

Challenges in conducting dietary surveys



by Michael Opheim and Tracie Merrill
Seldovia Village Tribe

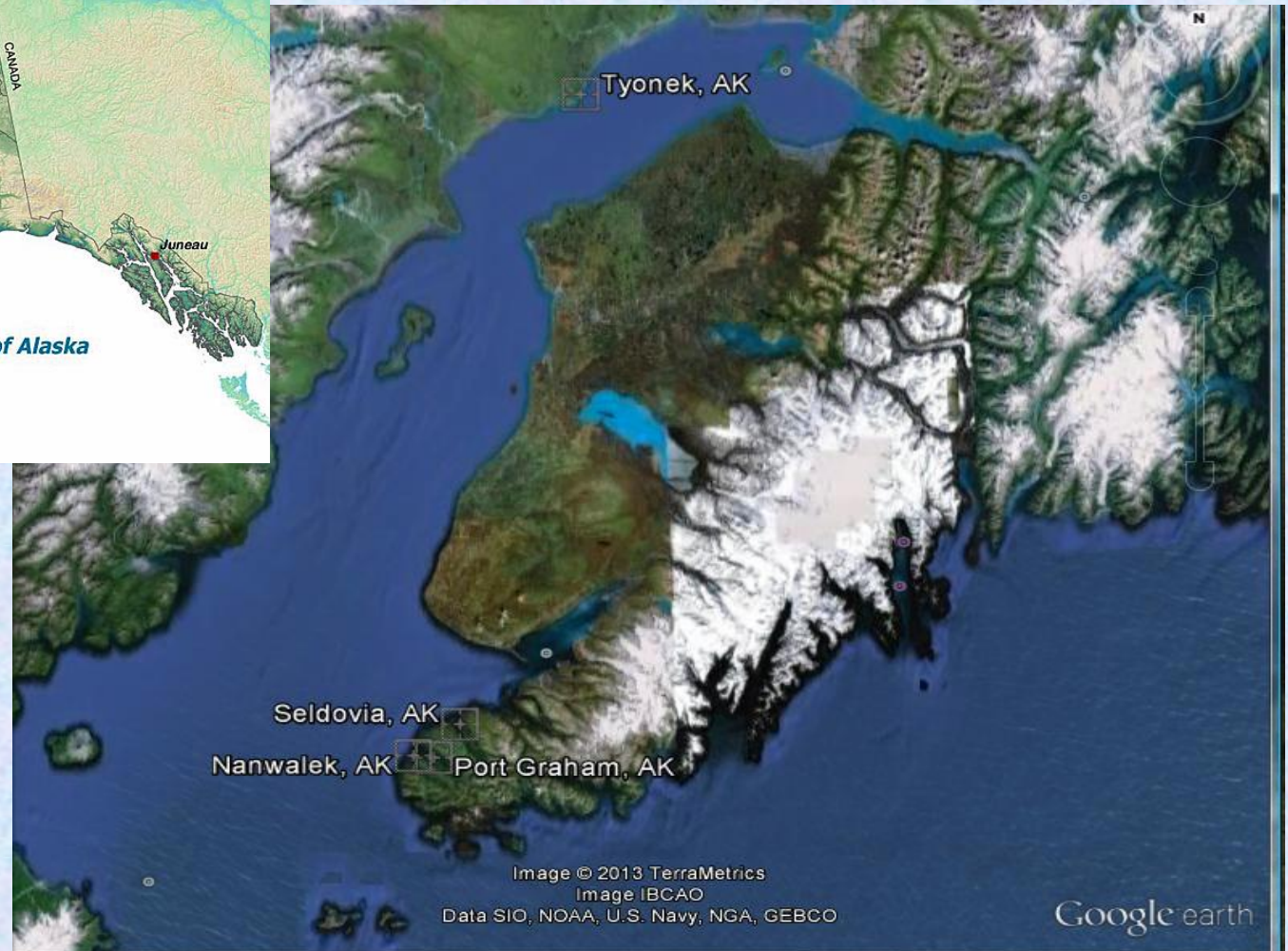


History/Background:

- Between 2011-2012, under our EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP), we conducted a subsistence consumption assessment (dietary survey) of Tribal members in Seldovia, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Tyonek
- Finalized report in 2013



History/Background:



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Why did we want to do it?

- Concern about contaminants in the subsistence foods our Tribal members eat (especially fish!)
 - Last study of fish consumption and contaminants was the one done by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR 2009)
 - Many sources of contamination in Cook Inlet
- Use data to determine priority subsistence foods for contaminant testing and calculate average, median, and 95 percentile daily fish consumption rates for Tribal members (grams per day, or GPD)



*[ATSDR] Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. 2009. Evaluation of seafood and plant data collected from Cook Inlet near the native villages of Port Graham, Nanwalek, Seldovia, and Tyonek, Alaska. Atlanta, Georgia.

History/Background:

- Underestimation of current fish consumption rates used to calculate ambient water quality criteria for human health
 - EPA just updated recommendation to 22 grams/day, currently ADEC uses 6.5 grams/day



History/Background:

- Use data to determine consumption patterns of Tribal members for non-fish subsistence foods
- A different focus area and addition for our IGAP program



Challenges

- Reference surveys/studies
 - Accessibility
 - Knowing about them
 - Methods and quality control clearly laid out
 - Having someone you could go to for guidance
- QAPP
 - Length of Time
 - Revisions and additions
 - Knowing how many surveys to do
 - How to phrase questions about consumption of marine mammals; sea birds/ducks; invertebrates
 - Small sample sizes (time and funding; staff limitations)
 - Two “different” surveys



Challenges



- Actually conducting surveys
 - Finding reliable interviewers and interviewers who understood importance of quality control
 - Getting number of interviews needed within time frame
 - Trust of interviewees
 - Working around schedules of environmental staff of partner tribes
 - Having partner “buy in,” engagement, and priority
 - Finding out there was a few additional species that should have been included (after the fact)



- » Analyzing/entering data and writing final report
 - Length of time
 - Stats!
 - Quantifying invertebrate amounts
 - Two “different” surveys
 - Small sample sizes

Acknowledgements:

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- All the Tribal members who participated in assessment
- EPA
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)



QUESTIONS???



Michael Opheim, SVT Environmental Coordinator
907-435-3247
mopheim@svt.org

Tracie Merrill, SVT Environmental Assistant
907-435-3261
tmerrill@svt.org