

'Without the traditional foods, (we) could have starved to death . . .'

My name is Maureen Estelle Obert, a full blooded Tlingit from Hoonah, Alaska, a direct descendent from Glacier Bay. My father, Archie Jack Brown, Sr., was born in Glacier Bay Park on September 26, 1927. His parents, Jack and Mabel Brown were living at Pt. Carolus at the time of his birth. My Tlingit name is Sea Clien, I am 41 years old. I have four sisters and eight brothers; two brothers are deceased. We all grew up being Tlingits. Our food came from the rich, abundant renewable resources of this great land of ours, mainly from Glacier Bay.

My father always stated that without the traditional foods from Glacier Bay, myself and my brothers and sisters could have all starved to death. As it is, we are all still here, and between all of us, my mother is the Grandmother of 41 grandchildren; 13 granddaughters, 28 grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

We are a big family. We all still enjoy our traditional foods; smoked fish, smoked deer meat, seal meat, clams, seaweed, cockles, gumboots, seagull eggs, herring eggs, crab and berries are a main part of our diet. We have always been able to go out and get our traditional foods with the seasons. Now days, we have to have a permit for everything we eat. We are limited to how much we can get and where we can get it. There are restrictions on everything. Things like bag limits are attached to every move we make. You can only get 6 fish per person per year, only 6 deer is allowed. We have to have a permit so we could go get clams, cockles, fish, deer meat, etc., etc. This is very ridiculous management.

**Maureen Estelle Obert
Letter to Secretary of Interior
December 5, 1991**