

## Module 2:

### The Traditional and Current Use and Knowledge of the Land



from "Qajaq, Kayaks of Siberia and Alaska"

#### Content to be covered:

- Review traditional hunting and fishing techniques used on Adak.
- Review traditional safety preparation for hunting and fishing expeditions.
- Review current land use on Adak.
- Review current safety preparations used on Adak.

## Objectives:

- To become familiar with the traditional use of Adak.
- To understand the importance of safety issues of the past and safety issues of the present.

## Teacher's Guide:

The teacher can lead the children in discussions on the use of the island in the past by traditional hunters and gatherers, continuing through the years to the use of the island today. Through their interviews with elders, children will glean information about the past traditional use of the land on Adak. Students will be able to appreciate the continuity of the use of the land on Adak, and also will be able to understand what and how changes have occurred. This unit is also a good learning guide for developing respect and understanding about the elders and their contributions to the continuity of the Aleut culture. Discussions about living on and using the land and the importance of being prepared and informed about safety considerations is another important content to be covered in this unit.

What might the island have been used for in the past? The children can discuss the hunters and gatherers of the past and describe their clothing and tools:

- the bentwood hat
- a gut parka
- a spear
- a kayak for the men
- baskets of berries for the women

The children can discuss ways that hunters and gatherers of old kept themselves protected and safe:

- a keen knowledge of the island of Adak
- attentive to the land
- understanding of the weather
- equipping themselves with tools and weapons

The teacher can continue the unit into current uses of the land on Adak. Document how some things have changes and how some things stay the same. Discuss how we

protect ourselves today in addition to ways in which the hunters protected themselves in the past. These might include using signs, fences, maps, and verbal warnings.

### **Enrichments and Extensions:**

One of the most useful tools for understanding traditional use of the land, and current use of the land is through maps. Children can work with traditional knowledge and wisdom gleaned from their series of elder interviews and document traditional use areas and key wildlife habitat on Adak.

Children might map traditional fish and hunting campsites. The elder's knowledge of sensitive habitats and key areas where animals have and rear their young might be an important topic- providing a safe environment for animals helps to protect the safety of the village as the animals provide food for their survival

Other information is contained in the detailed knowledge that those who practiced or practice a traditional way of life have about weather cycles, animal's life cycles, and the growing cycle for edible plants. For example, the elders know the birthing times of many sea animals. They might tell their community to avoid some beaches at certain times so the fragile young animals will have a chance to become established.

### **Resources:**

Lore: Capturing Traditional Environmental Knowledge

Edited by Martha Johnson. Available by special order from Barnes and Noble.

CARC: Northern Perspectives

<http://www.carc.org/pubs/v22no1/know.htm>

Fish and Wildlife Map: U. S. Fish and Wildlife, Adak Office

(This resource displays the latest version of combat ranges and impact ranges superimposed on hiking trails on Adak.)

Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study Activities Map includes the following items and areas used for recreation on Adak:

- Cabins
- Roadways and trails

- Improved road and four wheel drive trails
- Berry picking areas
- Caribou hunting areas
- Duck hunting area
- Ptarmigan hunting areas
- Rifle range
- Snowmobile area
- Boat landing area
- Fishing area
- Hiking trails