

March 22, 2007, 1-5pm
SLICA Results Discussion

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Introduction to Discussion of Results

Jack (Kruse)

We tried an experiment with the Sustainable Working Group of the Arctic Council in Copenhagen last fall. There we simply put results tables up on the screen and

didn't speak. It didn't take long before people were exchanging ideas and questions. It was mainly the people there, not the team talking. It was helpful to us – and I hope it will be helpful to you.

The meaning becomes clear based on where you're starting from. What hat you are wearing in understanding and making decisions. We'd like to try the same experiment here today. You tell us what you're interested in, tell us a table number and then let's open the discussion to all of you about a particular table.

Fran

For those of you who didn't get a set of the data, note there is an agenda. We suggest spending about 30 minutes by topic area. If it's okay, I'd like to suggest just 15-20 minutes per topic. That way we can have time to talk about anything people want to talk about. Following Jack's idea of experimenting, let's start with Ties with Nature.

Again, speak loudly so people hear you – question, observation, a concern, let's start with ties with nature.

Discussion of Results

Climate Change

Sara

This morning someone asked about how we take this information and use it collectively across the Arctic nations; in our own governments and countries. One thing I was sharing with folks was that climate change didn't come up yet in here and how all of this is impacted by that. Maybe I missed it.

Fran

One reason why climate change was not part of the original survey. Ten years ago climate change was not the same issue it is today. Today the top couple issues would include climate in the arctic. Today's awareness is greater. I defer to the people who were there 10 years ago – did it come up?

Jack

The first proposal we made to NSF was to look at Climate Change and Quality of Life in the North. We had physical and natural scientists involved, but it was too expensive. Stephanie I was going to ask you – there's a table that has climate change.

Sara

The question is really how do we really collectively make this a part of the process.

Don

380-383..

Jack

Sara I'd like to come back to your question –

Sara

How, as we go through understanding how to use this data in our nations, how do we use this information? As a part of the process we need to know how to use it. How do we make sure the larger community knows that climate change is a big focus in this?

Jack

We are starting a new study which is called SEARCH, study of environmental arctic change. It's an international project and the U.S. component is through ISER. Stakeholder relationships to build around people interested in climate change and mammal hunting, fishing, etc. in part we hope to feed SLICA into that process.

Birger

It is important to stress what Puju said. When we tried to get funding for a climate change approach, there wasn't the awareness about the changing climate there is today. We have figures up there telling how many people see climate change a problem. We have to take into account that these figures are gathered over 5 years. A lot has happened in northern Greenland where there are severe changes in the last 5 years. This might be one of the reasons to say that it is a problem that the interviewing lasted so long - and then again $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people in the Arctic see it as a problem.

Subsistence

Fran

Other questions or observations with regard to Ties with Nature?

Mike

It appears there's a significant omission for Alaska. You have no measure for hunting sea mammals in ties to nature, table 1.—

Jack

In Alaska we asked more specific questions, like walrus, seal etc. that's why.

Fran

Anyone else on ties with nature

The Sample

Jim

Looking at Table 141. I was surprised at the level of satisfaction with Alaskans – I found interesting the split within the Alaska regions – Bering Straits not following NANA and North Slope regions. It makes me think that this could be related to chum salmon fisheries in Norton Sound under the Tier 2 regulations. I haven't looked at the locations of the completed surveys in the Bering Straits. I assume there were lots of Nome interviews.

Jack

In each region we tried to divide the sample so the regional center could be a reporting unit and then the rest of the villages a unit.

Organization of Results by Arctic Social Indicator Categories

Peter

My comment is not specifically tied to nature. Having been involved in AHDR and in ASI I'm happy to see the way you decided to present your data in the 6 domains. They kind of flow to of the AHDR – so I'm happy about that. I was wondering how natural is that? Knowing the totality of your data, how much force did you have to use?

Jack

It was amazingly easy. The health one was more heterogeneous. The environmental problems tables became the most heterogeneous. But it seems to fit pretty well.

Subsistence

Don

On Table 6 you talk about number of subsistence activities. I assume this is because Canada didn't ask all the specific questions.

Jack

We had two ways to get Respondents' engagement in subsistence activities but we could only get 6 activities from Canadian data.

Don

Since you had 16-17 questions on the questionnaire and some of – it's kind of misrepresentative that you're saying 3.2 mean activities. I guess the first comment is to really put a big bold caveat that this is a restricted set.

Jack

Look at Tables 6 and 7, where we clarify that Canada is part of the second but not the first.

Don

I did analysis of the whaling captain survey run by MMS and we found that if you look at age cohorts through time, participation is consistent. Socialization for subsistence activities not so much a concern. I'd advise similar breakdown. Oh, you've got that?

Jack

Table 14 and 15.

Don

Is there a significant difference between age cohorts?

Jack

Age comparisons are tricky because once those 15-24 year olds get married and they have a few more obligations, their participation often changes. So age is a mix of life cycle and history and preferences.

Jim

Households with mature household heads are primary producers of wild food harvests. Ages 35-64 fits with that pattern.

Satisfaction with Subsistence

Guy

What does a 40% satisfaction in the Bering Straits – satisfaction for opportunities to subsistence, I'm curious from a lay person's perspective what does 40% mean? Generally doing the interviews you get a better feel for dissatisfactions. Table 50. after 100s of interviews it's hard to recall. Predominant themes may be out there.

Jack

Birger and I have an on-going discussion about whether there are differences culturally in the meaning of "very" satisfied as opposed to satisfied, even though we've tried to be sure of translation, even to dialects. The most surprising thing to me was that satisfaction levels are so low in Chukotka. They're saying they're dissatisfied. But maybe there are cultural differences or language differences that help explain differences between countries.

Mike

Is it a measure of successful hunting – getting resources? Maybe it's also a measure of satisfaction that the resources are there so I could be successful if I want to go out and harvest. Available whether I use it or not. It is interesting in my mind to kind of parse out what's inside the statement of satisfaction.

Jack

Satisfaction with the amount available and there's the question of satisfaction with opportunities. In Bering Straits people are less satisfied with amount of fish

and game available locally than with opportunities to go out and hunt. So Jim you think that may be salmon?

Jim

It could be salmon or the moose – there are some closures in the Bering Straits on moose hunting because of population concerns. Less opportunity. But there are a lot of people from Kotzebue here, and I'm wondering what your thoughts are about that suggestion because I know there are a lot of user conflicts about caribou hunting.

Linda

Have you looked at land ownership around Bering Straits. I think that (land ownership) has a lot to do both with availability and with opportunities. Regulations and policies surrounding the area impact subsistence activities.

Jim

Norton Sound is mostly under state jurisdiction. With differences in the federal subsistence management and state management, that could be an influential variable.

Caleb

Having lived in both regions, I know that the NANA area has a lot more game and fish to get to. All kinds of fish, salmon, you name it it's there.

Puju

Table 53, could you also interpret that as satisfaction with the quota imposed by the whaling commission or fishing quotas?

Jack

I think that would impact the satisfaction with opportunities to fish or hunt rather than availability.

Fran

Let's move on to CULTURAL CONTINUITY:

Language

Larry

I'm looking at language statistics. It's interesting what you've got. Of course, Alaska is fairly consistent in its low maintenance of native language across northern Alaska and the Yupik area would have been different. Canada is the surprise. Language is much better maintained in eastern Canada and Labrador – Canada is different from itself just from region to region. I always wonder why that is – policies varied, missionary group that happened to be there, but your data brings that out.

Birger

I would like to raise a question that we once faced in Greenland where we have been doing several surveys on language abilities – between 2 of those surveys there was a difference we couldn't understand from one survey to the next. The part of the population that said they spoke Danish well had risen, beyond any reasonable explanation and our hypothesis was that it was not only the self-rating of how you managed the language but also to which degree speaking the language meant something to you. The reason more Greenlanders spoke better Danish, we ended up concluding, was because it was more convenient and more accepted at that time. Would that kind of hypothesis perhaps relate in Alaska?

Sharman

I would note from Table 144 that on the North Slope, it is much more important – use of indigenous language is more important to identity on the North Slope than NANA or Bering. Most of the places that it's more important are in smaller communities relative to the regional center, but in Barrow it's more important than in smaller communities and more people speak it at home in Barrow than in smaller communities. I'm also wondering what the sampling error is on these small cross-tab tables.

Jack

I think a 10 percentage point difference is still okay. In Barrow you have a strong whaling culture and you have a reason to be using language as a crew member.

Sharman

In the North Slope, some of the other villages are whaling communities and some aren't.

Microdata

Don

Jack, I guess this – are you intending to put SPSS SAVE files, obviously with aggregate incomes, on the web? When you do I'd suggest you separate household and the demographic data for each individual in household. . .

Jack

We will have the SPSS files available, I think. We had an agreement with our ANMB which included a commitment to have our draft articles and publications reviewed, to get some feedback, with the goal of avoiding inadvertent mistakes. We would like to convey or transfer that commitment to future researchers who use the data. We will have a way that you request rights to use the data.

Don

The weak correlations between health and subsistence activities are an example where you need the SPSS file to do some of that analysis. You can't do it from these tables.

Language

Linda

The Kotzebue tribe and other communities in the NANA region did a language survey and the results were just like these – it showed cultural disparities – there's a big move to save the language. One of the things that it's tied closely to is traditional hunting and traditional lifestyle on the land. You can't explain things precisely in a non-Inupiat language. A lot of the elders who are fluent are having difficulty translating. We are faced with challenges in restoring the language.

Naja

Do you think the young people are discouraged by the elders?

Linda

There was a time when there was a language gap. There was a disparity in understanding and we're still dealing with letting people know it's okay to speak their language. Our immersion schools are starting to connect with the elders and the adults in the middle are the ones who need to help move this forward. We've changed our thought process from oral and visual thinking people to more thinking in statistics.

Puju

I want to explain about the status of the Danish language in Greenland. You need Danish to get further education. You are taught Danish as a mother language – not as a second language. Danish as a foreign language is not a concept in Greenland. What your confidence ? in Danish is necessary to continue education.

Don

I have a comment. Very similar questions were asked by the NSB in their census two years ago – that's a good control. The analysis of that is available and breaks it down – and the MMS study of whaling captains. And Savoonga showed language disparity.

Caleb

Tables 118 and 119 – on indigenous involvement in education by gender and age. Are these people who volunteer, are they people hired to be involved? What's behind the data here.

Jack

The questions were to the individual, when they were in school. We asked them if any of their teachers or teachers aides were indigenous. It was a Canadian question and it asked about teachers and teachers aides at the same time.

Caleb

I know there is a gender gap between women in the schools –

Jack

This is comparing male and female students. . .

Caleb

So the question is whether they have someone indigenous that taught them.

Larry

I think the only way to get decent statistics is with fairly large sample size. There are studies to count individual numbers of speakers. Counts can be off – by individuals own perception. People underreport and there are cases of people who feel language is disfavored – Alaskans who were not allowed to use language in school may have the feeling that it is not good to use the indigenous language. I'm happy to see large size of sample.

Sara

In the NANA Region they [in the NANA survey, which is separate from SLiCA] went to a huge percentage of households. There was a very high percentage response on the NANA language survey.

Linda

We asked how many sentences can you speak, not just do you know words.

Anne

In the NS it [SLiCA] was generally local interviewers for the SLiCA survey, so the respondents had a choice of language for interview. I suspect we would have had a comment from the interviewers if respondents misrepresented their fluency in the native language.

Sara

One other thing – in looking at NANA, Bering Straits and the North Slope, for all except Nome, I'm assuming only indigenous people were interviewed. Table 144; Nome is the only place where not at least 80 percent say language is important to maintaining identity.

Cultural Activities

Peter

I have a question about table 127 and following 129; there are 583 tables so what they mean is an interesting question. We're not providing questions, but

we're providing food for thought. For instance, look at participation in indigenous events in the last year. I think that's interesting category. If you just take the first one – "took part in a native festival: — Chukotka has high results there and Alaska relatively low. What is this telling us? Anything?

Naja

Maybe the it relates to the definition of festivals? We don't use the term festivals unless it's something huge. Here maybe it's more common to call something festival. Here festival could be lots of events.

Don

Just a question, Jack can you get a combination of any one of those? I assume some overlap, but that somebody, the totals would be higher if you'd said four.

Jack

Each one is a yes/no question, so you can have as many as you want.

Patricia

If we look at time frames I think things have changed from just 5 years ago. Climate would have been higher on people's radar. NANA is now very active in promoting native activities; there was a time when it was lower and now there is a real resurgence of all of these things. I think that is something we need to be aware of that things are changing as we're working.

Jack

We were interviewing in Barrow during Kiviq, so that would have impacted the number of people who said yes to attended a festival at that time. They may not have attended a festival in 3 years before that.

Justice

Fran

Control of Destiny While we're looking for things we might want to talk about, would folks who have just arrived tell us your name

Anyone have any questions?

Chuck

Did anything come up about the judicial system; people who have been incarcerated.

Jack

Our question was "satisfaction with courts in your community" – I wondered how that was interpreted. We didn't ask anything explicit about tribal courts for instance.

Birger

Table 219 also.

Jack

We didn't interview anyone in prison.

Chuck

My observation, a conclusion I've made is that in Alaska in particular our judicial system is kind of a form of suppression and oppression to the native communities. I would think that you would warrant a better look at our system in Alaska and how it affects Alaska natives. I think it is actually a foreign system to our native community as opposed to how they used to take care of those things in tribal courts etc.

Ed

I agree, and I've noticed over the years for those of you who don't know my background I was in the police force for years. In our system, Natives get special attention: longer sentences and less access to legal counsel. We've developed a huge underclass that's lost their civil rights. Alaska scores high according to this table, but it's still a pathetic score. It should be a springboard to further research. As far as the legal system goes around the rest of the country, it's actual affect quality of life is that it lowers it rather than improve it. At the very best it's a system based on revenge rather than it's affect on society.

Fran

I know there is no one here today from the court system. We did have commissioner of public safety, Walt Monegan and someone who is about to become in charge of VPSO's – Stephanie, has done some work for the Alaska Judicial Council on survey research on variety of questions. A number of years ago did work on justice rural versus native etc.

Stephanie

Matt and I just looked at the data again and we did a look at sentencing and found in that study that the disparities begin with pre-trial incarceration at different stages; recently estimated that more people in jail. Alaska natives and poor people spend more time in jail and have less time with lawyer and working and putting cases together – initial charge and final charge – ethnic and poor come in with higher charge. Disparities in how people were treated early on in the process (e.g. access to high quality lawyers who intervene to get charges reduced) translate to causing longer sentences -- 1.5 years longer on average. Recidivism rates [repeat charges] -- Alaska natives and people with low incomes show higher recidivism rates.

Fran

This is a little off the SLICA data although it's important on overall living conditions among indigenous in arctic.

Non-Natives

Peter

I'm sorry I'm going in more general directions. With the judicial points, what would be good to have here would be to have rates for non-natives. That's a general point throughout SLICA. I know you had to work hard to get where we are right now. As we look beyond SLICA and 2 and 3 17, in order to capture living conditions in the arctic we need to capture all people in the arctic.

Birger

In Greenland we chose to include the Danish part of the population. So including the Danes was natural. We have, not in this dataset, but we will, shortly, have a possibility to combine the two population groups in an integrated dataset for Greenland.

Peter

Are they identifiable? [Yes]

Control of Destiny

Daniel

A focal point of reference – control of destiny or lack of control thereof. The cause of this lack of control – the educational policies of apartheid – asymptomatic enforcement the apartheid education needs a serious forensic examination.

Karen

Look at Table 223. I guess you asked people and when you ask perception of – I don't know if those numbers would be similar in a non-native community. I'd say this is a pretty big red flag that 40 percent say courts and public safety don't have same priorities they do.

Stephanie

Public safety-related kinds of things were number 1 problems across the Arctic.

Puju

Table 197 levels of knowledge about politics. Does it have to be also having knowledge about one's own and rest of society's – there has been questions in this section about knowledge of household interpreting – which signifies – historical knowledge as the history of the nation and their own ethnic background. Is this part of what you can read into these questions?

Jack

The tables that we included just pertain to people's own assessments about their interest and knowledge about politics. Their individual histories and backgrounds likely affected their responses.

Puju

Table 197 mirrors a very low knowledge about actual historical knowledge.

Birger

What we meant with the question, and I thought this was understood by those asked, was the respondents' knowledge about day-to-day politics and what's going on; how decisions are made etc.

Gary

Another thing about control of destiny – exploitation of resources in our lands. For instance to start off with three points: 1) you guys all know about Prudhoe and also the Kennicott Copper Mines. During world war 1 , highest rate of coal in Chickaloon went past Palmer – the road is on the old railroad bed. Now the fact is that they are coming in to mine coal again in our community. Not just the native community has a problem with it, but mainly the non-native community has a problem with a foreign country coming in to develop the coal up there. Big problem for both natives and non-natives. We've seen our resources get plundered time after time and again. We have an influx of people then no jobs; all the people left behind no jobs; there's a big problem there. When you talk about destiny – boom and bust economy is part of the problem here. The fact that people aren't leaving pieces of the resources for the long term outcome of all – in this state. That needs to have a real close look at – resource extraction and what's left behind. More than just toxic, but resources to sustain people.

Sharman

Page 329, table 232, satisfaction with influence indigenous people have on natural resources. On the North Slope there's a significant amount of dissatisfaction; but your North Slope indigenous are more satisfied. I suspect this has changed somewhat since survey was conducted. I think there is a lot more contention about oil and gas issued today than 5 years ago. A lot more dissatisfaction with relative loss of control.

Jack

That's a good example where those two numbers for NS and NANA aren't significantly different. It is also a good example of changes over time.

BREAK

Use of the Results

Jack

From conversations we had during the break, I want to say that regions need to have time to think about these data. I don't intend that we think that this meeting is the end of the process of interpreting the data but rather the beginning. During the break, we've been talking about ways we can have a smaller session in

Alaska in which people will have had time to talk about it, after people have had a chance to individually review it. I wonder if other people have ideas about how we can maintain this collaboration rather than risk going off separately. Also it would be good to explore to what extent it is important internationally to have more discussions, or can we now use our own country networks to take that time.

Don
Money helps.

Jack
Well, this is largely a volunteer effort now.

Peter
For many of us it is too much and too fast, it's wonderful to look and work through these data, but it's hard to have an intelligent conversation so quickly. All of us are engaged in similar areas. It would be added value to take this back to our communities and then come back together.

Don
From a federal agency perspective – you've put a lot of time and energy into maximizing external validity – making data generalizable. I'd like to look at those general areas for where I have more detailed data. What I really suggest – is to coordinate so we can sit down and have different people look into different specific areas. Some kind of structure that would meet quarterly so people don't necessarily replicate efforts. Health, resource management,

Gary
I can see taking this data and tiering it – into something more specific. Look at a lot of concerns on North Slope and like the NRC report that came out. Going to agencies and formulating a plan that drops to specifics and answers questions for a particular reason. This data is a great asset.

Jack
Among confessions we can make is what we hoped in the beginning was to have more detailed sets of questions – we even asked respondents if people could come back and ask more specific questions. Most people in Alaska said yes in 2002 and 2003. We found ourselves focusing on the survey effort. It would be great to have more detailed studies to follow SLiCA.

Next Steps

Birger
I think it is only fair to say that this is not a wrap up. The tables were meant both as documentation of what we've done so far and as for food for thought. This is the first launch. We will have one in Greenland and probably some elsewhere too. As the data are on the net, we can't prevent anyone from getting strange

ideas and writing strange things, but we should ask for feedback. I don't know if we can make it without it being a burden to you, make a forum at the website where things could be discussed and put forward so we try not to mastermind the discussions but to have a forum for thoughts and discussions.

Jack

Even though the password was taken off the site where the tables are located, another part is passworded. We could set it up as a forum where communities can share ideas, if you want to involve a broader group of people and want to share thoughts, we could have the possibility there.

Patricia

An online discussion would be a helpful solution. One of the reasons the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment Report was useful was because it had a summary document; more than the 4-pager. We need some sort of a summary document which could be useable within communities. I don't know if you want to do it on a country-by-county basis. I think a summary would be important and helpful.

Jack

In the front of the document there's an overview which reflects the 5 themes the native management board came up with. It is the most reviewed part of what we've done. The tables and information come from the dataset. Would a plain English version of the first paper – built on the themes be a possibility?

Puju

I agree with Patricia. I think it is what we . . . have been . . . During this project a lot of people have been involved and they deserve to get something back, so this summary is a summary of this – most of the respondents are not statisticians, but they need to understand what. I think this summary and the most important tables so they can feel the main thrust. Another thing is that this is going to be worked on further as the IPY project, and this is going to be presented to the Arctic Council also, so they may be interested in the updating and upgrading on the first chapter or full chapter on climate change and other issues. Where further work could be done by nation states. Some of the legislative budgets along the arctic are interested in this kind of information. The Greenland Home Rule Government is interested in using this kind of information. Others also are – legislative budgets might also be interested. Arctic council should promote this further work on the basis of these statistics.

Mike

I have colleagues in California – we went on to Yahoo and created a Yahoo Group – we would chip in to 100 different human resources people. It's very simple, low maintenance, so colleagues can talk about any one set of the data. Click through what you want to read – allows a community across continents.

Ownership of the Data

Jack

That raises the concept of the ownership of the data. Our indigenous partners are the owners of the data. Researchers come and go. I'd like to see a mechanism where the ICC or some institution has a stewardship function for a large data set like this. It's about you guys. It would be great to have the resources that go to you to allow you to manage or think about these kinds of issues so other researchers that come and go have someone to work with. I'm thinking along the lines of the Alaska Native Science Commission, but in the ANSC you never had the resources to get into this type of thing. But it would be a good idea.

Victoria

Is this going to go to the Senior Arctic Officials in the next two weeks, and how will it be presented? Second question; some of the data that is here is highly sensitive – it will probably never available to the public. It would be good if the non-sensitive data could be put into a searchable form so people can use it. There was a management group for this project from the indigenous representatives. They should perhaps make the decision of what data can be public and what cannot.

Jack

The Alaska Native Management Board decided what questions went into the questionnaire. The suicide and sensitive questions were in the Greenland questionnaire and the ANMB struggled in whether to ask them in Alaska. They decided it was difficult, but important, so the questions needed to be included. At that point we committed to collect and report all that was in the questionnaire. For this report we decided not to interpret the data, but rather just report exactly what we had. All of that book will be public.

Birger

Not that we have a final solution, and I haven't talked to people here – but just before we left Greenland I realized that the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council did not have SLiCA on the agenda which it is now.. This means we have to discuss it. I've proposed that as SLiCA results have now been launched, that we have some kind of launch in Tromso, Norway. I've spoken to Karen about how to proceed, but haven't talked to Jack or others in the group. It's new, thus we can't say we have an agreement on how we can present SLiCA results.

The other thing is how we are going to proceed. It's important to realize that the results are out there in the public. Then we have the idea of making the data accessible through a remote access analysis system to allow more detailed analyses while safeguarding the anonymity of respondents. This remote access analysis system is yet to be funded. One of the decisions we made was that the analysis should be contextual – that is, based on and related to what is going on

in each region - including what we can gather by the internet, stories and information necessary to understand the tables. Based on these activities we can continue to have the discussions with the management boards.

Sharman

Picking up on the topic raised by people who wanted something smaller and more digestible than this: I am acutely aware that these are raw tabulations. Without some careful analysis and control variables and interpretation they don't necessarily mean anything or can be misleading. A shorter document, digestible by the audience, and digested by researchers and indigenous partners would be value added. That the conclusions we draw from it stand up.

Patty Gray

I agree with that. And I would encourage you not to have just a single voice in that document. Having very different interpretations standing together in the same document would be very valuable. There probably will be differences.

Mariekatrine

I see the data as tools for analysis. Next question is how to use the analysis and who is going to do it.

Karen

At the ministerial meeting, we actually approved the SLICA report. This report did not exist at that time, but the approval was "in principle", based on the Copenhagen workshop with the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council. The approach to the Arctic Council now is open to us to decide. It could be that you do a short report now and get some more time and do more for the SAO meeting, instead of doing it back-to-back. I think the idea you hear here is a balance between exposure and care. There is more need for more exposure to pick up more support for it to go on. But we're not on any timeline with Arctic Council to rush in with anything.

Regional Meetings to Discuss Results

Chuck

I would encourage meetings like this in each of the countries to go over the survey. I would also believe that each country should have an opportunity to go through the survey and have a chance to discuss findings. In addition, I would think that an important step would be to develop recommendations from the survey itself. In particular the red flag areas. How we can improve life in the arctic? Then maybe identify champion organizations or lead organizations to help us with these recommendations. Perhaps the universities, the state legislature may be able to help with some of these; the US government. There are so many different players; our judicial system for example, I keep going back to that because I think it's important. It's much deeper. So those of use around the table and others that aren't here need the time to digest this to make good

recommendations and identify institutions, agencies and organizations to help us carry out recommendations.

Don

You know, I think the only way your indigenous partners have control is if resources are provided for them to have the control of interpretation. To really protect them requires a level of resources that they have access to produce the viewpoint and vision from this data that represents their concerns. That seems to me to be real tricky. Trying to find resources on the go all the time. Partnerships with universities and institutes to tap into expertise. That's a coordinating effort that's also going to cost a lot of money. It's a desperately problematic issue. But it's the nature of politics.

Dealing with Uncomfortable Results

Caleb

We know these are the results of people who were asked the questions; if we are uncomfortable we have to figure out why we're uncomfortable. These are the answers people have given. What are we going to do about it and why are we uncomfortable.

Ed

I think part of our discomfort is because we had set in our own minds what the conditions were in a lot of cases and we're reasonably sure that all of these things equated to results we'd like to see. When we didn't see the results we expected, these things equated to things that would be negative. The one that caused most concern was the health and subsistence lifestyle. If one person looked at it quickly they'd stay if you engage in a subsistence lifestyle it doesn't translate to better health. Like Caleb says, we need to get into the background of these results.

Sharman

Stephanie said once you control for age some of that disappears. There are control factors that enter into the data and we need these controls to interpret the data.

Ed

If you asked the people doing physical stuff; the results would be in the favor of the subsistence stuff – they work hard and they are more aware of their physical symptoms.

Heather

They can hurt themselves doing the more strenuous activities.

Fran

I'd like to offer a couple thoughts in answer to your question about discomfort about looking at the data; I had nothing to do with the research – I'm just someone who thinks this has been a valuable effort. One is there is a lot here that people haven't had a chance to look at and think about. When you get overwhelmed, it's hard to make sense of it. Another level of discomfort is that as human beings when we look at facts, we impose preconceived ideas on facts and if they match we feel good about it; but if it doesn't match my preconceived notion, I wonder what's wrong with the data. Because this tries not to explain why, but just lays out tables, it leaves a host of possibilities in terms of context, explanation; linking other data sets; trying to make sense of it. Sitting here in this room today who knows what somebody might make of the relationships; cause and effect; makes us wonder how it will turn out.

Jack's point of continued collaboration; people in the regions; more conversation may raise the comfort level; there will always be a concern that people see things differently. It may be something we can't control. I think some of that discomfort is a combination.

Patricia

I think that was part of the management board's objective: what we were trying to do was raise those questions that aren't always comfortable; because it was important if we wanted to do an honest appraisal of where we are and where we want to go. The questions we were asking about missionaries; the effect of bringing schools into communities; we understood that if we wanted a real assessment of where we stand we had to ask those questions. I'm happy there are things in there that make us uncomfortable. That will help us to get to the next step.

Linda

I wanted to add to that. I think our people at home also deserve the same information that the community looked at and the survey results. We may be looking at them from a different perspective; if they want to look at the data they should have a right and opportunity to look and interpret the data themselves, and then be okay in the world about it. In the community that's impacted; and then in the world view of the arctic. We share whether are we gathering this for the people at home or for the world to come in and help us. I think the collaborative effort and the data and organizations and people with the survey the informants went in concert; we need to pull them back in which the data and say this is us collectively.

Take Time for Understanding

Marie Greene

Once that's done in the region, e.g. NANA, like when they did the language survey. The results were facts. So we took it upon ourselves to interpret – that's what's going to happen here. It won't happen until we have a good understanding of what the content means. Like Caleb says, I have the sense of

discomfort because I need to understand what all this means. I was there when they were doing the interviews. People came forward. People didn't take these questions lightly. Whether suicide, language, or depression. We tend to hear when people come in to town, people say "Oh, a researcher" and some of us have had bad experiences with researchers. What really needs to happen, is that we have to take the time to understand it within our region. Especially if agencies are going to use these findings. We have to remember. We have to remember 10 years ago, there was concern about transports. It's – I have to take the time to know what all this means and once that occurs we'll accept what's here or we'll be finding out things are worse than we thought; but we know we have to address them.

Patricia

I guess a question I am trying to come to grips with is would it be helpful to have the analysis done for each different area so people in NANA, Bering Straits could have a chance to look at what's pertinent to those regions. What needs to be done and how.

Jade

What affects one region affects the another. This is general enough for that; that sort of a subgroup can happen. I think what's most important to us is the interpretation to our people. If we as leaders don't understand it the people we affect won't understand it. We need to be able to effectively use this information for our people in our region. We think that by having it just published on the internet it's not going to be effective for us. We're concerned that we want to make the most out of the survey in the best way we know how; get into the regions and interpret it the best we can.

Patricia

Maybe do an Alaska analysis.

Jade

Data interpretation; not even comparing each region. Inuit are all one people.

Patricia

We do have to make sure it's clear that this is representative of just Northern Alaska. We need to be up front in saying these are the parameters we dealt with.

Ed

I think there also needs to be, a good summary report of the entire survey. No one is going to sit here and read this raw data. Those of us who have spent a lot of time with this, may get somewhere. I don't think it's going to work. I believe it is important for the regions to have the information even if Alaska is put together in one grouping. I think enough work has been done on this that the added effort

for a summary report for the international dataset should be worth while. A lot of this information is set up so we don't have to reinvent wheels to do comparisons.

Arctic Social Indicators

Patricia

As dated as this is it's the best there is.

Anne

You can replicate it. You have the questions. In many cases people gave permission to come back – some of the issues like about cumulative impacts on NS people will say sure I'll fill it out. We have cumulative impacts – there are probably valued concerns about the press picking this up and sensationalizing it. God knows what might get in the newspaper.

Mike

How hard would it be to replicate this?

Jack

A tremendous amount of the time and effort went into coming to a meeting of minds between disciplines and countries and cultures. Now that you have the results, you can deduce what worked and what didn't. Replicating the survey is a much easier thing to do based on the experience we have had to date. Sampling was also not straightforward. Each country is different. What we learned in Chukotka, for example, is a tremendous step forward for future surveys. You're sitting next to a guy, Peter, who is co-chair of the Arctic Social Indicators study. They have a short time frame of 2 years to try and come up with a few indicators of living conditions in the arctic for all people; it would be crazy for Peter to imagine going out and collecting information like we did in SLICA for the whole Arctic in the next 18 months. Over the long term, however, if you had an ASI – we can use future surveys to close gaps in existing information. We could conceive a smaller set of questions that would be easier and less expensive than SLICA.

Shelby

Peter what are you going to do with ASI.

Peter

These data; for the majority people involved in the ASI, they will be seeing these data for the first time in the near future. We had one workshop where some SLICA team members were present. We were aware how important SLICA data are. It is through SLICA data that ASI becomes manageable. It's actually less than 18 months; that's basically our only chance at this point is to take the results and – our problem is that SLICA is biased toward Inuit and there are other indigenous people of the north and the non-indigenous people not represented. The ASI charge is to combine existing data. We will take the Inuit bias into ASI as a starting point.

Birger

Apart from a lot of other experiences which could be used again, there is the experience that funding: the way we were funded, at different times and with different parts of what we needed was enormously time consuming; if funding institutions in different countries joined forces (like the collaboration between the European Science Foundations and the National Science Foundation on the BOREAS projects). If the funding is in place, a lot of energy and resources would be free to do work.

Gary

I'm thinking of Alaska. Can you take and re-examine one of the different countries. Maybe my interests are Alaska – local people. That's where my questions, dataset for Alaska; a replication of your study here in Alaska would be very meaningful. That's where I was wondering about replication.

Jack

Back in 1977 when the North Slope Borough was new, ISER collaborated with the NSB on living conditions. The Borough has used many of those questions since then on their census. That's an example of collaboration.

Jim

My agency has a narrowly defined mission and set of obligations. We're looking at subsistence use and the documentation of that. I think the chance for partnering / piggybacking on other initiatives is something we should keep in mind. My staff do interviews with 2000 households on the Kuskokwim River on an annual basis. We don't want to invite ourselves in for a 3-hour interview, but if we could think creatively on synergy in expanding our understanding into other regions as well as maybe refine some of the questions; so we're not just replicating but advancing and moving forward. We would end up with yet again a bunch more interesting questions with a second set of data.

Peter

I want to echo concerns about synergy. Luckily with the Arctic Social Indicators project we don't have time to do anything; if we had 5 years time and the money we would do it. Too often we do research because we think new data is important. At the same time making more use of existing data is important. We're always in a rush to get more data without bringing data sets together. The SDN data sets do they fit in? To finish; that brings me to the question of what ideas are there for a data repository in which format and where will the data be kept.

Preserving and Accessing the Data

Jack

This data is very different than most NSF data. We don't think that having the data at the National Snow and Ice Data center makes much sense. The University of Michigan as a consortium for archiving social science data. They are able to archive it for use in future. We collaborated with them and the U of California on the SLiCA remote data access proposal that was declined by NSF – that we hope to resubmit. When you have data this sensitive and from small communities it's easy to know who you're looking at. If you coarsen the data [collapse response categories] you often have trouble seeing the results in a meaningful way. The idea of working with Michigan and Berkley was to allow people in places as far apart as Iqaluit and Fairbanks and Nome access a remote dataset and ask questions; but not to see the data itself. Michigan and Berkley is the appropriate group to work with; we hope to go that route. they are working with the federal drug administration to realize this solution; it could be useful in arctic for sensitive data.

Peter

I will try to stay in touch with you because we are facing similar problems with BOREAS – demand one data center for all 7 funded projects.

Don

During Exxon Valdez we worked with ADF&G and did a lot of research pertinent to Exxon's interests. We had to work out a protocol because under discovery in a court situation you will have to give up all the data. You've gotta couple million of NSF; how are you going to protect from public domain.

Anne

There are certain exceptions. Those are issues.

Jack

That's why U of M is useful to work with. Some datasets in Michigan you can't access except at Michigan etc.

Don

You have to think about it sooner than later. I don't know about the probability someone is going to do a FOYA [Freedom of Information Act request] on you, if it's not completely out of your control, someone can get it.

Jim

I think the issues Don raised are significant, I don't have answers; but in our state agency we contact thousands of Alaskan households on an annual basis and in our data summarized at a community level and made available in an access database download and we're developing a system that's web searchable. None of the household data is accessible. We have a statute that protects the household data, which makes it easier for us to comply, we don't put it in the database. We do still get questions from the Dept of Law for example if a person is making a claim for workers compensation and they sign a waiver we can

provide that information. Usually it is only in a situation to benefit that household. I wonder whether or not, how much dialogue there had been whether or not the household data need to be accessible.

Jack

Yeah, there's been a lot of dialogue about preserving the confidentiality of the data. We have already removed personal identifiers from the data set. We still have to do more to protect confidentiality before the data can be accessible.

Shelby

I think at the community level too. How do communities make decisions? Nome, Barrow and Kotz have all this information. I'm thinking it would be useful for all communities to have information at this level.

Jack

Right, and in the data we do know which community each R comes from. We didn't, however, design the sample to produce community specific results, except for the regional centers. It would not be reliable to report results for each village.

Here's the Rub: Statistics Canada has released microdata that has literally no geographic identifiers: everyone is just shown as "Arctic".

Don

You don't need to coarsen the data too much to make it useful for anonymity. In a court of law that's enough. If there are 3 people 20-25, then you have anonymity. I don't think you have to lose the richness and detail of the individual records. They aren't compromised.

Sharman

SDN has a protocol where you have to go through something analogous to an IRB review before accessing data. You have to agree to all these provisions.

Jack

This discussion has been very helpful.

Fran

We didn't talk about Material Success, Health or Education, I don't know if anything popped up that you want to ask specific questions about or offer observations about on any of those three.

Don

Jack, you had a slide that listed proportion of income spent on subsistence equipment, I can't find. [Jack: it is there; we can talk about this later]

Jack

From my perspective, deviating from the agenda was more helpful than pushing through so I'm grateful for this more general conversation.

Household Production Activities

Caleb

In regards to health; the change in the dynamics of male role versus female role. I didn't see how that is reflected in tables.

Jack

Near the beginning of the interview we asked the respondent to say for each adult member of the household what each one person did normally in the last year, – cooking to employment. That data's there; by gender. It didn't work well. It's too crude. We're not sure it means as much as we hoped it would mean about the roles in households.

Table 416; page 475.

Jack

There's another section where we have similar responses for work and subsistence. But if you look at table 420 for example, on page 477; we counted the number of what we called domestic assistance activities, this is what keeps the household going; and looked at this by gender. Which suggests that the women are doing more domestic activities than the men.

Jade

483 table 429

Sharman

I'm looking at table 430 preferred ways for making a living; preference for working on a wage job – a full quarter of the respondents prefer a full time wage lifestyle. The people who prefer a mix is constant across the ages. The slack is taken up by those who prefer a full time subsistence lifestyle.

Mariekatrine.

We know the data are statistical results. How do we get the analysis to use the results in the regions?

Anne

It seems like the younger you are the more you want a wage job; the older the more you want to do subsistence. Teenagers don't seem all that much into hard work.

Jack

I didn't understand your question, Marie.

Indigenous Partner Interpretation of Results

MarieK

Those data are statistics; but to use the analysis that we can understand and recognize ourselves in our places; who's going to do the analysis.

Sharman

Who's going to write a report that turns numbers into a meaningful report that makes sure we all can read what the conclusions should be.

Jack

I would hope the indigenous partners look at this and assess what needs more work and understanding. If they need technical expertise they reach out and ask for collaboration on other smaller projects that are in more depth. Maybe analyze this data and maybe add data. SLiCA has been a project. Now we need to turn the wheel over again to where it's in the court of our indigenous partners to say what of this do we need to do more with and what do we need to do it.

Sharman

You can go to universities with graduate students and ask the questions you may want to have graduate students to get into the data and do analysis.

Fran

I sense people are more or less done for today. If anyone has anything they really want to say, this may be the time.

Surprising Subsistence Results

Patricia

At lunch I had an interview with the Canadian press and had anxiety about what to say given the presentation by Heather this morning. It seemed like everything we were seeing in Alaska, Canada and Greenland were not necessarily the same in Canada. They always want to make a media blitz "health isn't related to a traditional way of life". The Canadian press may ask why this inconsistent finding is coming from Canada. We need to be very careful in the ways this information goes out, especially to press, we need to make sure the information we are looking at is valid. The right information and legitimate information is going out to communities. I hope that we have time to do that before it gets to the point where people take snippets of information and give it a life of its own in another universe. We need to have caution in how and where we present this information—find conflict and where we fit as well. I have to honestly say I was surprised with the presentation from Canada. I wanted to be honest so you guys know what's happening in my world.

Jack

I put Heather in a tough spot because we couldn't have Gerard come because he's not well. At the last minute I asked Heather to come. She has been working on one set of data that we ran together in Quebec City some time ago. She

doesn't have her own access to run tabulations in Canada. She was coming to share an internal puzzle, not trying to say these are conclusions.

Heather

Those results were the whole SLICA set; but they were intended to generate conversation; not to give a negative impression about the traditional economy. It showed me it was very connected to social strengths and satisfaction and health. But there were some correlations of particular variables that didn't show up where we expected them.

Birger

I think it has been said some times, that there might be different ways of looking at the data – the discussion stresses that when we present data, they not only have to be valid, but we also have to be especially careful to include the necessary insight when we - and everyone we are working with - release analysis results, that might be considered spectacular.

Puju

You might expect some of the Inuit organizations will aim to use the data as soon as possible. I think we need to have some data available which is useable for our constituents. This data needs to be consistent with the publications.

Sharman

A general comment about managing press and public information when it can be spun in ways you like or don't like. My personal philosophy is to maximize the availability of information but stay ahead of the curve with the press and do the homework and analysis and have the 2-pager that you can hand out so they can focus on the results you've vetted and polished. When answering press questions; give them a rehearsed 3-sentence answer and not the 30-minute version.

Patty

One of the important goals of the SLICA project is that no harm be done to communities through use of the data. You may not have thought about how people in the Russian North might take the Chukotka data as representative of all the Russian North. Another aspect – in Chukotka there are also other indigenous peoples. I'm thinking of them. They wouldn't like to be called Inuit. It would be doing a little bit of harm to sum them up as Inuit and not represent their diversity.

Conclusion

Fran

I think this discussion has demonstrated several things; how complicated both the effort and the reporting of it are. How challenging it will be moving forward from here. Chewing on it, analyzing it and how it will happen. The challenge will be for each region to determine how best to use this in a constructive way. That

may be through regional workshops, maybe more analysis—it's not for the original SLICA people to say, but it will be for others to take it up and hopefully provide value added .