

Incorporating Ways of Knowing into the Board Process

Alaska Board of Fisheries
Committee on Board Process,
Management, and Research
Needs

Provided by ADF&G Subsistence
November 21, 2023

(left: fishing in Larsen Bay)

Topics

- Definitions of Traditional Knowledge and Local Knowledge
- Knowledge Systems
- How Traditional Knowledge can inform policy makers
- Examples of inclusion of Traditional Knowledge
- Knowledge systems and the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game

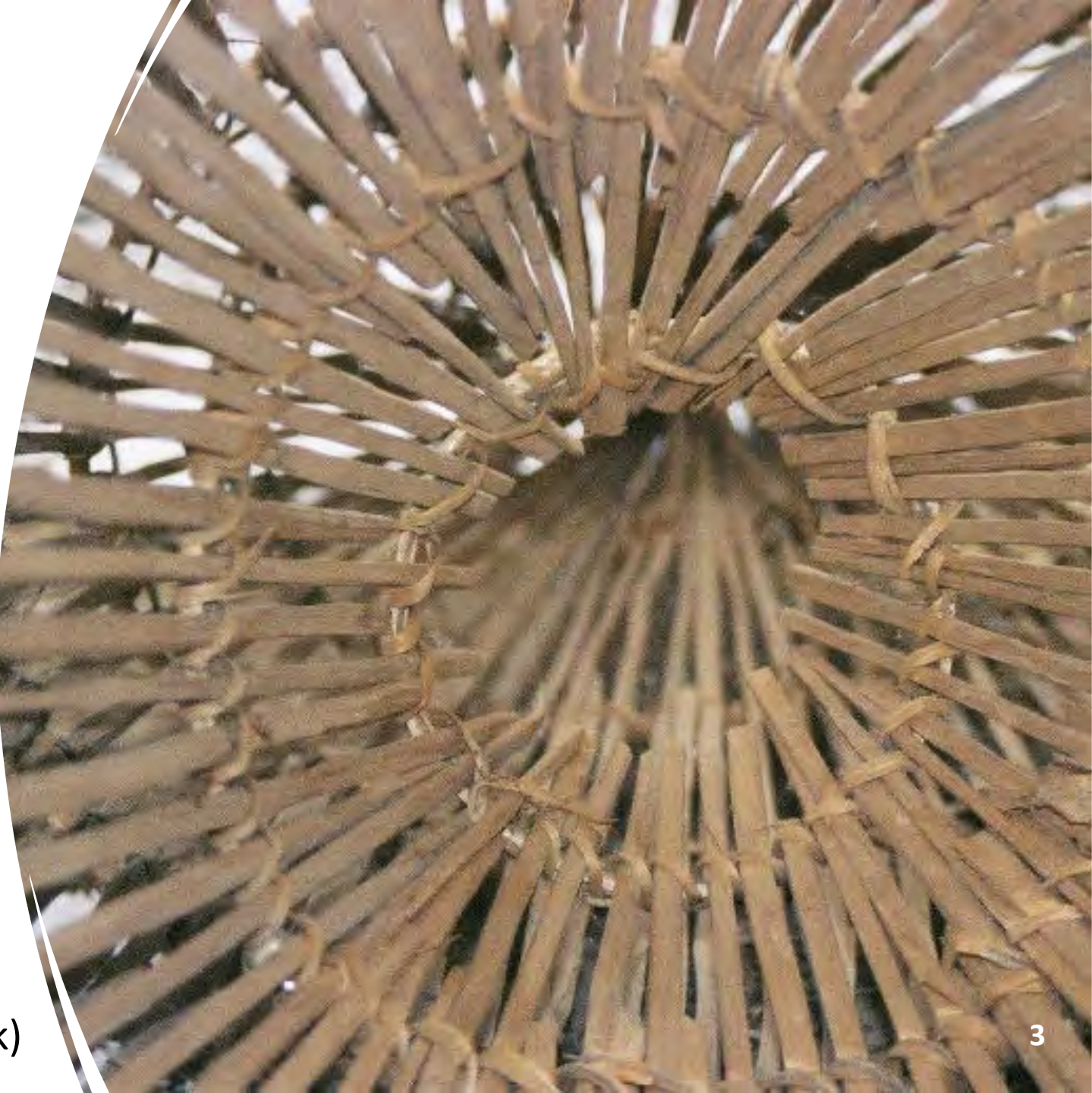
(left: Arctic ciscoes in Nuiqsut) 2

Definitions

Traditional Knowledge (TK) –
observational and experiential, adaptive,
usually oral, culturally embedded,
generational, usually indigenous
(different, yet also sometimes referred to
as TEK, Indigenous Knowledge)

Local Knowledge (LK) –
observational and experiential, adaptive

(right: Blackfish trap from Koyukuk)

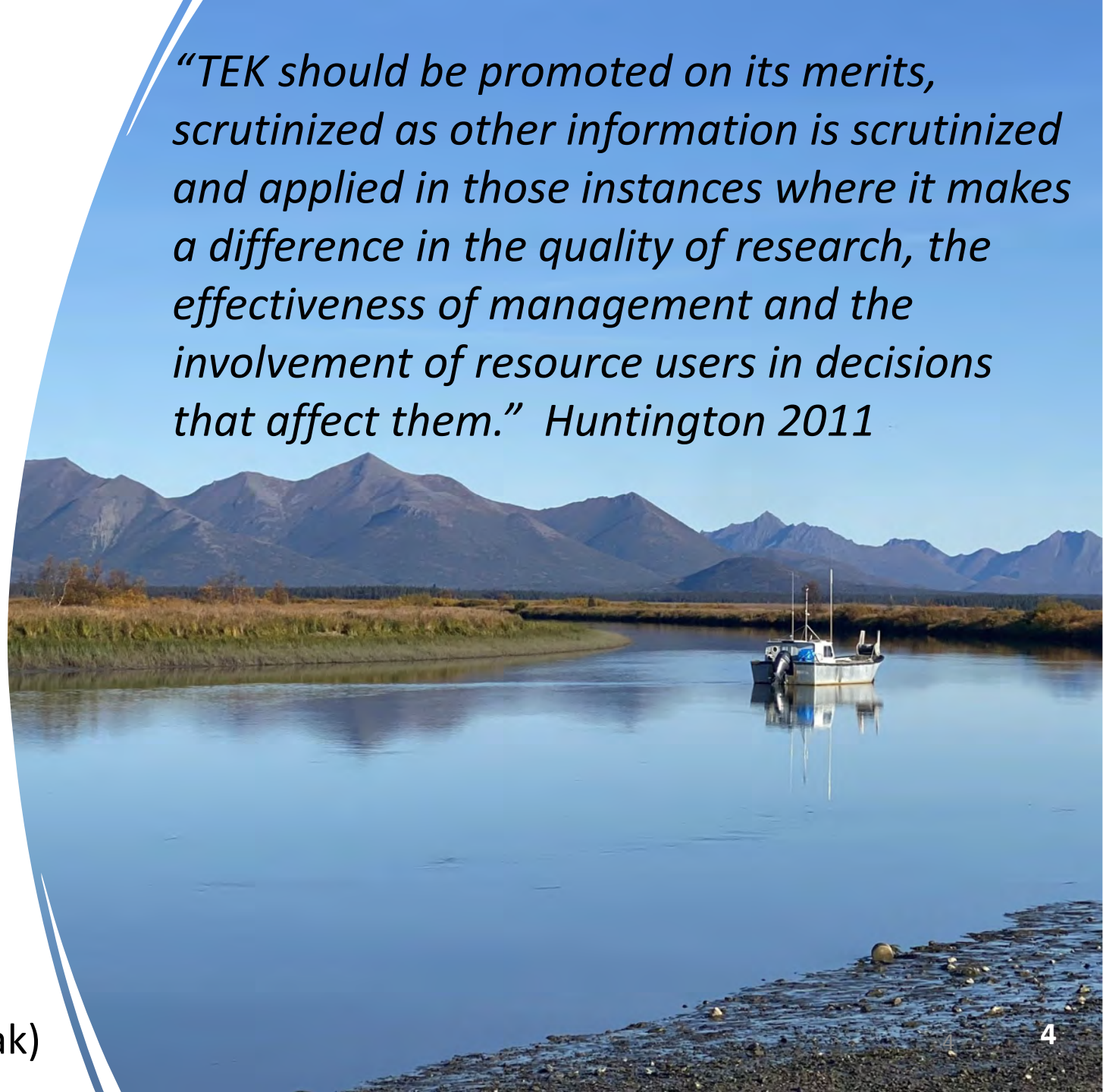


Knowledge Systems, or Ways of Knowing

- What is a knowledge system?
- Why do they matter?
- How can different knowledge systems coexist?

(right: fishing boat in Manokotak)

“TEK should be promoted on its merits, scrutinized as other information is scrutinized and applied in those instances where it makes a difference in the quality of research, the effectiveness of management and the involvement of resource users in decisions that affect them.” Huntington 2011



How can TK inform policy makers?

“When we speak of ‘subsistence,’ we don’t just mean using the resource, but using tribal methods and acting out culture and complying with those values, and we do those things because they are a measure of protection for the land and its resources.” – a Venetie resident

(left: mapping in Shageluk)

Examples

- Subsistence research at ADF&G
 - Contributions to the boards' process
 - Informs inseason management of fish and wildlife
- NPFMC Taskforce on Traditional Knowledge
- AK Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
- Yukon River Panel



Knowledge Systems and the Board of Fisheries

- How is TK presented to the board now?
- Considerations for new possibilities
 - Board committee on knowledge systems
 - Nominations
 - Remote attendance
 - More options for testimony
 - Specific requests from the board
 - Listening/engagement sessions
 - Land acknowledgement

(right: harvesting herring eggs in Sitka)





Final Thoughts

(left: under-the-ice net in Grayling)