

My name is Louise Brady

This is in response to some herring industry offering to bring us herring eggs. This comes from an article in the Juneau Empire Special report where Dr. Steve Langdon, Ph.D. Anthropology talks about the importance of subsistence:

Subsistence hunting and fishing has been a continuing concern for Alaska's Natives for many thousands of years, said Steve Langdon, an anthropology professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage. The word "subsistence," however, connotes a "meager, poor, primitive society," which isn't what it was or is in Alaska, he said. Natives here developed knowledge and technologies that allowed them to have enough food year-round, and enough to trade with other groups, he said.

"It fueled substantial trade systems and ceremonial systems," Langdon said. "It enabled them to achieve a quality of life above mere survival."

Subsistence, in Alaska terms, also has significant religious and social importance for Natives. It's "who they are, what they do and what they believe," Langdon said. Harold Napoleon, of Hooper Bay, said subsistence hunting and fishing links today's skiffs and nylon nets with the willow fish traps of the past; the .30-06-caliber rifle with the bone-tipped harpoon.

<http://www.akhistorycourse.org/modern-alaska/between-worlds-subsistence>