

# Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition Concerns

Shishmaref, Alaska

November 6, 2007

All photos taken by Tony A. Weyiouanna Sr-Kawerak, Inc. unless noted



## Shishmaref has organized the Coalition from our three local governing entities

- City of Shishmaref
- Native Village of Shishmaref
- Shishmaref Native Corporation
- Kawerak, Inc the Regional Non-Profit facilitates the coalition and provides staff support.

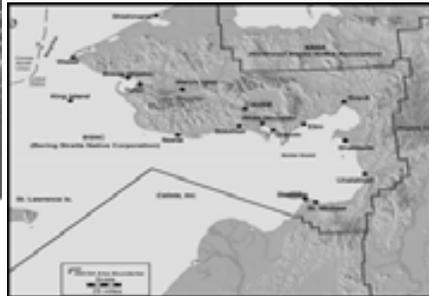


<http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/shiscoal/index.html>

<http://www.kawerak.org/>

<http://www.shishmarefrelocation.com/index.html>

# Shishmaref is located on the coast in Northwest Alaska



## We have lived here over 4,000 years



Kelly Eningowuk



Kelly Eningowuk



Kelly Eningowuk



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## Subsistence

The community of Shishmaref is highly dependant on its cultural and traditional heritage. Subsisting off the natural foods from the land and sea is critical to our health and well being, and is passed on from generation to generation.

The preservation of our unique culture is vital to the continued existence of our community as one family.



## Shishmaref Plagued by Shoreline Erosion



Recently, temperatures in Shishmaref have increased, our permafrost is melting, and our storms have gotten much worse.

For several decades, Shishmaref has had a growing problem with significant shoreline beach erosion. The future and well being of our community and residents is our number 1 concern.

**Storm footage November 2003 storm**



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**10-08-02 Storm**



Erosion rate: These 2 photos were taken 2 hours apart, note the ATV tracks in the road (note the 55 gallon barrel). This road no longer exists.

In 1997, Shishmaref lost 125 feet of beach in a single storm.



Pack ice  
November  
2005

Teacher's  
Housing

Open water February 2006

Without the early buildup of shoreline pack ice, Shishmaref is more vulnerable to erosion caused by fall storms in late October-December of each year.



Frank Myounick-Kawerak

Frank Myounick-Kawerak

- Shishmaref is not alone; other Alaska Native Villages are facing a significant threat from ongoing global climate changes.
- Areas that have in the past been protected by our durable permafrost are now at risk. **According to the GAO, 184 other communities** are being affected by flooding and erosion in Alaska.
- **Land along the coast of St. Michael, Shaktoolik and Stebbins are being lost to the environmental warming, flooding and erosion.**

# Seawall projects

## Rip Rap Seawalls



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# Strategic Plan For Relocation

## Update plans and goals

**The Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition has developed a Strategic Plan to help plan and coordinate its effort to protect and relocate the community. This plan developed in 2002 is currently being revised.**





- The no action option for Shishmaref is the annihilation of our community by dissemination.
- We are unique, and need to be valued as a national treasure by the people of the United States. We deserve the attention and help of the American people and the federal government.

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## Final Request



**That Shishmaref be used as a State/federal demonstration project with maximum flexibility to determine what changes need to be made to lower the cost and impact of relocation, identify a State or Federal champion to facilitate State and federal agency coordination for relocation of communities**

# Shishmaref, we are worth saving



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