

AA2845

My name is Bernadette Redfox, I used to be Kamaroff. I was born in Kotlick and I grew up in Kotlick and we move here in 1949. And before we come I was growing up we used to go to camp, my Pappa used to go and my family cut fish, lots of fish. they never take their nets out all month.

00:37

Kings and dog salmon.

AA2846

Fist we go to Tunukchuk and fish there and maybe Sept we used to go back to Kotlik. And then other years we move again to Doksokfivik (?) and fish there and I don't know how old I was, I wanted to cut fish, to learn how I used to watch my mom cut fish and I try, I learn how.

00:37

00:52

Lots of fish, everything we hang, even the backbones for the ducks, because the ducks, we had ducks.

1:04

Lots of King Salmon, they make strips. Lay the meat and the bones hang, so it was really good, King Salmon, dry fish.

1:47

There was no hospital, we never used to go hospital when we used to sick. But the Father Lohnoo gave us aspirin, or something, but there were no hospital.

AA2847

Shots of the grandson

Shots of Bernadette

AA2848

When was me and Cecilia we were small, maybe big as that little boy, and one fo the ladies wanted to take us to Kotlik, I mean Sanella, to take pictures. We were so scared, but she did. I thought they were going to hit us or something, because she go like that.

00:43

We used to co month of June when the fish are running. And they used to go oaring boat to check the nets.

And finaly we had my Poppa buy 5 horse it was so fast, and we used to go, and we used to put the canvas in the boat with two oars and the wind blew us that fast, we grew up like that, but when we had 5 horse it was so fast. Some of them they had 20, 30, they go faster.

1:47

I don't know how old, maybe 8, 9, to try to cut fish because every time my momma do something I want to try everything, try mix dough, we never used to have crackers or bread.

2:50

King salmon, big, salt fish, too. We love salt fish.

There were big kings, some of them there was small take care of everything, even the tails, we cut them and we cook them, half dry, mmmm, I love this kind. The mahluk, yah, I love that.

4:30

Decline of the king

There used to be lots of them. Cannery up there in Kwiguk they used to split them in, all the meat from the king, and the Eskimos really want to have bones after they were fishing. They took the bones and hang

5:16 span clip

Even there hardly any meat, so much hungry for fish, them old folks too, but they were good. Then they start having people come from outside, the Cossack people, and the fishermen watched the fish and they were so sad, and they, can't fish for ourselves only after we be done, but the fishermen they used to get siff from their nets and they bring them home and everyone want to take them. And then after that they quit fishing, I mean, everybody got fish, they didn't want to fish. We take them, tell them go get the fish cuz we couldn't go fishing, so we bring them across to, I had camp across there, I cut them.

My smokehouse full, they help me. Even my girls, they were so lazy to cut, I tell them to help me so we can finish them while it's good weather.

6:35

And then they got worse after, no more Kings for the people. Everybody was so sad and they tell me too, and I said it's our fish, god gave us those fish, it's ours, nobody's fish. I was so mad, they didn't want to give it to us. Especially this year.

7:17

I thaw out my one King and make strips, really want to taste the king. And they can't take them. I told them "you guys can hide it. It's our fish. can't hide them because they find them. God give us that fish. I told them.

7:49

So much want to have King I bake it to eat.

11:51

Really love to have.

8:01

It's so good to taste King. And they put salt fish even, Arthur's wife bakes salt fish, mmmm, wintertime we want to have,

8:19

9:00

Other people, the young ones, they don't want to cut fish. So hard for them too, but maybe, wintertime they want to have fish from us. I'm still cutting fish. The older ones, all the old ladies, they never let their momma cut fish, or grandma; I'm great grandma. I still cut fish. They tell me not to. I have to touch and cut.

9:37

We cut, he get fish for me. He want to have gas, I give him gas. Catch lots of fish. But we finish it and dry, I smoke them three days we have dry amaklok, mmm, we love amaklok. King salmon tails we have, the body is too fat. But dark salmon we have... I still got to make some.

10:19

Subsistence today, i want to have many of them, amaklok, to put them away, and a strips, we never have strips for Kings no more.

SPAN CLIP 10:32

Cohos or whatever he bring, we make strips. We love strips. Do much. But I have to have fish. I been having meat, meat, but I ask for one fish for today, so I'll have.

I asked them please give me one fish, I'm tired of meat.

11:14

Yeah, have to have meat meat fish, meat meat fish, or even I have two days in a row fish, cooked different way.

I love caribou more than moose. We have a hard time to get caribou, always somebody give us, but moose are available around here.

11:22

There was lots fish a long time ago. Really lots. Nobody said take your nets out. They fished all summer long, sometimes the fish are less like right now, and then they come after the wind come, lots of fish. That's why the fish, never take the nets out, long time.

12:57

Did you fish under the ice?

When I, maybe after I get married we had big barrels, i couldn't touch the bottom so I put them away.

We never used to have buckets, only 5 gallon can,

13:35

We never had propane, only wood stove.

14:02

I was cutting fish at camp across there so I take him, even the momma, you close a fish, I take him he be the fisherman, so I was the person, he could be fisherman, I touch his hands.

He never get tired of fish, go fishing.

14:36

They were so stingy with the fish. I was so sad when I thought we were going to have no fish for winter.

14:47

Lots of people will say that, the older ones, we have to have fish. I don't like to ask anyone, only my own.

15:22

ecology signs

SPAN CLIP 15:48

Right after fereeze up, we used to go down in the slough down there, and fish Tom Cods, and I love those, the eggs I like, TomCods. Pretty soon they'll come in the river, down the little slough.

I boil them and we eat them. Really good, or dry some of them. When we used to get long time ago, but hardly anyboso go, Only a few people.

Dried up and eat.

16:53

Break up
Right now.

17:43

Wintertime we have Chee Fish and Black Fish, we got traps. Black Fish. Mmm. But after freeze up there will be lots of Black Fish, I love Black Fish too. really eat them. But you have to wait three or four days to check the Black Fish. And they'll be gone again.

18:18

Chee fish. freeze, after freeze they can walk on the ice they net under the ice under the ice and catch the Chee Fish. And we love that one. And Lush fish too, pretty soon they...

19:04

Very fish, subsistence, I love subsistence because it's ours, as much as we could.

Birds have eggs. We never used to do storebought eggs; long time ago. they tell them not to hunt because the birds are getting few, our eggs, the only eggs we used to have.

Seals come around the month of August, but now it's earlier, everything is change everything early and the fish were early.

But it supposed to be in August, too, and the berries are early. Everything. Change. *Why?* I don't know how come.

19:28

The old folks that know a long time ago, because before they die too, they see the people are changing. they be so scary world, they die before they happen. They tell us it's going to

happen this, pretty soon. They'll break the family, no more family, they'll fight, and they'll be killing. I don't know how they

20:04

SPAN CLIP

know. We get there. It's so scary right now. they want to be mean to, even the elders, they don't respect the elders no more. Really. Long time ago they used to take care of their elders, be nice and treat everybody, share what we have, mukluk everybody share, or fish, anything, it was so good that time.

And keep praying, I was in Kotlik. We go chetteelak, go to church and pray, pray, pray. but my Poppa had really big stroke, too. I had to take care of him. I was so happy I take care of him. Respect. Both of them, what them little kids too, and when they go in the house the could a, check every room or open the refrigerator, never asking. When we were small we we used to go in the house, we used to stand by the door until they tell us to sit down. Respect.

Our parents used to tell us don't be bigshot if you go to other house, you have to stand by the door.

22:09

But right now, they don't. Never be respect nobody.

22:34

White people are different from the Eskimos. Oh yeah, I, first time when they had the, fishermen, they tell us not to get..... and I told my grandkids, what if I tell them don't go hunt for the chicken or whatever you like, you'll hurt.

23:07

If I go like that, they'll put us in jail. Cause we love our Eskimo food, but the younger ones they change, they eat maybe mostly meat beat (?) the other ones they don't care for Eskimo food, the younger ones they never have Eskimo food.

24:01

We always love Berries, too, even the blueberries I love, even the big ones. Always send me blueberries, and they tell me it's good for me because my blood always be low. Any kind of berries. Mix it with the Akutuk, Eskimo ice cream.