

INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

A Report to the SAB
From the ESMWG

Subcommittee members

J. Leong and D. Fluharty, co-chairs

M. Castellini

Jackie Grebmeier

Jake Rice

Henry Huntington

Ed Parnell

Selina Heppell

Laura Ferguson, Knauss Fellow



Presentation Overview

- Background and Rationale for Study
- Purpose and Scope
- Approach/Survey
- Findings and Recommendation

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR REPORT

Request made by NMFS and NOS line office liaisons

Terms of Reference developed with final approval by SAB

Purpose and Scope

1. Assess NOAA's current efforts in ILEK.
2. New format for report
3. Complement NOAA's Tribal Consultation handbook 111213
4. Examine consultation process currently employed by NOAA to access, assess, and integrate ILEK



Traditional Ecological Knowledge: : “a cumulative body of knowledge,, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission.”

APPROACH

- Contact with Linda Belton, Head of NOAA Tribal Council and regional team members associated with tribal issues (including Gary Sims, Betsy Nicholson, Timi Vann, Heather Sagar, Nicole Bartlett)
- Monthly teleconference meetings of the subcommittee
- Presentations: 11 experts over two years
- Recruited Henry Huntington, Science Director for Pew's Arctic Projects documenting traditional ecological knowledge in Alaska.
- Survey developed and sent to NOAA staffers (identified by Candace Nachman, Laura Ferguson, Mary Erickson, Richard Merrick, and Frances Bothfield in Linda Belton's office)
- Literature review completed to identify best practices in the field.

Survey: 10 questions

- 80+ respondents from NOAA staff
- Six of the subcommittee members were assigned to interview 15 NOAA staffers who had been identified as having responsibilities that might engage ILEK holders.
- Each subcommittee member was assigned 3-4 answers for analysis so there was overlapping analysis for each answer and the points identified by the analyses were discussed over several conference calls.
- The survey guided the writing of the findings, conclusions and ways forward section of the report.

Indigenous and Local Ecological Knowledge and NOAA

Findings, Conclusions and Ways Forward

Guiding Principles for Engagement in the conduct of ILEK
Research

Survey of NOAA's Access, Assessment, and Integration of ILEK



Findings, Conclusions, and Ways Forward

NOAA -organization wide policies and training opportunities for ILEK engagement

Funding –

- stable funding for ILEK projects that provides initiation and follow on assessments.

Internship program at NOAA in ILEK with local, indigenous students

Creation of proactive strategic team with NOAA with ILEK experts (in and out of) NOAA and ILEK holders,

Further development of protocols for co-management of resources with indigenous and local communities.

NOAA Researchers and Managers
Best Practices handbook
Web Based site for information
provide tools and training for integration of ILEK

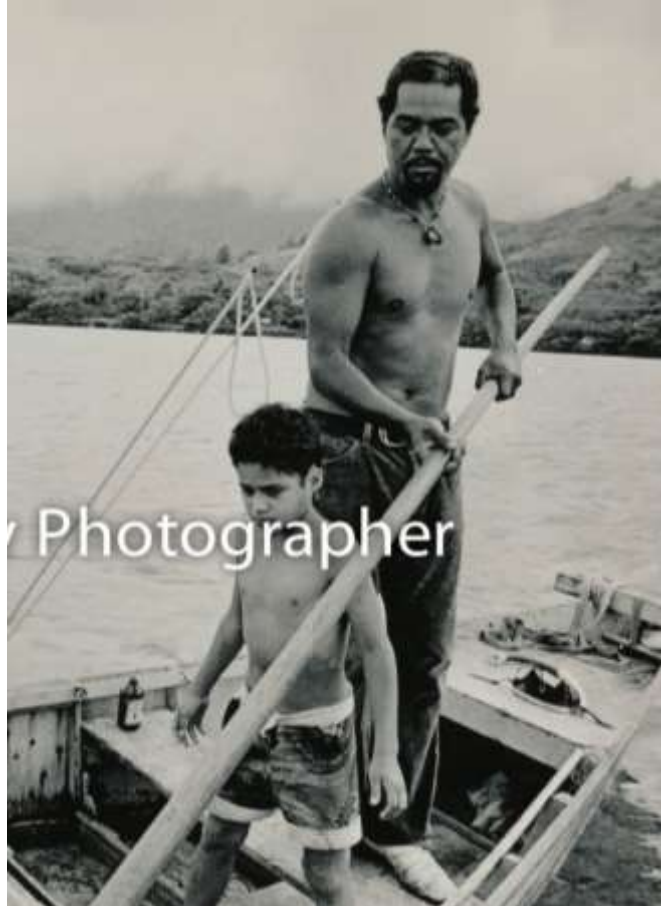
NOAA Regional Offices
Workshops on ILEK
Host a list of ILEK practitioners



TEK Intergenerational
Learning Exchange
Report, 2008
TNC, DAR, NOAA,
PIMPAC, CCN

Table 1 . Guiding Principles for Engagement and Scientific Exchange

1. Acknowledge validity and diversity of ILEK
2. Build relationships , develop trust
3. Address concerns of indigenous and local communities
4. Build on existing ILEK networks
5. Establish procedures for ownership, access, and sharing of knowledge
6. Establish at outset the basis for the ILEK research
7. Familiarize researchers with legal context of ILEK in the region
8. Mobilize adequate funding
9. Good communication practices
10. Create opportunities for local capacity building
11. Include spatial and temporal issues in the regional assessment.



Photographer



Jerry Kaluhiwa, Konohiki of He`eia

