people of the Bristol Bay villages?"**
- **Semi-structured interviews**
- **Recorded in Yup'ik or Dena'ina if desired***
- **Not a "survey" not a "hearing"**

*There are only two Dena'ina speakers from the area healthy enough to conduct an interview in Dena'ina

Recorded and Transcribed

Speaker: at fish camp we give some of it [salmon] to the Elders ... .And we share to the underground by the grave. That's our practice…It's like the elders would say you need to share, even to the underground, or to the ocean, wherever you get your subsistence food.

Interview Themes

- Modern subsistence economy
- Nutrition and health
  - Are salmon necessary to be healthy
  - Yupiit may have a different evolutionary history based on a salmon adaptation
- Social Relations
  - Generalized reciprocity
  - Values learned at fish camp
- Spirituality
  - How do beliefs inform or direct behavior in relation to subsistence, particularly salmon?

- Subsistence is not a "poor peoples" economy
- Takes "time" and "money"
- Modern equipment extends subsistence range
- E.g. New Stu, combine commercial fishing with subsistence activity
  - Sockeye, commercial fishery
  - Chinook, subsistence fishery
- Why? Subsistence diet is one of the best diets in the world

New Stuyahok	Permits		Estimated Number of Salmon Harvested					
	Issued	Returned	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Chum	Pink	Tota
1999	47	45	3,021	1,640	11	345	51	5,173
2000	46	33	1,954	1,091	369	397	73	3,884
2001	45	43	3,444	2,595	504	636	114	7,294
2002	35	33	2,571	2,265	344	1,074	11	6,265
2003	46	41	4,002	4,115	978	1,485	236	10,81
2004	49	44	3,710	1,304	709	651	340	6,714
2005	50	43	3,345	4,290	888	967	183	9,673
2006	38	34	2,356	2,100	678	1,007	19	6,160
2007	46	35	3,098	3,597	612	781	197	8,285
2008	35	32	1,822	2,634	196	1,089	13	5,755
2009	45	41	2,554	2,443	879	904	75	6,855
Mean	44	39	2,898	2,552	571	849	119	6,989

Spirituality

- Orthodoxy is an expression of traditional values
- "Blessing of the River"

Case Studies: salmon depopulation and cultural survival

- South Saami — Norway
- Micmac & Abanaki — Maine, Maritime Provinces
- Ainu — Hokkaido, Japan
- Nivkh — Sakhalin Island, Russia
- Itel'men — Kamchatka, Russia

South Saami

Nivkh

Ainu

Case Study: Kenatize Cultural Revitalization

- **Dena'ina Language, Kenai Dialect**

- **Subsistence Salmon Fishing**