

“Long Term Challenges to Alaska’s Salmon and Salmon Depended Communities”
A workshop coordinated by the Center for Salmon and Society
Racial and Cultural Equity Dialogue and Work Group Summary
November 1-3, 2016

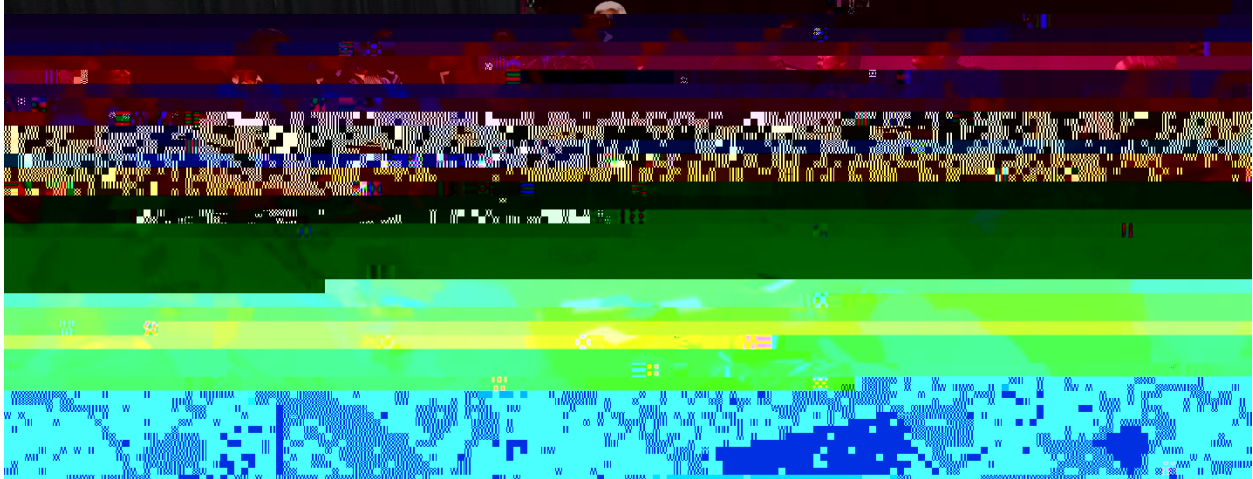
Executive summary

On November 2, First Alaskans Institute (FAI) hosted a racial and cultural equity dialogue with participants at the UAF Center for Salmon and Society Workshop

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helped contextualize salmon utilization and management within not only standard spheres like biology and regulation, but also within broader categories of colonization, assimilation and systemic inequities to demonstrate *why* looking at salmon management from an equity lens is important and necessary. A crucial message delivered was that equality and equity are not the same thing. In this context, FAI staff spoke about equity as the ability to utilize all the various ways of knowing and having the dominate system acknowledge them as valid and legitimate. Further arguing that we must harness these various ways of knowing and experiences, learn from one other, share information to make the most reliable informed decisions for our collective benefit. In a way that moves beyond the occasional inclusion of Traditional Ecological Knowledge when it is supportive to a researchers cause, but instead to recognize, respect and incorporate the geographic intelligence of indigenous people, in an equitable fashion to inform salmon management and underlying systemic decision making processes.

After the plenary conversation, participants spent approximately 25 min at their tables responding to the question: **real** conversations about equitable access to s



Our workshop began in circle with introductions, FAI [dialogue agreements](#) and spending time reflecting on the topics and stories that had been shared over the past 2 days. Some key reflections include:

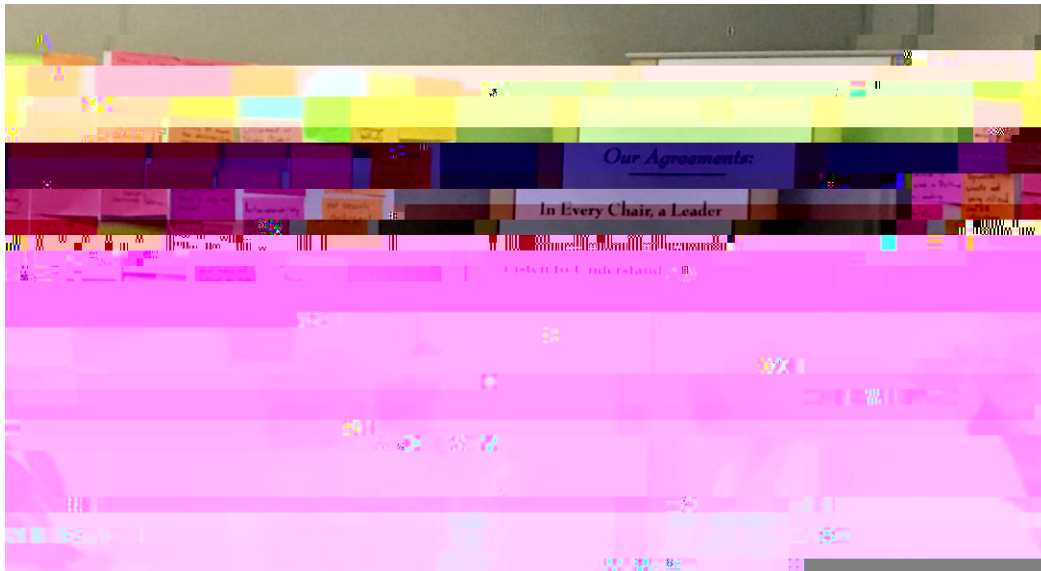
- How knowing our history can be both empowering and overwhelming
- There is an inverse relationship where the people who are the most dependent on salmon tend to be the people with the least power to make decisions about that resource
- The passion of everyone on stage and in conversation at the conference was evident and encouraging for future progress in equitable management of the salmon resource
- The need to overcome salmon
 - comfortable embracing change, getting out of our boxes and comfort zones

Participants then self-identified three key equity topics to explore and discuss, around the question: _____ years,

After suggestions were sorted by affinity grouping, topics identified were 1) climate change 2) power dynamics in salmon management systems and 3) co-management/traditional knowledge.

The guiding questions for all three groups were:

- What are the main problems/critical issues
- What is our vision to address these challenges
- What are the knowledge gaps in this area
- What is the pathway to address this issue, and
- What recommendations for change (such as policy or research) do we identify



Next Steps

First Alaskans Institute as a member organization of Salmon Connect, is working to connect people through networking and dialogue and to identify and incubate collaborative projects that advance equitable human relationships as core to healthy wild salmon systems.

FAI and our partners will continue to host racial and cultural equity dialogues across Alaska within the salmon and natural resource sector and with the broader public to re-envision an equitable salmon management system, through dialogue build trust and relationships, and through relationships contribute to lasting transformation that will shift our collective culture to one of openness, understanding, and mutual respect grounded on common interests.

If you are interested in working with us to elevate civil discourse and create robust public participation in re-envisioning an equitable salmon system management, are interested in participating or co-hosting a future dialogue, or have ideas for us to consider feel free to contact anpc@firstalaskans.org.

Quyana!