

## Iliamna Lake Interview # 1

Interviewer: *Did you grow up here?*

Respondent (1): [I] settled here in 1966 and stayed; [I] moved every couple years until it was time for me to go to school.

Interviewer: *Do you remember feeling any earthquakes, or hearing stories of earthquakes?*

Respondent (1): I just remember the '64 earthquake [when I was] in Naknek. We were just a bunch of kids in a house and [I remember] watching the floor oscillate; [we were] walking around like we were drunk. The adults took us outside and the road had even bigger waves and we were thinking [that] it was just like water. I do remember the water [in the bay] went way the heck out, so we went high above my grandma's house; the adults said it was very quick. I remember where they were looking and there was a real small channel on the south side, which was unusual.

Interviewer: *Are earthquakes common in this area?*

Respondent (1): When I was growing up [earthquakes were] not really [common], very rare, [but] just in the past several years we've been getting maybe one you could feel in a year; you guys were here, did you feel the one yesterday? We don't feel [earthquakes] here; we're on a rock, but everybody else [felt it].

Interviewer: *Have you seen evidence of landslides?*

Respondent (1): [I have seen evidence of landslides] between [this] point and the Iliamna River; [on] that one major [bluff] that looks really different right there, [maybe] up in this area here. Also up in this area here, looks like [there was] a landslide here, but I don't know which island up the bay from Pedro Bay; maybe it was Flat Island [or] Jack Rabbit Island. [I heard a story that] a big fish came over and wiped them out; [people] hadn't heard anything, and no one had seen [them] and the island was wiped clean when they went to look for them.

Interviewer: *Have you ever seen cracks in the tundra, or on the ground in this area?*

Respondent (1): Well, it depends because I'm not a geologist; I just look at rocks. You know? I don't know. There's a lot of sheer walls, especially on this side [of the bay], but i don't know if they're [caused by] earthquakes. There are sheer walls alongside [several] creeks or gullies, but I'm not sure [what caused them].

Interviewer: *Have you ever seen sand deposits far away from the lake?*

Respondent (1): [I have seen] sand deposits right here in "HUD-ville"; it's just real fine sand. [I have also seen sand deposits] down toward fish camp. That's not as big, it's just super fine sand but i don't know where it comes from; I don't know if it's glacial till or something else. And [I have noticed sand deposits] just right down the road; you'll see it if you walk down the road,

[near] the second batch of HUD houses. I don't know where it comes from because I can't find sand like that anywhere else; it's not talc-fine, but as far as sand goes it's pretty fine.

Interviewer: *Have you ever experienced fallout from volcanic eruptions?*

Respondent (1): Whenever the volcano blows up, [Mount Saint] Augustine, [we experience ash fallout]. Every time it [erupts] it looks like winter [here]. I guess when [Mount] Katmai erupted they got a lot of ash here, [in] 1912. [The ash] poisoned everything, the water turned to acid, [and] it ate up their clothes. Between a foot to two feet [of ash fell]; it's compressed now.

Interviewer: *Have you seen sandy bluffs in this area?*

Respondent (1): [I have seen sandy bluffs near] Naknek-Kvichak, around Graveyard [Point]. I also noticed [sandy layers] where Hig was hunting [on the northwest end of Lake Iliamna]. I just don't know what [causes it]; was there a river here or what? When he was talking about the muskeg; there's spots that are sandy spots. How in the heck did this get here? A couple miles back down toward Big Mountain, at Fish Camp Mountain, there were just sandy patches in swamps; it's a swamp, [so] where does this stuff come from?

Interviewer: *Have you ever noticed layers of peat in the bluffs?*

Respondent (1): If I did [see layers of peat in the bluffs] I didn't pay attention because I was probably chasing stuff around, hunting.

Interviewer: *Have you ever noticed debris, like large trees not native to the region, in areas around here?*

Respondent (1): I don't think we'd find [tsunami debris] down here on this lower elevation. I don't know if we would find anything on lake level; it's too new. The reason I say it's new is because there are village sites that are way off the lake. There was a pretty substantial ancient village 8,000 years ago; it was Yup'ik. I always look around [the] shoreline for villages; I'm looking further back. Most of [the] old sites are around the 150 foot level. If you look around you can follow it, the 150 foot contour line; that's where the lake used to be about 8,000 years ago. There's a site back in here that [my wife] and I found and you could see there were three big houses, and 20-something smaller houses; there's no stories of it, not even from my apa's apa's time. The other is an aside, but since there was supposed to be nothing there we were digging. If you go down, there are flakes and tools before the black mat, so something came down that was very hot. I don't know if there was timber back then. Most of [flakes] were just outside the door; they are chalcedony-like tools up here around the gorge and rapids; microblades.

Interviewer: *Have you heard other stories about earthquakes or seismic events?*

Respondent (1): This river here, current name of Kokhanok River, right here there are falls about 29 feet tall and fish get up there. A long time ago, way back in my ap'a's ap'a's time, fish used to go up to Kokhanok Lake. Then, there was an earthquake and fish don't go to the lake anymore.

Also, just the hills across the bay here at Wilcock Point; I don't know if they're what you call cinder. Most of those hills were straight up and down, then an earthquake [happened] and they crumbled. The bolder piles can't be that old because there aren't trees growing; there are trees inland and uphill but not in the rubble piles.

Interviewer: *What was the weather like when you were younger compared to how it is now?*

Respondent (1): As near as I can gather, [the weather is] very cyclical, [and] there's smaller cycles and bigger cycles, and [even] bigger cycles. When [people] first talked about global warming, it was during a period when the lake wasn't freezing; in the '80s it was open water all winter. When I was a kid there used to be a couple of real good storytellers here, they were in their 80s, [and] they told us then when it was cold all the time when [the lake] would freeze 6 foot [thick]. There will be years when the lake won't freeze like this, then it will get cold again and then it will get warm again. There were stories about when it would never get cold or never get warm, way way back when our animals used to hunt animals with big teeth; could have been mastodon, or whatever.

Interviewer: *Are there storms that you experience here that are seasonal in nature? Have they changed at all during your lifetime?*

Respondent (1): From when growing up until now, yes. [The storms are] more violent, and last a long time; the rain and the wind. [The storms produce] unlikeable conditions for traveling. It seems to be, I remember huge winds; in '77 or '78 we had really strong winds. It would top off at 110 [miles per hour]. There was a gillnetter tied down in front of our house right here and the force of the wind was so strong it tore the rope. Then the past three summers; on a normal year I'll burn no less than 300 gallons of gas; in the past two years I've burned no more than 50 gallons.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in the rivers, lakes, and drainages?*

Respondent (1): Not on the watercourses. In the '90s we had some really dry years; all the little lakes and swamps just dried up. The creeks dried up; [it was] super dusty and dry; they are no longer dry after the last two seasons. The only thing I know that has changed, probably from the early 1900s to now and I don't know if it's because of the lift after the ice retreats, if it's that or not, but this area up in here [near Pedro Bay] there are more reefs and stuff getting near the surface. [That area is near] Tommy Point and Intricate Bay; reefs and ridges that were once navigable, but no longer is.

Interviewer: *Have the drier lakes affected drainages in any way?*

Respondent (1): You could drive up to the mouth of the Gibraltar [River] on a four-wheeler. [On the] Kokhanok River the salmon didn't have any trouble with the falls because it was so low; [on the] Copper River there wasn't much water at all.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any new plants or animals moving into the region during your lifetime?*

Respondent (1): Dandelions were introduced by somebody; they were planted by somebody. Dingbats! [Otherwise], not really, the only thing I have noticed as far as animal concerns, there seem to be a lot of predatory birds; I don't remember that many predatory birds; hawks, falcons, eagles, bald and golden, and somebody saw a pair of ospreys. When you're out hunting one of the tricks is to watch the birds; if they look interested you go look.

Respondent (2): If there are any new plants, I don't know; we haven't been concentrating on plants lately.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in subsistence patterns or subsistence resources?*

Respondent (1): [I have observed] a hell of a lot of bears; I think the reason for that [increase] is that people no longer eat them. [Bears] used to be the number one resource, now it's moose; more people [are] hunting [moose], not less. People have lost the taste for bear; it was bear that was the main food source [in the past]; bear [populations] have just exploded. [Now] it's fish and basically just salmon; as soon as the ice was gone that's where we went for trout and whitefish. As soon as the ice went out people were in fish camp and generally the smokehouse was filled with trout. Then [we catch] whitefish at freeze up. The ones of us that target fish, the number of families that go after fish is really low; it used to be 100 percent, now it's 25 percent, maybe.

I was taught by my grandmother who taught my mother who was taught by her grandmother to never never depend on salmon. The ones who depend on salmon as a [primary] food source; there are horrible stories of starvation in this area because people depended on salmon. It seems to be a repeated; it's a cycle within a longer cycle within a big cycle. That's what they taught us; you have to watch for these cycles and that's one of the warning signs. [People believe] living is going to be good, it's going to be so good, [so] they won't fish anymore they won't hunt anymore; people will go play ball with gull eggs. Living is good, that is supposed to be a warning sign for starvation. These stories go way back, and I didn't believe them until I got older.

Interviewer: *Do you remember specific stories about starvation that you would like to share?*

Respondent (1): The Cook Inlet Indians, the furthest they ever came west was right here, [unintelligible]; it's an Indian word and it's named for Grassy Island, where seagulls sit. The salmon didn't come back here for several years, and the people who were here came west; they found sucker fish. After a period of years the people started coming back, and the people wiped them out; they didn't leave anything alive. They chased them back to Pedro Bay area.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any old seasonal camps or settlements that were abandoned? Where?*

Respondent (1): When I started looking higher, usually on benches, usually with good views; the requirements [for a village site] seem to be that view is essential, soil-digging has to be good, and there has to be open water. If you go looking you might find a barabara or two if you're looking; we have people that camped here or there but you don't see anything. As far as physical evidence you don't find anything, just the winter camps. [One place I know is] across to

Amakadori; Nielsen Bay. My dad's family lived there for many years; the native name means "start of the trail bay". Amakadori means "place where you pack stuff from". They also used to make salt over there, way before the white guys came.

I am remembering that something happened with the water down here [Reindeer Bay near Big Island]; there's a Russian buried on that island, I think in the 1700s. In the '60s or '70s there was a flood there; all the houses were built in a low area. When they talked about it I thought it was like the flood in the '80s where the houses had to be moved, but no, it just flooded. They said [the water] just went up; it had to be fast enough that the mouse were headed out his open house door that they were heading up the hills. By the next spring [the water] went down; in the late '50s or early '60s. On Christmas Eve 1977 it started raining and it didn't stop raining until 1980, that's when they moved the houses up; they were completely under water. [The lake has] about an inch and a half tide. Another place up the bay you can see it fluctuate, they said it was just flooded. No one ever explained how it flooded. In 1919, where the wind turbines are, that was an island. My grandma [*unintelligible*] came to give reindeer meat to someone and they tied up their boat there.

There are sandy bluffs right around here. I don't recall seeing swirls around here; big 200 foot bluffs so if there's anything you should be able to see it there.

If there's any ice out here [by Big Mountain] don't trust it. Spring water is coming out of the mountain in certain spots, like Eagle Bluff you gotta hug the beach. And Belinda Creek never freezes.

There are really deep trenches in the lake up here at the head of the lake it's very very deep. [There are] deep holes in intricate bay, deep holes up here, and there's a reef right here; 500-600 feet. So yeah, there's deep water; it gets shallow from here down [around Iliamna], shallow like 200 ft.

Here in what we call Sid Larsen Bay there are columns of trees and then a swamp and a lake and in a 20 yard space there is a patch of uniform trees.

This is really an ancient area; this area here is ancient. People up north know about it; I was at a table with a bunch of guys I didn't know who they were. Medicine water; [*unintelligible*], big water. It's a major pathway between this saltwater and that saltwater. People from both areas know the weather patterns. The Russian who came through first recorded the area; his natives were from Kodiak. They did not want to dilly dally; they said we go now. They came through here, it was the main portage; Devil's Bay portage. Even though those other guys were not from here they did not want to fool around on the lake.

My mother in law's brother; it was when I was courting [my wife]. He was telling me about the saints in the steam bath; he said there was a village up there and he said that's where all the Yup'ikss come from. Twenty years later they found it; Pike Lake. Beck and Associates did the survey; if you look on a contour map you could see where the river went right past it, but its changed course.

## Lake Iliamna Lake Interview # 2

Interviewer: *Before we start, is there anything you would like to share? Do you have any questions?*

Respondent: We always have [had] storms here; sometimes it's really hard, over maybe 100 miles per hour and everything fly up.

Interviewer: *What year were you born?*

Respondent: 1941; I was born at Newhalen.

Interviewer: *Would you like to share anything about your childhood?*

Before I am one year old my parents moved to this side [of the lake]; I was tiny. [They moved here] because they like it over here; my mom was from Newhalen, and my dad he born at Old Iliamna, I don't know where it's at, up there somewhere. Yeah [I lived here my whole life]; in 1956 there was new school. There was [unintelligible] school and we used to go to school there [in] 1956. [I was] not really young, I was about 15-16 somewhere around there; there was new school when I grew up. Every year [we put up fish]; we went down to fish camp, then fall time we go up the lake for different kind of fish. [That fish is] most like white fish, but it's red salmon.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced earthquakes, or heard stories about them?*

Respondent: Seem like they never talk about [earthquakes]. I only know 1964; big earthquake just like that. I was standing saying, "what's going on"? [It was a] really big earthquake. A long time ago we use wood stove, and they were out chopping wood [during the earthquake] and thought they got sick and go inside and lay down. In that year, 1964, me and my dad go to store because my dad was blind so I take him to store; my dad say, "earthquake" and I don't know nothing about earthquake at the time so I got scared and I was standing right by door saying, "what's going on"? Finally my dad tell us, "it's an earthquake," and I ran outside and [the ground] was moving. My step mom went to fishing that time, and she catch big fish from Airplane Lake they call it. She was fishing all by herself and she ran up to the beach and grab the fish. She didn't know it was an earthquake; she though it was her. [That was] winter time, maybe about March month.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about other earthquakes, maybe before 1964?*

Respondent: My dad never talk about that; nobody talked about earthquake. Maybe [earthquakes] happen before, but they don't talk about it.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about tsunamis, or large waves?*

Respondent: No, and [the 1964 earthquake] was in winter time.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced fallout from volcanic eruptions, or heard stories about past eruptions?*

Respondent: You mean [when] that mountain blow up? When I was little girl there was lots of ash and my dad tell me not to look around because there was lots of ash from [Mount Saint] Augustine. [I was] maybe three-four years old [at that time], and I just remember only a little bit from that time; I was just wondering what was going on. [There was] maybe [six inches of ash], even on the lake. We used to pack some water from the lake, and we cover it with a board so ash wouldn't go in there; we had no running water that year, so we used to pack some water from the lake.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about the Mount Katmai eruption in 1912?*

Respondent: I think my dad did talk about it one time, but I didn't remember though; I was too young maybe. I don't know about that because it was before I was born.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any evidence of landslides around the lake?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas in the tundra that appear to have cracks in them, like the ground is splitting?*

Respondent: I don't know.

Interviewer: *Have you observed areas of sunken or slumping tundra?*

Respondent: No, I don't remember that.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed areas with swirled layers of sediment?*

Respondent: [I remember] only after Augustine blew up; [it looked like] dirt, and that's all I remember.

Interviewer: *Have you observed areas of sand, like beaches far from the lake?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you seen sediments containing layers of peat with sand layers above?*

Respondent: I don't know nothing about some of [the questions]. Anything I know I talk about. I don't even remember what's going on that year, when I was young. I don't think anybody seen that around here.

Interviewer: *Have you seen debris far from the lake or ocean that looks out of place?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Do you remember any damage caused by past earthquakes?*

Respondent: The house never damaged [during an earthquake]; just only shaking. Only our lake was breaking up though [during the earthquake]. Yeah [it was loud].

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories about large storm events?*

Respondent: I know [we have] wicked storm once in a while; really big storm. You can't even see the next door neighbors when we have a storm; like drifting snow, snowing and raining and stuff like that. [We had a large storm] last month, not too long ago. We have storm all the time, maybe once a month or twice a month. Seem like in winter time, but in the fall time when we had a storm they rolled the skiffs on the beach and sometimes smoke house get torn down; [big storms happen] every year.

Interviewer: *Are storms getting stronger, weaker, or staying the same?*

Respondent: Seem like it's stronger a little bit; when I was growing up it was storm too, like when I tell you about snow drifting, and you can't even go outside or go to school. Can't see nothing.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced periods of warm or cold that seem out of season?*

Respondent: Sometimes we get really cold weather, but not this year though. Last fall we had cold weather for two months, almost two months; the lake was frozen, and I thought we were gonna have ice the whole winter but the ice break up. Sometimes, once in a while, its kinda cold [in summer]; same [as when I was young]. Two years ago we had a cold summer, and the whole summer we put up fish; maybe two-three years ago, or four years ago when we put up fish. We have to dress up warm when we drive with the Honda.

Interviewer: *Did elders ever talk about what weather was like when they were younger?*

Respondent: I don't think so. I never hear nobody talk about weather. I remember the ice used to be really thick, maybe [five feet] thick, and when we go fishing we have to chop it up with an ice pick. Sometimes [the ice pick] can't even reach [the water] in the bottom. [The ice is not as thick] anymore it seem like, it's not like before; I remember, when I was a little girl, really thick ice. My dad talked about ice, when it was really thick they had to warm some ice for the water; [they had to] melt the ice, because [the ice pick] couldn't reach the water.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in the timing of freeze up or break up?*

Respondent: It seems like when I was a little girl we used to have winter early and sometime like June month the ice go away; I remember that. [It was] maybe October month when we used to have snow and cold weather; now it freeze up a little bit and melt away, and [the east wind] break it up. Now it snow, but it freezes in November and December. It break up when an east



wind blow it away. [When I was young], in June month it all melt away, and we had winter about October.

Interviewer: *Do the changing ice conditions affect ice fishing?*

Respondent: They use to go fishing anytime, and split it and hang it up, put it away. When it's a storm nobody can go fishing.

Interviewer: *Have you notices other changes in the weather from when you were younger?*

Respondent: I don't know about temperature; I know it's cold but I don't know temperature.

Interviewer: *Do you remember hearing stories about weather from elders?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Is weather becoming more or less predictable?*

Respondent: It seems like [the weather is changing]. Last fall was the first time I see ice in the lake in November month, after thanksgiving. We had cold weather for a long time.

Interviewer: *Have the prevailing winds changed at all?*

Respondent: I have no idea; I don't watch the weather.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any rivers changing course?*

Respondent: Yeah, down fish camp; we used to have a river right by the tents down at fish camp, and there is another [creek] here and another one there; [there are] lots of cricks down there now. [This is the] first time I see another crick on the other side; I haven't seen that one before.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories, or experienced any flooding?*

Respondent: I forgot when we had a flood; we got flooded, but I don't remember what year. The lake got very high on the beach; there was a big wave that come from the other side [of the lake]. Some [people] had a house right on the beach and big waves came and hit them and cover them in water. The water go inside the house, maybe [waist] deep. I forgot what year it was we got flooded, maybe [in the] 1970s, somewhere. We used to stay up here, then we go down to the beach, and after it got flooded we come back again up here. It rained too much then, rain every day. I thought we was going to get flooded last year too because we had lots of rains. There was a big wave, taller than this house; [it was] west wind blowing hard, and I happened to look out and a big wave come almost reached our house down at the beach.

Interviewer: *Have you observed the environment getting wetter or drier? Staying the same?*

Respondent: How is it going to be dry, it rains every day! [It is] wetter now; seems like it rains more to me.

Interviewer: *Have you observed new lakes or streams forming?*

Respondent: It's same to me.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any new plants or animals that were not around when you were young? Any plant or animal species disappear?*

Respondent: We used to have lots of animals; caribous, moose. [The animals] go away because of wolf; there's too many wolf here. Sometimes [the wolf] run around in the village; last time, about two weeks ago, two walk to my house really fast. That's why the moose and caribou go away; they chase them away down the land somewhere. Sometime in the summer time the bear chase them down same way like wolf.

Interviewer: *Why do you think there are so many wolf and bear?*

Respondent: Nobody hunt it I guess. I never seen that many wolfs in my life. One time we had lots of caribou up the hill somewhere; it go away.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in plants or berries?*

Respondent: When we had not much snow [the berries] don't grow; they dry the ground. When we had lots of snow [the berries] grow, like cranberries, blackberries, salmon berries; any kind of berries.

Interviewer: *Do the plants and animals appear healthy?*

Respondent: I don't know; I don't go nowhere, and I don't go hunting. I stay right there in my house.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about starvation in this region?*

Respondent: You mean long time ago? When I was growing up we used to get fresh fruit, fresh food like fish, moose, porcupine, rabbits, ptarmigans; we had no store growing up. That's why everything is fresh every year, every day my parents go hunting, go fishing. One time my dad tell a story to me about a long long time ago before we were born; they were starve, [with] nothing to eat. Someplace, not here though; they used to go all over [to find a] place to stay where the food is, like fish and moose. [They would] walk; [they had] no Honda, and no Skidoo. They packed their own stuff.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any old camps or old settlements that are now abandoned?*

Respondent: I don't know; I never seen old house that's left behind. Only, I remember that little house on Dennis Creek. When we go down there camping we used to stay there and it's not there

anymore; it got rotten and fall down. We never come back and nobody stay in there; when we hunt there we stay in there. Nobody come say we can't stay there. When [we would go to] Dennis Creek we stay about two weeks and my dad [would] go to Newyaka Creek and ring our stuff up there. We stay there another two weeks, and after two weeks then we stay at the bottom [of Big Mountain] where there's lots of moose. We used to climb in the mountains and go hunting. My step mom used to split [pike] first and dry them out; we waste no food and everything nice and dry, and [we made] dry meat. When we had too much we hung them outside and dry them out. Then boil it with potatoes, when they were dry. [At Dennis Creek] we are camping there, every spring we go down there with the dog teams. My step mom go fishing, and my dad go hunting. Me and my brothers, we stay home and play out. Then we come back again from the mountain to Newyaka Creek and stay one week then go down the beach and pack our stuff and maybe about two weeks the boat come and pick us up.

Interviewer: *Is there anything else you would like to share?*

Respondent: I never tell you about when we were camping down at Dennis Creek, my dad would make a steam bath; he would bend it and cover it in plastic. Then he would make a fire out there, and make really red rocks then he would take them and make a steam there. We got one at Newyaka Creek [also]; we tear it down when it got old. [We would] make a big fire, then make it really red when they are ready they would bring them inside. I remember that, some of them. I never remember my appa; [I was] too tiny I think.

### **Iliamna Lake Interview # 3**

Interviewer: *When were you born?*

Respondent: I was born in Kokhanok; it was a rather traumatic birth after I was born. Mother couldn't come with me, but my godfather to be contacted someone and as the story goes the helicopter come and put me on it, and took me I think to Anchorage and I don't know how long I stayed. My mom and my dad never really talked about it; my oldest brother is opening up and saying 'you know when you were born and they took you away I was wondering what happened to our baby.' So now I'm back here.

Interviewer: *Did you grow up here in Kokhanok?*

Respondent: Oh yeah, I went to school here up until eighth grade, and then I went down to Bristol Bay for my freshman and sophomore year. For my junior year they were building all kinds of schools in the villages; I think that's after Molly Hootch won her case with the state, and my mom and dad made me stay home to finish school here. I tried some college, but didn't really do anything.

Interviewer: *Do you come from a large family?*

Respondent: There's six of us surviving; two half-sisters, they're elders. One was born in 1940 and the other was born in 1944. Yeah [they still live here in Kokhanok].

Interviewer: *Do you remember any stories about earthquakes, or any personal experiences with them you would like to share?*

Respondent: I can't recall. I don't think they ever talked about any earthquakes; I think they were quite rare. The one we had the other day; I think it's the second one I've felt. I don't think mom and dad talked too much about the earthquake.

Interviewer: *Were you here during the 1964 earthquake?*

Respondent: I don't remember that one because I was like three years old. Mom and dad would mention that [mother enters the room]. They did talk about that one, but I don't ever remember any stories that they told except for that one. I knew they mentioned it but I don't remember the details they were talking about, you know as you are growing up you remember kind of like bits and pieces. [Asking mother about 1964 earthquake]. She says all she remembers is just the shaking, and she's hard of hearing and she doesn't remember too much of her past, it's kind of like maybe bits and pieces. I think she's gonna have her 89th birthday in April, and so she's tiny! She gets very upset because she can't do things that she used to, she wants to listen to that church service on YouTube. Not too much about earthquakes, all she ever said was just the ground shaking and that's about it.

Interviewer: *Have you had experiences, or heard stories about volcanic eruptions?*

Respondent: There was an old lady, her name was Mary Newyaka; I forgot what year she died. I'd hear stories and she would say something like how it got dark and it ended up with ashes. When I was in high school down in Bristol Bay, [Mount] Saint Augustine erupted in maybe the spring, and I didn't see any of the ash, the fallout, but it happened when I was a teenager, but I can't remember what year I actually saw the plume from the eruption. I remember that, and I remember January 29, 2006, and the reason why I remember is you could see the ashes coming up and I guess it was celebrating my wedding too; I got married on that day! Cold, it was a nice day like this my husband and I we had to dress up in our winter gear, walk to the church, and then that's when we were able to get into our wedding clothes. I remember standing to the service, and I think it was something like 20 below that day. I could hear, you know how the breaker box switches pop? They were using electric fans to heat up the church, and it just couldn't carry the load so throughout the service I would hear this "pop, pop," but we got through! The [volcano] that erupted when I was in Naknek, when I made a trip home for the summer, and mom and I were out doing something and I'm looking at the tundra and I'm going mom, "what's all this"? She said Augustine had erupted and since it's easterly [wind] towards us, they got that wind, so we got some fallout there. That's was just basically my experience with volcanos and eruptions and stuff like that.

Interviewer: *Did you ever hear stories about the Mount Katmai eruption?*

Respondent: The only one I remember was maybe Mary Newyaka, she's long deceased now, they are all fluent in Yup'ik; I understood my mom, but you know, I guess they got adverbs and all that other stuff to go with it. I caught bits and pieces, and she said it was dark and there was ash fallout. There had to be, because like at our fish camp, we used to pretend to play cook, like mud for batter and all that; I remember asking dad, "what's this white stuff here?" He said, "that's the ash" and I asked him who put it here; he said that was a long time ago, and [the volcano] erupted and it was a layer of ash. That's always what we looked for because it was white, and you could find it in layers; that's just about what I remember. We used to play cook with the ashes! Old lady, all she mentioned was that they had ash fallout, but she didn't get into details. My parents were born in 1924, and so they never really told us stories about that. Mom did mention about her relatives, her ancestors, mentioning the ash fallout and how it affected them.

Interviewer: *Did your parents grow up in this area?*

Respondent: My dad was born and raised here, my mom originally from Newhalen. My auntie she was the matriarch, the elder, and there were so many stories she knew but she died four or five years ago. I miss her very much, and a lot of our history went too. I'm sure she told stories to her children.

Interviewer: *Have you observed evidence of landslides around the lake?*

Respondent: Just minor ones, very minor; I can't remember the Yup'ik word for name for the bank down at camp there, at my mother's native allotment. We walk up to the river, and every once in a while it would slide, that's the only one I saw that I could remember. Nothing else.

Interviewer: *Have you observed cracks in the ground/tundra? Sunken areas?*

Respondent: Oh yeah, I've seen depressions and I've wondered what they could be. I thought about digging up the tundra but thought mom would be upset with me. I ride around and you could see like depressions here, and depressions there. I've seen them and wonder, everything else is so straight; what's this dip? I've seen them on my mom's property, the native allotment, but I can't even tell you [where they are]; that's got to be Big Mountain, maybe in this area here on the trail going down from the airport. The ones that I've seen on mom's property are maybe the size of two tables. I'm sure there's got to be something under there. On this side, I've seen patches of grass where they spring up on the tundra, and my husband is a pilot, and he said if you see tundra and all the sudden you see grass here that's an indication that there was people living there; he took us other side of the coast so those guys could go halibut fishing and he said this was a camp, so all I know is that it was on the salt water side. I wish he was here because my husband has probably seen more of Alaska than me or any of us because of his flying. [A place I know is] across the river, across Gibraltar River because my father explained it; he said "this is where we stayed, your grandma and grandpa had a place here". I don't know if there's been houses, maybe it was more or tents or something; right about at that corner, and he was telling about his parent's camps and how they used to travel.

Interviewer: *Have you seen sand deposits or beaches far from the lake?*

Respondent: Kind of like when a creek blows out, is that what you are talking about? Not that I can remember; just creek blowouts basically.

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas with layers of peat below layers of sand?*

Respondent: The only thing I've seen is the mud, the ashes, and the mud; that's what I've seen.

Interviewer: *Have you seen bluffs or deposits anywhere that contain swirled layers?*

Respondent: Not that I can remember; I've seen little tiny rolling hills, but nothing like that.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about earthquakes and their effects on people?*

Respondent: I'm sure they were talking, but I was a kid back then probably more interested in playing with my cousins and playmate rather than listen to old people tell stories; it's too bad, as I got older then I got interested.

Interviewer: *Do you know any stories about, or care to share any experiences with large storm events?*

Respondent: I don't know what the wind was, but it was in the summer time and the lake it was like drifting snow. And mother had a story of when my dad and uncle came up from the bay, something was going on and they couldn't come into the mouth of the river there. I don't know what was going on, because mother said that dad was telling her, no matter how fast they got their motor boat to go it just wouldn't move anywhere and they ended up out in the lake, way out

there. I guess my uncle and dad were yelling at each other, and my mom and rest of the ladies thought maybe they were drunk, but there was something going on in the lake like they were fighting a current, a strong current. I don't know how long they were in it, and dad threw a pilot bread cracker, but he did something to it; he made the cross three times and threw it out there and it started to get calm enough for them to come up into the river there. I don't know [when it was]; she doesn't remember dates, just the events. That's the only weird story I've heard.

Interviewer: *Did you ever hear stories about large waves in the lake or elsewhere?*

Respondent: No, again I did not get interested until I got older, and just maybe two years back I was looking out there and wondering, this lake is big enough; I wonder if there are rogue waves, but I haven't heard stories or heard anybody say.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories about flooding?*

Respondent: I remember it flooding maybe twice in Kokhanok; the one I remember the most was, maybe the fall of 1980. I forget which one of my siblings took pictures of it, and I remember seeing them in a photo and thinking that that's a lot of water. There was mom and dad's house and there was a slight dip right there, and on higher ground their steam bath; we had to go out with boots, and my mom and dad would always wear hip boots every night to go take a steam! That's the comical part it, but what it wrecked I don't know because it didn't get the floor. My uncle had a Quonset hut that they lived in, and I can't remember if he had already moved up to; you know where the VPSO is housed? Somewhere around there I remember him having a tent with plywood walls, because I guess he get tired of getting flooded out. I can't remember what year it was I was in grade school the first time I experienced it; the school age children stayed with the teacher, and he had to move his family to higher ground. The plateau of the new HUD houses, the old ones up there; it had to be somewhere around there he had a tent and that's about all I remember. Once the water receded it was good enough for him to come back to his house, and that's what he did. Again, I never paid attention to it.

Interviewer: *Do you know why it flooded?*

Respondent: I remember it rained a lot; lots of rain, and that's basically it. The floodings I've seen, I remember rain, rain, rain. But I can't tell you from when it started to when it ended.

Interviewer: *Have the prevailing winds changed at all since when you were young?*

Respondent: I think we've always had east winds because dad told me we have a wind tunnel. He says, "There's a flat part that way, and he said there's no mountains there, its flat"; that's the wind tunnel. Those winds today, I think winds can gust up to about and even over 100, because back then I don't remember trees falling down. Now we have these real big wind storms, and everything stayed [in the past]. Now we have these storms, and the one I remember the most, it blew that Quonset hut over into the trees there; it knocked down trees. There was a tree, my uncle it was near his lot, and he went and cut that tree down and used it up.

Interviewer: *Have there been any changes to the seasonal timing of storm events?*

Respondent: I never really watched, but I bet that El Niño has something to do with it.

Interviewer: *Has the timing of freeze up and break up changed?*

Respondent: The very first time I remember Lake Iliamna not freezing was maybe the mid '70s, because [the lake] was wide open, no ice that year. The ice nowadays don't stay, because I remember having skating parties before October in these little lakes here. I think [the ice] sets then you get the east wind and it will blow it away, in fact you could see it was all covered but I don't think it was very good ice. Last year was perhaps more like winter that I remember growing up, because kids were trick or treating on snow machines; year before maybe. We'll have a warm spell, but we didn't last year; it seems like it just stayed from October until March. That felt like the winters we used to have; the ice will lay, we'll have snow and then all of a sudden it just warms up. How high the temperatures get I don't know, but I don't ever remember 40 degrees ever in the winter time; it's been [warmer] for quite a while now. We get snow, then it will melt, then we'll have a freeze; maybe we'll have a couple freezes and it will get warm enough when you'll even see the pussy willows trying to bud, to come out. I notice the pattern; if we are cold up here in Alaska, its wet somewhere else in the lower 48, but if we have a warm, like maritime winter then somebody down there is freezing. We seem to be trading; if it's cold here someone down there seems to be flooding. At least in Kokhanok I think its mild compared to before.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any new plants or animal species that have come into the area?*

Respondent: I haven't seen moose in a long long time, I don't know how many years; maybe late 90s, mid to late. I don't seem them anymore. I've also seen plants, but I don't know what they are. [We also now have] those bugs from the trees, spruce beetle; there's a lot of that, and east of here you can see a lot of dead trees and it wasn't like that. So we're getting that spruce beetle infestation and it's killing all the pretty-colored trees. There was one time back in November, and again I don't know what year, but I saw seagulls flying, and they should be gone. I remember November 4, and my brother had the fishing boats tied up down at the Gibraltar River in November; I never saw that until maybe then. That was really different to see a power boat out there in November; it was strange. There was one year we didn't have very much water, and again I can't tell you the year, but I remember seeing the beach, damn it was way the heck over there. At the camp we don't have a water pump so we have to pack water! I've never seen so many sport fishermen at the mouth of Gibraltar; they didn't have any other rivers to go to. Of course, you know, mother would always curse at them; I did too until I started flying around with my husband and realized that they were just people too. There was one time that same summer, they had to be otters on floats because I remember that turbine engine, and I counted 32 fishermen at the mouth of Gibraltar River; it was like they had their own village over there and that's abnormal! [That was] five-10 years [ago], something like that.

Interviewer: *Are there any other stories you would like to share?*

Respondent: Where mother has her camp, her native allotment and her fish camp, when I was [young] I remember it being flat with no trees, but I noticed the timber line coming closer to the beach; she said the trees were coming closer. [That was] maybe 10-15 years [ago], when I started



getting interested until I did a lot of subsistence fishing with mother there; she's traditional. I don't know why she ever put up so many fish, her and my sister. My sister had glaucoma and it really affected her eyesight and she couldn't cut fish anymore, and mother had arthritis and she tried. After my back surgery I don't do it anymore; I try, but it's brutal!

## **Iliamna Lake Interview # 4**

*During this interview the two respondents spoke predominantly in Yup'ik and answers were interpreted through a local translator.*

Interviewer: *Before we begin, is there anything you would like to share? Were you born here?*

Respondent (2): [I grew up] here in Kokhanok.

Respondent (1): [I came here in] 1967, somewhere around there.

Respondent (2): [In the] summer time I move down there [to fish camp]; I still do that now.

Interviewer: *Do you have any favorite stories? Have you experienced earthquakes here?*

Respondent (1): In Bethel [I] felt a little shake and ran outside and it stopped.

Respondent (2): [During an earthquake] I got scared that if I walk out I might fall down. Even I sit down [the ground] move the chair; shake hard. I don't know about [earthquakes] before [I was born]. They talk about earthquakes, but myself I just [remember] 1964; March something I think.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories about volcanic activity?*

Respondent (2): I only see it in the books; we never hear nothing. The old people say the earth is going to fall; we have to pray for it all the time. Sometimes [volcanic eruptions happen] maybe, but I don't know when.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced big storms here in the past?*

Respondent (2): [We experience] scary storms sometimes; strong winds, probably like 100 mile per hour. [We get] fall time [storms], too; sometimes that happens, [with] east wind. Sometimes you can't even land [because of the wind].

Interviewer: *Have the winds changed at all during your lifetime?*

Respondent (1): When I was here after my husband died, after I get married, I move down to Branch River and live with my husband for six years. After he gone I move back up [to Kokhanok].

Interviewer: *Have you experienced flooding here?*

Respondent (2): Oh yeah, in 1964 I think. It was a beach down there; [I was] living down there. [After that] people moved back up here. We had no running water; we have to put boots on. This is [when we lived] down the beach, and everybody move back up here [after it flooded]. Not me; I didn't move. [The water] didn't reach my house.

Interviewer: *Has the weather gotten colder, warmer, or remained the same?*

Respondent (2): It is warmer now. When I was young I didn't watch nothing.

Respondent (1): [In the past it was] a little bit cold.

Respondent (2): In spring time it's warm; winter time cold. Sometimes it's warm in winter when east wind come.

Interviewer: *Have any of the rivers changed?*

Respondent (2): The rivers, when they flood, can't go on them. The lake [has] more water now. In spring time the water raise up every year; I don't know why. They change around, those rivers; that Fish Camp [Creek] change around over that way.

Interviewer: *Have the seasonal cycles of weather changed?*

Respondent (2): No; I don't remember.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes to the timing of freeze up and breakup?*

Respondent (2): Yeah; spring time it breakup. When it gets really cold it freezes up in the winter time, when the winter comes.

Interviewer: *Have any new species of plants or animals started coming into the area?*

Respondent (2): No. One time in, I don't know what [year it was], but we had really calm weather; [it was] just like a mirror on the lake. You [could] see a long way. That's all I know. I didn't even remember what year; I think it was 1970s or 1980s someplace.

Interviewer: *Do you remember feeling earthquakes here?*

Interpreter: The only one she told me [about] was the '64 earthquake.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any old settlements or camps in the area?*

Interpreter: That first fish camp; you used to go someplace else.

Respondent (2): When I was married to this fella, when I move back after my husband died –

Respondent (1): First I moved to Igiugig; they needed more kids for the school there so we moved there. Then in 1979 we moved up here; [I spent] four years in Igiugig.

Interpreter: She lived in Bethel when she was married to my dad. Before she turned 40, she came this way. We used to go salmonberry picking.

Respondent (1): [*Name removed*] might know when I came here.

## **Iliamna Lake Interview # 5**

Interviewer: *We will ask about earthquakes and volcanoes...*

Respondent: I wasn't even born when that volcano erupted down there, I remember my uncle told us that when what they call Valley of 10,000 Smokes. Where they were living, I don't know how big [he was], but they were walking waist deep in ash looking for dog bones and he and my grandma would boil it to get broth. And my grandma had lots of fish eggs for fishing and they would put one little egg in their mouth for all day long. I don't know how old he was, but there was just ashes all over, no animals. He told me they were looking for bones to boil to get broth out of, all day long. There was nothing, my grandma had lots of fish eggs and they would put one little fish egg in their mouth, all day long. I wonder if there was some people that starved. It makes me wonder how long they didn't eat. I wonder what year, what time of the season it was. If there is books up at the school I read little parts of it.

Interviewer: *Do you have any stories about earthquakes that you would like to share?*

Respondent: I never heard anything about the earthquakes; I was in Anchorage [for the 1964 earthquake] and it was very bad out there. We had beds with rolling wheels, I had three roommates and I was the youngest one at 12 years old. I was only happy because I was in the bed and I rolled all over the room, and the dresser was everywhere. I couldn't even walk and I crawled to the door. It lasted for quite some time, and the lights turn off and start falling in the hallway. After the lights turn off I started crying with the rest of the gals, and I got scared; they had us in one little room with no lights. And it looked like those tremors lasted all night long and morning. They had me with this elder lady from Russian Mission for a roommate and the aftershocks kept coming, it was just like a tidal wave, and my heart would be pounding. Next morning I brush my teeth and next thing I heard the ground was moving. It lasted for a long time it seemed like; at first I was having fun but when the lights turn off of course I was crying with my roommates, I was in my bed just rolling around and on my hands and knees it was just horrible. The toilets wouldn't work, so they had honey buckets in there and it stunk. It was just gross.

Interviewer: *Do you remember experiencing or hearing stories about other earthquakes?*

Respondent: No, just about that Valley of 10,000 Smokes, I guess that's what they call it. My uncle told me about it; my grandma died when I was very small and so I don't know. From mom they never told me nothing but stories from my unclce.

Interviewer: *Have you seen or heard stories about cracks in the earth?*

No I never heard that. My stepsister would come up, she must be over 60 years old but I don't know if she would want to come up; she would know. She was little girl and my mom adopted her when her mom died. If she was willing to come up that would be nice. She understands some English, but I never hear anything about that. My brother might know more than I do, he comes up every now and then. I never heard no stories about that.

Interviewer: *Have you ever heard about landslides into the lake?*

Respondent: No. I've never heard that.

Interviewer: *Have you seen any areas in the tundra that appear sunken?*

Respondent: I bet there's something like that by the salmon picking ground; maybe we don't even notice. That's up towards Gibraltar Lake, there's lots of ditches everywhere that we could see but we can't tell, it's all covered up. Gibraltar Lake, its not very far and there's a Honda trail. Somebody would know; some elders might know. Maybe there's some sunken areas in the tundra, but it could be all covered up. We go pick salmonberries up there.

Interviewer: *Have you ever seen any sandy areas or beaches that are far from the lake?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you ever noticed areas with swirled patterns of sand and/or sediment?*

Respondent: No, not me.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about tsunamis on the lake or elsewhere?*

Respondent: I know there was ice up here when I was out during the 1964 earthquake, because there's some elders that were fishing and the ice rode up on the beach. The water was coming out of the ice. That's what I heard from [a friend]; she would be a good person to talk to because she knows a lot more than I do.

Interviewer: *Any stories about volcanoes?*

[The Valley of 10,000 Smokes] is the only story I heard about. I heard about that; it was really bad [my uncle] said. [He said there were] just ashes all over. He said they walk up to waist deep. My grandma look around for any kind of bones, [the ash was] just like snow she said.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about Augustine erupting?*

Respondent: Yeah we see it from here, that's about it. They know quite a bit about it too. I seen it erupting from here; just a tiny bit of ash from the ash plume. I forgot when it was, in '90s or '80s, somewhere around and not too long ago. We were having, what was going on, maybe our Russian Christmas then there were big clouds going up in the sky it was evening maybe. I don't remember what year it was even. If it was east wind we would have had some [ash fallout] but it was just a tiny bit, it was a nice day, if the wind blow from that direction we would have got it but it was nice.

Interviewer: *Have you seen evidence of earthquakes?*

Respondent: I don't know.

Interviewer: *Do you have any stories about large storm events?*

Respondent: We had a really north wind storm and it flooded along the houses over there and it went up in the woods along there. We were up at the lake, and the north wind was blowing. I mean it's always windy around here.

Interviewer: *Is flooding normal for this area?*

Respondent: That was a long time ago, in the '60s maybe.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced any unseasonable cold or warm periods in your lifetime?*

Respondent: Like what is going on now? We sure had good wintery storm weather in November, it snowed and everything froze up and all of the sudden it turned into this warm weather and east come and wind that blew all the ice away, and that's kinda weird. It seems like winters used to last a long time, but it feels like springtime out there now. Last year or the other year the same thing happened, so this might be the second time. It was in February month when we went across to Iliamna/Newhalen with our boat; in February, when it's supposed to be winter out. It was always really cold with lots of snow and ice when I was young. The only elders I knew were my mom and dad and my grandpa, he lived down in South Naknek until he died. He came up once in a while.

Interviewer: *Have the winds changed in any way?*

Respondent: I think [the winds] got worse, our storms are getting worse; high winds; stronger winds. Seems like [the winds] were shorter then to me, and now it's more intense. Seems like we've had this east wind for quite some time now.

Interviewer: *Do you have any thoughts on why the winds might have changed?*

Respondent: It's nature, but it's weird; we used to have cold winters when we were little kids, and now winter don't even last.

Interviewer: *You didn't have these short, intense wind storms when you were younger?*

Respondent: No, but maybe when we were kids we didn't notice, and now that we are getting older the winds are getting stronger.

Interviewer: *Has the timing of the storms changed?*

Respondent: [The storms come] anytime of year.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes to the natural environment?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any new plants or animals in the region?*

Respondent: No I think; I don't think so.

Interviewer: *Have you observed changes to rivers/lakes?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have any lakes dried up, is the environment getting wetter/drier?*

Respondent: No; so far they've been here, except up there where we grew up during childhood days, there's a rusty creek dried up so we left there and moved to fish camp when I was starting school, maybe six or seven years old; we were just kids then. That's where I was born, in 1951. We stayed up there until my school year. I was born on this little crick, somewhere up there. That's near somewhere about, there's a little tiny crick up there. I don't know how many miles it would be from here. We had our camp site...and fished from our house on that side. The river got rusty so we moved to fish camp. There's another place down here they call Rusty Creek and the water was becoming rusty, all of it; it's just weird. You could see it in the water, you could see it; I don't know if it's from the lake above it. I don't know.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any rivers shifting course in the region?*

Respondent: It seems like Fish Camp River been shifting. From when we were kids it's just changed. I don't know; its shifted quite a few times down there. From when we were kids to now it looks like it's back at the same. Watch maybe next year it will shift to another way. I don't know if it's from the waves that come from the lake, that's what I think. Because that's where Gibraltar Creek is [which] seems the same to me, I don't know; I haven't been up the Gibraltar River, only just crossed over it.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in the timing of freeze up and breakup?*

Respondent: Freeze up [happens] in November month, and every time an east wind storm comes and it rains then all the snow melts and there's ice.

Interviewer: *Is this different from when you were young?*

Respondent: Yeah, it's like when we were younger we had cold winter that lasted forever; it was always cold and lots of snow.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes in the wetness or dryness of the environment?*

Respondent: It seems like its drier around. Seems like we had rainfall all summer two years ago; the whole summer it rained, so it's just so weird. It was a cold summer; last year it was too. It rained a lot, we had to be sitting on the beach putting up fish with our rain gear on. Before it used to be so beautiful really; when we were kids we always had nice summers. I wish we had those



nice summers; it was good. Gosh it really changed; seems like we used to have hot summer days then, and now it's just been miserable cold.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced any changes in subsistence resources or uses?*

Respondent: Just our caribou used to come up and hang around this way when I was younger, and I haven't seen caribou since a long time. Now they go up into the mountains to hunt them. And one year right above the airport, where the new airport is, and those caribou came and there was lots. That's the only time we've seen so many caribou around; yeah that was unusual. I don't know where they came from, there was a flock of them across the graveyard, and there was lot right by my house. There was a bunch of caribou; that was in the '80s somewhere, maybe. It was weird my kids were small yet and hadn't seen caribous. They're in school now; they're all grown up.

Interviewer: *Are the subsistence resources you rely on healthy? Any changes?*

Respondent: No change.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed changes to the way you travel to subsistence use areas?*

Respondent: We don't go very far, we just go where we can go close by. I don't go hunt caribou, my husband used to hunt moose and then I don't know when they start hunting caribou. First time I had caribou was in New Stuyahok for carnival, but that was quite some time ago. Then there's some down below Igiugig I guess.

Interviewer: *Have you heard any stories about starvation?*

Respondent: That's the only thing he told me about; looking for dog bones and putting fish eggs in your lip. That's all I could remember.

Interviewer: *Have you heard about any old camps or village sites?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Is there anything else you would like to share with us? Do you have any questions?*

Respondent: So did you all go to Iliamna/Newhalen already? Down to Igiugig? I don't think you are going to find any snow anywhere! You're going to walk down there? Wow! You got tents and everything? Guns? It would be good to walk that far; I wonder what I would see. We go all over; sometimes we'll go with boat to go berry picking. I'd be afraid to walk in the summer time with all the bears around. So I'm glad there's no bears around for you.

I was born and raised here, I think I moved here to Kokhanok when school started. Mom and dad always lived there on [rusty creek]. In the summer time we would go to different places to put up fish; that's where I was born. It got too rusty so we went down to fish camp and now I've got my little smokehouse down there right up by my house on the hill. We always lived here, we've had

a house here, and I was born and raised there. I liked those good summer days when I was young. Can't wait for the fish and berries to come by; it's our favorite thing to do. We are busy busy sorts. We used to look for salmonberries out in the islands but it was so stormy, with waves you don't want to go out there. Close by the village everybody is picking the same place over and over so it's safer to go with a boat. That's how come we go with a boat; and we pick maybe five gallons. Just salmonberries; we never got to look for blueberries because it was just misty rain out there all the time with fog. We stay one night and come home the next day before the east wind came.

## **Iliamna Lake Interview # 6**

Interviewer: *When were you born?*

Respondent: June 6, 1953.

Interviewer: *Where were you born?*

Respondent: There's a little village, well, our fish camp was up a little ways at what they call Folligers Lake now; right in that little creek there.

Interviewer: *Did you come from a big family?*

Respondent: Well, not a humongous family but it's a big family. My parents and her sister and her family are usually the families that kind of go together here and there. That was home for us, that was always a nice quiet summer; our dads were always out fishing so the women and the kids were there. It was nice. That was one of the places [we would travel to] so then we went down to fish camp, halfway down to fish camp, all over until we finally settled. We left our fish camp here, left our smokehouses here, built our smokehouses here and then we stayed.

Interviewer: *Did you ever hear stories about earthquakes growing up?*

Respondent: Well, not really, to me the only one we're always so familiar with was the one in '64. My youngest brother was born three days prior to that, and in March my cousin was at the hospital then. And that's about the only earthquake that I actually had any encounters or heard stories of. [I was] here, and actually not [I couldn't feel it]. In 1964 I was about nine or whatever, and I remember my younger brothers were running around and we didn't feel anything. But there has been different people who felt it, but we didn't know anything about it.

Interviewer: *Was there any damage in Kokhanok?*

Respondent: No, I didn't notice anything.

Interviewer: *Did the earthquake affect the lake in any way?*

Respondent: It was toward the afternoon; it was somewhat like this right now. I just heard the lake rumbling, that's about all.

Interviewer: *Do you commonly feel earthquakes here?*

Respondent: After I started noticing what an earthquake felt like I've actually felt a few, but it isn't any, knock on wood, earth shattering moment for us or anything.

Interviewer: *Have you seen any physical evidence of earthquakes in the region?*

Respondent: Actually I've never heard of anyone talking about that; I might be too young for all that.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed cracks in the ground around the lake, and in the tundra?*

Respondent: We've had some like that, but I don't know if it had to do with an earthquake or anything; it might be from all the heavy rain we had up toward Gibraltar there's some deep cracks but I don't know if that had anything to do with an earthquake. It's very deep, about four or five feet in some places; it's going up toward the lake, about a half mile or mile toward the lake. Well, actually right behind the second lake too there are some cracks like that, and I don't know if it's because of the rain we had or if it had anything to do with the ground cracking or anything.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed areas in the tundra with sandy patches, or sections of beach far from the lake?*

Respondent: Only from a long time ago, not recent. We had some down toward fish camp on the bank there's a bunch of them there, and you know just here and there all over the place. [At fish camp the sand deposits are] away from the river, and here and there you know, all over; patches here and there. It'll be, our fish camp is about three miles south of the point there and you can walk on top there and see all that. There's a few, they're allotments; there's a few of them there.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced fallout from volcanic eruptions, or heard stories?*

Respondent: Our most famous one is that [Mount Saint] Augustine over there; we seen it rumble a few times. From time to time [we experience ash fallout]; when [Mount] Redoubt or Iliamna volcano ash, and another volcano that's over towards Cape [*unintelligible*] area, every once in a while that rumbles. The one that we notice the most is Augustine, and according to Discovery [channel], we watch Discovery, that's one of the more dangerous because of how it's formed. So we keep our fingers crossed for that. [I also heard stories about] that volcano, over at Katmai, when they said there was so much ash. Actually, when you dig down to the ground you can see some big, deep ash deposits there. Before that volcano blew up there was all kind of fish here; all those salmon, you know, our King salmon, dog salmon and all that. They said after that only just the red salmon came up for the longest [time], but now they're coming back up again for the first time in a few years. There was so much ash in the water that the boats going through there said it was just like a sea of mud, and there was hardly anything to eat, the only thing they had to eat that was wild was the little snow birds and they survived with that. Back then there was no refrigerator or freezer, or anything like that. Ash [was] all over the place; it was a scary thought, huh? And, you know, that's something people have no control of; volcanoes or anything like that. Just that one time when Augustine blew up here; it blew up two, three, maybe four times in my lifetime, and the latest one was probably about 2002 or three when we was continuously saw it blowing up over there, but thank goodness we were having west wind, and it blew the ash over to your side. We could see all the lightening and the big smoke and all that.

Interviewer: *Have you seen soft and/or eroding bluffs around the lake?*

Respondent: The only place that I'm fairly familiar with is just up the lake, or on our side of the lake. There's a few places right along here I think that I know of, that are fairly soft, and there's also some down toward Big Mountain; this is Eagle's Bluff, and it's anywhere kind of along, pretty much all the way down here and there, somewhere along there and I don't know about anywhere else because I haven't really been down there. There's a few up [near Kokhanok Bay] too, but I know some over here.

Interviewer: *Have you observed areas of exposed earth with layers of peat?*

Respondent: I don't recollect seeing anything like that.

Interviewer: *Have you observed sediments with swirled layers?*

Respondent: You know that's kind of weird because I've seen that, but I don't remember where. [My friend's] dad used to fly so I should go out with him, you know, and we would see things like that, but I don't remember where we ever seen them. I have [seen swirled layers], but I don't remember where; we flew all over the place but I don't remember where.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced or remember stories of earthquakes?*

Respondent: My aunt was living in Anchorage in that time [of the 1964 earthquake]; my mom was there having my youngest brother; we didn't hear of anyone moving because of that. The only time the people from the saltwater side moved inland, is because they said that a big wave, more than likely it was a tsunami, wiped out everything of their winter food, fish and all that; [that was] right over in the Bruin Bay/Amakadori area on the saltwater side. [That area is] only 35 miles, 25 miles away; not very far away. We've had a few little communities over there, fish camps, or people lived there. They said a big wave came and wiped everything out. That was, I have no idea, about 80, 90, 100 years ago. A few people came back; some of them moved clear over toward Koliganek away from the saltwater. My gram was a kid then, my mom's mother, and they stopped here, but some people went clear over [across the lake]. My grandpa, my mom's dad, was one of a [set of] twins that grew up in the saltwater and he remembers, living around where the tide would go way out; we couldn't understand the tide because we didn't grow up with anything like that. He said he was born over there, but he didn't mention much about that.

Interviewer: *Did you ever hear stories about tsunamis on the lake?*

Respondent: If there was one humungous one from [the opposite side of the lake], and our hills are not so high up, who knows? But I think that's kind of unlikely though.

Interviewer: *Are there areas of the lake that appear murky or muddy regularly?*

Respondent: In the bays, the little tiny bays up the bay, there's always that muddy, the bottom is real muddy. That's the only thing I can notice.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced, or heard stories, of extreme storms in the area?*

Respondent: Well, all I remember is that one year they said they didn't have spring, they didn't have summer; it was cold all summer long. I think it might have been after that [Mount] Aniakchak that blew up down the chain there; it's got a funny name. I think that might have been about that time, that's the only thing I can think of. We've had some awfully cold summers here and I don't know what, two or three years ago, it was really hot and then for two years it was really cold. I don't know if that had anything to do with why it was. It was actually good for people putting up fish because there was no blowflies; no flies, no eggs. It was too cold, though!

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories from your parents or grandparents regarding storm events?*

Respondent: Just from what my mom said though, she said our weather is getting worse; that's pretty much about all she's said, that storms [are getting more severe], yeah. This is actually a kind of a very very unusual time right now, because it's too [warm]. You know, we're always kind of waiting for something to happen which is too bad. We have a lot of storms here.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced or heard stories about flooding in the area?*

Respondent: We've had, in my lifetime, about a couple floods here. You know, we've actually, way back there then there's a little lake behind here that used to be part of our water. The little hill above where those turbines are it used to be a little island; it used to be water all around there when my uncle was small. We normally don't get direct north wind but when we do the water goes right over the banks when the lake is really high, and it goes right over the banks and so a lot of people didn't want all that so they moved up to second level up the hill.

Interviewer: *Are floods like this one normal for this area?*

Respondent: No, actually not. Knock on wood we haven't had anything like that for the past 20 years I think. We're just keeping our fingers crossed for all that. It seems we keep our fingers crossed for a lot of things!

Interviewer: *Do you experience forest fires, or tundra fires here?*

Respondent: No, thank goodness. The only experience I've had with a fire was, up at Kokhanok Falls Lodge there was a fire, but it wasn't a very big fire. We got to see smokejumpers coming. Across the lake we've seen fires, across the lake, and a long time ago there was fires behind the village way back there down toward Igiugig; you'll see there's dead trees, [that was] way before my time. We have a healthy respect for fire, it's spooky.

Interviewer: *Do you experience seasonal storms from year to year?*

Respondent: We've learned to expect our fall winds are terrible and our winter storms we expect the snow and the cold and the wind. Well [we experience] wind anytime. We know that this is kind of a funnel when you come over Bruin Bay pass and there are mountains on both sides of us, so of course we expect all those storms.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed changes to the natural environment? To the weather? Plants and animals?*

Respondent: When I was small we had no spruce bark beetles; that's the biggest thing that actually came through a few years ago. I think they came over from the Kenai Peninsula; they must have come over with ASA or something. We've never had anything like that, and so now we're in the midst of a spruce bark beetle epidemic unfortunately. That's about the only thing I can really think of. Did you look around when you were coming in? If you look up to the east there everything is getting all grey and dead which is weird. If they just leave the wood there it'll get bad, it'll get worthless.

Interviewer: *Has the timing of the seasons changed during your lifetime?*

Respondent: I don't think it's changed to my knowledge; it seems we had a colder winter when I was a kid, but when we get our winter in November now, but when we have open water in February that's kind of weird. When I was small we always had colder winters; we didn't have any open water in the winter. Maybe the weather is getting warmer, to a point.

Interviewer: *Did you ever hear stories about how weather was in the past?*

Respondent: My mom, my dad always had winter parkas made with animals, my gram would make some. Looking at pictures of my dad he always had a squirrel skin parka, but we don't get anything like that. Now we have Eddie Bauer stuff, that's about the only thing we have now.

Interviewer: *Do you know of areas that are actively eroding, or have eroded?*

Respondent: There's a few, there's some anywhere along the water's edge, including somewhere over here. Down towards fish camp you can see all that erosion.

Interviewer: *Are there rivers or drainages that have shifted course over time?*

Respondent: You know the river down there I don't know how many times it's ever shifted from here to there. The way it is right now, for the main river to be down towards the other side is pretty much what I remember. My gram had a smokehouse from when it was over there, so it's actually gone back and forth right to the point of going from where it is now clear up to the village. We know that every so often it will just change.

Interviewer: *Have you observed other rivers in the area shifting in a similar way?*

Respondent: I'm sure; I've never really watched any others.

Interviewer: *Is there permafrost relatively close to the surface in the area?*

Respondent: I'm sure there is, I've never actually seen any here. I know in certain places over across the river there are soft spots people have to be careful of, but I don't know where they are.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed the environment getting wetter or drier in general? Stayed the same?*

Respondent: It seems like it's gotten wetter; it seems like our swamps and everything are getting more and more wet. It's actually gotten wet, unless we're finally noticing it more because we're going here and there with the Honda. Maybe it was always there but now we're noticing it more because we're going further and further away.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any changes to plants and animals? Any new species present? Any species disappear?*

Respondent: You know, people have always said that we don't have any mountain lions and things like that, but you know we've actually seen some at Reindeer Bay when we had our dog and we actually seen one; two people have actually saw cougars or mountain lions, and I don't know if other people have seen anything like that. There's been other people who have; of course that all happened up the bay, Reindeer Bay, where we actually heard it yelling or screaming. There was about three of us that heard the mountain lion scream; you could hear it and it made us wonder, did we actually hear it, because it was so far off in the distance so we weren't too sure. This is the Reindeer Bay that I'm talking about; it's a little bay [near Kokhanok River].

Interviewer: *Has the timing of migratory animal movements changed?*

Respondent: No [change], only from my own experience. The first bunch of cranes we heard was on April ninth and to me that was a bit sooner than I could remember. That was about 10 years ago I think. That was the earliest I've ever heard of any cranes flying over. It was a pretty mild winter; you know, it was so cold down south in the states and we feel they came up sooner to get away from that, but it was getting cool here anyway.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced any changes to the subsistence resources you harvest, or in their availability?*

Respondent: From the stories I've heard from my uncle, my mom's uncle, when he was younger there was no moose in the area; one day he said he set a trap and there it was not like anything he's ever seen. He knew caribou, or reindeer; they had reindeer here. So he tracked it and it was a moose. But nowadays, because of all the wolves we have here I think they're just moving out. So if you go down near Igiugig I'm sure you'll see a whole slug of them down there unless they ate themselves out, you know, and are looking for newer feed or something. There's a lot more wolves now; they're actually right in the village here, and they've ran off with a few dogs right off the chain. They are fighting the dogs right on the chain; tracks right in people's yards.

Interviewer: *Do people hunt both moose and caribou here?*

Respondent: Our caribou, people have to go up to the mountains to hunt those. We've had caribou here every so often. The last bunch of caribou that were right in the village here and up the bay was probably about 25-30 years ago. If they want anything like that you have to go down



to Igiugig area. But for moose they have to look pretty hard for that anymore; all they see is wolf tracks. They've actually seen bears waiting for calves to be born; we have no love for wolves or bears.

Interviewer: *Have travel conditions changed through time?*

Respondent: When the conditions are just right people go back and forth like a regular highway from across the lake to here, or down to Igiugig to here or anywhere else for that matter. You know it's actually snow machines, four-wheelers, personal airplanes; it's actually gotten [easier], except for this year, people weren't able to go back and forth on that.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about starvation?*

Respondent: You know people back then; those are the stories I've heard, there was a time of no fish that came into the bay and people all depended on fish for their dogs and themselves, for their main staple, and they didn't have anything so there were a lot of starving people. There was a time when, of course, there was no meat; it must have been about the time of the [Mount Katmai] volcano. Even now, because of stories passed on, when we see kids playing with food, that's kind of not a thing to do. That's the stories we've heard, passed on to us. Our old lady, she was about 80 [when] she died, it was about 100 years ago, when [Mount Katmai] blew up.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any old camps or settlements in the area?*

Respondent: Reindeer Bay was the first established reindeer station in the state, basically. There used to be a bunch of Laplanders; my mom's grandpa was a Laplander that came through, and I'm not sure how that came about them having a regular village up there. When they left for, only god knows what reason, we have no idea why it happened. [My friend's] mother in law would tell me that Kokhanok, Kaskanak and Koliganek were the three reindeer villages in the area. Kaskanak is no more because after that big flu they deserted that place. About three people came out of that; she said there must have been about 5-600 people in that village and only three of them survived the flu. Koliganek, I have no idea how many people there were; she said Kokhanok was bigger than those two villages. So if that was, we have about 170 people here, if we had about a thousand people here, if Kokhanok had all those people, what happened to them when they died off? Where were they buried? We have a lot of burial places here in the village here. The only reason she was talking about all that, the three reindeer villages were competing, always competing. We did have a lot of people here. Kaskanak is right down the river there, somewhere in that river there, not on the Kvichak River.

Interviewer: *Do you have any other stories or information to share?*

Respondent: We've actually seen different things; we actually had a kind of natural bridge over here, but it fell down one year and we have no idea what caused that. There were other things but it's interesting what happened. [That bridge was] just further up you go, you're able to see it; it's just a column from the main thing, there had been a bridge there one time. That was there forever and one year I said, 'ah it fell down'.

## Lake Iliamna Lake Interview # 8

Interviewer: *Before we begin, is there anything you would like to share?*

Respondent: [I was born in] 1948, where that blue building is; that's where I was born. I had four sisters; younger sisters. [When I was younger] I think it used to be stormy; when the storms come it usually lasted for two or three days, but nowadays it can last a day, and then it's [sunny]. It was sort of unusual to have a storm, then have it be calm. [Now] we even have what they call south wind blowing, and we never had that when I was younger; we never had it. [Our] prevailing is east wind. [The wind changed] about maybe 15 years ago, but it doesn't blow very hard; it's just a variable wind. It's something we've never seen before; people who are watching see it differently.

Interviewer: *Have you ever experienced, or heard stories about earthquakes?*

Respondent: The only one that I know of was the 1964 earthquake; I was a teenager then. That was the only one that I know of, but I know we live right next to the fault; last week was the latest [earthquake] we had in a long while. No [we don't feel earthquakes often]. [During the 1964 earthquake] it was a weird feeling, and I've never felt it again; it was just like being on a balloon or something, just moving along. We had water holes out here and water was squirting out of the holes; lake water. I'm thinking it was March 27<sup>th</sup>, around this time of year; [the water] was coming through cracks. Most of the village people were right along the beach here, and after [the earthquake] everybody moved up the hills here; there are very few people living along the shore [now]. We were told we were living right next to where there could be a big water movement; they claimed there used to be a lot of water here before; I don't know, a long time ago. All that [area near the old airstrip] was under water during the fall month; we have what they call "fall high waters." There used to be an awful lot of water in Lake Iliamna, but now the barges don't come up anymore because of the water being so low. That's [a problem] we didn't have before; the fuel barges having problems getting up here. The last few years we have been having the barge from Pile Bay, from the Cook Inlet side, and last year they put a new bridge in on a stream over there, but we had a big fall rain or something and it washed the bridge away; this was when they were hauling winter fuel, so we ended up with having gotten only half the fuel we need for winter so now we're flying it in. It's sort of an unusual thing; I don't know if the road is not being maintained right at what they call Pile Bay. Some people were saying that they should have left the old one; it's been there all this time with all those storms and then you put in a new one and it gets washed out. I think they're going to try to do better this year, because that's the only way Lake Iliamna people can get fuel besides flying it in. The other way is down the Kvichak [River] way and that's the river; it gets shallow, you hit bottom, and some days you're there two or three days because of storm.

Interviewer: *When traveling around the lake, have you noticed areas where it looks like there were landslides in the past?*

Respondent: I haven't seen that.

Interviewer: *Have you observed areas where there appear to be cracks in the ground, or where it looks like the ground is splitting?*

Respondent: I think there were a few cracks in the mountains, in that area before, but I haven't seen much of it.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed areas of sand far from the lake, like a beach?*

Respondent: Right around under the hill here, what they call Katmai park; it's all sand in this area here, as if there was some sort of glacier there with all that sand.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced fallout from volcanic eruptions, or heard stories of volcanoes erupting?*

Respondent: We've been fortunate to not have [earthquakes]; five or seven years ago [Mount Saint] Augustine blew up, and people from Naknek area were thinking we were getting all the ash. Every time it [erupted] it was blowing west wind and it didn't bring [ash] this way; we were really fortunate not to get any ash, just a dusting I guess. My dad told me about that [Mount] Katmai eruption when he was younger; he said the ash came down like snow, about four or five feet, you know. Down Igiugig way they said it was just like snow. I was pretty surprised how they survived with all that ash. They said they saved a lot of water just when it happened; somebody knew enough to save a lot of water, and I guess that's what saved them. Somebody knew before it happened [to save water].

Interviewer: *Have you observed softer, eroding bluffs around the lake?*

Respondent: There are some areas like that; even right here, back here there's clay right to the beach here, maybe a hundred feet back here. This is all rock here, but then if we're putting poles up and, what the heck, we come to a clay pot; it's an area that's all clay, and it's weird. Even west of this area, like the airport, that new airport, there's some areas like that; what you call clay.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed bluffs or other formations with layers of peat below layers of sand and other sediments?*

Respondent: I've seen them, you can see them down the lake around here, down the beach where you can walk along and there's just a whole layer of just ash or something; a little bit beyond [fish camp]. When you get closer to Big Mountain you'll start seeing the different layers. Anytime someone comes by they say, "Oh, this is new." When you come in this area it's all new, it just happened like 50 years ago.

Interviewer: *Have you ever noticed swirled layers in the bluffs around the lake?*

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about tsunamis or sudden changes in lake water conditions?*

Respondent: No, I haven't heard; not here.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed areas of the lake with perpetually muddy water?*

Respondent: No, it's only during what they call fall weather when they get big north winds blowing.

Interviewer: *Have you experienced large storm events, or heard stories about them? Do they seem to be getting more or less severe?*

Respondent: I don't know, the last five to seven we've been having [wind] gusts over 130 [miles per hour]; we've never had that before. I think last year those windmills were clocking gusts at 130, and we've never seen that in the past before. Maybe it happened before but never major. We used to have what they call a Quonset hut right across here and it blew right off the ground. It was an old building, but man it ripped it right off the ground; we had never seen that kind of wind here before. And like I said, it lasts for only one or two days and then it will stop, whereas before it used to blow for three days straight. Now we get what they call calm weather, which is unusual; we keep thinking it's the calm before the storm. That's what we're thinking every time we get a calm like this; it's unpredictable. We used to listen to the radio and listen to the radio report for what they call Shelikof Strait, which is by Kodiak there, and then we would get [that weather] here. Nowadays they forecast it and it never get here, you know? So it's unpredictable; it's not like it used to be.

Interviewer: *Did you hear stories about weather a long time ago?*

Respondent: [The elders] said [the weather] used to be almost predictable, you know; how long it will be calm, how long it will blow. They say we're getting less and less snow.

Interviewer: *What are the effects of less predictability in the weather?*

Respondent: It's not like it used to be where people had to hunt and gather; most times now you can go to your local store. Most of us older people we start craving for wild meat, and moose and all that. Before that's all we ate, but now it's the local store. And then people who are watching and noticing, a lot more people are getting sick, like cancer and stomach problems; it's all because of what they're eating. What we used to see, and knowing as people what is eating good; what they're eating are preserved foods and that's not good. A couple months ago I was talking to my daughter, she's a senior in high school, and I told her we gotta be careful about canned food because some of them are going to be contaminated, and we just talked about it and we opened a can and it was spoiled on top! I said, "This is what we were just talking about; this is going to be happening more and more." We ask people to help us clean fish and people say "gross, no it's gross." And older people say, "There, the people will starve and die." You don't listen to your elders [now]; it's not like it used to be. People who don't hunt end up staying home and are hungry. There are people that hunt and those that don't, and now they're having a grand time. Now [there is] heating oil, and the government; they say it's yours, and the next thing we know, it's not ours. It just goes back and forth, but now we have all this wood available, what they call "beetle kill," for the taking and people just sit home in the cold! The way it was before,

most everybody was doing something, and now people are waiting for something to be done by somebody [else]. Used to be we did it for ourselves; we used to be independent. It's amazing how people change within a generation, from being self-sufficient to welfare, food stamps, all that. Now they need to realize that it's not going to be around anymore; it's going fast.

Interviewer: *Have you heard stories about starvation in this area?*

Respondent: They said there was a famine, I don't know how wide it was, they said it was the whole district wide, and [people] had no food for five or 10 years. There was fish; I think that was the only thing. Before, they didn't have any bears, moose was new to the area, but now we have to fight the bears away from the village [in the] fall time, from coming in and getting the fish people put away for the winter. Before, [bears] didn't come in the village so animals like bears are getting overpopulated. I don't know [why there are more bears now]. Well, before there used to be a lot, summer time fall time, there was an escapement of sockeye salmon, and sometimes they used to coincide with big salmon runs. I think one time there were 10 or 15 million salmon that came up to Lake Iliamna. They got fish and game doing surveys down in Igiugig. Two or three years ago there were so many bears all over the place; I think they are starting to eat themselves. Somebody shoot one, then next day they walk by and it is all gone; we don't know if it was the food that was available. Even [in the] winter time, I think it was last month we saw a tiny cub walking around here, smaller than a dog. Older people claim [that happens] when we get milder weather and the dens get wet; water and rain. Last couple years we've had a surprise bear in mid-winter.

Interviewer: *Have you noticed any changes to the plants and animals? Any new species or species that are no longer present?*

Respondent: Used to be that we never had caribou here before. They claim that Kokhanok was one of the sites that they introduced reindeer into the state. We got Reindeer Island, Reindeer Bay; they claim that people from Norway, Lapland, teach the people how to be reindeer herders. I guess they released [the reindeer] during World War II. I don't know what the reasoning was, but there were four or five families; our families had a herd, but they released them during World War II. They never said why, but I always thought it would be a good idea to herd reindeer again.

Every time we had a hard time catching moose, that's what they call moose season be open at the same time as people subsistence hunting; we had to have some form of a regulation change where local people would go out and get [moose] before commercial people; they got their planes, their boats, and all equipment ready to do it. We ended up doing a moose hunt one week after opening for local people; I think that was a better reason because before everyone was chasing after the same game. That sort of solved the problem. Fish has always been here; all kind of fish during the winter.

Interviewer: *Have you experience forest fires or tundra fires in the area?*

Respondent: When I was younger, seven or eight years old, we lived up the bay here about seven or eight miles. During that summer, in the 1960s or late '50s, there was a fire between here and Igiugig. That's the only [fire] I can remember; that whole area was all smoky.

Interviewer: *Have you seen areas in the region that are actively eroding?*

Respondent: Down in this area to the west of here you'd see it, where it's been eroding, but this has been weird weird winter and fall; water keeps oozing out from the ground like maybe it was saturated. You could look out here and see water coming out from these little tiny streams we've never seen that before; could be because it's warm.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any rivers shifting course?*

Respondent: They move around; they change. Fish Camp River been changing the last three years, from this year to the last four or five years from then. When the water gets higher than normal it changes course. They claim Fish Camp River change the last couple years to different areas. We've seen that.

Interviewer: *Have you observed any plants that are new to the area?*

Respondent: Some people claim they've seen various things they've never seen before. We had a summer that it was almost foggy all summer; it was just damp cold summer, and then that fall and next year, people started to see all kinds of different insects, different color insects, like blue or green [ones] that we've ever seen before. There were different insects and plants; it was due to something being like all overcast days and it just continues. We had no warm days, it was just damp. We're starting to see grasshoppers; we've never seen grasshoppers here before. One summer we saw them and said "what's going on here?" [I noticed them] about 20 years ago or so; now we see them in the swamps and things where we never seen them before. There's all kinds of different insects that we'd never seen before

Interviewer: *Has the timing of freeze up and break up changed?*

Respondent: Seems like it used to freeze up early but now it's later; we're noticing later freeze-ups. It used to be getting cold in October, and now it's later ice and earlier breakup. Like that area right across here; it used to [thaw] in April month and now this month, in March, it's acting like its spring.

Interviewer: *Are warm spells normal during the middle of winter?*

Respondent: No; before it would do that, like one or two times in a year, but now it's more than that, more frequent.

Interviewer: *Do you know of any old seasonal camps or abandoned villages in the area?*

Respondent: Up at Kokhanok River people were living there. I guess this area had always been, around that way, where the western people settled.

Interviewer: *Do you have any questions for us? Any comments to share?*

Respondent: I think Lake Iliamna has been standing out quite a bit, even the last few years; there was a seal study there was supposed to be released last fall but they haven't come out with it yet. I'm curious to see what was documented.

And a bit about the Pebble [Mine]; most of us who are living on this lake area, we lived as what was known as shared, the land. People who lived on this side went over [to the other side of the lake to go] hunting and fishing and people from over there did the same thing here. And then, a funny thing, you know evolution or how mankind moves forward; they started giving us land. They said, "This is your land; this is your Native allotment," whereas before we didn't own anything, and everything was ours. Now the government gave us a piece of land, and our neighbors, friends we've known forever, say "You can't go there no more." We used to go there all the time, and now it's yours? They say, "White man gave it to me; that's mine now." We liked it how it was before; you can use it today, and somebody else can use it tomorrow. Before, everyone shared. That's the part I don't like, where we were nomads and now we own land. I always told my girls everyone has private; keep out; no trespassing. Now I have on mine "welcome; stop here". In between all the keep out, private, I would have a sign that said welcome. My daughter and I always talk about different topics; we think and talk about topics that are not topics of the day. That's what makes us a little more different; I always say, "Never say 'I don't know' if somebody asks you something." They always say something, and when they are arguing it's because they know it's right, they're not arguing just to argue, they're arguing because they know it's right. I teach them to participate and be active. The different part about me is that I went to school in Oregon when no one else went to school of my age. I've seen so many things, too many things, but I always came back.

This area is so rich in natural resources; people from Togiak or Manokotak would come here this time of year to Bruin Bay to go sea otter hunting. That was one of the things, they'd come back maybe [during] June month and they'd go by canoe or some kind of boat and go back down. When the Russians were here, down the beach from here there was a church and a store or something where they bought sea otters. State people came in looking around and then I wanted to know about the Russian days and I questioned too far in the back, probably the only people to answer my question were the Russians. Another thing is that some call this lake; I don't know if it's an abomination or a dream, but I always see big ships coming by in my dream, and then when I wake up I think, "I wonder if that will happen in the future." Because you can see Kodiak, and just like you're talking about the fault [lines], when it splits forward like this [this area] will be like Kodiak, like a whole island. You can see, if you were looking on a hill and the lay of the land; I've been here all this time and I didn't know it. It's just so funny.

And then one time I was dreaming I saw walrus here; I thought, "That can't be real!" I've always been amazed at how dreams are ways we can think of what's not always happening.

We're starting to notice more sightings of the big fish, we call them monster fish; I think they're sturgeons. Nobody [has] ever caught them before; in the springtime we see wakes coming about a foot high, some kind of water activity. There's something out there; we always wanted to try to

catch it. [In the] wintertime might be the perfect time where you could stay in one place. People who see them claim they see a different kind; our elders claim that they are pike or lake trout, two or three species, and they keep growing until they die. That's what they're claiming could be out here, but no one's ever really seen them. That would be something to catch!

When I used to fly, I've seen seals that were over eight feet [long]. Mostly, harbor seals are three to four feet, but these are abnormal; eight feet. Flying along you can estimate eight feet.

Being in Bristol Bay, the world is benefitting from the salmon. Even the mine, why does it have to be in so sensitive an area? It could have been a positive thing anywhere else in the state, the world. You can go out there and drink water right from [the lake], but you can't do that in other places. They used to say, "This is your land, this is your land," and the next thing it's ours. The funny thing about it is, they keep saying it could be put off, but being the world's biggest, it's mind boggling to those people. But people who live here, we live in the middle of the whole thing, but we don't benefit from it; the whole world benefits, but we don't get anything. I asked one time what would happen if they took all the water out; they wouldn't answer me. I figured out why; they would drain all the water, and there would be no water. And there's trophy fish there in Lower Talarik [Creek], Upper Talarik [Creek]. Even [the] Newhalen River would go dry; I think these guys don't even know what's going to happen, but now it's weird; it's something. I mean, that's how Alaska is, though; it's so rich in so many minerals and we've benefitted for a long time.

Did you hear about the whales going up the Nushagak [River]? There's a reason for that; there's somebody who knows something about it. There's always someone who knows something. [The whales] went quite a ways up there. I would have liked to see somebody explain something like that; they claimed they had seen a couple of them at Pedro Bay at fall time. They claimed twice they've seen killer whales; the only way it could ever come up is the Kvichak [River]. I guess people are watching the river all the time; you would have seen it.

You'll walk around and see a rock and think, "That's weird," and you'll see more and more and wonder where they came from. Then there will be so many, and they'll be in places you shouldn't see them. And you'll think, "Oh, it's a glacier." People get so amazed by things we see every day; we see it all the time. They say, "Don't you know it's there?" And we say, "We see it all the time."

Most Native people claim they see a lot of gold; Native people have never gone to be what they call a prospector. But it hasn't been to do anything like that; it has never been our thought. [Gold deposits are] all over here, [and there is] coal on the islands out there. We had geologists out there who were pretty amazed and asked, "Why don't you burn coal?" We say, "Coal is dirty!" Funny thing about here is that there are just so many things you can do without any help at all. We're fortunate to be living here.