

Linkages Between Human Rights and Hazardous Substances

Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and
Stockholm Conventions
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Summary of Toxic Waste Sites in Alaska

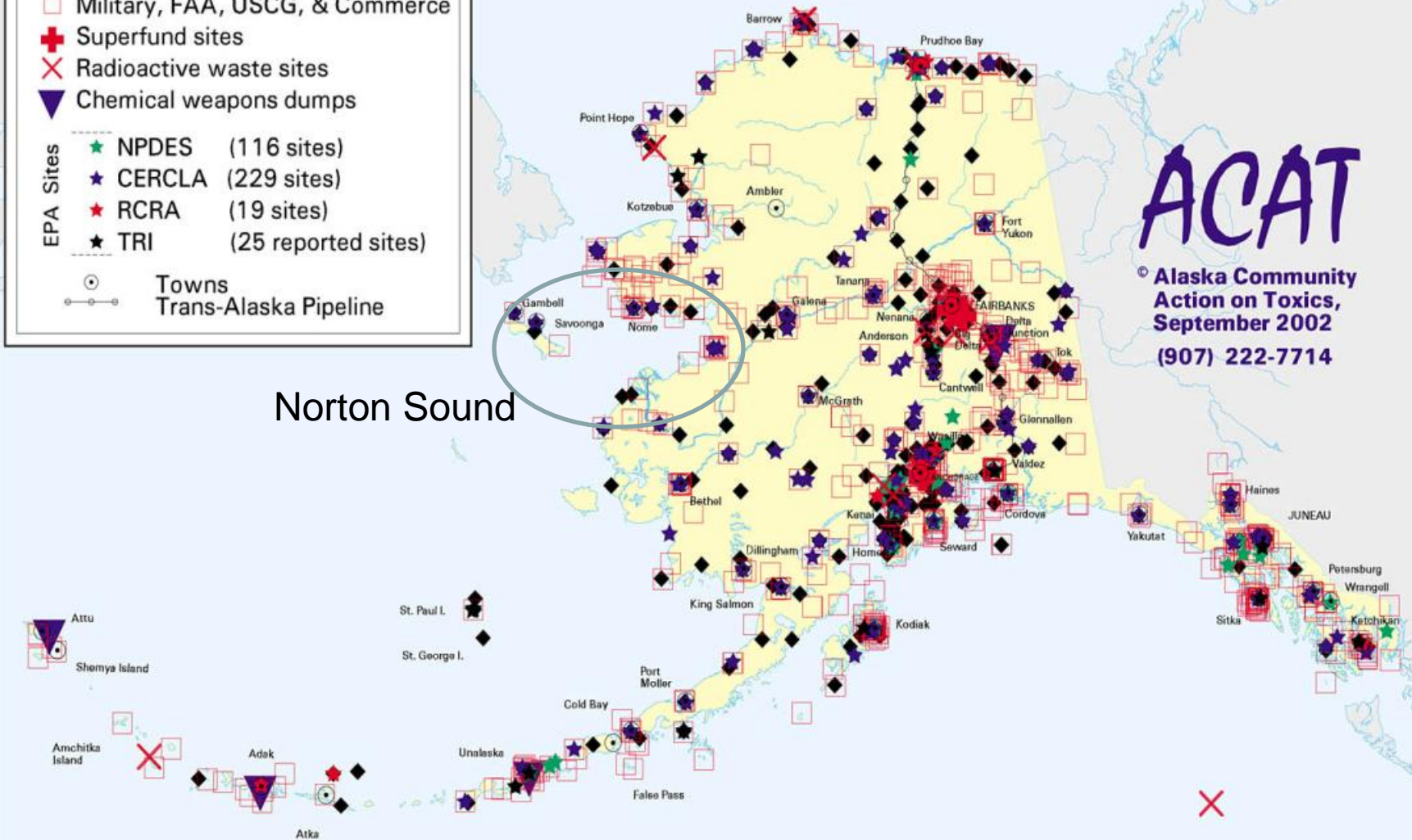
- ◆ All ADEC contaminated sites
 - Military, FAA, USCG, & Commerce
 - ⊕ Superfund sites
 - ⊗ Radioactive waste sites
 - ▼ Chemical weapons dumps
-
- EPA Sites
- ★ NPDES (116 sites)
 - ★ CERCLA (229 sites)
 - ★ RCRA (19 sites)
 - ★ TRI (25 reported sites)
-
- Towns
 - Trans-Alaska Pipeline

700 active and abandoned military sites in Alaska—Many co-located with Alaska Native villages

ACAT

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Norton Sound



Global Transport of Persistent Chemicals into the Arctic

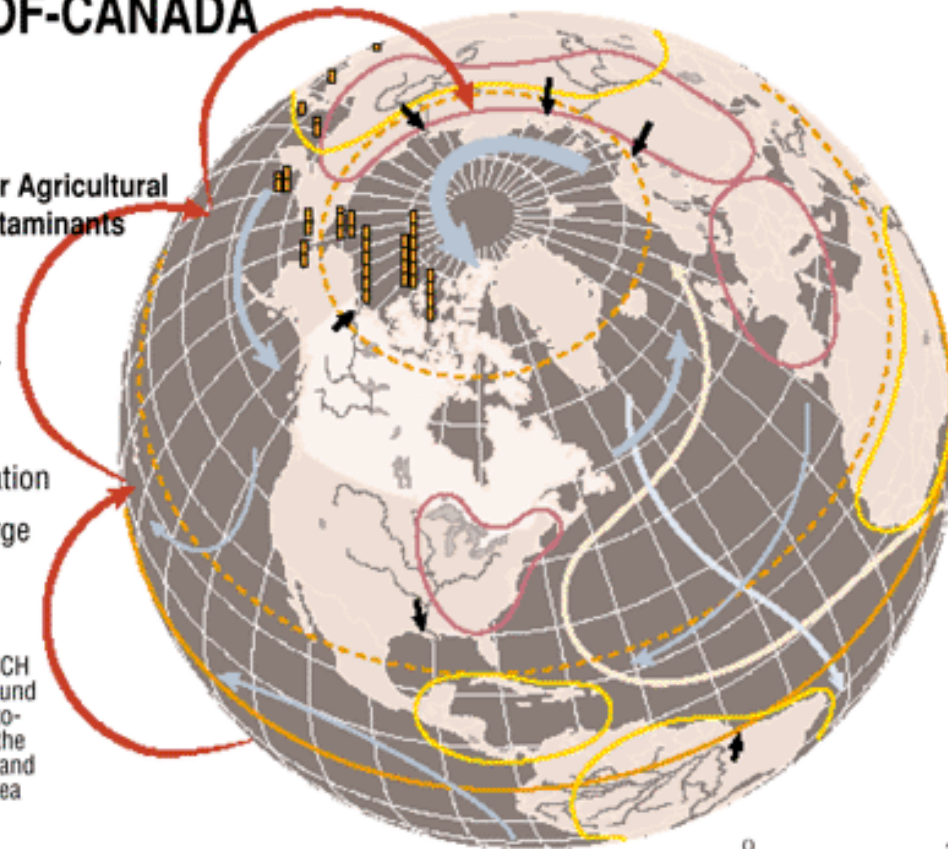
THE GRASSHOPPER EFFECT AND OUT-OF-CANADA SOURCES

Source Regions for Agricultural and Industrial Contaminants

- Agricultural
- Industrial
- Dominant Air Currents
- Atlantic Water Circulation
- River discharge

Alpha-HCH in seawater ng/litre

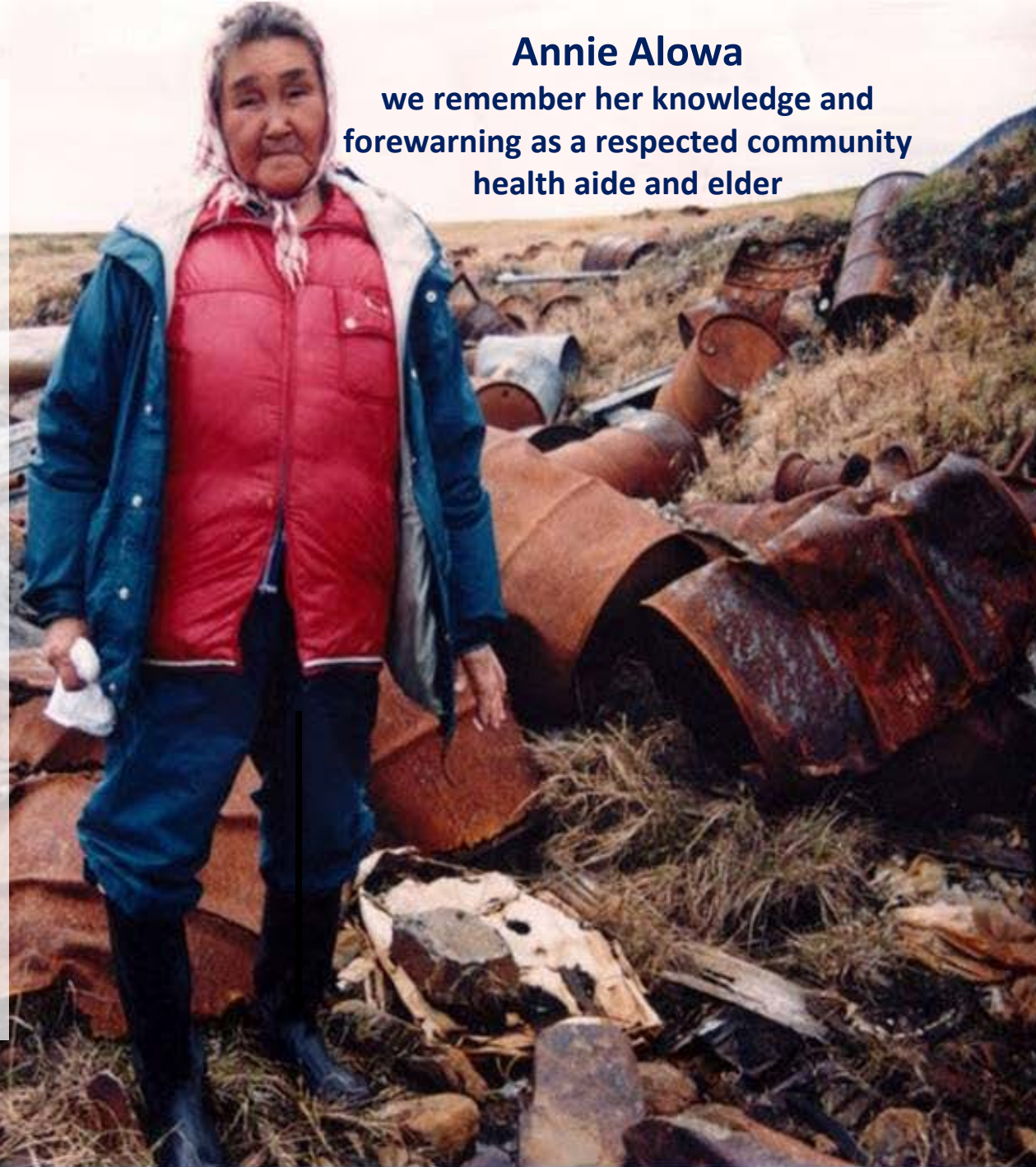
Concentrations of one HCH compound have been found to increase from south-to-north along a line from the Java Sea (off Indonesia and China) to the Beaufort Sea (AMAP, 1997).





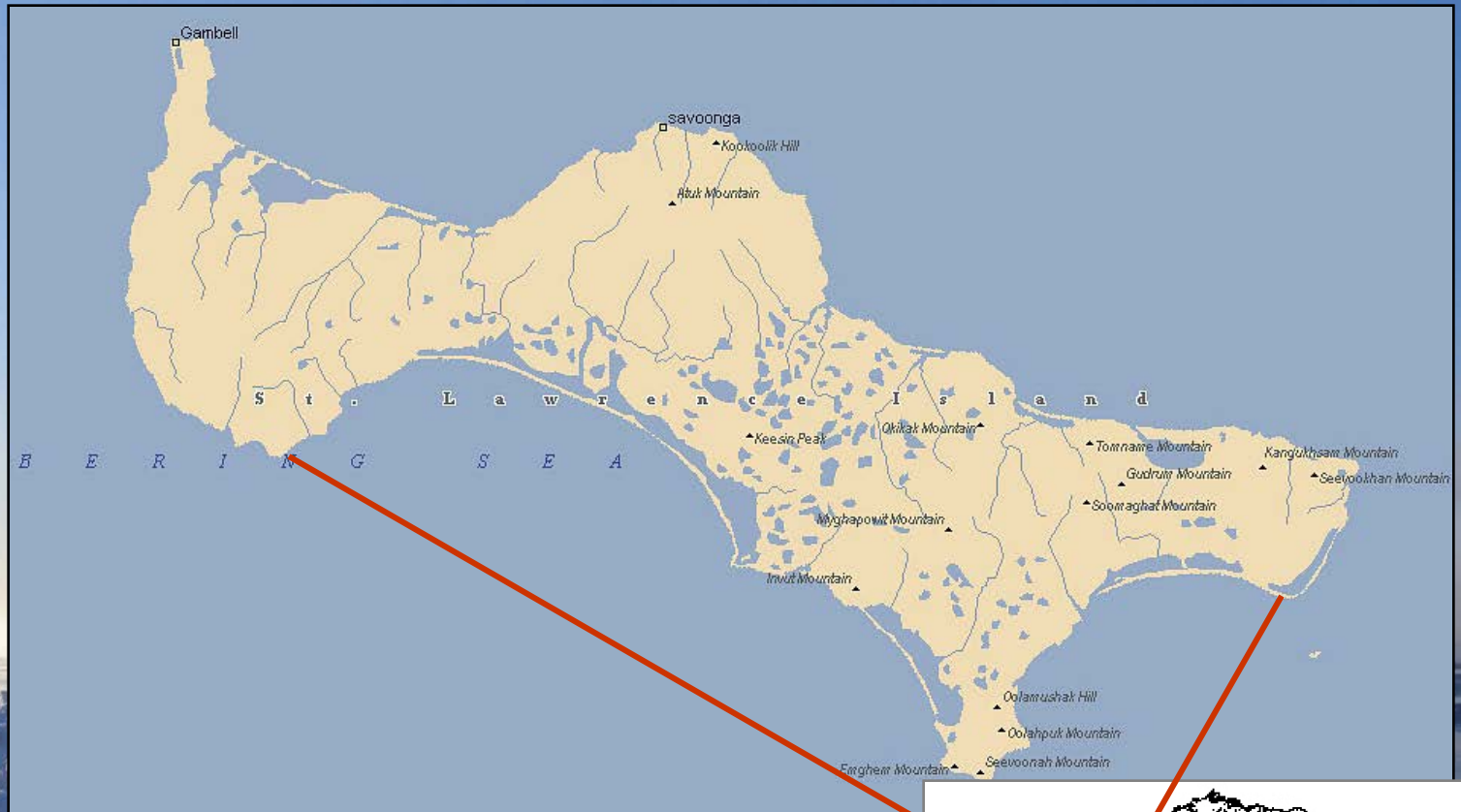
Annie Alowa

**we remember her knowledge and
forewarning as a respected community
health aide and elder**

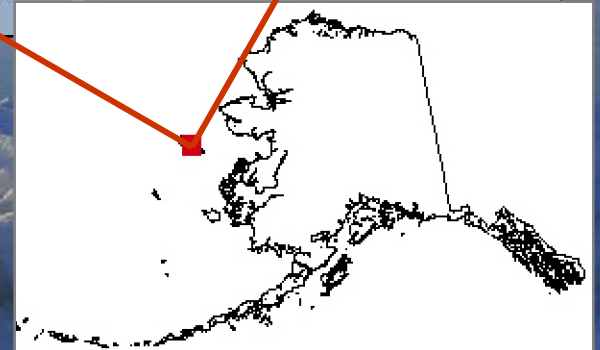


- She was a keen and trained observer about the health of her people**
- She observed higher rates of cancers among the people whose families lived and worked at Northeast Cape**
- She witnessed miscarriages and low birth weight babies, especially among those families closely associated with Northeast Cape**
- She inspires our work everyday!**

Where is St. Lawrence Island?



Located in the Northern Bering Sea

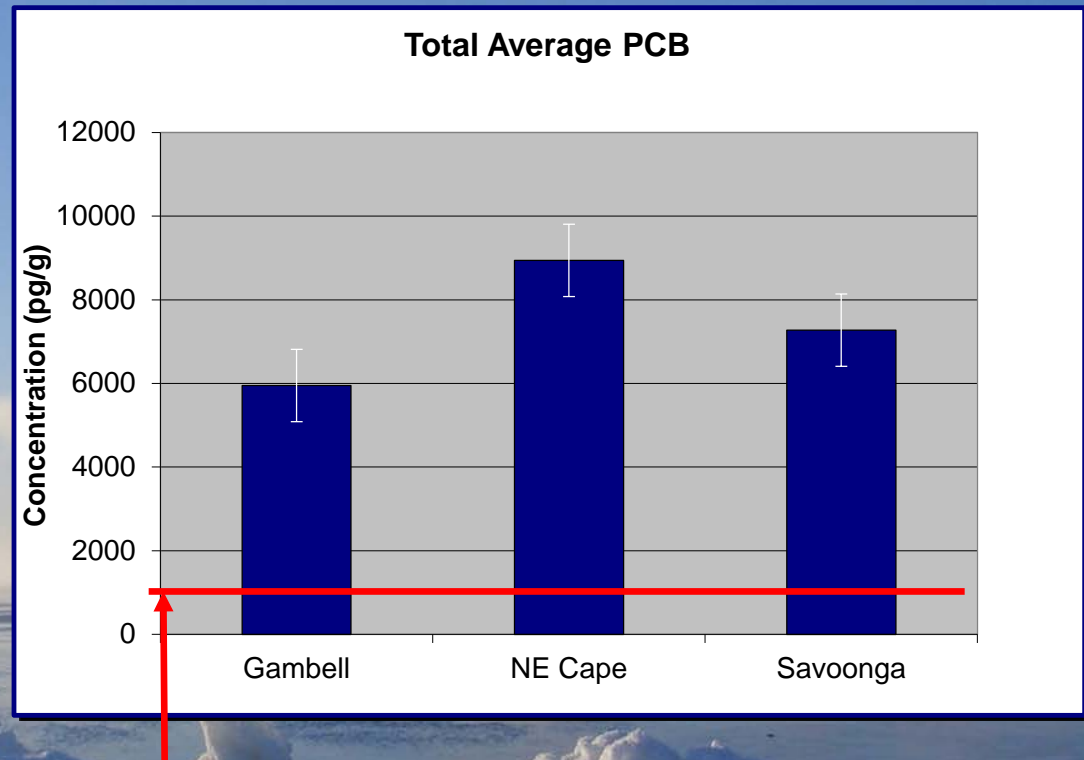






PCBs in Blood Serum of St. Lawrence Island People

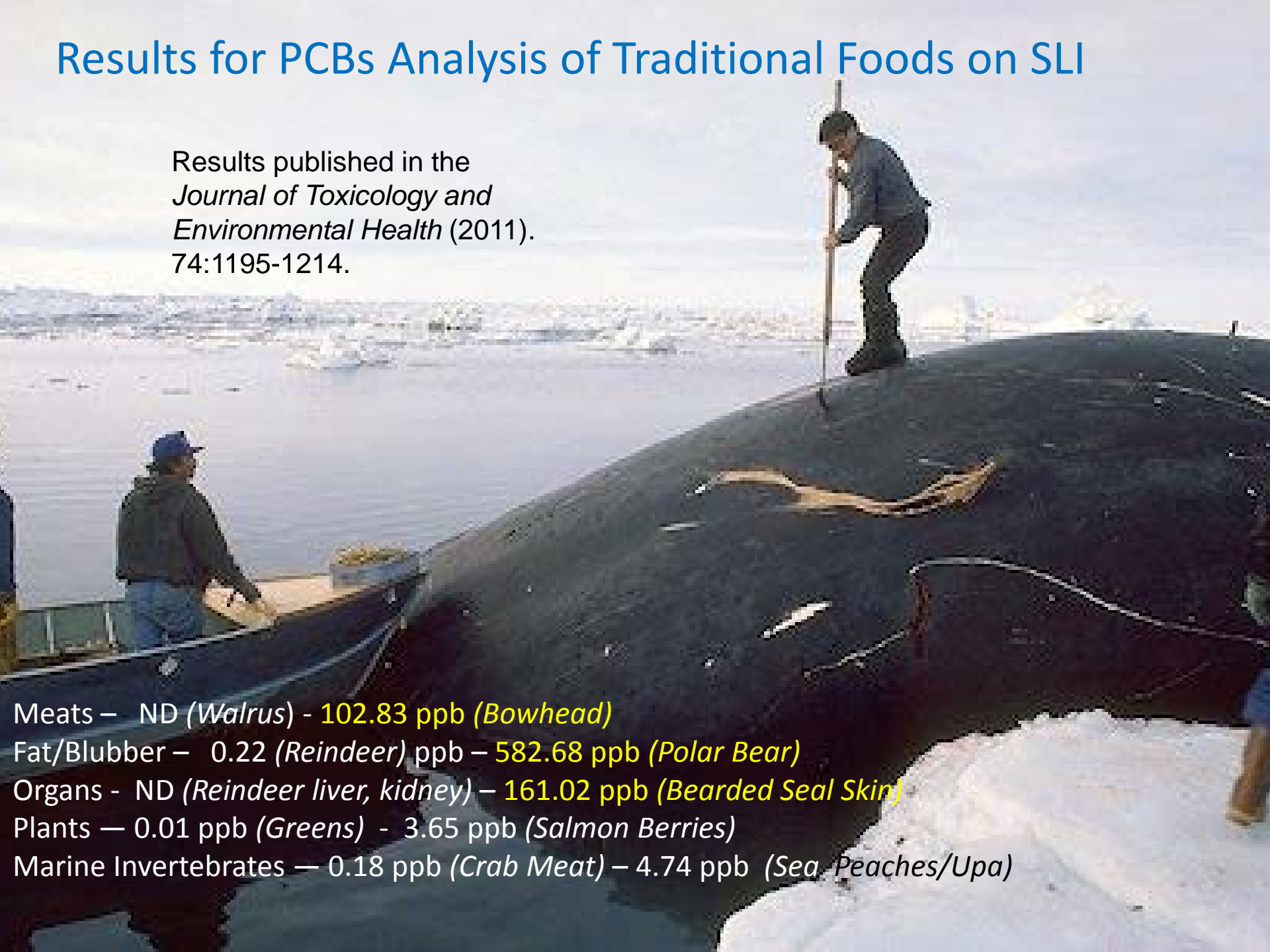
- Levels of PCBs in the blood of St. Lawrence Island Yupik people **6-9 times higher** than average in lower-48 populations
- Evidence of PCBs accumulating in the Arctic via global transport
- Military contamination also a significant source
- Published in the *International Journal of Circumpolar Health* (Carpenter et al., 2005)



Average for populations in the Lower 48

Results for PCBs Analysis of Traditional Foods on SLI

Results published in the
*Journal of Toxicology and
Environmental Health* (2011).
74:1195-1214.



Meats – ND (*Walrus*) - **102.83 ppb (*Bowhead*)**
Fat/Blubber – 0.22 (*Reindeer*) ppb – **582.68 ppb (*Polar Bear*)**
Organs - ND (*Reindeer liver, kidney*) – **161.02 ppb (*Bearded Seal Skin*)**
Plants — 0.01 ppb (*Greens*) - 3.65 ppb (*Salmon Berries*)
Marine Invertebrates — 0.18 ppb (*Crab Meat*) – 4.74 ppb (*Sea Peaches/Upa*)



Disease Patterns Observed on St. Lawrence Island

- Cancers
- Thyroid disease
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Low birth weight babies, premature births, still births, miscarriages
- Other reproductive health problems
- Learning and developmental disabilities



Working for the Protection of Present and Future Generations



Organizing with Youth, Women, and Elders to Achieve Human Rights, Environmental and Reproductive Health and Justice



Human rights training for youth



ACAT staff and board with U.N. Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



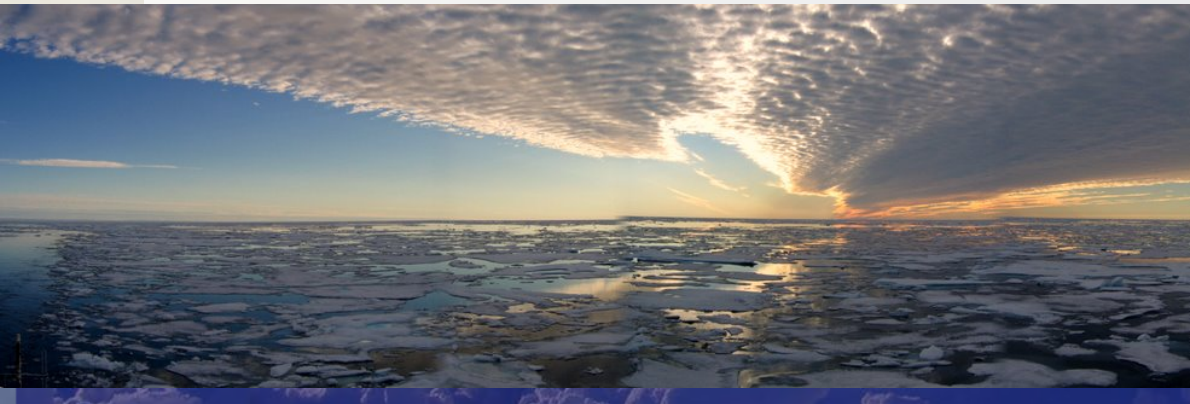
Indigenous Women's Symposium on Reproductive and Environmental Health

Protecting Health and Human Rights— Health, Well-being and Food are Human Rights

- Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself & of his family...including food..." — *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- "...In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence."--*Article 1 in Common, International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*
- "States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of Indigenous Peoples without their free, prior, and informed consent." — *Article 29 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- "Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of Indigenous elders, women, youth, children, and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration." *Article 22 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

The Language of the Stockholm Convention

- “Aware of the health concerns...in particular **impacts upon women and children and, through them, upon future generations.**”
- “Conscious of the need for **global action...**”
- “Acknowledging that **precaution underlies the concerns of all the Parties and is embedded within this Convention...**”
- “Determined to **protect human health and the environment...**”
- “Acknowledging that the **Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous communities are particularly at risk...**”





***“We don’t want any of you to fight with each other, but work together to clean it up for our sake.”—Annie Alowa
Thank you. Igamsiqayugviikamsi***