

**Statement
Of
Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
Before the
April 17, 2002 Hearing
on
Subsistence hunting and fishing
by
Alaska Natives**

The committee meets this afternoon to receive testimony on subsistence hunting and fishing by the Native people of Alaska.

Long before the United States was formed, the Native people of Alaska were providing for the sustenance of their children and families.

But basic sustenance was not the only objective of subsistence hunting and fishing by the Native people.

It also served as a fundamental aspect of Native culture, Native traditions, religious and spiritual beliefs, as well as a way of life that had been practiced for centuries.

Today we will learn how the subsistence hunting and fishing by Alaska Natives is faring in contemporary times, as the United States and

the state of Alaska seek to address the provisions of Federal law, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and Title VIII of that Act, which addresses subsistence uses.