

Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition Concerns

Shishmaref, Alaska

November 6, 2007

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



Kelly Eningowuk



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.

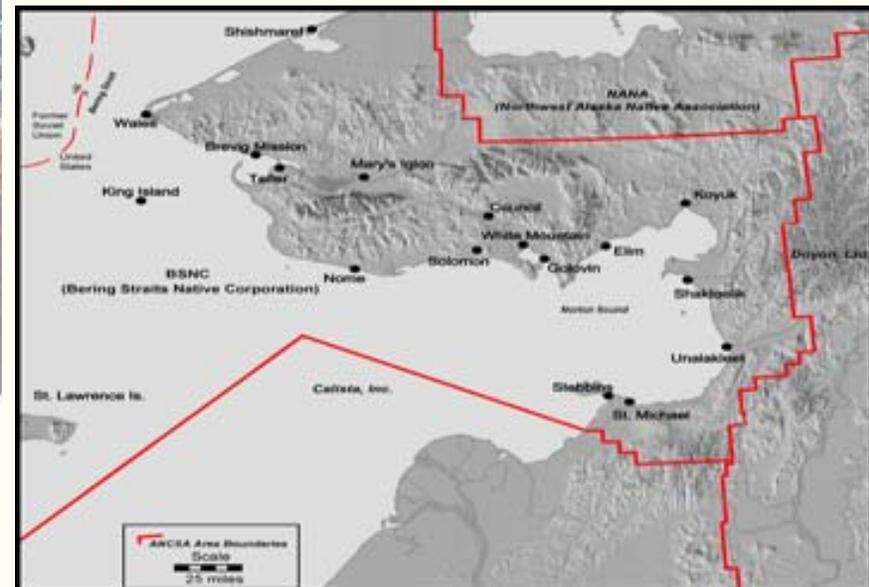
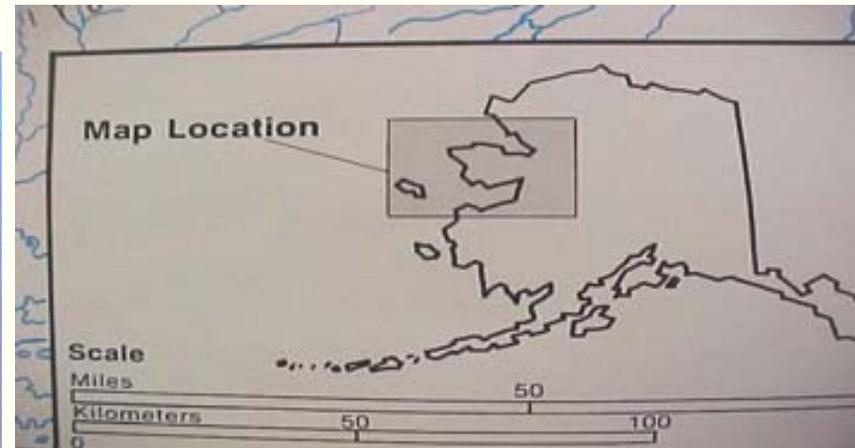


<http://www.kawerak.org/tribalHomePages/shiscoal/index.html>

<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





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



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



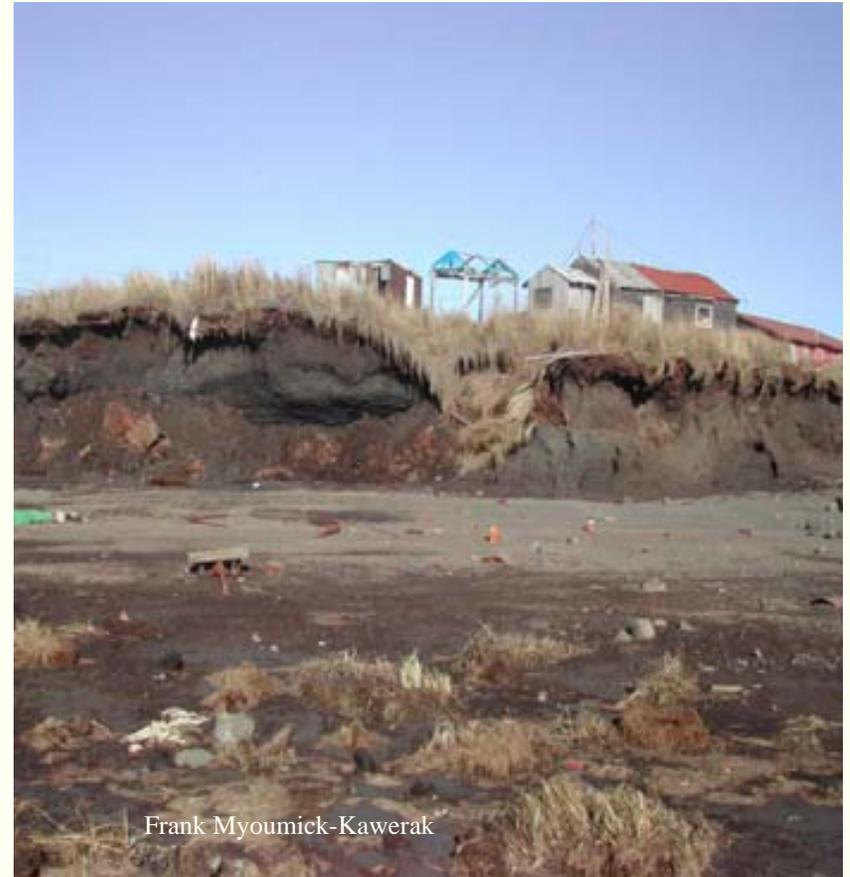
Open water February 2006

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 Myoumick-Kawerak



Frank Myoumick-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



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.

SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION
P.O. Box 72100
Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Shishmaref Relocation Strategic Plan
January 2002



Introduction

The community of Shishmaref has determined that the threat to life and property from reoccurring beachfront erosion requires immediate action. The community has taken the first step by establishing an erosion and relocation coalition made up of the governing members of the City, Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Council and Shishmaref Native Corporation Board of Directors. Faced with the decision of whether to remain at its present location or to move, the majority of the community is in favor of moving. This plan is a guideline to assist the community as well as state, federal, and other agencies in assisting Shishmaref with an orderly relocation.

Background

Shishmaref is located approximately 30 miles south of the Arctic Circle and 50 miles northeast of the Bering Straits. The community is currently home to 600 people mostly consisting of Native Inupiaq Eskimos. The community is a traditional Eskimo village that is heavily reliant on subsistence lifestyle activities based in and around the Chukchi Sea. The local economy is subsistence based, and supplemented by part time wage earnings and local sales of arts and crafts. In addition, the



- 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.



Kelly Eningowuk





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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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