Some insights on community perceptions of change: potential rules for building resilience and promoting adaptation in remote, resource dependent Arctic communities

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Historical and contemporary relationships between people and a changing environment can offer insights for modeling and management that promotes social-ecological resilience, even under unfamiliar conditions of change. Of particular importance is the need for continued existence of high quality freshwater resources on which communities rely for subsistence and proximal use of natural resources (e.g., fish). In this paper, we provide evidence that our understanding and modeling of the diverse responses by human networks to change may be better informed by understanding several facets that contribute to the perception of change by individuals in Arctic communities. We provide data from an on-going collaborative study on Seward Peninsula which reveals that community resilience at local scales may be significantly influenced by the way individuals perceive changes in their water resources.