

Intervention by Aleut International Association

We represent the Aleut people from the Aleutian, Pribilof and Commander Islands, the islands that were not even shown on many world maps featured in presentations in the last two days. We would like to see Arctic Council programs reaching our region and we would like to see our islands clearly identified on the maps illustrating AC projects.

The Russian North does not end in Murmansk. We are very concerned about the environmental health in Kamchatka and the Commander Islands. The project we are working on now is the extension of the POPs Blood Cord monitoring program within the framework of AMAP to the North-East of the Russian Far East.

AMAP's presentation was very informative and helpful in better understanding the benefits of research. However mistakes and inaccuracies that were pointed out by our colleagues are disturbing. Part of the problem could be poor communication and lack of participation of Permanent Participants. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of close cooperation between scientists and people living in the region. As a Permanent Participant, AIA has the capabilities to become a conduit of such information, providing that there are financial resources to support this activity.

Thank you to all working groups and we'll be looking forward to working with you.