

Letters from here and there

Inuit subsistence

Mr. Walter Stieglitz
Regional Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Anchorage

Dear Mr. Stieglitz:

Subject: Subsistence As Used
By the Inuit

As I can't afford to go to any of subsistence meetings, I decided to write instead. I hope this writing helps some to understand of this subsistence and our way of living, livelihood and culture for survival use for long winter months is still in use today.

Anybody can have subsistence. Non-Natives, Europeans, Russians, Japanese, Arabians and so on.

Alaskan Natives, Canadian Natives, Siberian Natives, Greenland Natives, their culture livelihood for survival is very important for them. Their way for survival and culture is not easy life.

This subsistence wording for Native Rights Settlement should be changed to Inuit Survival Culture instead of using subsistence work is all about for both Natives and Non-Natives.

Disappearing of caches, kayaks, skin boats from most of the Native villages don't mean that they quit hunting for survival. It is still going on. Only they start using modern equipment like freezers, boats with motors, snowmachines.

It is very important to keep your ways for survival and our culture our forefathers never come from some other country. We still live pretty much as what they passed on to us.

Sincerely,
George Lockwood
Unlakleet

Tlingits are survivors

U.S. Sec. of Interior
Bruce Babbitt
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
1849 C. Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bruce Babbitt:

My English name is Maureen E. Obert, my Tlingit name is Sea Clie, I am from my father's house the Ice House of the Chookaneidi's, my mother's house is from her

father's house of the Shangukeidi's, I am of Eagle Moeity Brown Bear Clan. I have 4 sisters and 9 brothers, 3 brothers are deceased, between the 13 of us we have 42 children, 29 boys and 13 girls, 1 granddaughter and 2 of our children are deceased. This is a very large family and you should also know we still all live our customary and traditional Way of Life, enjoy foods harvested from our land and ocean resources daily.

Why is it that you can't see us for who we are? We are the Indigenous Tlingits from Glacier Bay and Icy Straits. We are Indigenous People not the aboriginal people you read of in the studies done by the United States Department of the Interior, subject: Governmental Jurisdiction of Alaska Native Villages over land and non-members, released: Jan. 12 by Interior solicitor Thomas L. Sansonett. I realize it must have taken a long time to conclude in **Id. 136: second paragraph** where stated the "Indians of Southeast Alaska ***..." Yes we have abandoned our primitive ways to a certain extent - for we all live in heated homes, have indoor plumbing, pay our bills created by living in a first class city with non-natives. But you are looking at this from what you have read and you or anyone else have not come to any of the villages to talk with the real people involved with this so called study.

If you would have taken the time out of the civilized world you would have discovered that the Indigenous Peoples are still alive, for we have survived the greatest obstacle you cant throw at us and that is **western civilization**.

We still talk our own language which is Tlingit, we still practice our Tlingit culture ceremonies, such as pay-off parties and we still harvest wild renewable resources without your so called subsistence permit system, lets not forget we still practice Tlingit law.

Our Land is continually being raped by logging companies and fish companies to where our Land and Waters cannot resupply trees and fish fast enough for the growing national deficit.

Tlingits are handing down to our younger generation the customary and traditional Way of Life. This is a small part of Tlingit law. We are in the process of documenting our real history the way told us by

our Elders for they are living historians of Indigenous Tlingits. For what we have read in books on our way of life is not a correct history and this we would like to correct.

So in closing I can only say that I hope that the Clinton/Gore administration is not like the Bush Administration in not seeing what they could not see and that is we Tlingits are survivors. That we still alive and we live customary and traditional lives. Ours is the Customary and Traditional use pattern recurring with the seasons, our ability to harvest food with the cycles of our recurring wild renewable resources.

Tlingits were here first, and we will still be here for generations to come. We are only asking for our **"SOVEREIGNTY"**. So please give us back our inherent rights, our land Glacier Bay and Icy Straits, and most of all give us **JUSTICE AND LIBERTY** from regulations. For Tlingits have the strength and vitality that will keep our culture alive for many more generations to come, and for all the world to see, the great Justice done by the United States of America.

Gunalcheesh/Thank you,

Maureen E. Obert,
Sea Clie

Share recipes for a book

Dear Editor:

I am looking for gourmet recipes using Native Alaska plants, berries or seafood for possible future use in an Alaskan gourmet cookbook.

I will give donors of recipes selected for printing credit in the book, as well as a copy.

Anyone who would like to send their recipes can write to me at P.O.Box 1125, Homer, AK 99603.

Jan O'Meara
Homer