

Partnering: Establishing a Basis for Relationship and Experiences in “Getting it Done”.

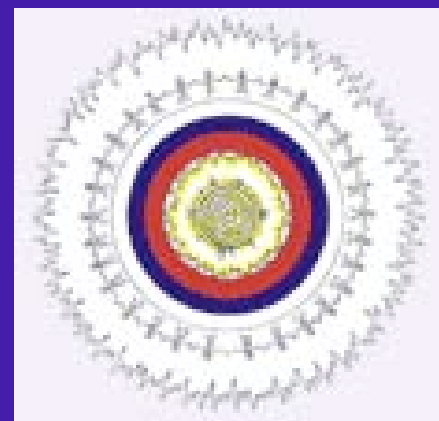
**Patricia Cochran
Larissa Abryutina
Jack Kruse**



*Alaska Native
Science
Commission*



*Institute of
Social &
Economic
Research*



*Russian
Association
of Indigenous
Peoples of
the North*



**ANSC
Commissioners**



**RAIPON
Chukotka Team**

Desired basis of partnership:

∪ Be equal!



Challenges to the goal of being equal partners

- ∪ Greater access to funding for research can drive research decisions
- ∪ Technical expertise can also drive research decisions



Yet local-based traditional knowledge is usually critical to the ultimate goal of producing meaningful results



Two strategies for equalizing the partnership

- Invest decision-making authority in a Native project oversight board
- Involve Native organizations formally as collaborators in grant proposals
 - Formal responsibilities
 - Designated budgets

It began with an email....



Marie & Birger Poppel, Nuuk

to Jack at ISER

**And the need to make a decision
on whether Alaska should
participate**



What happened first....

- **ISER wrote to the heads of Iñupiat regional organizations inviting delegates to meet at ISER's expense to decide;**
- **ISER offered a “straw man” approach to our partnership;**
- **Native organization delegates decided Alaska should participate, and formed the Alaska Native Management Board (ANMB)**

Membership of the ANMB

- All Iñupiat regional organizations, the Alaska Native Science Commission and ICC-Alaska invited to participate
- Those that chose to included:
 - ICC, ANSC, Maniilaq, Kawerak, NANA, Bering Straits Foundation, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough

Point of the “straw man” approach:

- v Invest decision-making authority in the ANMB
- v Why?
 - To establish the trust that ISER will move forward only with the active assent of our Native partners
- v Also example of investing decision-making authority in RAIPON

What decisions?

“The Management Board would have final responsibility for approval of the:

- questionnaire,*
- sample design,*
- survey administration procedures,*
- data handling procedures, and*
- reporting procedures.”*

So does this mean ISER researchers have no power?

u **No. They have the power of ideas:**

“As US (Alaska) coordinator, Jack Kruse of ISER would have responsibility for bringing plans for each stage of the study to the Management Board for comment and approval.”

What happened second:

- **ISER collaborated with several Native organizations in a series of four formal proposals to NSF**
 - **ANSC (co-PI)**
 - **Inuit Circumpolar Conference Alaska (3 region coordination)**
 - **Maniilaq, Kawerak, UIC (regional leads)**
 - **Chukotka in first of four proposals**
- **NSF made two awards**

And third...

- v The ANMB urged ISER to help find funds for Chukotka**
- v ISER and RAIPON co-proposed a supplement request to NSF**
- v This request was funded and work is underway**

Partnering strategies

- v **What we've looked at so far:**
 - Invest decision-making authority in Native management board
 - Involve Native organizations as formal collaborators in proposals
- v **What we'll look at now:**
 - Strategies for getting the work done

Strategies for getting the work done



Chukotka

1. Have direct Native participation at the international level



Ed Ward, Iñupiat from Kotzebue in Nuuk

2. Have direct researcher participation in communities



Marg Kruse in Kotzebue, January 2002,
-57C wind chill

3. Learn from each other in the field internationally



Vivian Aira, Saami Norwegian Field Director in Barrow, with Marg, January 2003



Kristina Lasko, Saami Swedish Field Director and interviewers with Jack in Jokkmokk, April 2004

4. Have flexibility in responsibilities



Flossie, Lance, and Sidney: interviewers in Barrow, January 2003

5. Beware of “standard” contracts!

“Work products and non_expendable property produced or purchased under this contract are the property of the University of Alaska, except as otherwise specifically stated in the contract.”

7. New partners!

