

**Sealaska Heritage Institute
BLACK SEAWEED ETHNOGRAPHY
Adult Consent Form**

This form can be read to you if you ask.

This form will tell you about a research study you can join. The Sealaska Heritage Institute is doing this study. If you have questions, please ask us. Take as much time as you need to decide. If you choose to be in the study, you will need to sign this form.

Key Information

Voluntary Participation: We are asking for your permission to join this research project. You can choose to join or not.

Purpose and Procedures: We want to learn how Indigenous people in Southeast Alaska use black seaweed. This includes how it is gathered, processed, eaten, shared, and used in art and ceremonies. You will share your experiences and knowledge about black seaweed. The project will last several years. We may ask you for an interview or to watch you during harvesting.

Risks or Discomforts: Talking about traditions could bring up personal or sensitive topics. You might have to pay taxes on the money you get for doing an interview or joining a harvest trip. If your name is linked to the data, there could be social risks. If your name is kept secret, there is a risk someone could still get your data.

Benefits: Your help will save important cultural knowledge about black seaweed. This will keep traditions alive and teach future generations. It will also help scientists learn about the effects of climate change on black seaweed.

Alternatives: You do not have to join this research. There are no other procedures or treatments since this project is about saving cultural knowledge.

What is the name of this research study?

NSF-funded research is “What is black seaweed’s future? Towards an ethnography of black seaweed in Southeast Alaska”.

NEH-funded research is “Feeding our Ancestors: An ethnography of black seaweed use in Southeast Alaska Indigenous communities”.

Why is this study being done?

Not much is known about how black seaweed is used in Southeast Alaska Native communities. This includes how the seaweed is picked, prepared, eaten, shared, and used in art and ceremonies. Without writing it down, this important cultural knowledge could be lost, especially with changes in climate that affect black seaweed. Each community will have the chance to add their own questions to the study.

What is the goal of the study?

The goal is to document and preserve how Southeast Alaska Indigenous communities use black seaweed, including its cultural, nutritional, and ceremonial roles. This information is being collected for future generations. We would like to determine if black seaweed meets the standard definition for a cultural keystone species in each community, essentially, does black seaweed meet a Western Science definition of importance to the local cultures?

Why am I being asked to be in the study?

We are asking you to join this study because you are an Indigenous person from Southeast Alaska who uses black seaweed. This includes picking, preparing, eating, sharing, and creating. We are looking for people from the community who can share what they know and their experiences with black seaweed.

Who should not be in the study?

People who are not from Southeast Alaska or who do not use black seaweed should not join this study.

Who has reviewed and approved this study?

This study was approved by the Alaska Area Institutional Review Board (IRB). IRBs review proposed studies to make sure they follow federal regulations for the protection of human participants in research. The study plans and this consent form was shared with the Hoonah Indian Association, Angoon Community Association, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Kake Tribal Corporation, Klawock Cooperative Association, Craig Tribal Association, Hydaburg Cooperative Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Organized Village of Saxman, and Metlakatla Indian Community for their review and feedback.

Who is funding this study?

Money for this study is coming from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

If I agree to be in this study, what will I be asked to do?

If you choose to join this study, you will fill out a few forms:

1. This consent form;
2. A W9 for taxes if you want payment (optional); and,
3. A direct deposit form (optional) to receive payment.

There are two parts to this study: interviews and harvest trips. You may be asked to do one or both. In the interviews, we will ask you questions about black seaweed and how you use it. On the harvest trips, you will take all or part of the research team with you to collect black seaweed, and we will ask questions during the trip. Both activities will be recorded with audio and video.

Will specimens be taken or stored? No

How many people will be in the study?

30 Interviewees and 15 people taking us on a harvest trip.

How much of my time will this study take?

Interviews will take 1 to 2 hours. We will plan the harvest trip with you based on the weather and the condition of the black seaweed. We expect to join you for either half a day or a full day, depending on where you usually harvest. We would like to follow up with you by email, Zoom, or phone calls to go over

the notes from your interview or harvest trip and to talk about a draft of the reports in 2026 and 2027. The payment for being in the study includes this follow-up.

How much time will the whole study take?

The whole study is expected to begin in 2024 and end in 2027.

Is there any risk or discomfort from the study?

We will be talking about traditional knowledge and past events. This might bring up memories or experiences that could feel uncomfortable.

There are some financial risks with the payments. If you are paid \$600 or more in a year, Sealaska Heritage Institute will send a 1099 form to the US IRS. You may need to pay self-employment taxes on the money.

The pay for each interview or harvest trip is below the tax limit.

If you choose to keep your name private, there is a risk that your information might still be revealed. We will reduce this risk by using a unique ID instead of your name on documents. The link between your name and the ID will be kept in a secure file.

If you choose to share your name with the data, there are social risks to sharing personal information. This list tries to cover possible risks in the study, but there may be some risks we do not know about yet.

What are the possible risks of this study to my community?

The risks of a study to a community are not always known. The people involved in this study have worked closely with _____ Tribal Council to make a plan to lessen the risk of harm to your community. This plan says all presentations or publications must be approved by _____ Tribal Council and leadership.

How will I benefit from this study?

There may be no direct benefits to you. The study will help researchers and tribes learn more about black seaweed uses. Your interview will be securely stored in SHI's archive for you and your family to access and enjoy.

Will I be paid to be in the study?

Interview: \$300

Harvest trip: \$599.

Who will be able to see my records?

The research team will not access any of your medical records for this study.

How will you protect my confidentiality?

All information will be kept confidential to the extent that is legally possible. You have the choice to have your name included in this study or kept confidential, using an identifier.

- Check here if you would like your name to appear in the final products; you may include specific restrictions. **Restrictions:** _____
- Check here if you would like your village name to appear in the final products; you may include specific restrictions. **Restrictions:** _____

Summary data that can no longer be connected to you (de-identified) will not be used for future research without your additional informed consent.

- I agree that the information that I provide may be used for a variety of purposes including written reports, presentations, and publications as part of these studies without additional consent. By checking this, we will only reach out for the use of the data beyond this study.

Consent forms and any information collected on paper will be stored in locked cabinets and electronic data in password-protected secure computer files. Data will be kept for at least 3 years after the funding period ends. It may be kept longer, but all protections of the data must stay in place.

The data collected by this study is your lived experiences. These will be archived in SHI's William L. Paul, Sr. Archive. You have the choice of the restrictions for access to this information.

- I agree that the recordings shall be placed in the SHI Archive for purposes of future research and preservation. **Restrictions:** _____
- I would like the information in my interview/recordings stored in the SHI Archive to be made available to:
 - the general public;
 - researchers: specify if permissions are required: _____;
 - community members: specify affiliation: _____;
 - specify any other group to include or exclude: _____

Government staff sometimes review studies such as this one to make sure they are being done safely and legally. If a review of this study takes place, your records may be examined. The reviewers will protect your privacy.

What happens to the findings from the study?

Names will not appear in any report or papers resulting from this study unless specified in the last section. Results will be shared with participants and Tribal leadership.

- I would like to receive a copy of my interview transcript.
- I would like to receive a copy of the draft report.
- I would like to receive a copy of the final report.

Papers will be written for publication in scientific literature. These papers will be provided to XXX Tribal Council for review and approval before being published.

Can I refuse to be in the study?

Yes, taking part in this study is your choice. If you do decide to join the study, you can leave it at any time.

Who do I call if I have questions later or I decide to leave the study?

If you have any questions or study-related injuries or complaints, you may contact the Principal Investigator(s):

- Dr. Kelly Monteleone, Kelly.monteleone@sealaska.com; 907-586-9118

If you have any questions about your rights as a study participant, you may call the Alaska Area Institutional Review Board (AAIRB):

- Yvonne R. Tanape-Druce, AAIRB Administrator, 907-729-3924 (collect calls accepted), akaalaskaareaIRB@anthc.org
- Dr. Shanda Lohse, AAIRB Chairperson, akaalaskaareaIRB@anthc.org

To be in this study, please sign your initials in the appropriate box and then sign the statement below.

	<u>I agree</u> <u>Please initial</u>	<u>I disagree</u> <u>Please initial</u>
1. Consent to record conversations		
2. Consent for use of name in reports (pg. 3)		
3. Consent for use of village name in the report (pg. 4)		
4. Consent for use in this project reports, presentations, and publications (pg. 4)		
5. Consent for my recordings to be stored in the SHI Archive (pg. 4)		
6. Consent for my recordings will be available to the general public (pg. 4)		
7. Consent for my recordings will be available for researchers (pg. 4)		
8. Consent for my recordings will be available for community members (pg. 4)		
9. Consent for my recordings will be available for other groups (pg. 4)		
10. Consent to be contacted with my transcript of recording (pg. 4)		
11. Consent to be contacted with draft reports (pg. 4)		
12. Consent to be contacted with final reports (pg. 4)		
13. Consent for future contact in general		

I have read or been told about this research study and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I have been offered a copy of this consent. **I agree to be in the study.**

Amount to be paid: \$_____.

Name of participant: _____ DOB: ___ / ___ / ___
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 Zip: _____

Signature of Participant: X _____ Date: _____

Study Personnel Receiving Consent: _____

For non-English speaking participants only:

The participant is non-English speaking. I have translated the details of the study into the participant's Native language. I have indicated their wishes in the boxes above.

Signature of Interpreter: _____

Name of Translator (please print): _____

Readability Statistics	
Counts	
Words	2,062
Characters	10,959
Paragraphs	120
Sentences	136
Averages	
Sentences per Paragraph	2
Words per Sentence	13
Characters per Word	5
Readability	
Flesch Reading Ease	63
Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level	8
Passive Sentences	29%

OK