

STUDY TITLE: Social Indicators Study of Alaskan Coastal Villages.

REPORT TITLE: IV. **Postspill** Key Informant Summaries. Schedule C Communities, Part 1 (**Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez**) ; Part 2 (**Kenai, Tyonek, Seldovia, Kodiak City, Karluk, Old Harbor, Chignik**) .

CONTRACT NUMBER: 14-12-0001-30300. Technical Report No. 155.

SPONSORING OCS REGION: Alaska.

APPLICABLE PLANNING AREAS: North Aleutian Basin, **Shumagin**, Kodiak, Cook Inlet, Gulf of Alaska.

FISCAL YEARS OF PROJECT FUNDING: FY **1989-FY 1992** (inclusive) .

COMPLETION DATE OF REPORT: May 1993.

COSTS : FY 1989: \$84,578; **FY 1990: \$41,498; FY 1991: \$168,245;**
FY 1992: \$70,387: CUMULATIVE PROJECT COST: \$373,160.

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KEY WORDS: **Ekwok ; False Pass; Kodiak; Old Harbor; Karluk; Chignik; Tyonek; Seldovia; Kenai; Tatitlek; Valdez; Cordova; Aleutian-Pribilof Islands; Bristol Bay; Cook Inlet; Prince William Sound; Gulf of Alaska; Exxon Valdez oil spill;** quality of life: ethnography; **ethnohistory;** anthropology; social and cultural change: economy: demography: institutional and political organization; family life; subsistence; Alaska Natives; ideology and belief systems; social impacts.

BACKGROUND: Alaska is one of the most promising areas in the world for **petroleum** exploration and development. At the same **time**, however, it is one of the richest commercial fishing regions in the world; its offshore waters host diverse and extremely productive biological resources aside from commercially valuable fish: and the economic, social, and cultural roles of these resources are significant. Alaska Natives who live in proximity to remote **exploration** areas and who rely on renewable biological resources may be particularly susceptible to social impacts of petroleum exploration and development. These factors have motivated a series

of social and economic studies in rural Alaska designed to assess potential human impacts of development. One recent thrust of these studies has aimed towards the development of monitoring strategies that use discrete social measurements (social indicators). Subsequent to the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, the on-going social indicators research program was expanded to include several new study sites in the vicinity of the oil spill.

OBJECTIVES: To develop a systematic social indicators system that permits analysts to collect standardized data on a regular, repetitive basis that measure sociocultural change in coastal Alaskan communities that may be associated with petroleum **exploration** and development. The key informant summaries provide descriptive ethnographic information useful for interpretation of social indicators data.

DESCRIPTION : Questionnaires (forced-choice instruments), open-ended protocols, participant-observation, genealogies, and other interview techniques were used to collect data from a random sample of households (sampled without replacement) in thirty one communities. A Solomon-Four Group design utilizing panels was used to optimize validity and reliability and eliminate some common threats to validity, such as ecological fallacy. The overall sample was first divided into two parts: schedule A and **schedule B**. Subsequent to the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, a new schedule termed "schedule C" was developed which incorporated some communities from previous schedule B as well as new communities. In schedule C (described here) there are twelve communities: **Ekwok** and False Pass (control communities, which experienced few if any significant oil spill impacts), and Kodiak, Old Harbor, **Karluk**, **Chignik**, **Tyonek**, **Seldovia**, Kenai, **Tatitlek**, Valdez and Cordova (test communities, which experienced oil spill impacts to a greater or lesser extent). Most data were turned over to formal analysis that is not reported here. The key informant summaries are based on the research teams' observations, interviews, personal experience, subjective inferences, and analysis of historical and archival data (such as **ethnographies**, economic and employment statistics, and planning documents).

SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS: The key informant summaries did not arrive at conclusions inasmuch as their purpose was to provide descriptive information for the formal analysis. Conclusions in the form of concluding hypotheses resulted only from the formal analysis.

STUDY RESULTS: The key informant summary data show that there are significant continuities in Alaska Native culture despite rapid and irreversible culture change over the last century. These continuities are prominent in the areas of subsistence foods and dietary preferences; cultural ideologies related to generosity, sharing, and kinship; and cooperative activities that generally involve both subsistence and social or kinship networks. Despite

great strides in health care and economic development over the last fifty years, rural (mainly Alaska Native) villages in the sample are chronically impoverished and health status lags far behind national and Alaska standards. The key social and cultural trends in sample communities are profoundly influenced by political and economic conditions and decisions at the state and national levels. These communities are now totally enmeshed in a global political economy. Future economic prospects are generally cloudy and state revenues are declining; investments in the rural sector are risky and few investors are assuming that risk; and political support for rural or Native development and social programs is uncertain at both state and federal levels. Ethnographic **observations** and other data reviewed in this document suggest that Exxon Valdez oil spill impacts were not uniform and that poorer residents and Alaska Natives experienced negative effects more often than other residents, which is consistent with a general pattern of underdevelopment and structured inequality in remote, largely native villages.

STUDY PRODUCTS: **Brelsford, T., A. Fienup-Riordan, J. Jorgensen, S. McNabb, P. Petrivelli, and L. Robbins.** 1992. Social Indicators Study of Alaskan Coastal Villages I. Key Informant Summaries. Volume 1: Schedule A Regions. Prepared by Human Relations Area Files for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage, Alaska. Technical Report No. 151. **MMS Report** Number 92-0031. Contract No. 14-12-0001-30300.

Endter-Wada, J., **J. Hofmeister, R. Mason, S. McNabb, and J. Mulcahy.** 1992. Social Indicators Study of Alaskan Coastal Villages I. Key Informant Summaries. Volume 2: Schedule B Regions. Prepared by Human Relations Area Files for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage, Alaska. Technical Report No. 152. **MMS Report** Number 92-0032. Contract No. 14-12-0001-30300.

Endter-Wada, J., J. Hofmeister, R. Mason, S. McNabb, E. Morrison, S. Reynolds, E. Robbins, L. Robbins, and C. Takada Rooks. 1993. Social Indicators Study of Alaskan Coastal Villages. IV. **Postspill** Key Informant Summaries. Schedule C Communities, Part 1 (**Cordova, Tatitlek, Valdez**) and Part 2 (**Kenai, Tyonek, Seldovia, Kodiak City, Karluk, Old Harbor, Chignik**). Prepared by Human Relations Area Files for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage, Alaska. Technical Report No. 155. **MMS Report** Number 92-0052. Contract No. 14-12-0001-30300.

An electronic data base of study data is maintained by the Minerals Management Service Alaska OCS Region, Anchorage, Alaska.