

23rd Annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering Workshop

A Partnership between Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, Chugach Regional Resources Commission, and Alaska Sea Grant

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*Citizens promoting the environmentally safe
operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated
tankers*

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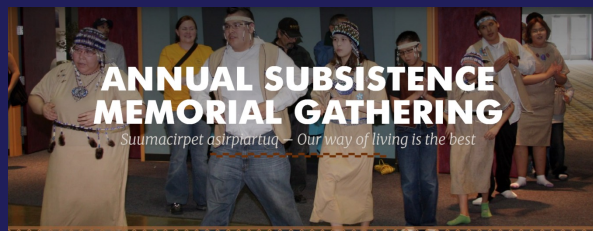
**CHUGACH
REGIONAL
RESOURCES
COMMISSION**

CRRC has been hosting the Annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering since 1999. Near the anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, this daylong celebration is meant to honor our resilience and adaptation in the wake of the terrible disaster that drastically changed the Chugach region and its people. Each year the Board of Directors and CRRC staff choose a topic, giving people an opportunity to share traditional knowledge, build relationships, celebrate our lands, habitat, fish and wildlife, and people, while giving us an opportunity to heal from the spill that has continued to impact our lives to this day.

<https://crrcalaska.org/annual-subsistence-memorial-gathering-2/>



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PWSRCAC's Link to Social Science

- The Scientific Advisory Committee recognizes the need for and value of providing input on the social and economic consequences of oil-related accidents.
- OPA 90 and PWSRCAC's contract with Alyeska requires broad representation of communities and interest in the region, partnerships with local citizens, and participating in research development.
- PWSRCAC and Alaska Sea Grant facilitated the annual Gathering this year at the request of CRRC.
- A workshop goal was to identify social science data needs that fit within the PWSRCAC mission.



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Chugach Quliyanguarpet – "Our Story"

- The 2025 Gathering was a daylong workshop with guest speakers and small group discussions designed to maximize sharing, learning, and idea generating.
- Expo booths allowed partners to spotlight regional projects and connect with attendees.
- Vendor booths and a silent auction featured local artists and benefited future Gatherings.



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 Chugach Regional Resources Commission 23RD ANNUAL SUBSISTENCE MEMORIAL GATHERING Quliyanguarpet - Our Story <small>March 27th, Changepoint in Anchorage - 6689 Changepoint Drive</small>		 Sea Grant ALASKA
09 : 00 AM	Welcome - Morning Prayer	Denali Room
09 : 10 AM	Intro to PWSRCAC & Workshop Purpose	Denali Room
<p>Join us to provide input on the changes that have occurred in your community and share ideas on future projects that could be supported by PWSRCAC and other partners in collaboration communities in the region. This workshop is an opportunity to foster relationship building and collaborative research, and is designed around discussions, listening, and storytelling.</p>		
09 : 30 AM	Panel I: Science in the EVOS Region	Denali Room
10:20 AM	Summary	
10:30 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	Small Group Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflect on the first panel and discuss with others• Share your thoughts with the larger group	
12:00 PM	LUNCH - Provided	Community Space
01 : 30 PM	Panel II: Social Science in the EVOS Region	Denali Room
02 : 20 PM	Summary	
02 : 30 PM	Break	
03 : 00 PM	Small Group Discussions	
04 : 00 PM	Closing	Denali Room
04 : 15 PM	Booths - Artists - Silent Auction	Community Space
05 : 00 PM	Quyana	
Thank you for coming to the 23rd Annual Subsistence Memorial Gathering!		

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Panel 1 – Science in the EVOS Region

1. Briefly, what kind of research is happening in your current monitoring program or project that could affect communities?
2. Do you have a mechanism for communicating your work to communities?
3. Are there elements missing from your current programs?
4. What are the things you are doing to promote resilience along our coasts and in our communities?



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Photo Credit: Amanda Johnson

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Small Group Discussion

1. How could the outcomes of the research programs discussed be better integrated in your community?
2. Are there other research questions or monitoring needs that could benefit your community that were not presented?



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Photo Credit: Bjorn Olson

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Panel 2 – Social and Community Projects in the EVOS Region

1. Briefly, what kind of research is happening in your current monitoring program or project that could affect communities?
2. Do you have a mechanism for communicating your work to communities?
3. Are there elements missing from your current programs?
4. What are the things you are doing to promote resilience along our coasts and in our communities?



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Photo Credit: Danielle Verna

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Small Group Discussion

1. Tell a story to the group of changes in your region.
2. What are ways we could promote better community well-being through resilience and adaptation in your region?
3. What questions would you have that could be addressed through a social science research project in your region?



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Discussion 1 and 2 Outcomes

- **Start with community priorities and incorporate local knowledge.** Projects work best when shaped by local needs, not external agendas. Stories of shifting seasons, wildlife loss, and uncertain harvests were shared in every session.
- **Communication is important.** Participants repeatedly called for scientists to explain research in everyday terms and follow through with sharing results. Grants should include support for outreach and engagement.
- **Engage youth and build trust through time.** Involving young people helps reach families and preserves cultural knowledge. Communities value researchers who return and build relationships over time.



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Potential Social Science Focus Areas

- Social science questions should focus on governance, equity, and the consequences of exclusion.
- There should be long-term engagement, not just a quick project.
- Focus on the coupled impacts of the EVOS event and changes in marine and coastal conditions that impact the subsistence way of life.
- Participants emphasized the importance of research methods using storytelling, dialogue-based formats, and genuine face-to-face interaction.
- Products could include museum exhibits and co-developing short documentaries with communities to tell science stories visually.



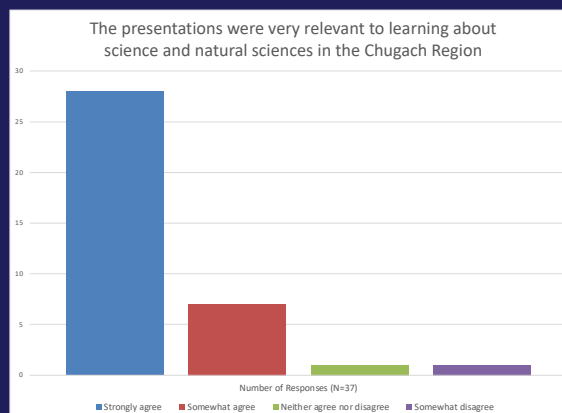
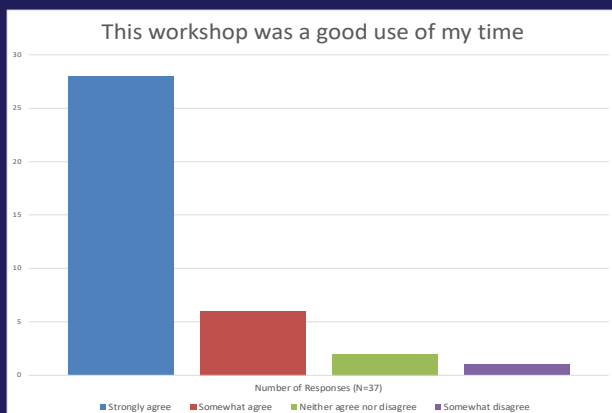
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Evaluation Feedback



- Most respondents agreed the workshop was a good use of their time, and the presentations were relevant to learning about social and natural science in the Chugach region.

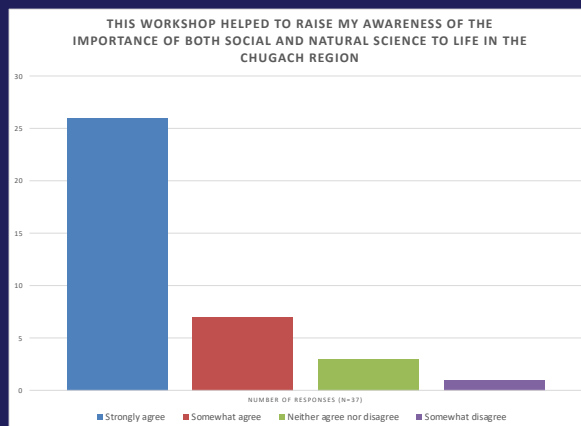
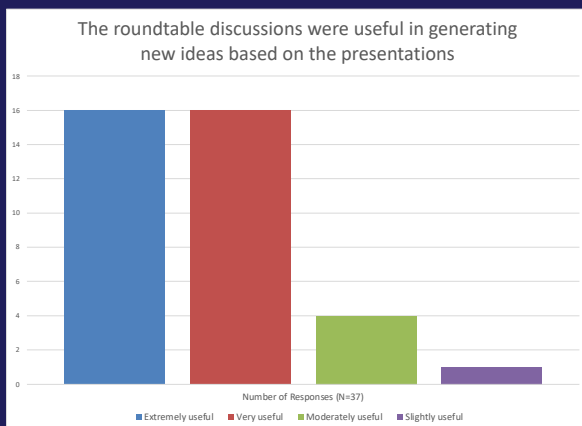
"It was very empowering as a young Native woman to feel heard and understood in a way I had never experienced. I felt such a deep connection with the speakers."



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Evaluation Feedback



- Most survey respondents enjoyed the roundtable discussions.
- There were calls for additional structured discussions and greater emphasis on social science research, not just collaborative natural science.

"I appreciate the willingness of the elders to talk with all of us."



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What's Next?

Going forward, PWSRCAC and regional partners are encouraged to engage communities in co-producing lines of inquiry, collecting data, and communicating study outcomes.

SAC will meet next week for our long range planning meeting and discuss what a social science project might entail based on the findings from this collaborative workshop with regional partners.



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Q̓uyana
Thank You

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