

TITLE: Social survey data for “The Intersection between climate change water resources and humans in the Arctic” NSF funded project.

AUTHORS: PI Lilian Alessa; co-PI Andy Kliskey (overall project PI Dan White, co-PIs Lilian Alessa, Peter Schweitzer, Larry Hinzman).

Resilience and Adaptive Management Group, University of Alaska Anchorage, Rm 201D, 3105 Science Circle, Anchorage, AK 99508. Ph (907) 786-1136.

PI Email: afla@uaa.alaska.edu

Contact for data questions email: afadk@uaa.alaska.edu

FUNDING SOURCE AND GRANT NUMBER: National Science Foundation, Office of Polar Programs, Grant # 0328686

DATA SET OVERVIEW: The data were collected using a social survey approach in cooperation with five rural Inupiaq communities on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska. The project was initiated through the village Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Council (i.e., Tribal Council) in each village which served as an important venue for permission to work in the village for discussing results, and for seeking feedback on results. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) before commencing the study. Consistent with the IRB approval for working with human subjects no identifying information is included with the archived data.

INSTRUMENT DESCRIPTION: Questionnaire survey used during a semi-structured interview. Interview questions included a series of questions about the respondent’s use of water in the village (natural water sources used, use of a municipal water source if present), their perception of the quality and quantity of those water sources, and their perception of change in those water sources over the period of time with which they had familiarity with the water source. Individuals were asked what their perception of change in the quality and availability (quantity) of community water sources was. Water sources referred typically included the municipal supply (present in two of the five villages) and the major river or creek used by the village. We developed indices of perceived change using a 3-point scale, where perception of change in water quality (poorer quality, no change, or better quality) and perception of change in water availability (less availability, no change, or greater availability) were rated.

DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING: Exploratory visits to ten villages on the Seward Peninsula were carried out in 2004 and interviews of key informants produced between two and five interviews per village. We selected five villages for further study based on IRA Council interest in the study, the diversity of water issues reported in exploratory interviews, and the types of water sources (natural, municipal, mixed) available in the village. In 2005 and 2006, we returned to each of the five villages and asked a set of questions as part of a semi-structured interview about water use, knowledge of water sources, values of water, and perception of change in water resources, and the role of individuals with respect to decisions in the village affecting response to water and subsistence resources. A total of 134 useable semi-structured interviews were obtained representing 95% of the individuals whom we approached to request an interview. the sample was divided into age groups classifying the population into three generations: 18-39 years, 40-59 years, and 60+ years labeled as the “modern-schooled”,

“boarding-schooled”, and “ land-schooled” respectively in reference to the dominant manner and location of that cohort’s youth education in the village.

DATA FORMAT: Native format for data is SPSS Data Document: SocialSurveydata_0328686.sav
The data is also provided in the more generic CSV format: SocialSurveydata_0328686.csv

DATA REMARKS: The data comply with the IRB approval for this project which requires removal of any personal identifying information.